



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **ONE SIZE DOESN'T FIT ALL- THE SCOTTISH CROFTING FEDERATION'S SILVER JUBILEE MESSAGE**

The unique nature and identity of crofters and crofting will be celebrated at the Scottish Crofting Federation's Annual Gathering in Oban on Monday 13 and Tuesday 14 September.

SCF is celebrating 25 years as the organisation representing crofters and promoting crofting with the theme 'One Size Doesn't Fit All' at the Gathering.

SCF's message is that crofting cannot simply be grouped as 'farming'.

SCF's chief executive Patrick Krause said: "Diversity is the key to a thriving rural population, a message which our speakers will reinforce. Crofting has its own identity. It is a land-based culture, supporting populations in remotest rural Scotland, with crofters acting as guardians of some of the UK's – and indeed Europe's- most fragile and rare habitats. The fact that crofting has the resilience to keep people in these remote areas is due to its diversity.

"Our speakers are international, national and local, reflecting the role of crofting in the wider world as well SCF's work in supporting projects growing from the needs of small communities."

The conference, at the Royal Hotel, Oban will be attended by around 100 delegates from Shetland to Barra.

One of the highlights will be the celebration dinner on Monday night at the Caledonian Hotel, Oban. The dinner is designed to showcase SCF's Scottish Crofting Produce (SCP) quality mark, with the ingredients sourced from SCP producers across the Highlands and Islands.

The 7 course tasting menu features top croft produce from Raasay wild boar to Shetland lamb, Lochalsh beef and Sutherland honey.

The dinner will be preceded by a reception hosted by SCF chairwoman Eleanor Arthur. Delegates will be offered mini-mutton pies, again made with prime meat from one SCF's SCP producers, and a dram. Ms Arthur will bring delegates up to date with SCF's plans for the SCP mark and its early stage development of an SCP Scottish Crofters pie to go to market next year.

The Gathering's key note address will be delivered by Minister for the Environment, Roseanna Cunningham on Monday morning.

Members of the press are welcome to attend the conference. The full Gathering programme can be found on the SCF website by following this link: <http://www.crofting.org/index.php/conference>  
Further information from Susy Macaulay, Macaulay Media : 07500 041 671

## NOTES FOR EDITORS:

- Scottish Crofting Produce (SCP) quality mark signifies that the produce comes from a croft or similar small agricultural holding in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland; that the producer is a member of SCF and meets certain laid-down standards of quality, animal health and welfare, hygiene and total traceability.
- SCP suppliers to the dinner are:
  - Richard Briggs, Stromfirth, Shetland. Shetland Lamb
  - Morag MacKenzie, Duirinish, Plockton. Beef
  - John McMorran, Balnacoil, Brora. Honey
  - Robin Calvert, Rogart, Sutherland. Mutton
- Scottish Crofting Federation is the only member-led organisation dedicated to promoting crofting and it is the largest association of small-scale food producers in the UK.