Scottish Crofting Foundation

from past, to present, for future

NEWS RELEASE

Use: **Immediate** **Date:** **27/9/07**

URGENT NEED FOR UK GOVERNMENT TO ADDRESS FOOT AND MOUTH RESPONSIBILITIES

Crofters are calling on the UK government to recognise the urgent animal welfare issues being created on Scottish hills and islands as a result of the Foot and Mouth outbreak in Surrey.

SCF Chairman Norman Leask said, "We fully support the huge efforts being made in Scotland to address a looming animal welfare crisis, but we are increasingly frustrated with the failure of the UK government to act. In a situation which appears to be all of their making, DEFRA is refusing to shoulder their responsibilities and do everything in their powers to prevent an animal welfare disaster. Grass is disappearing like snow off a dyke and lambs must come off the high hills now.

We know that the Scottish government is doing everything possible to assist, including granting two further movement licences, on the basis of risk assessment, which will be in force from tomorrow morning. These which will help considerably in moving animals – particularly hoggs going to wintering – from the Scottish islands and assist in the movement of animals going for slaughter. DEFRA too must pick up the responsibilities within their remit and act on them."

END

Contact: Norman Leask, SCF Chairman Tel 01595 809375 / 07957 936831

Patrick Krause, SCF Chief Executive Tel 01599 566365

Becky Shaw, SCF Land Use Programme Manager 01408 633131