



NEWS RELEASE

Use: **Immediate**

Date: **08/08/07**

LIVESTOCK MOVEMENT RELAXATION WELCOMED BY CROFTERS

The Scottish Crofting Foundation welcomed the news from the Scottish Executive that they were aiming to relax livestock movement controls on the Scottish islands, shortly after a plea from the Chair of the Foundation Norman Leask.

Leask said “I contacted the Minister Mike Russell raising issues that livestock movement controls, due to the Foot and Mouth outbreak in England, have created in the Crofting Counties. The two main points concerning the Highlands and Islands are that the health of our livestock and the viability of our local meat processors are at risk because of movement restrictions. Due to our high health status and controls at the ports of entry I believe that movements within any one island should be acceptable. Animal health concerns already exist because of grazing regimes being limited. I also asked for restrictions within each island group to be relaxed so that animals can be slaughtered for continuity of supply and survival of the meat supply businesses. We would then hope to see restrictions relaxed in the mainland Highlands and tighter Scottish border entry requirements for the future to ensure bio-security and hence less movement restriction within Scotland.”

He continued “I am very pleased to see that the Executive is listening to the farmers and crofters in the peripheral and island areas and have pledged to act as quickly as possible to safeguard our producers and supply chain”.

The Minister for Environment, Michael Russell contacted Norman Leask this morning to assure him that they will “bend over backwards” to get the movement restrictions lifted, starting with the islands. He asked that crofters please be patient as they anticipate that there will be change this week. SCF will keep crofters informed.

END

Contact: Norman Leask, SCF Chairman
Patrick Krause, SCF Chief Executive

Tel. 01595 693714 / 07957 936831
Tel. 01599 566 365

Notes to editors

Picture can be found at: http://www.croftingfoundation.co.uk/index.php/contact_headoffice