



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Advance payment scheme could be a life-saver says Crofting Federation**

A Scottish Government advance payment scheme to help cash-flow for crofters and farmers affected by adverse weather conditions is welcomed by the Scottish Crofting Federation.

"The National Basic Payment Support Scheme announced by Scottish Government could help some croft businesses that have been hit by the weather extremes and consequent high feed prices" said Patrick Krause, chief executive of the Scottish Crofting Federation. "Realistically, some crofters are worrying about how they will survive in the coming months with the knock-on from a protracted winter then lack of grass due to drought."

The National Basic Payment Support Scheme (NBPSS) is being launched to allow crofters and farmers early access to their annual support payments. The funding usually arrives between December and June but loans will be available from October and will offer eligible crofters and farmers up to 90% of what they are due.

Mr Krause added, "The problems don't necessarily manifest in all crofting areas, but rather are a consequence of forage shortages all over Scotland, which is already leading to higher prices for bought-in hay. An advance can help with cash-flow, but of course the basic problem of feed shortage is still there.

"Crofters are very often existing on marginal land and face adverse weather regularly. This year has been particularly difficult so any help from Scottish Government is appreciated," concluded Mr Krause.

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#### **Notes to editors**

- A picture can be found at: <http://www.crofting.org>