



NEWS RELEASE

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Crofters gather to discuss implications of Brexit

The Scottish Crofting Federation (SCF) will hold its 2017 Annual Gathering, with the theme 'Crofting's Place in Europe', on 10th and 11th March in Applecross, Wester Ross. The event aims to set a crofting agenda for the upcoming Brexit negotiations and a post-Brexit agricultural policy that is fit for crofting.

"The importance of the topic is reflected in the attendance of two members of the Scottish Government Cabinet," said Russell Smith, chair of the SCF. "On Friday the Cabinet Secretary responsible for crofting, Mr Fergus Ewing MSP, will officially open the gathering with an address placing crofting in the context of Scotland's rural development. On Saturday Dr Michael Russell MSP, Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's Place in Europe, will open the day and the session on generating priorities for the Brexit agenda.

Mr Smith continued, "Among other speakers will be Jan Douwe van der Ploeg, author of the book *New Peasantries* and longstanding researcher on rural development and small farmers; Gwyn Jones, from the European Forum for Nature Conservation and Pastoralism; and speakers from the activist organisations European Coordination La Via Campesina, ARC2020 and the Swedish Association for Transhumance and Pastoralism, who will address the need for food sovereignty and collective action.

"As in previous events organised by SCF, there will be space for grass-root views and perspectives – the 'voice from the fank". Mr Smith concluded, "Group discussions on Saturday morning will be organised to generate action points and prioritise the issues that Scottish Government should be pressing for on behalf of crofters, crofting and Scotland."

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Notes to editors

The full programme will be available on the SCF website shortly.

Location: the venue is Hartfield House, Applecross.

Time: from lunch to lunchtime, Friday 10 - Saturday 11 March. *The programme will start at 2pm sharp but gathering will be from noon on.*

Registration: there will be no registration fee; however, places will be limited so participants do have to register with maria@crofting.org.

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