



NEWS RELEASE

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BETTER BORDER CONTROLS WILL HELP ANIMAL WELFARE

The Scottish Crofting Foundation today called on government to do more to prevent the import of serious animal diseases and said much better biosecurity controls at UK ports and airports is needed. The Foundation was responding to a Scottish Executive consultation on principles of responsibility and cost sharing for animal health and welfare.

SCF Chairman Norman Leask said “Many of the recent outbreaks of disease can be partly attributed to government actions or lack of action. It was not entirely clear what this consultation proposed but cannot be fair to burden the livestock industry with the costs of dealing with diseases which arrived here due to poor border biosecurity or spread due to changes in government policy.

Crofters and farmers obviously have their part to play in ensuring the highest standards of animal health and welfare are met and there are many good initiatives, partnerships between livestock producers and the public sector, which are aimed at ensuring good health status and high animal welfare. Encouragement of these initiatives is the way to support animal health and welfare.”

ENDS

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Notes to editors

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