Crofting by Numbers

Steven Thomson
Senior Agricultural Economist
Land Economy, Environment and Society Research

Siobhan Macdonald
Senior Consultant,
SAC Consulting

Crofting’s Place in Europe
Applecross
10th March 2017

Leading the way in Agriculture and Rural Research, Education and Consulting
Land Quality - Numbers

% of Land Capable of Supporting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land Type</th>
<th>HIE</th>
<th>RoS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arable Agriculture</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed Agriculture</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improved Grassland</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rough Grazing only</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Grazings</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Very limited alternatives for many crofters
Crofting Commission - Numbers

- 20,570 crofts
  - 1,952 “deemed crofts”
Croft Areas
Important for Environment
# June Agriculture Census - Crofts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Croft Holdings</th>
<th>Crofts as % of Holdings</th>
<th>Crofts as % Total Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARGYLL &amp; BUTE</td>
<td>457</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BADENOCH &amp; STRATHSPEY</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAITHNESS</td>
<td>524</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOCHABER</td>
<td>562</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORKNEY</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROSS &amp; CROMARTY</td>
<td>1,187</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHETLAND</td>
<td>1,338</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SKYE &amp; LOCHALSH</td>
<td>1,604</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUTHERLAND</td>
<td>1,362</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WESTERN ISLES</td>
<td>5,532</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ALL CROFTS</strong></td>
<td><strong>13,128</strong></td>
<td><strong>24%</strong></td>
<td><strong>15%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

% of Agricultural Area controlled by Crofts (including Common Grazings): 2015

- Less than 10%
- 11% - 20%
- 21% - 30%
- 31% - 40%
- 41% - 50%
- 51% - 60%
- 61% - 70%
- 71% - 80%
- 81% - 90%
- More than 90%
- Zero

Map created by Steven Thomson, SRUC, 2017
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Data extracted from June Agricultural Census data supplied by Scottish Government: Rural & Environment Science & Analysis Services Division
June Agriculture Census

% of Agricultural Area under Common Grazings: 2015

- 0% - 10%
- 11% - 20%
- 21% - 30%
- 31% - 40%
- 41% - 50%
- 51% - 60%
- 61% - 70%
- 71% - 80%
- 81% - 90%
- 91% - 100%
- Zero

Average Area of Common Grazing: 2015

Hectares

- Less than 45
- 46 - 91
- 92 - 128
- 129 - 192
- 193 - 308
- 309 - 442
- 443 - 709
- 710 - 1,239
- 1,240 - 1,835
- More than 1,835
- Zero

Map created by Steven Thomson
SRUC, 2016

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Data extracted from June Agricultural Census data supplied by Scottish Government: Rural & Environment Science & Analysis Services Division.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Own</th>
<th>% Region</th>
<th>Head</th>
<th>% Region</th>
<th>Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARGYLL &amp; BUTE</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>2,872</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BADENOCH &amp; STRATHSPEY</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>376</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAITHNESS</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>4,903</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOCHABER</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>1,033</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORKNEY</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>4,296</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROSS &amp; CROMARTY</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>2,401</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHETLAND</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>1,440</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SKYE &amp; LOCHALSH</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>3,109</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUTHERLAND</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>2,004</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WESTERN ISLES</td>
<td>384</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>2,948</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALL CROFTS</td>
<td>1,665</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>26,723</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Croft Suckler Herd Structure

Source: Scottish Government ‘s June Agricultural Census
# Crofter Sheep

## Breeding Ewes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Holdings No.</th>
<th>% Region</th>
<th>Head No.</th>
<th>% Region</th>
<th>Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARGYLL &amp; BUTE</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>19,135</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BADENOCH &amp; STRATHSPEY</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>2,839</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAITHNESS</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>21,338</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOCHABER</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>11,455</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORKNEY</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>5,559</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROSS &amp; CROMARTY</td>
<td>273</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>18,124</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHETLAND</td>
<td>860</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>95,666</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SKYE &amp; LOCHALSH</td>
<td>381</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>35,071</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUTHERLAND</td>
<td>421</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>32,134</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WESTERN ISLES</td>
<td>1,797</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>57,192</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ALL CROFTS</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,421</strong></td>
<td><strong>35%</strong></td>
<td><strong>301,734</strong></td>
<td><strong>12%</strong></td>
<td><strong>68</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Croft Sheep at Parish Level

**Total Sheep (including non-Croft): 2015**

- Less than 1,654: 6,817 - 11,638
- 1,655 - 3,363: 11,639 - 15,118
- 3,364 - 5,118: 15,119 - 20,327
- 5,119 - 6,977: 20,328 - 25,820
- 6,978 - 8,816: More than 25,821
- Zero

**% of Sheep on Crofts: 2015**

- 0% - 10%: 51% - 60%
- 11% - 20%: 61% - 70%
- 21% - 30%: 71% - 80%
- 31% - 40%: 81% - 90%
- 41% - 50%: 91% - 100%
- Zero

Map created by Steven Thomson, SRUC, 2017

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Data extracted from June Agricultural Census data supplied by Scottish Government: Rural & Environment Science & Analysis Services Division.
Croft Ewe Flock Structure

Source: Scottish Government ‘s June Agricultural Census
2005 Decoupling of CAP support

Decoupling of support:

• Both HLCA and headage payments

• Large scale reduction in sheep as farmers and crofters rationalised flocks
  – Reduction in shepherd numbers
  – Abandonment of sheep on some holdings
  – Downsizing

Change in Number of Sheep 1997-2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% Change</th>
<th>Change in Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Over 55% decrease</td>
<td>Deep Red</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-54% to -45%</td>
<td>Orange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-44% to -40%</td>
<td>Light Orange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-39% to -33%</td>
<td>Yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-26% to -19%</td>
<td>Light Red</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-18% to -1%</td>
<td>Pink</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>Light Blue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disclosive</td>
<td>Light Grey</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• The Transition to full BPS in 2019
  – Still an element of SFP in the payments
  – Regionalised payments and voluntary coupled support for beef calves and (some) ewe hoggs.

• Payment data not yet available for analysis
  – Difficult to assess the impact of new Pillar I support
  – Anecdotal examples using SAC Consulting’s CAP payment predictor tool developed in 2014/15

• €:£ benefits for payment since EU referendum
Basic Payment Regions

Estimated: €244/Ha
By 2019

Estimated: €41/Ha
By 2019

Estimated: €13/Ha
By 2019

Based on 2015 estimates by SG RESAS
Whole Common Grazing Classed Region 3
due to dominance of LFASS Cat A grazing
SFP to BPS croft example 1

- **2013**
  - 359Ha / 27 calves / 102 ewe hoggs
  - €19,700 entitlement but only €16,816 after modulation and financial discipline
  - €2,608 calf payment
  - **€19,424 total or €54/ha**

- **Regional allocation**
  - 39Ha R1 / 132Ha R2 / 188Ha R3

- **2019 (based on 2014 exchange rate)**
  - Greening €5,300
  - BPS €10,238
  - Calf Payment €4,320
  - **€19,585 or €55/ha**
SFP to BPS croft example 2

• 2013
  – 393Ha / 12 calves / 0 ewe hoggs
  – €8,359 entitlement but only €7,282 after modulation and financial discipline
  – €1,483 calf payment
  – €8,766 total or €22.30/ha

• Regional allocation
  – 1.87Ha R1 / 392Ha R3

• 2019 (based on 2014 exchange rate)
  – Greening €1,523
  – BPS €2,967
  – Calf Payment €1,760
  – €6,520 or €12.33/ha
SFP to BPS croft example 3

- **2013**
  - 58.7Ha / 7 Calves
  - €3,016 entitlement but only €2,719 after modulation and financial discipline
  - €1,032 calf payment
  - €3,751 total or €63.90/ha

- **Regional allocation**
  - 2.82Ha R1 / 55.86Ha R3

- **2019 (based on 2014 exchange rate)**
  - Greening €409
  - BPS €793
  - Calf Payment €700
  - €1,902 or €32.42/ha
SFP to BPS farm example 1

• 2013
  – 58.7Ha / 155 calves / 750 ewes/gimmers
  – €101,023 entitlement but only €84,700 after modulation and financial discipline
  – €8,144 calf payment
  – €92,814 total or €126.80/ha

• Regional allocation
  – 98.16Ha R1 / 634.24Ha R2

• 2019 (based on 2014 exchange rate)
  – Greening €15,569
  – BPS €30,032
  – Calf Payment €24,800
  – €70,402 or €96.12/ha
Economic Impact Study

- 60% of surveyed crofters invested in their croft during the 2011-14
  - Average £13,900
  - Median £3,000
- 30% investing received SG support (av £4,900)
- Many not investing due to lack of payback / uncertainty
Less Favoured Area

- Areas facing Natural Constraint
- Replace LFA by 2018 or phase out scheme
- ANC based on income foregone / additional costs

**Table 2. Haulage additional to the Mainland area**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Input (£/t to add)</th>
<th>Outer Islands</th>
<th>Inner Islands</th>
<th>Remote Mainland</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fertiliser (£/t)</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed (£/t)</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forage (£/t)</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cattle haulage (£/head)</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep haulage (£/head)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Cost V index of disadvantage**

0 = most disadvantaged

**Revenue V index of disadvantage**

0 = most disadvantaged
Historic Crofting Commission Data

- 2005 database with regional split:
  - Croft statistics
    - decrofting, apportionments, etc
  - Croft statistics from Scottish Government administrative data
    - Sheep, cattle, land-use, forestry, Wider demographics of the area
    - Population structure, crofter age profile, primary school enrolment, employment, new entrants to crofting, etc
  - Pillar II type support (awards and £)
    - CCAGS, Ram Purchase, Bull Supply Scheme, Township Development Plans, etc, Croft Housing awards, etc
## The data gaps? Post-Brexit Reality

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>• Improve joining up data on crofting</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>croft number ≠ CPH or BRNs</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>• Better data on crofting’s contribution to the economy</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Local Multiplier Study?</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>• CAP post 2015 impacts?</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Analysis of crofting position and impact of BPS / Regionalisation – revisit Common Grazings post Brexit?</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>SRDP support including LFASS / ANC</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>• Annual regional data snapshot of crofting area</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Multiple data sources / useful to provide evidence?</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thank you

steven.thomson@sruc.ac.uk

Data Sources:
Scottish Government RESAS June Agricultural Census,
SAC Consulting

This presentation was funded by the Rural Industries work package of the Scottish Government’s Strategic Research Programme 2016 – 2021 and the Programme’s Centre for Knowledge Exchange and Impact