NEWS RELEASE

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SCF WELCOMES COMMITMENT ON CROFTING SUPPORT

Scottish Crofting Foundation Chairman, Norman Leask today welcomed a commitment from the Scottish Executive on the future of support schemes for crofts and small farms in the Highlands and Islands. Crofting support schemes will remain separate from the Land Management Contract mechanism.

He said "We were delighted to hear, in a meeting with Rural Development Ministers yesterday that the decision had been made to leave crofting support schemes out of the competitive Land Management Contract scheme being developed at the moment. It was always our members concern that important measures such as the Crofting Counties Agricultural Grants Scheme and the Cattle Improvement Scheme would become inaccessible if put in a pot with all other types of rural development funding. These schemes are fundamentally important in supporting crofting activity and viability. We are very encouraged by the recognition from Ministers of the importance of these schemes and grateful for the support of Highlands and Islands MSPs and others in highlighting this issue."

ENDS

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Notes to editors

Picture can be found at: http://www.croftingfoundation.co.uk/contact.shtml