

THE MACAULAY LAND USE RESEARCH INSTITUTE
MACAULAY INSTITUTE LEWIS ENDOWMENT FUND
NEWS RELEASE

“FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEWIS CROFTING PROJECTS”

The Macaulay Institute in Aberdeen is seeking proposals for funding support to projects related to crofting and other land-based enterprises on Lewis.

The **Macaulay Institute Lewis Endowment Fund** was set up over 75 years ago through an endowment from Dr T.B. Macaulay of the Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada, which also led to the creation of the Macaulay Institute itself.

As the highly successful son of a Lewis family, Dr Macaulay wanted to return something to his native land and the Lewis Endowment Fund is one of his enduring legacies.

The Lewis Endowment Fund can provide a total of about £5000 a year to projects that will directly or indirectly benefit crofting or other land-based enterprises on Lewis. The Fund is intended to help secure the viability of existing, successful initiatives or add value to new ones. Typically the Fund supports between 2-4 projects a year which means that individual projects can receive a maximum of around £1000.

Dr Richard Birnie, who manages the Fund on behalf of the Macaulay Institute, said: *“We work closely with the Scottish Crofting Foundation in evaluating the funding applications. In previous years we have supported a wide range of projects. These include support to the **Brue and Tom Buidhe Folds of Pedigree Highland Cattle** for funding towards the installation of webcam technology for remote monitoring of stock and the creation of an internet interface both for local schools and wider educational purposes. The **Lewis & Harris Cattle Producer Group** for a benchmarking project aiming to quantify costs and performance of cattle herds and comparing these against Scotland standards, and against results in other peripheral areas where similar initiatives exist. The **Lewis & Harris Horticultural Producers** towards the purchase of an enclosed trailer for the storage/transport of existing market equipment used weekly at Stornoway Produce Market. The **Lewis & Harris Sheep Producers Association** for the development of a web-site for direct sales of Lewis & Harris Lamb. We are hoping to fund a similar number of projects in 2009.”*

SCF Chairman Neil MacKeod encouraged all eligible groups or individuals to consider an application to this fund. He said “the Lewis Endowment Fund has been absolutely beneficial for a number of organisations in Lewis and Harris and was really the catalyst for some groups to move ahead.”

Anybody interested in finding out more about the Lewis Endowment Fund, and how to apply for funding, should contact Dr Birnie at the Macaulay Institute in Aberdeen (r.birnie@macaulay.ac.uk) or visit <http://www.macaulay.ac.uk/lewisfund/> . The deadline

for applications is the 31st October and successful applicants will be informed by the 31st December.