



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

Environment and Rural Affairs Department
Fisheries and Rural Development Group

Pentland House
47 Robb's Loan
Edinburgh EH14 1TY

Telephone: 0131-244 6209
Fax: 0131-244 4259
dorothy.parr@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk>

16 May 2005

Dear Sir/Madam

CONSULTATION ON CROFTERS CATTLE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

On behalf of Scottish Ministers, we are inviting written responses to this consultation paper by 8 August 2005. This consultation relates to an administrative scheme being made under the provisions of section 4(1) of the Congested Districts (Scotland) Act 1897, to aid and develop the breeding of beef cattle in the crofting counties of Scotland.

Previous consultation and evaluation

On 31 July 2003 the Crofters Commission employed the Scottish Agricultural College to conduct an evaluation of the three Livestock Improvement Schemes. The evaluation report was completed in November 2003 and it was made available for public scrutiny on the Crofters Commission web site in April 2004. It drew the following conclusions in relation to the Bull Supply Scheme:-

- That the Bull Supply Scheme did not represent good value for money in terms of genetic improvement of crofters cattle, although it did deliver wider benefits;
- Earlier feedback showed that the objectives of the schemes now seem out of date, both in relation to the Crofters Commission objectives and the needs of current and future markets;
- That ongoing objective measurement of the value created by hiring bulls, etc. is missing;
- That scope exists to very substantially improve crofters cattle through better bull selection, advice and development of crofters own skills and knowledge; and
- Given the State Aid constraints, the best alternative to the Bull Supply Scheme is a grant scheme linked to a beef quality programme.

On 23 September 2003 the Crofters Commission published proposals for a new Crofting Development Programme. This proposed the integration of all assistance to crofters with the inclusion of support for improvement of sheep and cattle within that integrated scheme. It was, to some extent, informed by the ongoing SAC evaluation. The Commission proposals were the subject

of an extensive consultation which was completed on 31 December 2003. There was significant opposition to the idea that the Livestock Schemes should be integrated within the new programme on the basis proposed in that consultation.

Concurrently, an internal audit of the Livestock Improvement Schemes which was completed on 17 December 2003, revealed some serious problems with the management of these schemes and the stud farm operation which was used to support them. It also drew attention to longstanding and unresolved concerns about the extent to which these schemes complied with State Aid rules. In the light of the audit report and evaluation the then Deputy Minister for Environment and Rural Development announced on 5 April 2004 that the Livestock Improvement Schemes would be closed. Only the Bull Hire Scheme would be replaced with a new Cattle Improvement Scheme.

Contents of this consultation paper

Following the Ministerial announcement on 5 April 2004, SEERAD employed consultants to develop proposals for a new Cattle Improvement Scheme. These were finalised in December 2004 after discussion with industry representatives. It is an administrative scheme based on these proposals which is set out in the attached consultation document and on which views are now being sought.

Next steps

Ministers and officials will give careful consideration to all comments before finalising the scheme. Subject to the outcome of this consultation, we presently expect the scheme to become operational in the autumn of this year.

Responding to this consultation paper

We are inviting written responses to this consultation paper by 8 August 2005. The consultation document poses questions about specific matters on which we wish the views of consultees. This does not however preclude consultees from commenting on any other aspects of the proposals. For the convenience of consultees we have included a Consultation Response Form (Annex E) that can be used for making your response. This lists the questions and provides space for comments. If you are not using this form we would be grateful if you could clearly indicate in your response the questions or parts of the consultation paper to which you are responding, as this will aid our analysis of the responses received. In addition every person responding is requested to **complete the enclosed Respondee Information Form (Annex F)**.

Please send your response to:

dorothy.parr@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

or **Mrs Dorothy Parr**
Land Use and Rural Policy Division
The Scottish Executive, Pentland House
47 Robb's Loan
EDINBURGH
EH14 1TY

If you have any queries contact **Dorothy Parr** on **0131 244 6209**.

If you wish to access this consultation online, go to <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/view/views.asp>. You can telephone Freephone 0800 77 1234 to find out where your nearest public internet access point is, if you prefer to submit your response by e-mail to dorothy.parr@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Part B of the consultation paper contains additional information about Scottish Executive consultation policy, including access to consultation responses. If you have any comments about how this consultation exercise has been conducted, please send them to Mrs Parr at the above address.

Yours faithfully

RI Perrett
Head, Crofting Branch



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

CROFTERS CATTLE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS FOR A REVISED SCHEME

Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department
May 2005

CROFTERS CATTLE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS FOR A REVISED SCHEME

Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department
May 2005

© Crown copyright 2005

ISBN: 0-7559-4667-7

Scottish Executive
St Andrew's House
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Produced for the Scottish Executive by Astron B41494 05/05

Published by the Scottish Executive, May, 2005

Further copies are available from
Blackwell's Bookshop
53 South Bridge
Edinburgh
EH1 1YS

100% of this document is printed on recycled paper and is 100% recyclable.

CONTENTS

| Section | Page |
|--|----------------|
| Part A – The Revised Scheme | 1 - 14 |
| Part B – Scottish Executive Consultation Policy | 15 - 16 |
| Part C – List of Consultees | 17 |
| Annex A – Cattle Improvement Scheme – Marketing Plan | 19 |
| Annex B – Cattle Improvement Scheme – Health Improvement Plan | 20 |
| Annex C – Cattle Improvement Scheme – Training Needs | 21 |
| Annex D – Bull Stud Conditions of Hire | 22 – 26 |
| Annex E – Consultation Response Form | 27 – 30 |
| Annex F – Respondee Information Form | 31 |

Part A:

THE REVISED SCHEME

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The proposed Crofters Cattle Improvement Scheme is a grant scheme firmly based on proposals developed for SEERAD by the Rural Development Company, a firm of consultants appointed with the specific task of developing a new cattle improvement scheme. The task given to that company was to prepare proposals for an administrative scheme with clear objectives which would deliver full and transparent compliance with State Aid rules and provide financial assistance of up to 50% of costs in the form of a grant. In order to achieve State Aid compliance it was necessary that the assistance provided under the scheme should be subject to prior application to meet pre-planned objectives with time limited assistance and mechanisms for monitoring progress. It was also necessary to design the scheme to operate over a limited period as it is intended that the Crofters Commission will eventually be given full responsibility for all direct assistance to crofters through schemes it has designed and operated.

1.2 The Rural Development Company report also makes proposals for Conditions of Hire at the Bull Stud and options for the future management of the stud operation. This consultation is concerned solely with the grant scheme proposals. **However it is relevant to note that all charges levied by the Bull Stud will in future be fixed at a level designed to fully recover all relevant stud farm operating costs.** Operation of the stud farm on that basis started in 2004. The hire fee this winter was £1000 plus VAT per bull hire and there are other charges for insurance, transport and over wintering. Current costings are based on an assumption that the Bull Stud will be hiring out around 200 bulls per annum. However, a substantial portion of the stud farm costs are fixed costs unaffected by bull numbers. In the event that there is a decline in the number of bulls hired the unit hire cost will increase significantly. Because there is a clear link a copy of the proposals for conditions of hire, which will be implemented in full, is attached as an annex to the consultation document for information (Annex D).

1.3 The full Rural Development Company report will be provided on request to any consultee interested in it. A copy will be placed in the Scottish Parliament Information Centre and there is also a copy available to download on the Scottish Executive website at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Consultations/Current>

SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSALS

2.1 The proposals are largely self-explanatory and are based on the fundamental principle of grant support towards the hire or purchase of bulls, conditional on production of clear and measurable improvement plans. The proposals are modelled on an existing scheme run by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in Northern Ireland which we know to be State Aid compatible. They are, however, simpler than that model and do not follow the Irish example in having a requirement for compulsory training in advance of participation.

2.2 The scheme will operate under the provisions of Section 4(1)(a) of the Congested Districts (Scotland) Act 1897 and is designed to support the use of up to 200 bulls. It

proposes a number of ways in which support will be provided beyond grant to buy and grant for hire. There will be annual payments for the preparation of plans ranging from £175 for a group with 20-30 cows to £400 for groups with 61-90 cows. The scheme also proposes end-plan payments of up to £5 per cow and that the members of the groups receiving the bulls should have up to 75% of their expenses on relevant training courses reimbursed.

2.3 The scheme is intended to operate until 2009 or to end sooner if the Crofters Commission puts in place a new comprehensive crofting support scheme before then. In practice the scheme may require to terminate on 30 June 2007 when a State Aid approval obtained before 31 December 2006 will expire. Continuation beyond 30 June 2007 will depend on re-notification of the State Aid and ensuring that the scheme is compliant with the State Aid guidelines that apply from 1 January 2007.

ELIGIBILITY

Basic conditions

3.1 It is proposed that support will be available to crofting cattle improvement groups or crofting stock clubs with a formal basis or constitution and links to a crofting township or group of townships in the designated Less Favoured Areas within the Crofting Counties. Support will be conditional on the submission and approval of a multi-annual Cattle Improvement Plan (3 or 4 years). Ongoing support will be conditional on the demonstration of progress against targets or milestones set in the plan and the submission of monitoring data to the satisfaction of the scheme managers.

3.2 Eligible groups must have at least two active members as an absolute minimum and no single group member should have more than two-thirds of the total breeding cows to which the application applies. These requirements are designed to prevent the possibility that a group might be formed to support a single business/enterprise. Group members may only be a member of one group and one replacement breeding group. There will be a presumption in favour of larger groups in assessing applications for support. This presumption in favour of larger groups has three main purposes, to achieve the maximum benefit and value for money for the public support, to broaden the base of support to as many crofters as possible and to promote wider co-operation and community involvement.

3.3. No group member may have in excess of 40 breeding cows and their followers and the group should collectively have no fewer than 20 and no more than 90 breeding cows. Bulling heifers for service by a bull hired or purchased under the scheme count as breeding cows.

3.4 Where groups are unable to meet the minimum cow numbers they may collaborate with similar groups to submit a joint application subject to the other eligibility criteria and the production on individual group cattle improvement plans.

Q1 Do you agree that it is appropriate to structure the eligibility criteria so as to prevent a single person dominating a cattle improvement group?

Q2 Do you agree that priority should be given to larger groups to maximise the benefits to crofting communities and that 20 is a reasonable minimum number of cows to be supported?

Q3 Do you agree that the scheme rules should be designed so as to prevent commercial cattle producers from exploiting the scheme?

Q4 Do you agree that individual crofters who have in excess of 40 breeding cows or groups with over 90 breeding cows are operating on a conventional farming scale and can reasonably be expected to have their own bull or bulls?

Other initial requirements

3.5 In order to qualify for assistance eligible groups must provide a statement demonstrating the degree of involvement and competence in agriculture and cattle production the group possesses. This should be supported by evidence of experience, training, qualifications etc. The Crofters Commission Scheme Manager may require the verification of such statements. This requirement is designed to ensure that any investment in cattle improvement will be properly utilised and it is in any case a requirement of State Aid guidelines that those benefiting from an agricultural State Aid should be able to demonstrate a degree of competence and involvement in agriculture.

3.6 Eligible groups must also demonstrate their commitment to improving or maintaining a high level of cattle health. Where possible all active group members should subscribe to the Hi-Health status scheme (Tier 2) and maintain their active participation for the duration of the plan. Where this is not possible the Cattle Improvement Plan should clearly justify this and detail the health improvement measures which will be taken.

3.7 Eligible groups will be required to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the scheme managers that they have access to appropriate facilities to accommodate the safe handling of any animal hired or purchased through support awarded under the scheme. The application must address all relevant health and safety and animal welfare considerations. Approval by Commission managers will be relevant only to entry to the scheme and will not constitute a wider opinion or approval of the fitness of the facilities concerned.

3.8 It will be a basic mandatory requirement that the Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition requirements set for the purposes of the single farm payment are met in relation to the land on which a group seeking assistance intends to keep any animal hired or purchased under the scheme.

Q5 Do you agree that a commitment to improving and maintaining cattle health should be a mandatory requirement of the scheme?

Replacement breeding groups

3.9 In order to allow groups to have a share in a second bull for breeding replacements, specialist groups whose purpose is the breeding of replacement females will be eligible for support. This proposal recognises that even some of the larger herds (outwith the scope of standard groups) are still too small to keep a bull solely to breed replacements. Membership of these groups may constitute either individual crofters or a number of eligible groups co-operating. Such replacement breeding groups are designed to allow for an appropriate proportion of female replacement calves for a small commercial sized herd and should have no fewer than 20 and no more than 45 breeding cows as defined at paragraph 3.3 above.

3.10 Members, groups or individuals, may include a proportion of their breeding cattle in such a group. In the case of these groups an individual member may have no more than two-thirds of the replacement breeding group total or 15 cows in the group, whichever is the lesser. However, there is no limit on the number of breeding cows owned by an individual member of such a group.

Q6 Do you agree that it is appropriate to allow for groups to be formed specifically for the purpose of rearing replacement cows for breeding purposes?

Q7 Do you agree that access to replacement breeding groups should be open to crofters who are operating small scale commercial suckler units?

CATTLE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Structure of the plan

4.1 The basis of assistance will be a multi-annual township or group level Cattle Improvement Plans which addresses the scheme objective. The plan will be prepared to a pro-forma which will also include the identification of the elements of support for which grant aid is sought. The plan may be for a minimum period of 3 years and a maximum period of 4 years. The plan must consist of at least 4 and up to 7 component plans. It must include a Cattle Breeding Plan, a Health Improvement and Management Plan, and a Community Benefit Plan. In addition there is a choice of 4 other component plans as follows:-

- A Marketing Plan;
- An Environmental And Animal Welfare Benefits Plan;
- A Physical And Financial Management Plan;
- A Training And Other Support Plan.

4.2 The Cattle Improvement Plan must also include at least one of these other component plans. The choice of component plans is designed to allow groups to focus on different elements and benefits whilst contributing to the broader objectives of the scheme. The period of the plan is designed to allow operational flexibility and choice. Where the marketing plan is not one of the components of the Cattle Improvement Plan, the main plan must identify how progeny resulting from the scheme are to be marketed and clearly indicate that there are sufficient market outlets available.

Q8 Do you agree with the proposed structure of the Cattle Improvement Plan and the proposed mix of compulsory and optional plan components?

Component plans

Cattle Breeding Plan

4.3 A Cattle Breeding Plan for the period of the Cattle Improvement Plan covering the genetic improvement of both male and female elements of the herd is a compulsory component of the Cattle Improvement Plan. This plan should show how incremental improvement will be achieved by each hire or purchase made.

Health Improvement And Management Plan

4.4 A Health Improvement and Management Plan which details the commitment by the group and/or individual members to improving or maintaining high health status. This should target the achievement of group wide status of Tier 2 of the High Health scheme. Where this is not possible the plan should detail the constraints and identify those steps which are possible. Since high health status is considered to be a key benefit of the Crofters Cattle Improvement Scheme and contributes to animal welfare and bio-security, this plan is a compulsory component of the Cattle Improvement Plan.

Community Benefit Plan

4.5 A plan which outlines how it is expected the community may benefit as a result of crofting cattle improvement. This should indicate any steps to be taken to optimise community benefit, where and when these benefits are expected to arise and what they are anticipated to be. Because the contribution of cattle to sustainable crofting forms a major part of the justification for and objective of the scheme this plan is a compulsory component of the Cattle Improvement Plan.

Q9 Do you agree that support for crofter cattle enterprises should be linked to delivery of community benefits?

Marketing Plan

4.6 A marketing plan which identifies the planned market or destination for livestock produced. Any market research or development activity to be undertaken should help crofters to identify and address the most appropriate range of market opportunities for their cattle. This plan could also inform the Cattle Breeding Plan in aligning production with current or future market trends. This plan is an optional component of the Cattle Improvement Plan.

Q10 Do you consider that the identification of the market for livestock produced with the aid of the Crofters Cattle Improvement Scheme should be part of a Cattle Improvement Plan?

Q11 Should the identification of the market for livestock produced with the aid of the Crofters Cattle Improvement Scheme be a compulsory part of a Cattle Improvement Plan?

Environmental And Animal Welfare Benefits Plan

4.7 An Environmental and Animal Welfare Benefits Plan would highlight the non-market benefits which crofting cattle deliver and could strengthen the case for providing assistance to a group. Such a plan should identify measures to be taken to exceed or provide additional benefits beyond cross compliance requirements, with regard to good agricultural and environmental condition and animal welfare. This plan is an optional component of the Cattle Improvement Plan.

Q12 Should a Cattle Improvement Plan that delivers non-market benefits get priority over a plan which does not do so?

Physical and Financial Management Plan

4.8 Across all agricultural sectors there is a substantial gap between the poorest and best performing enterprises and there are significant gains to be made through relatively minor improvements in performance. A Physical and Financial Management Plan is an optional component of the Cattle Improvement Plan. It should highlight where changes in management might deliver improvements in the performance of the cattle enterprise and will, where appropriate, draw together elements from the other components of the Cattle Improvement Plan.

Training And Other Support Plan

4.9 Training and support needs and opportunities will be inherent in the plans produced and support is available for addressing these needs. A Training and Other Support Plan is an optional component of the Cattle Improvement Plan which should identify these needs and opportunities and draw the training requirements together in a planned programme for the provision of such support.

Plan Targets

4.10 The Cattle Improvement Plans will have little value if the improvement achieved cannot be measured. If improvement cannot be assessed there will be no basis for justifying support. In their plan each group will require to identify targets and achievement milestones which are realistic and appropriate to the group, its objectives and overall plan. These should be clearly identified for each element of the plan and should be specific and measurable.

Q13 Do you have views on the kind of targets that crofting groups should be expected to set?

Q14 Do you agree that groups which produce plans that fail to set specific and measurable targets should be refused assistance?

Plan Preparation

4.11 A specific programme of support for plan preparation will be made available by the Crofters Commission with ongoing advice and support for the preparation of the plan available from the Crofters Commission Scheme Manager, who will either respond directly or refer enquirers to other specialist sources of support such as QMS. In addition groups will be free to contract in further specialist advice to support the development of their plan at their own cost should they wish to do so. However, there will be a presumption in favour of those plans which are prepared by group members themselves rather than those prepared by consultants. This recognises the importance of the direct involvement of group members in the development of the planned approach to the achievement of the scheme objectives.

Q15 Do you agree that groups who prepare their own plans should be favoured over those that employ consultants to prepare a plan for them?

Plan Development Training

4.12 Groups who wish to prepare a Cattle Improvement Plan will be eligible to have two members attend a plan development training programme. This is designed to help groups prepare their own plans and is considered to be a key part of the process of improvement. Training will be organised on an area basis to coincide with the application cycle for the Crofting Cattle Improvement Scheme. The training programme consists of four sessions and will cover:-

- An introduction to the scheme and the plan process;
- The preparation of a cattle breeding plan;
- Guidelines for the handling and management of bulls;
- The preparation of a Health Improvement and Management Plan;
- Preparation of a Cattle Marketing Plan; and
- Planning the improvement of physical and financial management.

Q16 Do you consider that the provision for training group members is adequate?

Payment For Plan Preparation

4.13 By the end of the training programme participant groups will be expected to have completed a group breeding plan to cover the period of their application for support under the Crofting Cattle Improvement Scheme. Groups completing the training programme and both the Breeding and Health Improvement Plans will be eligible to receive a lump sum payment of £150 plus a further payment of £4 per eligible breeding cow for a 4 year plan. These payments are reduced by 20% for for 3 year plans. These payments are intended to contribute towards the cost of preparing the Cattle Improvement Plan.

ASSISTANCE FOR QUALITY BULL PROVISION

Support For Bull Hire

5.1 Grant aid will be available to eligible groups towards the cost of hiring a bull to meet the objectives of the Cattle Improvement Plan prepared by each group. The maximum level of support will be 50% of the hire charge. The rate of grant may be varied depending on the quality of the plan submitted and the level of bull hire fee but will not in any circumstances exceed 50% of the hire fee which is the maximum amount of support that can be legitimately provided. The support will relate only to the actual hire cost of the bull. Elements of the hire fee relating to delivery, transport and insurance may not be included in the hire cost for grant calculation purposes.

Support For Bull Purchase

5.2 Grant aid will be available to eligible groups towards the cost of buying a bull to meet the objectives of the Cattle Improvement Plan prepared by each group. The maximum level of support will be 50% of the purchase price (subject to a maximum grant of £2,000). The rate of grant may be varied depending on the quality of the plan submitted but will not in any circumstances exceed 50% of the purchase price, which is the maximum amount of support that can be legitimately provided. Bull purchase may only be grant aided once in any four year period and must be supported by a Cattle Improvement Plan covering that period. Where the purchase price includes delivery costs these must be discounted as they will not be eligible for assistance.

Bull Numbers

5.3 Groups may be grant aided to support the hire or purchase of up to two bulls at any one time. In addition applicant groups grant assisted for bull purchase will be ineligible for bull hire assistance during the four years following an award of grant assistance towards purchase of a bull. Groups assisted for bull hire may, on approval of a new plan, convert from bull hire to bull purchase. Larger groups seeking support for two bulls may submit a plan for one hire and one purchased bull.

Bull Specification

5.4 The scheme does not specify where bulls must be hired or bought from. Bulls may be acquired from any source. However, grant assistance under the scheme will be given only if the bulls being acquired meet the scheme minimum requirements. These requirements are:-

a. The bull must be recorded through a relevant performance recording scheme with weights at any two of the following three ages: 100 days, 200 days or 300 days, together with the 400 day weight

and either

b. Have an EBV for muscle score and/ or muscle depth that is at or above the breed average

or

c. Have an EBV for 200 day milk that is at or above the breed average.

The bull must be health tested to achieve a standard at least equivalent to that required for Tier 2 of the High Health scheme.

Q17 Do you have any concerns about the quality requirements to be applied to bulls to be assisted through this scheme ?

5.5 This specification is designed to ensure that bulls used have a minimum breeding value for growth, muscle and/or maternal characteristics which is above the breed average. The health testing of bulls will be the responsibility of the owner i.e. either the hiring stud or, in the case of supported purchases, the group. This testing must be undertaken before the bull is delivered to the group.

Over Wintering

5.6 There will be no financial support available to cover the cost of the over wintering of any bulls purchased or hired.

Restrictions on Use of Grant Aided Bulls

5.7 Support will be restricted to active members of the group identified in the application. This may be varied subject to obtaining advance approval of additions to the group. Animals hired or purchased using scheme resources may not be made available for use by non-group members.

SUPPORT FOR PLAN PERFORMANCE RECORDING

6.1 Performance recording is one of the key elements of this scheme and is essential in delivering genuine measurable improvement. For this reason groups renting or purchasing a bull under the scheme will be eligible for payment of an annual allowance in respect of the collection, collation and reporting of specific cattle physical and financial performance data

relating to the use of such bulls. In order to receive this payment groups will be required to record the following data:-

In relation to all breeding cows in the group

- Breed and gender of calves;
- Average calving interval;
- Range of calving interval;
- Number of assisted calvings;
- Calving mortality; and
- Status and progress against health improvement targets.

For cattle sold at auction (for each sale and in total)

- Class of cattle, individual sale weights and sale prices achieved;
- Average weight for each class of cattle sold by the group;
- Average price for each class of cattle sold by group;
- Average weight for the class at the sale attended; and
- Average price for the class at the sale attended.

6.2 All classes of cattle should be recorded separately and details of age, breed and sire should be provided in relation to all females retained as breeding replacements.

6.3 Where cattle are sold through routes other than auction, similar data should, where possible, be recorded in order that year on year progress may be recorded against a standard market trend. The appropriate data to be collected should be agreed in advance with the Scheme Manager.

6.4 These data requirements are designed to allow groups to collect a core set of data which can be used both for performance measurement of their breeding plan and for supporting their funding claims. The requirements are straightforward and have been designed to be realistic in the crofting situation e.g. groups are required to provide data on calving intervals rather than on the number of observed services. Financial and market performance data should be readily available from auctioneers for the majority of cattle. Where sale averages by class prove difficult to secure overall sale averages should be provided. The purpose of recording the sale average data for the class is to allow for the identification of the overall trend against which the plan performance may be considered i.e. it allows for performance to be assessed in the light of the market conditions rather than absolute terms.

Q18 Do you foresee any difficulties in meeting the performance recording requirements?

6.5 Payments are designed to cover the cost of developing and maintaining cow performance records throughout the plan period and will be made to groups on the following scale:-

| | | |
|-----------------------|------|-----------|
| 20 – 30 breeding cows | £175 | |
| 31 – 45 breeding cows | £225 | |
| 46 – 60 breeding cows | £300 | |
| 61 – 90 breeding cows | £400 | (Maximum) |

Payment For Plan Delivery

6.6 In order to cover the costs of developing and maintaining cow records throughout the plan period, a further payment will be made at the end of the plan period for each eligible breeding cow following the successful delivery of the group Breeding and Health Improvement Plans. These payments are £4 for 4 year plans and £3 for 3 year plans. This payment is made on a per cow basis to reflect the relative sizes of the different groups and the length of the plan.

SUPPORT FOR ADVICE AND LEARNING

Advice on Bull Breed, Bull Purchase and Bull Handling

7.1 Advice on breeding policy, bull purchase and bull handling will be available from the Crofters Commission Scheme Manager for members of eligible groups. The Scheme Manager will also provide or direct groups towards after-care support for ongoing Cattle Improvement Plan implementation, development and delivery.

Marketing Advice

7.2 Crofting groups may face particular challenges in meeting Quality Meat Scotland criteria and ultimately this may restrict their markets. Quality Meat Scotland will be available to provide advice and guidance on the marketing of cattle to groups involved in the scheme.

Training Support and Cattle Improvement Advice

7.3 Support will be available from the Crofters Commission for training which is identified and approved in the Cattle Improvement Plan. The maximum rate of support will be 75% of the costs of participation.

SCHEME CONDITIONS AND OPERATION

Scheme Management

8.1 The scheme will be managed by the Crofters Commission Livestock Unit on behalf of SEERAD. The Livestock Unit will be responsible for administering the applications and plan approvals and will oversee the scheme monitoring, reporting and recording processes.

Applications

8.2 There will be an annual call for applications in the form of a Crofting Cattle Improvement Plan. Grant will be subject to the eligibility and availability criteria detailed at paragraphs 3.1 to 3.9 above and the assessment of the quality of the plan submitted. A strict closing date will be advertised and applied.

Available Resources

8.3 Support for bull hires and purchases under the scheme is limited to a maximum of 200 bulls, which is more bulls than were ever allocated in any one year under the former Bull Hire Scheme.

8.4 The maximum number of bull purchases which may be assisted under the scheme is 20 in any given financial year, which we consider to be an adequate and affordable provision to meet anticipated demand.

Appraisal And Assessment

8.5 Following submission, Cattle Improvement Plans will be appraised by the Crofters Commission Scheme Manager against set criteria which relate to the achievement of scheme objectives. A Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) will then assess the plans on the basis of a short report prepared by the scheme manager containing the scheme manager's appraisal of the technical competence of the applications and plans. The PAC will then make decisions on entry to the scheme. The PAC membership will include the Head of Livestock, a Development Manager, a Commission Board Member, two crofter representatives and a member of SEERAD agricultural staff. This membership structure is designed to balance scheme management and user interests and take account of the production, community and wider interests involved in crofting cattle production. The Scheme Manager will attend in an advisory capacity.

Q19 Are the arrangements for deciding grant applications and the make up of the Programme Advisory Committee acceptable?

Continuation Of Support

8.6 Grant aid will be allocated annually from year two onwards until completion of the plan. However, payment to a group will be contingent on that group demonstrating satisfactory progress against plan targets and the monitoring and reporting of such progress. The Scheme Manager will review the annual reporting by groups. Continuing support will be contingent on the Scheme Manager/Head of Livestock's approval of the reports made for the previous year. Payment is therefore likely to be linked initially to the evidence of activity and the monitoring and reporting undertaken. However, this should eventually demonstrate improved performance.

Claims

8.7 Claims for payment of grant will be administered by the Crofters Commission. Claims must be made on the specified pro-forma and must be supported by the relevant evidence of activity or expenditure; in effect a progress report on the plan. All payments will be made retrospectively. The first payment of grant on bull hire fees in connection with a new plan will be made following the first hire under that plan. Subsequent payments of grant aid will be made annually following delivery of the hired animal, but only if the Scheme Manager/Head of Livestock has approved the report made by the group as indicated at paragraph 8.6 above.

Appeals

8.8 Any appeal regarding a Commission staff or Programme Advisory Committee decision may be considered by a sub group of the Crofters Commission Board, which may make recommendations to the parties involved on its resolution.

Other Considerations

8.9 Notwithstanding the eligibility rules and entitlements set out above, no payments under this scheme will be made which will result in a scheme beneficiary receiving more than the €100,000 limit on technical support within a 3 year period from all sources set by the European Commission State Aid guidelines.

PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT AND MONITORING

Performance Measurement

9.1 Effective performance measurement is fundamental to the success of this initiative at Plan and Scheme levels. Measurement will therefore occur at both the Cattle Improvement Plan and overall Scheme levels. This will be based on the completion and reporting by groups of each of the component plans detailed at Section 4 which are included in each group's Cattle Improvement Plan. Reporting must be undertaken using the pro-forma supplied by the Scheme Manager and will form part of the claims process.

Performance Monitoring

9.2 Performance reporting will be verified through a process of plan monitoring. A sample of between 5% and 20% of plans will be subject to monitoring visits and checks in any year. These checks will be undertaken independently by SEERAD area office agricultural staff. They have the relevant technical expertise and local knowledge to undertake this work but have no direct involvement in the management and administration of the scheme.

Q20 Do you have any concerns about the performance measurement and monitoring arrangements?

OTHER ISSUES

Stud Farm Hires

10.1 It is appreciated that many crofting groups will wish to make use of the bulls that are available for hire from the Departmental stud farm and that consideration by these groups of the impact of these proposals for the new Cattle Improvement Scheme will understandably be influenced by the hire arrangements which will be put in place at the stud farm. Because of this link a copy of the proposed conditions of hire which we intend to operate from 2005 onwards is attached at Annex D.

10.2 A crucial point to note is that in future the stud will be required to operate so as to achieve full cost recovery on its hires. Many of the costs incurred in operating the stud are fixed costs which are not significantly affected by the number of bulls hired. This means that the cost of hires will very much depend on the number of hires. The hire fees will therefore be lower if the stud is operating at capacity. The costings associated with the proposed conditions of hire reflect a level of operation close to capacity. A significant drop in demand would have a significant effect on unit costs and consequently on hire fees at the stud.

Proving the Bulls

10.3 The current practice of maintaining a herd of heifers for the purpose of proving the bulls at the stud will not be continued. This practice provided a service which is better than is available to the generality of the agricultural community and theoretically should have ensured that bulls were rarely returned for failure to perform. But in practice there have been a lot of bulls returned. So in future the stud will hire out untested bulls and replace poor performers as necessary. The untested bulls will primarily be hired to less remote locations to minimise difficulties over return and replacement. Retention of the heifer operation would result in higher hire charges.

Future management of stud facilities

10.4 The Rural Development Company report also makes proposals for the future management of the stud operation. That report confirms that the existing operations at the stud farm are inefficient and costly and the buildings currently in use are no longer appropriate and in maintenance terms are at the end of their useful life. The proposed full cost recovery hire charges are based on an assumption that stud operations can be made more efficient through rationalisation, single site operation and construction of new purpose-built facilities. If operations continue on the existing sites, and without further investment, hire charges would be bound to be much higher than currently proposed due to the built-in costs and inefficiencies of the present operation.

Part B

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE CONSULTATION POLICY

The Scottish Executive Consultation Process

Consultation is an essential and important aspect of Scottish Executive working methods. Given the wide-ranging areas of work of the Scottish Executive, there are many varied types of consultation. In general, Scottish Executive consultation exercises aim to provide opportunities for all those who wish to express their opinions on a proposed area of work to do so in ways which will inform and enhance that work.

While details of particular circumstances described in a response to a consultation exercise may usefully inform the policy process, consultation exercises cannot address individual concerns and comments. These should be directed to the relevant public body. Consultation exercises may involve seeking views in a number of different ways, such as public meetings, focus groups or questionnaire exercises.

Typically, Scottish Executive consultations involve a written paper inviting answers to specific questions or more general views about the material presented. Written papers are distributed to organisations and individuals with an interest in the area of consultation, and they are also placed on the Scottish Executive web site enabling a wider audience to access the paper and submit their responses¹. Copies of all the responses received to consultation exercises (except those where the individual or organisation requested confidentiality) are placed in the Scottish Executive library at Saughton House, Edinburgh (K Spur, Saughton House, Broomhouse Drive, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD, telephone 0131 244 4552).

The views and suggestions detailed in consultation responses are analysed and used as part of the decision making process. Depending on the nature of the consultation exercise the responses received may:

- indicate the need for policy development or review;
- inform the development of a particular policy;
- help decisions to be made between alternative policy proposals;
- be used to finalise legislation before it is implemented.

Access To Consultation Responses

We will make all responses available to the public in the Scottish Executive Library 21 days after the closing date of the consultation, unless confidentiality is requested. All responses not marked confidential will be checked for any potentially defamatory material before being logged in the library or placed on the website.

¹ <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations>

Seconsult – Your Guide To Se Consultation Activity

The Scottish Executive now has an email alert system for SE consultations (SEconsult). This system allows stakeholder individuals and organisations to register and receive a weekly email containing details of all new SE consultations (including web links). Seconsult complements, but in no way replaces SE distribution lists. It is designed to allow stakeholders to keep up to date with all SE consultations activity, and therefore be alerted at the earliest opportunity to those of most interest. We would encourage you to register.

Part C

LIST OF CONSULTEES

All Scottish MSPs
All Scottish MPs
All Scottish Lords
All Scottish MEPs
Political Parties
Scottish Parliament

Local Authorities

Scottish Crofting Foundation
NFU Scotland
Scottish Rural Property and Business Association
RICS Scotland
Scottish Estates Business Group
SCVO
COSLA
Equal Opportunities Commission
Commission for Racial Equality
Disability Rights Commission
Legal Deposit Libraries
NDPBs

All crofters, landowners, advisers, land agents property consultants and other interested parties* who responded to the consultation by the Crofters Commission on their proposals for a new Crofting Development Programme.

* A range of individuals in this last group were sent the consultation paper as they appeared on recent relevant distributions lists.



| CATTLE IMPROVEMENT SCHEME – MARKETING PLAN |
|---|
| Describe present target market for the group's cattle <i>(e.g. where do you sell and who are the buyers)</i> |
| |
| What are the buyers of your cattle looking for <i>(this could include feedback from purchasers and knowledge of the market)</i> |
| |
| How do your cattle measure up to the standard required/looked for by buyers <i>(consider factors such as age, weight, breed, presentation, giving examples/feedback from previous customers)</i> |
| |
| Describe your future marketing strategy and the reasons for choosing this option <i>(this should include a brief analysis of a number of possible outlets and reasons for your chosen route)</i> |
| |
| What improvements does the group plan to better meet the demands of your chosen market <i>(this could include issues such as tighter calving to allow batching of animals or speaning of calves to improve growth rates when sold as well as selection of breed etc)</i> |
| |
| Provide a timescale for implementing each of the improvements described above |
| |

CATTLE IMPROVEMENT SCHEME – HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN

(We recommend you discuss this aspect of your plan with your local vet)

| Your Disease/ Health Issues | Cause | Improvement Objective | Treatment or Strategy | Timescale for Improvement | Relevant Biosecurity Measures |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| <i>Examples:- BVD Johnes Disease</i> | <i>Purchased bulling heifers</i> | <i>Complete eradication from herd</i> | <i>1. Join High Health Scheme 2. Breed own heifers from clean cows</i> | <i>Will take 3 years (clean for 2008 calving)</i> | <i>Fencing Programme</i> |
| <i>Fluke & worms</i> | <i>Grazings, environment & irregular dosing</i> | <i>Improved Performance</i> | <i>Regular dosing regime (agreed with the vet)</i> | <i>Immediate</i> | <i>Better Grazings Management</i> |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

General Biosecurity Plan:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

CATTLE IMPROVEMENT SCHEME – TRAINING NEEDS

The training needs of the Group and individuals within the Group should be assessed principally in relation to issues and actions identified in the Marketing, Health and Breeding Improvement Plans. This may include for example a need for more focused market research, greater understanding and awareness of cattle health issues – identification and treatment, and knowledge of condition scoring and liveweight assessment.

Please indicate in the table below the training needs of the group and proposed action to address these needs. Your local Development Manager will be able to assist in identifying training services/suppliers (see attached map).

| | Training Needs Identified | Proposed Action | Individuals to receive training and timescale |
|-----------|----------------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Marketing | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Health | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Breeding | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Other | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

BULL STUD CONDITIONS OF HIRE

1 PURPOSE

The Crofters Commission will operate a bull stud farm which will offer superior bulls for hire on the open market on a full cost recovery basis. This service will be available to crofter and farmer groups within the crofting counties who seek to improve the breeding quality, health and performance of their cattle enterprises and who can meet the stud conditions of hire. The stud will also offer a range of complementary services supporting the provision of bulls; these will also be provided on a full cost recovery basis.

2 SERVICES

2.1 BULL HIRE

The Crofters Commission Bull Stud will offer bulls of an assured breeding standard for hire to crofter and farmer groups. The stud will be able to offer up to 200 bulls for hire in any one year. Rentals will be for a period of one year. The maximum number of cows to be served by a hired bull in a season is 45.

2.2 BULL SPECIFICATION

2.2.1 Breed

The stud will maintain a stock which matches as closely as possible the projected demand profile for the various breeds. The annual cycle of purchasing replacement bulls will result in bulls being purchased following the receipt of applications for hire. This will afford a degree of responsiveness to changes in demand patterns. Where it is not possible to supply a bull matching the hirers' first choice of breed a second choice alternative of a similarly suitable breed and standard will be offered.

2.2.2 Breeding Value

Bulls will be offered for hire from the existing stud which is recognised to be of an appropriate standard for the improvement of crofting cattle. Replacement bulls joining the stud will additionally meet the following criteria.

a. The bull must be recorded through a relevant performance recording scheme with weights at any two of the following three ages, 100 days, 200 days or 300 days together with the 400 day weight

and either

b. Have an EBV for muscle score and/ or muscle depth that is at or above the breed average
or

c. Have an EBV for 200 day milk that is at or above the breed average.

2.2.3 Health

All bulls offered for hire through the stud farm will be tested and registered under the SAC High Health Scheme (to at least level 2). The stud will be responsible for maintaining this status whilst the bulls are located on the stud.

2.3 REPLACEMENTS

2.3.1 Fertility

The replacement of bulls which are thought by hirers either to be infertile or not to be working will be at the discretion of the stud manager. Hirers should be able to provide evidence to support their claim in this regard e.g. a record of cows returning to service or veterinary evidence. Bulls returned to the stud will be fertility and service tested, in the event that the claim is shown to be valid the stud will bear the costs associated with providing a replacement. In the event that bulls are shown to be fertile and to serve cows effectively hirers will be liable for the costs associated with providing the replacement bull.

2.3.2 Injury or Ill Health

The replacement of bulls which are ineffective or whose welfare may be at risk due to ill health or injury will be at the discretion of the stud manager. Hirers should provide veterinary evidence to support their claim. Bulls returned to the stud will be subject to veterinary examination; in the event that the claim is shown to be valid the stud will bear the costs associated with providing a replacement. In the event that bulls are shown to be fit or that their injury or ill health is due to mismanagement hirers will be liable for the costs associated with providing the replacement bull.

2.4 VETERINARY COSTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Commission stud will be responsible for all veterinary costs for bulls in their ownership located on the stud farms. The hirer will be responsible for all veterinary costs associated with their hire of the bull, including any veterinary treatment required which is apparent on the return of the bull to the stud. The stud may contribute to the cost of veterinary treatment whilst the bull is on hire at the stud managers discretion if the need for treatment is shown to have arisen through the studs management of the bull. All costs associated with bulls owned by groups will be the responsibility of the group concerned.

2.5 INSURANCE

The stud will negotiate and maintain annual insurance cover for all bulls in its ownership. The costs of this insurance will be charged to hirers on a full cost recovery basis.

2.6 BULL DELIVERY AND UPLIFT

2.6.1 Transport

It is a condition of hire that the Crofters Commission Stud Farm will be responsible for arranging the delivery and uplift of all bulls to be hired from or wintered at the Stud.

2.6.2 Facilities

The hiring group is responsible for ensuring that the handling facilities at the delivery point are suitable for the safe delivery, uplift and handover of each bull hired. The Crofters Commission Stud delivery driver has sole discretion to judge the fitness or otherwise of the facility and may refuse to load or offload a bull at an unsuitable facility.

2.6.3 Arrangements

Crofters Commission Stud Farm staff will contact the group by letter to arrange the time and place of delivery or uplift, confirm who is to take delivery or despatch the bull and confirm contact details. Commission Stud Farm staff will confirm this information by telephone during the week leading up to delivery or uplift.

The driver will telephone the responsible person in advance should there be any undue delay or changes in schedule. The Commission will not be responsible for any delays which are outwith their control.

2.6.4 Handover

A responsible named member or representative of the group, who is competent in handling such livestock, must be personally present to receive or handover the bull. The nominated representative and their contact details should be provided on the confirmation section of the Crofters Commission Stud Farm conditions of hire.

The delivery driver will pass the cattle passport and a delivery note to the responsible person when a bull is delivered. The delivery note must be signed by the responsible person acknowledging receipt of the bull and passport, the delivery note is then returned to the driver. At this point the group becomes the keeper of the animal, assumes responsibility for it as per the conditions of hire and becomes fully responsible for all movement recording and the cattle passport. The passport must be returned to the Commission with the bull/s. The driver will sign an uplift note acknowledging receipt of the bull and passport, the uplift note is then passed to the responsible person. Bulls will not be uplifted without the relevant passport.

2.6.5 Charges

In the event that the bull/s cannot be delivered or uplifted through the groups failure to comply with the conditions given at 2.6.1, 2.6.2 or 2.6.3 above, the hiring group will be liable for all the additional charges associated with this. These will be charged at cost and may include liability for any disruption caused to subsequent deliveries.

2.7 OVER WINTERING

The Crofters Commission Stud Farm has the facility to offer over wintering facilities for bulls hired by groups. Groups wishing to make use of this service should detail this in their application for hire.

Bulls which are not owned by the Crofters Commission Stud Farm may be over wintered on behalf of groups subject to approval of a separate application. In this case these bulls will be subject to health testing at the owners cost in order to maintain the stud health status. In the event that applications for wintering exceed capacity those bulls owned by the stud will take priority.

3 CONDITIONS OF HIRE

3.1 BULL HIRE APPLICATIONS

Bulls will only be hired to those crofting cattle improvement groups or crofting stock clubs with a formal basis or constitution and links to a crofting township or group of townships who have adopted formal cattle breeding and health improvement plans. Groups must demonstrate that the plans are developed, monitored and maintained to the specified standard and to the satisfaction of the stud manager.

Applications for bull hires will be accepted only during the month of August and up to and including the 15th of September, this timing is essential for the planning of stud purchases. Later applications will not be accepted except where a delay is due to the action of the Crofters Commission or the applicants can demonstrate that the delay was due to exceptional factors beyond their control.

Hires will run for a period of 24 Months from the date of delivery. The second years hire will be conditional on confirmation of the monitoring and maintenance of the groups cattle breeding and health improvement plans and the stud management being satisfied with the bulls' management and condition whilst on hire.

3.2 CONDITIONS OF HIRE AGREEMENT

Signed acceptance of the formal conditions of hire agreement is a precondition of hiring a bull from the Crofters Commission Stud Farm.

3.3 HIGH HEALTH SCHEME

Bulls provided for hire will be tested and registered under the SAC High Health Scheme or its equivalent. Maintenance of this status whilst bulls are on hire will be the responsibility of the hirer. Hiring groups should either be members of the High Health Scheme or be able to demonstrate that they are working to improve cattle health and/or towards achieving such status.

3.4 BULL WELFARE CONTRACT

Hirers of bulls will be required to sign a formal bull welfare contract which gives a clear specification of the Crofters Commission Stud Farms requirements in this regard.

3.5 FEES

The following fees will be charged for the services provided by the Crofters Commission Stud Farm.

| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| Bull hire | £1,000 per annum |
| Insurance | £23 per annum (Cost) |
| Bull delivery and uplift: Rate with wintering | £150 per annum (estimated) |
| Rate without wintering | £75 per annum (estimated) |

Delivery and uplift charges will be calculated to represent a pro rata share of the total annual delivery variable cost for bull transport (Fuel, maintenance, fares and expenses).

| | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Bull wintering | £350 (All breeds) |
|----------------|-------------------|

All charges, with the exception of bull insurance are subject to Value Added Tax at the prevailing rate.

All the above costs will be subject to annual review by the Crofters Commission in order to ensure that changes in costs are fully reflected in charges and that full cost recovery is achieved.

Advance payment is required for bull hire, transport, insurance and bull wintering.

CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

| | | YES | NO |
|----------------|--|-----|----|
| Q1 | <i>Do you agree that it is appropriate to structure the eligibility criteria so as to prevent a single person dominating a cattle improvement group?</i> | | |
| <u>Comment</u> | | | |
| Q2 | <i>Do you agree that priority should be given to larger groups to maximise the benefits to crofting communities and that 20 is a reasonable minimum number of cows to be supported?</i> | | |
| <u>Comment</u> | | | |
| Q3 | <i>Do you agree that the scheme rules should be designed so as to prevent commercial cattle producers from exploiting the scheme?</i> | | |
| <u>Comment</u> | | | |
| Q4 | <i>Do you agree that individual crofters who have in excess of 40 breeding cows or groups with over 90 breeding cows are operating on a conventional farming scale and can reasonably be expected to have their own bull or bulls?</i> | | |
| <u>Comment</u> | | | |
| Q5 | <i>Do you agree that a commitment to improving and maintaining cattle health should be a mandatory requirement of the scheme?</i> | | |
| <u>Comment</u> | | | |
| Q6 | <i>Do you agree that it is appropriate to allow for groups to be formed specifically for the purpose of rearing replacement cows for breeding purposes?</i> | | |
| <u>Comment</u> | | | |

| | | | |
|----------------|---|--|--|
| Q7 | <i>Do you agree that access to replacement breeding groups should be open to crofters who are operating small scale commercial suckler units?</i> | | |
| <u>Comment</u> | | | |
| Q8 | <i>Do you agree with the proposed structure of the Cattle Improvement Plan and the proposed mix of compulsory and optional plan components?</i> | | |
| <u>Comment</u> | | | |
| Q9 | <i>Do you agree that support for crofter cattle enterprises should be linked to delivery of community benefits?</i> | | |
| <u>Comment</u> | | | |
| Q10 | <i>Do you consider that the identification of the market for livestock produced with the aid of the Crofters Cattle Improvement Scheme should be part of a Cattle Improvement Plan?</i> | | |
| <u>Comment</u> | | | |
| Q11 | <i>Should the identification of the market for livestock produced with the aid of the Crofters Cattle Improvement Scheme be a compulsory part of a Cattle Improvement Plan?</i> | | |
| <u>Comment</u> | | | |
| Q12 | <i>Should a Cattle Improvement Plan that delivers non-market benefits get priority over a plan which does not do so?</i> | | |
| <u>Comment</u> | | | |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Q13 <i>Do you have views on the kind of targets that crofting groups should be expected to set?</i> | | |
| <u>Comment</u> | | |
| Q14 <i>Do you agree that groups which produce plans which fail to set specific and measurable targets should be refused assistance?</i> | | |
| <u>Comment</u> | | |
| Q15 <i>Do you agree that groups who prepare their own plans should be favoured over those that employ consultants to prepare a plan for them?</i> | | |
| <u>Comment</u> | | |
| Q16 <i>Do you consider that the provision for training group members is adequate?</i> | | |
| <u>Comment</u> | | |
| Q17 <i>Do you have any concerns about the quality requirements to be applied to bulls to be assisted through this scheme?</i> | | |
| <u>Comment</u> | | |
| Q18 <i>Do you foresee any difficulties in meeting the performance recording requirements?</i> | | |
| <u>Comment</u> | | |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Q19 <i>Are the arrangements for deciding grant applications and the make-up of the Programme Advisory Committee acceptable?</i> | | |
| <u>Comment</u> | | |
| Q20 <i>Do you have any concerns about the performance measurement and monitoring arrangements?</i> | | |
| <u>Comment</u> | | |
| <u>Other Comments</u> | | |

Note

This form is provided for the convenience of consultees. However, responses to the consultation will be accepted in any format and consultees are not required to use this form when commenting on the proposals set out in this consultation document.

RESPONDEE INFORMATION FORM

Please complete the details below and attach it with your response. This will help ensure we handle your response appropriately:

| |
|---|
| Name: |
| Organisation: |
| Postal Address: |
| Consultation title: CROFTERS CATTLE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT SCHEME |

1. Are you responding as: (please tick one box)

| | | |
|--------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | (a) an individual | <input type="checkbox"/> (go to 2a) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | (b) on behalf of a group or organisation | <input type="checkbox"/> (go to 2c) |

If responding AS AN INDIVIDUAL:

2a. Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in SE library and/or on SE website)?

| | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> (go to 2b) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | No, not at all | <input type="checkbox"/> (go to 3) |

2b. *Where confidentiality is not requested*, we will make your response available to the public on the following basis (**please tick one** of the following boxes):

| | | |
|--------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes, make my response, name and address all available | <input type="checkbox"/> (go to 3) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address | <input type="checkbox"/> (go to 3) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes, make my response available, but not my name or address | <input type="checkbox"/> (go to 3) |

If responding ON BEHALF OF A GROUP OR ORGANISATION:

2c. Your name and address as respondees *will be* made available to the public (in the SE library and/or on SE website). Are you content for your response to be made available also?

| | | |
|--------------------------|-----|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> (go to 3) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> (go to 3) |

SHARING RESPONSES/FUTURE ENGAGEMENT

3. We will share your response internally with other SE policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for the Scottish Executive to contact you again in the future in relation to this consultation response?

| | | |
|--------------------------|-----|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> |

© Crown copyright 2005

This document is also available on the Scottish Executive website:
www.scotland.gov.uk

Astron B41494 5/05

Further copies are available from
Blackwell's Bookshop
53 South Bridge
Edinburgh
EH1 1YS

Telephone orders and enquiries
0131 622 8283 or 0131 622 8258

Fax orders
0131 557 8149

Email orders
business.edinburgh@blackwell.co.uk

ISBN 0-7559-4667-7

