



News Release

Date : Wednesday 15 April
No : 71/09
Contact : Bob Carruth
Telephone : 0131 472 4006
Email : bob.carruth@nfus.org.uk

TENANT FARMING FORUM MAKES HEADWAY ON HOLDINGS ACT

Issued on behalf of the Tenant Farming Forum

The Tenant Farming Forum (TFF) met again in Inverness yesterday to elaborate on recent discussions on the future of the Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Act 2003.

The TFF, which is chaired by Professor Jeff Maxwell, is made up of organisations representing both landowners and tenants, and aims to promote a healthy tenanted farm sector in Scotland.

Speaking after yesterday's meeting, Professor Maxwell said:

“The TFF has agreed that some modifications to the Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Act 2003 would remove some of the current concerns of both landlords' and tenants’.

“These modifications relate to the ‘fixed equipment provision’ that would allow landlords and tenants to freely negotiate acceptable terms for its provision and renewal; the ‘two-man rule’, by replacing it with reference instead to ‘viable unit’; and making such amendments with respect to the annulment of Post-Lease Agreements as to allow parties to consider annulment and rent adjustments to take place at the same time.

“Equally, the TFF is convinced that if changes to the current permitted vehicles for letting are to be made then the principle driver for change must ensure for the future that there is more land made available for agricultural tenancies generally. The TFF continues to work towards developing proposals that meet this objective.

“The TFF believes whatever types and duration of tenancies are adopted they must also be accompanied by the relevant provisions, including those that the TFF have already agreed require modification. The TFF accepts that this may take longer than originally envisaged in order to ensure a comprehensive approach.

“In addition, the TFF is committed to working with all sectors to develop the means of phased entry for new entrants, which it agreed at yesterday's meeting, by publishing its conclusions and guidance in the very near future.” Ends

More/...

NOTES TO EDITORS

- The Tenant Farming Forum is made up of the following organisations: Scottish Tenant Farmers Association (STFA), Scottish Estates Business Group (SEBG), Scottish Rural Property and Business Association (SRPBA), Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), and NFU Scotland.
- Observers on the group are the Scottish Government, the Law Society and the Scottish Association of Young Farmers Clubs.