

Scottish Agriculture

**A guide to Grants
and Services**

June 2003



Explanatory leaflets and further information and advice on most of the grants and services listed in this booklet are available from the Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department (SEERAD) Area Offices. You can find the contact details of your Local Area Office and Animal Health Office at the end of this booklet.

You can also contact the Department through the Reception Desk at its headquarters in Edinburgh:

Scottish Executive
Environment and Rural Affairs Department
Pentland House
47 Robb's Loan
Edinburgh
EH14 1TY
Tel: 0131 244 6015

Most subsidy and grant schemes are subject to specific closing dates for receipt of claims or applications. It is in your own interests to apply in good time.

For many grants, **written** approval is needed **before** the work is begun.

Further copies of this publication can be obtained by contacting the General Agricultural Policy Branch on 0131 244 6371.

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* **New entries**

GRANTS

Agriculture Processing and Marketing Grants

Grant schemes, which can provide assistance towards the processing and marketing of agricultural produce, were launched within the Highlands and Islands (as an element of the Highlands and Islands Special Transitional Programme) and Lowland Scotland in 2001. The aim of both schemes is to improve structural deficiencies and in so doing attempt to guarantee lasting economic benefits to farmers and growers. The schemes include a capital element for assistance towards the purchase of plant and equipment and a non capital element which can assist with a range of projects including market research and consultancy, product development, point of sale material and attendance at trade fairs.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – Lowland Scotland Scheme: SEERAD, Room 259, Pentland House, 47 Robb's Loan, Edinburgh, EH14 1TY, Tel: 0131 244 6388/6389 or Highlands & Islands Scheme: Scheme Project Co-ordinator, Longman House, 28 Longman Road, Inverness, IV1 1SF, Tel: 01463 253 065.

Agricultural Business Development Scheme (ABDS)

The ABDS is a business development scheme for farmers/crofters and their immediate families. It operates under the Highlands and Islands Special Transitional Programme within the legal framework of the Rural Development Regulation.

The ABDS can provide assistance towards investments in agricultural holdings and the development of new, or the expansion of, existing agricultural or non-agricultural diversification enterprises, either on or off-farm/croft, to increase the income-generating capacity of the farming family. The scheme is discretionary with all applications being subject to a selection process – reviewed in funding tranches by Project Assessment Committees.

Legal occupiers of agricultural units within the Highlands and Islands Special Transitional Programme Area who have been actively engaged in agriculture for a minimum of two years are eligible to

apply to the Scheme for both investments in agricultural holdings and diversification projects.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – local SEERAD Area Offices or Scheme Co-ordinator, Longman House, 28 Longman Road, Inverness, IV1 1SF, Tel: 01463 253 065 or visit the Scottish Executive's website at www.scotland.gov.uk/library3/agri/1abds-00.asp

Appeals Procedure for EU Agricultural Subsidy Schemes

The appeals procedure covers schemes under the Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS), as well as agri-environment and afforestation schemes administered by SEERAD. Decisions made on quota arrangements for the Sheep Annual Premium Scheme (SAPS) and Suckler Cow Premium Scheme (SCPS) are also considered.

The procedure is intended to ensure that farmers who feel that SEERAD did not reach the correct decision on their subsidy claim have access to a fair and independent appeals mechanism. Farmers have 60 calendar days from the date of the SEERAD decision letter in which to submit an appeal under the procedure. The procedure has three stages: an in-house review, an external panel review and an appeal to the Scottish Land Court. (In quota cases an appeal to the Scottish Land Court will not be available until the existing legislation has been updated. The current arrangement of seeking a judicial review of decisions will remain until that point.)

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – local SEERAD Area Offices, or from the Appeals Secretariat, Room 028, Pentland House, 47 Robb's Loan, Edinburgh, EH14 1TY, Tel: 0131 244 6578.

Arable Area Payments Scheme (AAPS)

The AAPS is a voluntary scheme that offers area payments on eligible land to growers of cereals, linseed, oilseeds, protein crops, flax and hemp. With the exception of proteins, all crops are paid at the same rate taking account of regional yields. The two yield

regions in Scotland comprise land classified as being in the Less-Favoured Area (LFA) and land not so classified, i.e. the non-LFA.

In order to qualify for full payment, all producers growing crops on an area of land greater than that required to produce more than 92 tonnes of crop – based on reference yields of 5.21 t/ha and 5.67 t/ha in the LFA and non-LFA respectively – must set aside at least the obligatory rate of set-aside. This is 10% for the year 2003. There is no obligation on small producers to set aside land, but they may do so on a voluntary basis. All producers will receive payments at the appropriate rate for the crops on which they submit a valid claim.

Compensation is also paid for the land set aside. Management conditions apply to the set-aside land to protect the environment. Set-aside land may be used for the production of specified non-food crops for industrial processing, under a contract with the first processor or “collector” of the crop.

The penalty-free deadline for claims for AAPS in respect of crops grown for harvest in 2003 was 15 May. Claims received after that date incurred a 1% penalty for each working day beyond 15 May up to 9 June. Claims received after that date will be rejected. The 2003 claim form is part of the full annual statement on land farmed which is required under the EU Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS).

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – local SEERAD Area Offices or visit the Scottish Executive’s website at www.scotland.gov.uk/library3/agri/aaps02-00.asp

Beef Special Premium Scheme (BSPS)

Only male cattle are eligible for premium, and the claimed animals must be retained on the applicant’s holding for two months from the day after the Department receives the application, unless specified as a later date on the claim form.

Premium can be claimed twice in the life of a steer (castrated male):

- first premium for animals aged from 7 months but under 20 months

- second premium for animals aged 20 months and over.

Premium may only be claimed once in the life of a bull (non-castrated male):

- claim at any time from the age of 7 months.

Up to 20 claims can be made per scheme year, with any combination of first, second or bull premium.

To be eligible for payments under the 2003 BSPS, an IACS Area Aid Application (AAA) must have been submitted by the closing date of 15 May 2003 (with exceptions for small producers). The amount of BSP payable is limited by the stocking density calculated as Livestock Units (LUs) per hectare of forage area declared on your AAA 2003 form. The stocking density limit for 2003 is 1.8 LUs per hectare of validated forage area.

In the UK, bull and first premium is restricted to 1,461,978 animals in any one scheme year. If this number is exceeded, the payment for each animal is reduced proportionately. Producers who claim 30 animals or less will be exempt from any reduction.

Premium is paid at the rate of €150 (approx. £93) for steers and €210 (approx. £130) for bulls. These sterling equivalents are based on the average rate of exchange over December 2002 (€1=£0.642116).

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – local SEERAD Area Offices or visit the Scottish Executive's website at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/agri/bsps-01.asp> (See also the entry on Extensification Payment Scheme elsewhere in this Guide.)

Building Grants and Loans (Crofters)

Under the Crofters etc Building Grants and Loans Scheme (CBGLS), the following assistance is available to crofters and cottars in the former Crofting Counties:

- grants and/or loans for the erection and improvement of dwelling houses;

- grants for the provision and improvement of roads and water supplies for domestic purposes.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – local SEERAD Area Office or Crofting Branch, SEERAD, Area 1D, Pentland House, 47 Robb's Loan, Edinburgh, EH14 1TY, Tel: 0131 244 6210/6216 or visit the Scottish Executive's website at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/agri/cbglsguide.pdf>.

Croft Entrant Scheme

There are nine Croft Entrant Schemes in operation, covering parts of the Western Isles, Skye and Lochalsh, North West Sutherland, Lochaber, Shetland, Ross and Cromarty, Argyll, Orkney and Badenoch and Strathspey.

The purpose of the Scheme is to:

- identify suitable young entrants into crofting;
- facilitate the entry of suitable young entrants into crofting;
- assist young entrants to become established in crofting by way of financial support, advice and guidance; and
- make crofts available by encouraging outgoing crofters to release their crofts to suitable young entrants.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – Crofters Commission, Castle Wynd, Inverness, IV2 3EQ, Tel: 01463 663 450 or visit www.crofters.commission.org.uk
Alternatively, contact the relevant Local Enterprise Company direct.

Crofting Community Development Scheme

The Crofting Community Development Scheme aims to encourage crofting communities to:

- improve the quality and the marketing of their agriculture output without increasing the level of production;
- establish communication links and management structures within the crofting communities;

- diversify and broaden local crofting communities;
- adopt beneficial local environment measures;
- identify and implement local social and cultural projects;
- prepare and implement suitable local training programmes;
- use information technology.

An incentive payment up to a maximum of £7,000 will be paid to communities with plans meeting the eligibility criteria.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – Crofters Commission, Castle Wynd, Inverness, IV2 3EQ, Tel: 01463 663 450 or visit www.crofterscommission.org.uk or from Arthur Macdonald, Scheme Manager, c/o Upper Leachkin, Inverness, IV3 6PN, Tel: 01463 711 702.

Crofting Counties Agricultural Grants (Scotland) Scheme

Grants covering a wide range of agricultural activities are available to the following persons in the former Crofting Counties:

- tenants and legal sub-tenants of crofts, and owners occupying unlet crofts who are of the same economic status as crofters;
- Common Grazings Committees and Grazings Constables where all the work relates to the Common Grazings;
- occupiers of holdings other than crofts, the area of which does not substantially exceed 30 hectares (excluding common pasture) or where the annual rent would not substantially exceed £100 if the holding were let as a croft. In addition, the occupier must be of the same economic status as a crofter.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – local SEERAD Area Office or Crofters Commission, Castle Wynd, Inverness, IV2 3EQ, Tel: 01463 663 450 or visit www.crofterscommission.org.uk

Extensification Payment Scheme (EPS)

Producers receiving Beef Special Premium and/or Suckler Cow Premium for 2003 can apply to receive extensification payment under the EPS. To participate in the EPS, they are required to submit an IACS Area Aid Application (AAA) 2003 indicating their intention to claim extensification and giving details of all their forage area.

Within the EPS, there are two sub-schemes, the **simplified scheme** and the **standard scheme**. A producer can only choose one scheme for the duration of the scheme year. For both schemes there are two stocking density bands – below 1.4 LU/hectare, and below or equal to 1.8 LU/hectare.

Simplified scheme claimants must keep the stocking density level on their holding either below 1.4 LU/hectare or below or equal to 1.8 LU/hectare throughout the entire calendar year and claimants must choose one or other of these stocking density levels.

Standard scheme claimants must keep their **average** stocking density for the year either below 1.4 LU/hectare, or below or equal to 1.8 LU/hectare. Claimants are required to inform the Department of the total number of cattle (over 6 months old) on their holding at six dates in the year. This information is used to calculate the number of LUs on the holding on each of the six check dates and these are then averaged to calculate the overall stocking density of the holding for the year. These dates are chosen at random and will change from year to year. They will be announced in the farming press, although not until after they have passed.

Payment rates under the EPS 2003 are €80 (approx. £49.57) per eligible animal for stocking density levels below 1.4 LU/hectare, and €40 (approx. £24.78) per eligible animal for stocking density levels less than or equal to 1.8 LU/hectare. These sterling equivalents are based on the average rate of exchange over December 2002 (€1=£0.642116).

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – local SEERAD Area Offices or the Scottish Executive's website at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/agri/eps03-00.asp> (See also the entry on Beef Special Premium Scheme elsewhere in this Guide.)

Farm Business Development Scheme (FBDS)

The FBDS is an innovative business scheme for farmers and their immediate families. The main purpose of FBDS is to encourage the creation of new or extending diversification activities undertaken on or off farm. The Scheme was launched in 2001 and operates within the legal framework of the Rural Development Regulation in all parts of Scotland outwith the area covered by the Highlands and Islands Special Transitional Programme. FBDS is discretionary, competitive and cash limited.

All legal occupiers of agricultural units within Lowland Scotland who have been actively engaged in agriculture for a minimum of two years are eligible to apply for financial assistance under the scheme. Immediate family members, resident on or adjacent to the agricultural unit, are also eligible to apply if they are acting with the legal occupiers' consent. Collaborative projects may also be considered from groups of three or more eligible applicants, each linked to a separate eligible agricultural business.

FBDS applications are considered in funding tranches by a Project Assessment Committee (PAC), which will meet around four times per year. The maximum possible grant linked to an eligible agricultural business is £25,000 or £30,000 for a collaborative project.

Decisions on individual projects will take account of priority for the business, local strategies, market and economic needs and also the availability of funding. The PAC may, however, decline to recommend approval of an application, or offer a lower amount of grant.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – SEERAD, FBDS team,
Area 1E, Pentland House, 47 Robb's Loan, Edinburgh, EH14 1TY,
Tel: 0131 244 6167.

Grain Legumes Scheme (GLS)

GLS covers a limited variety of grain legumes, i.e. chickpeas, lentils and vetches, with the aim of encouraging their continued production in the European Community's economic interest. Chickpeas and lentils are normally grown for human consumption and vetches for animal feed. These crops can also be grown to produce seed for sowing. However, under the scheme, there is no stipulated end use other than the crops must be harvested as dried seed.

The GLS comes under the Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS), with the application for aid being contained in form IACS(2). The deadline for receipt of applications is 15 May each year. Penalties for late submissions are set out in Annex 2 of the Explanatory Booklet, IACS(1).

A harvest declaration must be returned to SEERAD by 1 November. Payment is made per hectare, for the marketing year which runs from 1 July to 30 June. Applicants cannot claim under both the GLS and the Seed Production Aid Scheme.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – local SEERAD Area Offices or visit www.scotland.gov.uk/library3/environment/iacs1.pdf

Integrated Administration and Control System (IACS)

IACS was introduced in 1993 as part of the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). IACS has established a system of controls to combat fraud in the CAP arable and livestock schemes. It applies in all EU Member States and incorporates:

- a unique identification system for fields and animals;
- the requirement (in order to be eligible for aid under the relevant subsidy schemes) for farmers to submit an Area Aid Application (AAA), by 15 May each year, about the land which they farm; and
- an integrated system of checks and inspections, and a uniform system of penalties for late or inaccurate aid applications.

In 2003, the following schemes are under the IACS umbrella:

- the 2003 Arable Area Payments Scheme (AAPS);
- the 2003 Beef Special Premium Scheme (BSPS);
- the 2003 Suckler Cow Premium Scheme (SCPS);
- the 2004 Less Favoured Areas Support Scheme (LFASS 2004);
- the 2003 Sheep Annual Premium Schemes (SAPS);
- the 2003 Extensification Payment Scheme (EPS);
- the Grain Legumes Scheme (GLS); and
- the Hops Income Aid.

Farmers must comply with all the IACS and relevant scheme rules to be eligible for subsidies when applying to any of these schemes.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – local SEERAD Area Offices or visit www.scotland.gov.uk/about/agriculture

Less Favoured Areas Support Scheme (LFASS)

Under the terms of the Scottish Rural Development Plan, LFASS is a key contribution to the twin priorities of: assisting the viability and sustainability of Scottish Agriculture; and, encouraging farming practice which will contribute to the economic, social and environmental sustainability of Scotland's rural areas. The scheme is designed to support producers in the Less Favoured Areas who are amongst the most vulnerable in the Scottish agricultural sector, with fewer opportunities for diversification, operating in remoter areas and farming on land that is primarily suitable for extensive livestock production.

Claiming for LFASS is part of the process of completing an Area Aid Application (AAA) form. There is no separate application.

To claim LFASS, applicants must:

- be at least 16 years of age;
- farm at least three hectares of eligible forage land in the Scottish Less Favoured Area; and
- comply with SEERAD's Good Farming Practice Guidelines.

Applicants must also carry out an eligible agricultural activity, that is, to maintain;

- suckler cows forming part of a regular breeding herd for the rearing of calves for meat;
- a flock of sheep that meets the definition of eligibility for the Sheep Annual Premium Scheme;
- a dairy herd in the ring-fenced quota areas;
- a farmed deer breeding herd; or
- a herd of goats or alpaca for fibre production.

The principle behind the scheme is to identify eligible hectares according to designated grazing categories. This is followed by, if appropriate, adjustments to account for minimum or maximum stocking density restrictions, and the influence of cattle on the holding. Having arrived at a number of hectares, payment is made at a rate reflecting the degree of fragility of the area in which the main holding is situated. Under LFASS 2003 these rates are: Very Fragile (Islands) £44.50 per ha; Fragile £42.50 per ha; and, Standard £36.50 per ha.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – local SEERAD Area Offices or from Hill Farming and Livestock Subsidies Branch, CAP Management Division, SEERAD, Pentland House, 47 Robb's Loan, Edinburgh, EH14 1TY, Tel: 0131 244 6643.

Livestock Improvement Schemes (Crofters)

Various schemes exist for the improvement of certain classes of livestock within the former Crofting Counties. The schemes are administered on behalf of SEERAD by the Crofters Commission.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – Crofters Commission, Castle Wynd, Inverness, IV2 3EQ, Tel: 01463 663 413/457 or visit www.crofterscommission.org.uk

Marketing Development Scheme

The Marketing Development Scheme aims to improve the efficiency of the UK marketing chain. This is done by helping farmers, growers and processors to improve their marketing and commercial expertise and develop efficient marketing structures for both domestic and overseas markets. Grant assistance at the rate of 50% and up to a maximum of £150,000 per project is available under the Scheme towards the cost of Feasibility Studies, the salaries of key marketing staff, training and fees of outside directors.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – SEERAD, Room 259, Pentland House, 47 Robb's Loan, Edinburgh, EH14 1TY, Tel: 0131 244 6294.

Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZ) Grant Scheme

This scheme provides assistance for farmers within NVZs for the provision, replacement or improvement of their slurry and manure storage to meet the requirements of the NVZ Action Programme Regulations.

The grant scheme is voluntary and competitive, with the level of grant set at 40% for eligible work, subject to the condition that the grant does not in aggregate exceed £85,000. The Scheme is administered on a tranche basis. A key requirement of the scheme is the preparation of a Farm Waste Management Plan to demonstrate the need for assistance.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – local SEERAD Area Offices which cover areas that are affected by the NVZ designation.

Organic Aid Scheme (OAS)

This Scheme is part of the Scottish Rural Development Plan, and provides assistance to farmers and crofters who wish to convert to organic production.

To join the Scheme, farmers and crofters must enter into a binding agreement to convert all or part of their production to organic standards. The minimum area that can be entered is one hectare; the

maximum area on which aid will be paid is 1,000 hectares. Participants in the OAS must at all times remain registered with an approved organic sector body and have a conversion plan that has been agreed by the sector body. Participants will be eligible for payment annually in arrears for five years for each hectare entered. To ensure that funding is being directed towards applications providing high environmental and marketing benefits, applications received since 2002 are subject to ranking arrangements.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – An explanatory leaflet (OAS1) and further information and advice are available from local SEERAD Area Offices.

Over Thirty Month Slaughter Scheme (OTMS)

The OTMS was set up in response to the BSE crisis in 1996. It provides for the purchase, by the Government, of bovine animals over 30 months of age at the date of slaughter, which have been resident in the UK for at least six months. Animals may be presented to the Scheme through approved collection centres; these can be either liveweight markets or contracted abattoirs. Casualty animals slaughtered on-farm may be presented through incinerators or rendering plants.

Producers must ensure that animals are presented with approved ear tags and documentary evidence that they are eligible. Cattle Passports are required for all animals. The Scheme is administered by the Rural Payments Agency (RPA). RPA makes the payment to the collection centre which passes the payment onto the producer, less any legitimate expenses previously agreed. There are three dedicated OTMS abattoirs in Scotland at Kilmarnock, Brechin and Orkney.

The Scheme is currently under review due to the continuing fall in cases of BSE and a decision on its future is expected towards the end of the Summer 2003.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – RPA helpline Tel: 0118 968 7333, or SEERAD helpline Tel: 0131 244 6408.

Rural Stewardship Scheme (RSS)

The RSS, which is part of the Scottish Rural Development Plan, came into operation in 2001. It provides assistance to encourage farmers and crofters to undertake positive conservation management measures and capital works in association with conservation management.

This Scheme is entirely voluntary and requires a prior Environmental Audit to be undertaken for the farm, croft or common grazing to be entered into the Scheme. The Audit will identify all habitats and features of conservation value on the unit and help applicants decide which areas will benefit most from the Scheme. Assistance is provided towards the cost of the Audit.

Participants undertake to join the Scheme for at least five years, but participation may be extended for a further five years to secure maximum conservation benefit. In addition, they must agree to manage the relevant areas of land and carry out the relevant capital works in line with the rules and conditions of the Scheme. Certain general environmental requirements (Standards of Good Farming Practice and General Environmental Conditions) also apply to the farm, croft or common grazing as a whole and not just those areas or features that are being positively managed under the RSS.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – local SEERAD Area Offices.

Scottish Forestry Grants Scheme (SFGS)

To meet the Scottish Executive's Scottish Forestry Strategy "*Forests for Scotland*", the SFGS will provide grant aid to encourage the creation and management of woods and forests to provide economic, environmental and social benefits now and in the future. Grants are available under the following main areas:

Woodland expansion grants

To encourage the planting or natural regeneration of new woodlands you can apply for grants to carry out work that will meet one of the SFGS objectives shown below.

- establishing well-designed productive woodland;

- expanding areas of native woodland, preferably through natural regeneration and the development of Forest Habitat Networks;
- improving riparian habitat;
- improving urban or post-industrial areas; or
- improving diversity of the farmed and crofting landscape.

Please note that there are permitted species and minimum stocking requirements for woodland expansion objectives. The Applicant's Booklet will give you more details.

Locational premiums

Locational premiums in the form of a top-up to the standard forestry grants for planting new woodlands are available for the following areas:

- Ayrshire and Arran;
- Central Scotland;
- Grampian; and
- Orkney and Shetland.

Stewardship grants

Eight stewardship grants are available for existing woodlands and where applicable may be available from the year of planting for:

- improving timber quality;
- reducing deer numbers;
- native woodlands;
- improving woodland biodiversity;
- landscape improvement;
- developing alternative systems to clear-felling;
- woodland recreation; and
- developing community involvement.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – Forestry Commission, 231 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh, EH12 7AT, Tel: 0131 334 0303. An applicant's pack is available from local FC Conservancy offices. Full details can be found on the Forestry Commission website www.forestry.gov.uk

Scottish Forestry Grant Scheme (SFGS) – Farmland Premium

This is a successor to the Farm Woodland Premium Scheme (FWPS) and is administered by SEERAD. It is designed to encourage the creation and management of woods and forests, to provide economic, environmental and social benefits for now and the future through the planting of trees on agricultural land.

Farmers and crofters joining the Farmland Premium can receive the annual payments as set out below:

| Type of Land | £ Ha/year |
|--|-----------|
| Arable/Improved in non Less Favoured Areas | 300 |
| Arable/Improved in Disadvantaged Areas of Less Favoured Areas | 230 |
| Arable/Improved in Severely Disadvantaged Areas of Less Favoured Areas | 160 |
| Unimproved Land | 60 |

Where the land is to count against the farmer's set-aside obligation, the payment rate will be restricted to the set-aside rate.

Annual payments are made for 15 years for woodlands containing at least 60% of area by broadleaves. Provided that the percentage does not subsequently drop below 50% payments will be maintained for 15 years. Plans with less than 60% broadleaves planted will qualify for payments over 10 years.

There is an upper limit of 200 hectares per farm business and planting on unimproved land must not exceed 40 hectares. The Farmland Premium is also available for planting on common grazings in the crofting counties but must not exceed 100 hectares

on each common grazing area. These limits apply to all planting after 1 April 1997 under the FWPS and Farmland Premium.

Existing claimants under the FWPS will **not** transfer their obligations to the Farmland Premium but will benefit from the revised rates listed.

SFGS/Farmland Premium rules and procedures booklet is available from SEERAD offices.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – Forestry Commission, 231 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh, EH12 7AT, Tel: 0131 334 0303. An applicant's pack is available from local FC Conservancy offices, or visit Forestry Commission website www.forestry.gov.uk

Seed Production Aid

Growers of certified seed of certain crops, mainly herbage species, may qualify for aid under EC Regulations.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – Rural Payments Agency, Alverton Court, Crosby Road, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL6 1AD, Tel: 01609 773751 ext. 4480.

Sheep Annual Premium Scheme

This Scheme provides for the payment of an annual premium to sheepmeat producers. Payment is based on the number of female sheep that, by the last day of a specified 100-day retention period, have either:

- given birth to a lamb; or
- attained the age of 12 months.

The payment is in the form of a flat rate premium. A supplementary payment (Less-Favoured Area (LFA) supplement) is available to eligible producers who submitted an IACS Area Aid Application (AAA) form by the deadline of 15 May. Rates of payment for the SAP 2002 Scheme were: basic premium £13.01 per eligible animal; LFA Supplement £4.34 per eligible animal. Payments are made with effect from 16 October each year.

In conjunction with SAPS, SEERAD operates the Quality Assured Producers Scheme (QAPS). This makes available an additional payment to producers engaged in the production of sheepmeat to a recognised quality standard (European Standard EN 45011). Money for QAPS comes from Scotland's share of the UK's Sheep National Envelope, which amounts to about £2.75 million. The rate of payment in 2002 was estimated to be £0.72 per eligible animal (the exact figure was dependent on the number of sheep claimed).

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – SAPS or QAPS – Local Area Offices or from Hill Farming and Livestock Subsidies Branch, CAP Management Division, SEERAD, Pentland House, 47 Robb's Loan, Edinburgh, EH14 1TY, Tel: 0131 244 6643.

Quota – SAP payments are restricted by means of a quota system limiting the numbers on which premium is paid. An explanatory guide on SAP quotas is available from SEERAD Area Offices or from the Scottish Executive's website at

www.scotland.gov.uk/library3/agri/ExNote.pdf

or Livestock Quotas Branch, CAP Management Division, SEERAD, Pentland House, 47 Robb's Loan, Edinburgh, EH14 1TY, Tel: 0131 244 1144.

Sheep Compensation Scheme 1986 (Chernobyl)

This Scheme was introduced by the UK Government as a result of the Chernobyl nuclear incident in April 1986 and allows for the payment of compensation to sheep producers in areas subject to movement restrictions under the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985. The Scheme currently consists of two types of compensation. Under phase IV, sheep producers may claim compensation of £1.30 for each sheep monitored/marked and moved under consent from the Department. In addition, compensation payable under phase II (revised) allows for sheep producers to claim any market loss incurred on marked animals sold at auction markets and liveweight collection centres under the mark and release arrangements.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – Livestock and Livestock Products Branch, SEERAD, Pentland House, 47 Robb's Loan, Edinburgh, EH14 1TY, Tel: 0131 244 6408.

Slaughter Premium Scheme (SPS)

There are two elements to this scheme, SPS and Veal Calf Slaughter Premium Scheme (VCSPS):

- **SPS** – Animals eligible for the slaughter premium are bulls, steers, cows and heifers slaughtered from the age of eight months. To be eligible for SPS, producers must have retained the animals claimed on their holding for two months prior to them leaving the holding to be slaughtered.
- **VCSPS** – for animals slaughtered at more than one and less than seven months old. Producers must have retained the animals claimed on their holding for two months (for animals slaughtered at three to six months old inclusive) and one month (for animals slaughtered at more than one and less than three months old).

Claims must be submitted within six months of the date the claimed animals ended retention, or by 29 February 2004, whichever is sooner. Each producer may submit up to 12 claims for SPS and 12 claims for VCSPS in a scheme year.

The rate of premium for 2003 is €80 (approx. £49) for SPS, and €50 (approx. £31) for VCSPS. These sterling equivalents are based on the average rate of exchange over December 2002 (€1=£0.642116). In the UK, SPS and VCSPS are subject to a restriction of 3,266,212 adult animals and 26,271 veal calves. If the restrictions are exceeded, the payment due on each animal will be reduced proportionately.

Although SPS and VCSPS are IACS based schemes, producers wishing to claim SPS and VCSPS only, do not have to submit an IACS Area Aid Application (AAA).

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – local SEERAD area office or the Scottish Executive's website at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/agri/spsc-01.asp> and <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/agri/vcsp-01.asp>

Suckler Cow Premium Scheme (SCP(S))

Premium is paid on suckler cows and heifers (over eight months old), forming part of a regular breeding herd used for rearing calves for meat. Milk producers actively involved in milk production, with milk quota of no more than 180,000kg (174,780 litres) on 31 March 2003 may also claim SCP as small milk producers.

The 2003 Scheme runs from 1 July until 6 December 2003. To qualify, producers must keep the animals claimed for a six-month retention period. The retention period begins the day after the claim is received, and ends six calendar months later.

To be eligible for payment under the 2003 Scheme, producers must have submitted an IACS Area Aid Application in 2003 by the deadline of 15 May 2003. The amount of SCP payable is limited by the stocking density calculated as Livestock Units (LUs) per hectare of the forage area declared on your AAA 2003 form. The stocking density limit for 2003 is 1.8 LUs per hectare of validated forage area.

The rate of premium for 2003 is €200 (approx. £120). These sterling equivalents are based on the average rate of exchange over December 2002 (€1=£0.642116).

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – local SEERAD area office or visit the Scottish Executive's website at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/agri/> (See also the entry on Extensification Payment Scheme elsewhere in this guide.)

Quota – Payment of SCP is restricted by means of a quota system which limits the numbers of animals on which premium will be paid. An explanatory guide on SCP quotas is available from SEERAD Area Offices.

SERVICES

Advice

Scottish Agricultural College

Up-to-date scientific, technical, business, environmental and conservation advice, including advice on grant aid, is available to farmers, crofters and others in the agricultural, horticultural and rural sector industries from the Scottish Agricultural College (SAC).

SAC advisers are familiar with all Grant Schemes available to Scottish farmers and can assist you in completing applications and assessing the impact on your business.

This service is provided through a network of 23 local SAC offices covering the whole of Scotland. These offices are staffed by professional advisers with local knowledge and are backed up by scientific, management and other specialists at the three Centres of Study at Aberdeen, Ayr and Edinburgh.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – your local SAC office (see phone book) or visit <http://www.sac.ac.uk/corporate/Contact.asp> or from the Head of the Farm Business Service, SAC, 57 High Street, Lanark, ML11 7LF, Tel: 01555 662562, Fax: 01555 663166, or e-mail AOLanark@ed.sac.ac.uk

FWAG Scotland (Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group)

For advice and guidance on grant aid including the Agri-Environment Schemes contact FWAG Scotland. FWAG operates through a network of 21 professional advisors throughout Scotland. FWAG is farmer-led, with a membership of 2000 Scottish farmers, crofters and landowners.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – FWAG Scotland HQ The Rural Centre, Ingliston, Midlothian, EH28 8NZ, Tel: 0131 472 4080, Fax: 0131 472 4083. E-mail: scotland@fwag.org.uk, or visit www.fwag.org.uk/scotland

Agricultural Health and Safety

► CONTACT & INFORMATION –

- HSE internet website address: www.hse.gov.uk
- HSE information line Tel: 08701 545500, fax: 02920 859260, e-mail: hseinformationsservices@natbrit.com or write to HSE Infoline, Caerphilly Business Park, Caerphilly, CF83 3GG.
- To report an accident contact HSE Incident Contact Centre Tel: 0845 3009923, Fax: 0845 3009924 or e-mail: riddor@natbrit.com or website: www.riddor.gov.uk
- To obtain HSE books contact PO Box 1999, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 2WA, Tel: 01787 881165, Fax: 01787 313995 or e-mail: hsebooks@prolog.uk.com or visit www.hsebooks.co.uk

Health and Safety Executive (HSE) inspectors can be contacted at:

Belford House,
59 Belford Road,
Edinburgh, EH4 3UE.
Tel: 0131 247 2000
Fax: 0131 247 2121

Lord Cullen House,
Fraser Place,
Aberdeen, AB25 3UB.
Tel: 01224 252 500
Fax: 01224 252 525

Pegasus House,
375 West George Street,
Glasgow, G2 4LW.
Tel: 0141 275 3000
Fax: 0141 275 3100

28 Longman Road,
Longman Industrial Estate,
Inverness, IV1 1SF.
Tel: 01463 718 101
Fax: 01463 713 459

Agricultural Training and Apprenticeships

Lantra Sector Skills Council (SSC) is the Government recognised SSC for the land-based sector, including agriculture and aquaculture. Working closely with employers, industry organisations, Government Departments and Agencies, and providers of learning and business support services, Lantra aim to raise the level of skills, knowledge and enterprise of everyone involved in the land-based

sector. This work includes developing Scottish Vocational Qualifications and Modern Apprenticeships, as well as ensuring that everyone in rural Scotland has access to the highest quality training through the Lantra Professional Register – a quality assured association of training and business support practitioners throughout Scotland.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – For details of your local training provider and information on training, education, apprenticeships and business development opportunities, contact Lantra Connect Tel: 0845 707 8007 or e-mail: connect@lantra.co.uk. For other enquiries contact Lantra, Newlands, Scone, Perth, PH2 6NL, Tel: 01738 553311, Fax: 01738 553322 or visit www.lantra.co.uk

Arterial Drainage

The Land Drainage (Scotland) Act 1958 empowers Scottish Ministers on application by owners of agricultural land, to make improvement orders authorising the carrying out of arterial drainage/river works for the benefit of that land, provided that the estimated cost of the works is considered reasonable in relation to the likely benefit to agricultural land.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – Advice on the design of Schemes for inclusion in improvement orders is available from SEERAD, Tel: 0131 244 6419.

Beef Assurance Scheme

This voluntary UK Scheme was introduced to allow specialist beef producers with slow maturing breeds to sell their animals for human consumption at 30-42 months. Members are charged an annual fee to cover administrative costs.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – Local Animal Health Offices, or The Food Standards Agency (Scotland), 6th Floor, St Magnus House, 25 Guild Street, Aberdeen, AB11 6NJ, Tel: 01224 285144.

Beef Labelling Scheme

The Beef Labelling Scheme was introduced to provide consumers with reliable information about the beef and veal they buy. The compulsory labelling system requires all fresh and frozen beef to be labelled with basic information about its origin and its license number of the relevant abattoir and cutting plant. Under the voluntary Scheme, anyone in the supply chain giving consumers anything more than basic information about beef must get prior approval from the Department. Approval is only given if the applicant has put in place arrangements to guarantee the accuracy of the information. To do this the applicant has to employ an independent third party, accredited to European Standard EN45011, to verify the details on the label.

Beef labelling is monitored by Local Authorities at the retail level and by SEERAD's Meat and Livestock Inspectors at abattoirs, cutting plants, and wholesalers.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – Livestock and Livestock Products Branch, SEERAD, Room 262, Pentland House, 47 Robb's Loan, Edinburgh, EH14 1TY, Tel: 0131 244 6408 or visit the Scottish Executive's website at www.scotland.gov.uk/agri/documents/blguide_v3-00.asp

Cattle Passports

All cattle are required to have a passport. The British Cattle Movement Service (BCMS) processes passport applications. Passports must be applied for within 7 days of tagging an animal. **ALL** cattle must be tagged with an approved eartag in each ear within 20 days of birth. In the case of dairy cattle, at least one of the tags must be fitted within 36 hours of birth. Except for dairy cattle, both primary and secondary tags must be applied at the same time. All cattle must be tagged before leaving the holding.

For cattle imported from other Member States, an application for a passport must be made within 15 days of the cattle arriving at the holding.

From 29 January 2001, legislation required that all older cattle must be registered on the Cattle Tracing System (CTS) database and hold a Certificate of Registration.

Failure to register cattle timeously and record movements will result in the animal not being allowed to be used for human consumption and may have implications for subsidy payments.

Cattle movements must be notified to the CTS database within 3 days.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – CTS website at www.bcms.gov.uk or via www.scotfarmonline.gov.uk

which allows keepers with internet facilities direct access to the central database to registering births, cattle movements and download details to update farm records.

BCMS Helpline – 0845 050 1234.

Certification, Seed and Crop

Schemes are operated for the certification of seed potatoes (described elsewhere in this guide) and seed of beet, cereals, fodder plants, oil and fibre plants and vegetables, and of the crops of soft fruit plants and narcissus. The certification Schemes for seed potatoes and seed of beet, cereals, fodder plants, oil and fibre plants and vegetables are governed by Seeds Regulations, which set out minimum marketing quality standards and rules for sealing and labelling. These regulations also restrict marketing to plant varieties named in the UK National Lists or the EC Common Catalogue.

Cereal plants and grain can be submitted for varietal identification to the Cereal Section at the Scottish Agricultural Science Agency (SASA), who also provide courses on Crop Inspection and Varietal Identification.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – Cereal Certification Scheme and courses on offer can be obtained from Cereal Section, SASA, Tel: 0131 244 8856/8833, e-mail Gerry.Hall@sasa.gsi.gov.uk or from the SASA website at

www.sasa.gov.uk/seed_testing/cereals/index.cfm

Non-Cereal Seed Certification Schemes and Seed Sampling courses can be obtained from the Herbage & Vegetable Section, SASA,

Tel: 0131 244 8885/8899, e-mail Ken.Pearson@sasa.gsi.gov.uk
or from the SASA website at
www.sasa.gov.uk/seed_testing/herbage_and_vegetable_crops/index.cfm

There are EC Marketing Regulations for Ornamental Plant Propagation Material and certain genera of vegetable and fruit plants. Details of these and certification Schemes for soft fruit and narcissus can be obtained through SEERAD, Horticultural Unit, Pentland House, 47 Robb's Loan, Edinburgh, EH14 1TY, Tel: 0131 244 6303.

Co-operation and Collaborative Activity (SAOS)

SAOS is a rural development organisation with specialist knowledge and skills in joint venture and co-operation. The organisation's aim is to strengthen the profitability, competitiveness and sustainability of Scotland's farming, food and related rural businesses through the development of co-operation and joint activity. SAOS assists established farmer controlled businesses and new groups interested in establishing themselves.

SAOS can advise groups of farmers and growers in all stages of the feasibility and development process, leading to preparation of a commercial business proposition for prospective members. Thereafter, SAOS can assist in attracting grant and bank support, providing constitutional, financial and contractual structures, advising on directors' roles and responsibilities, recruiting members and key employees, etc. SAOS has a series of publications featuring case studies of successful co-operation and joint venture.

SAOS is the membership organisation of Scottish farmer controlled businesses, and new groups may apply for membership. SAOS is supported by SEERAD, works closely with the Scottish Enterprise Network, and has constitutional links with NFU Scotland and the Scottish Association of Young Farmers' Clubs.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – James Graham, Chief Executive, SAOS Ltd, Rural Centre West Mains, Ingliston EH28 8NZ, Tel: 0131 472 4100, e-mail saos@saos.co.uk or visit www.saos.co.uk

Crop Clinic

The Scottish Agricultural College (SAC) provides analysis and interpretation of crop problems associated with disease, pests, weeds and nutritional disorders. The service deals with all major arable and horticultural crops. A charge is made for this service. Other routine tests involve the testing of soils for soil pests and diseases prior to earth movement associated with the installation of pipelines.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – Crop Clinic at SAC,
West Mains Road, Edinburgh, EH9 3JG, Tel: 0131 535 4090,
e-mail to s.oxley@ed.sac.ac.uk

Crop Health Intelligence Data

The Scottish Agricultural College (SAC) monitors the major arable crops for the presence of pests, diseases and weeds throughout the season. It also reports on any unusual outbreaks of crop problems.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – Crop Clinic at SAC,
West Mains Road, Edinburgh, EH9 3JG, Tel: 0131 535 4090,
e-mail to s.oxley@ed.sac.ac.uk or, for crop intelligence information,
visit www.sac.ac.uk/crops

Advice on managing crop pests, diseases and weeds is available through the SAC Crop Protection Report, available on subscription.

Health Schemes

Cattle Health Scheme

The Premium Cattle Health Scheme for Johnes Disease, Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis, Leptospirosis and BVD is operated by the Scottish Agricultural College (SAC), Veterinary Science Division.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – George Caldwell,
Veterinary Centre, Greycrook, St Boswells, Roxburghshire,
TD6 0EU, Tel: 01835 822 456, Fax: 01835 823 643, e-mail
vcstboswells@ed.sac.ac.uk or visit www.cattlehealth.co.uk/

Deer Health Scheme

The Scheme aims to create a nucleus of farmed deer herds of attested tuberculosis-free status along with promotions of health, welfare and husbandry aspects.

Poultry Health Scheme

The aims of the Scheme are to maintain and improve the health of poultry breeding stock and to provide the necessary standards required for both domestic and export purposes. Membership of the Scheme is an essential prerequisite for all flock owners wishing to export to the EC.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – Further information on Deer and Poultry Health Schemes from your local SEERAD Area Office.

Sheep and Goat Health Schemes

The following three Schemes are operated by the Scottish Agricultural College (SAC).

Premium Health Scheme

This Scheme is designed to identify sheep flocks which are of high health status and are specifically free of enzootic abortion of ewes (EAE). In the north and west of Scotland it is marketed as the Highlands and Islands Sheep Health Scheme in partnership with the Highlands and Islands Sheep Health Association (HISHA). Participants in the Scheme can sell their sheep as certified free of the disease – EAE accredited.

Maedi Visna/Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis Accreditation Scheme

This Scheme is designed for sheep/goat owners who wish to establish and maintain a flock/herd free from maedi visna (MV) or, in the case of goats, caprine arthritis encephalitis (CAE). The Scheme is recognised by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland for import purposes and membership is a requirement for many breed society sales and shows.

Maedi Visna Monitoring Scheme

This Scheme is designed for commercial flocks where total segregation of animals is not practicable. Flocks are monitored to give confidence that disease is not present at a level which could lead to serious economic consequences. The Scheme provides purchasers with a source of commercial sheep with known status.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – Barti Synge, Manager, Sheep and Goat Health Schemes, SAC, PO Box 5557, Inverness, IV2 4YT, Tel: 01463 226 995, Fax: 01463 711 103, e-mail: sghs@ed.sac.ac.uk or visit the SAC website at www.sac.ac.uk/sghs

Scrapie

Flocks monitored free from scrapie are eligible for intra-community trade in breeding sheep and goats.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – Local Animal Health Offices or from SEERAD Headquarters, Pentland House, 47 Robb's Loan, Edinburgh, EH14 1TY, Tel: 0131 244 6281.

The National Scrapie Plan (NSP) for Great Britain was launched in July 2001 by SEERAD, DEFRA and NAWAD. The aim is to reduce and eliminate scrapie from the national sheep flock by selective breeding for genetic resistance to scrapie in breeding rams and by tackling disease in scrapie-affected flocks.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – NSP Helpline 0845 601 4858 or visit the website at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/bse/bse-science/scrapie/nsp/nsp.html> or contact Anna Murray, NSP Branch, Room 349, SEERAD, Pentland House, 47 Robb's Loan, Edinburgh, EH14 1TY, Tel: 0131 244 6413.

The Scottish Agricultural College (SAC) provides a private scrapie gene testing service. The test is carried out on a blood sample.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – Barti Synge, Manager, Sheep and Goat Health Schemes, SAC, PO Box 5557, Inverness, IV2 4YT, Tel: 01463 226 995, e-mail sghs@ed.sac.ac.uk or visit <http://www.sac.ac.uk/vet/External/SGHS/Scrapie/>

Highlands and Islands Veterinary Services Scheme

The purpose of the Scheme is to ensure the availability of an adequate veterinary service and disease surveillance in designated areas of Scotland, namely the former Crofting Counties, for all animals kept for agricultural purposes. The means to that end involve the setting of fees for visits to crofters and persons of like economic status, and the reimbursement of vets' travel etc costs associated with such visits.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – Local Animal Health Office.

Intervention Buying

Certain products – beef, butter, cereals and skimmed milk powder (SMP) – can be offered into intervention. Minimum quantities and qualities may apply. Beef and butter may be offered when:

- the market price for these commodities falls below the trigger or safety net price in two consecutive weeks; and
- the European Commission agrees to open intervention purchasing.

When intervention opens, an announcement is made and traders may submit tenders to sell into intervention.

Offers of cereals and SMP can be made during purchase seasons which are:

- for cereals – 1 November to 31 May; and
- for SMP – 1 March to 31 August.

Products offered will be paid for at prices fixed in advance.

The price to be paid for the product includes for delivery into store. However, in certain circumstances the cost of transporting the goods to the intervention store may be reimbursed. Alternatively, offers may be made to store products in situ in the offerer's own facility.

Traders may offer to store eligible products, for which they are paid a fee on removal of the goods from storage, through Private Storage Aid (PSA). Butter PSA is normally available during 15 March to

15 August each year. The availability of Meat PSA is dependent on market conditions.

► CONTACT & INFORMATION –

- for intervention, Tel: 0191 273 9696;
- for beef and cereals, Tel: 0191 226 5161 or 0191 226 5229;
- for butter and SMP Tel: 0191 226 5058 or 5060;
- further information on Private Storage Aid is available, Tel: 0191 226 5058 or 0191 226 5832.

Milk Quotas

The administration of milk quotas is undertaken by the Rural Payments Agency.

► CONTACT & INFORMATION – Helpline Tel: 01392 266 466. An enquiry point has been established by SEERAD, Tel: 0131 244 6953.

Pest Control

Foxes

Grants of up to 50% are available on approved expenditure incurred by fox destruction clubs undertaking systematic fox control in a four month unbroken period in the spring. Information may be obtained from Local SEERAD Area Offices.

Moles

Permits to purchase strychnine for destroying moles on ground which is in agricultural use may be obtained from Local SEERAD Area Offices.

Rats and Mice

Local Authorities provide advice on the control of rats and mice.

Wild Birds and Other Animals

In certain circumstances, licences may be granted for the killing or taking of certain protected species for the purpose of preventing

serious damage to livestock, foodstuffs for livestock, crops, vegetables, fruit, growing timber or fisheries. Contact your Local SEERAD Area Offices.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – Further information on Pest Control can be obtained from your Local SEERAD Area Offices.

Pesticide Efficacy Testing

The Scottish Agricultural College (SAC) provides a service to carry out field trials to PSD standards on the efficacy of agrochemicals on major arable and horticultural crops. The service involves both field trials throughout Scotland, plus laboratory and glasshouse studies including pesticide resistance studies.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – Crop Clinic at SAC, West Mains Road, Edinburgh, EH9 3JG, Tel: 0131 535 4090, e-mail to: s.oxley@ed.sac.ac.uk

Pesticide Residues

Analysis of seed, crops or soil for a range of pesticides can be done by the Scottish Agricultural Science Agency (SASA). This can be used to provide information on efficacy of treatments or to ensure compliance with maximum residue limits under the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985 and The Pesticides (Maximum Residue Levels in Crops, Food and Feeding Stuffs) (Scotland) Regulations 2000 (as amended).

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – From SASA, Tel: 0131 244 8864.

Pigs – Reporting of Movements

Those involved in the movement of pigs should be aware of new legislation introduced on 31 December 2002. The Pigs (Record, Identification and Movement) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2002 now requires that all movements of pigs – including those going to slaughter – should be notified to the Local Authority of the consigning location. This should be done on the relevant declaration and a copy of this must be sent to the Local Authority within 3 days of the completed movement.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – Your Trading Standards office of your Local Authority can advise you more fully of your notification responsibilities.

Plant Breeders' Rights and National List

Statutory Schemes for potatoes, cereals and many other agricultural and horticultural species enable the breeder of a new variety to sell it and control its commercial reproduction.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – SEERAD, Area 1W, Pentland House, 47 Robb's Loan, Edinburgh, EH14 1TY, Tel: 0131 244 6341.

- applications for licences to deal in varieties which are subject to plant breeders' rights may be obtained from the British Society of Plant Breeders Ltd, Woolpack Chambers, Market Street, Ely, Cambridgeshire, CB7 4ND, Tel: 01353 653 200;
- plant breeders seeking rights for new varieties may obtain details from the Controller of Plant Variety Rights, Plant Variety Rights Office, DEFRA, White House Lane, Huntingdon Road, Cambridge, CB3 0LF; and
- applications for National List tests may be obtained from DEFRA at the same address.

Plants, Plant Produce and Potatoes

Intra-community trade in the Single Market is governed by a system of registration for horticultural growers and the use of plant passports.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – SEERAD, Horticultural Unit, Pentland House, 47 Robb's Loan, Edinburgh, EH14 1TY, Tel: 0131 244 6303.

Phytosanitary conditions for the export of seed potatoes.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – Visit www.scotland.gov.uk/agri/p-export/prmain.htm

All queries relating to potatoes should be directed in the first instance to your Local SEERAD Area Office.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – Advice on conditions to be met for import and export including the need for phytosanitary certification and import licensing can be obtained from SEERAD, Area 1W, Pentland House, 47 Robb’s Loan, Edinburgh EH14 1TY, Tel: 0131 244 6345.

Quality Meat Scotland

Quality Meat Scotland was established in 1999 as an industry owned body to provide co-ordination and leadership for the Scottish red meat industry and supported by statutory levies. From 1 April 2003 GB Ministers transferred to QMS, a range of statutory functions relating to the red meat industry previously undertaken at GB level by MLC.

Quality Meat Scotland has set itself key objectives reflecting its functions:

- to be the first port of call for impartial, authoritative industry information and a catalyst for adoption of best practice;
- to retain and enhance consumer confidence differentiating between Quality Assurance and Consumer Assurance;
- to evolve and agree a marketing strategy within the industry; and
- to promote a culture of trust throughout the whole supply and demand chain.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – Quality Meat Scotland Ltd, The Rural Centre, West Mains, Ingliston, EH28 8NZ, Tel: 0131 472 4040, Fax: 0131 472 4038, e-mail info@qmScotland.co.uk or visit www.qmScotland.co.uk

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)

SNH’s aims are to safeguard Scotland’s natural heritage, particularly its natural, genetic and scenic diversity; to foster awareness and understanding of the natural heritage; to promote enjoyment and responsible public access to the natural heritage in ways which do not damage it; to encourage public support and voluntary effort for

the benefit of the environment; to promote improvement of the natural heritage in and around towns and cities where most of Scotland's people live; and to encourage environmental sustainability in all forms of economic activity.

The Natural Care Strategy, developed by SNH, outlines a programme of measures to increase the use of positive management agreements for the better protection and enhancement of the natural heritage. Individual Schemes are being developed by SNH to better target specific management practices for the benefit of particular conservation interests.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – Natural Care Team,
Scottish Natural Heritage, Battleby, Redgorton, Perth, PH1 3EW,
Tel: 01738 444 177 or visit website
<http://213.121.208.4/about/ab-frame.htm>

Seed Potato Classification Scheme

Before seed potatoes can be marketed, they must meet the requirements of The Seed Potatoes (Scotland) Regulations 2000. The Scottish Agricultural Science Agency (SASA) is the Certifying Authority for seed potatoes in Scotland.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – Conditions for producing seed potatoes and details of standards for health and purity may be obtained from SPCS section, SASA, East Craigs, 82 Craigs Road, Edinburgh, EH12 8NJ, Tel: 0131 244 6346,
e-mail Catherine.Landels@sasa.gsi.gov.uk or visit website
http://www.sasa.gov.uk/seed_potatoes/classification/index.cfm

Soil testing for potato cyst nematode is a compulsory prerequisite for land on which all classes of seed potatoes entered for classification are grown.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – Application forms can be obtained from SASA (contact details as above), or from Local SEERAD Area Offices.

Before they are despatched from the farm, all containers of classified seed potatoes must be sealed and labelled with official labels and subjected to official examination. Labels are obtainable from Local

SEERAD Area Offices on payment of a fee accompanying a written application giving prior notice of the dates and place of dressing.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – SEERAD Local Area Offices or from SASA.

A range of diagnostic and laboratory services is available directly from SASA. These include virus testing on tuber, leaf or soil samples, PCN testing of soil from land or crops and production of pathogen-free tubers or microplants.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – SASA, Tel: 0131 244 8924 or visit www.sasa.gov.uk

Seed Testing

The Official Seed Testing Station for Scotland (OSTS), part of the Scottish Agricultural Science Agency (SASA), is the principal centre for seed testing and seed quality information in Scotland.

A wide range of tests, including purity, germination, moisture content, disease, thousand seed weight, tetrazolium and malting tests are available to merchants and growers, either for statutory purposes relating to seed certification or to provide information on the quality of farm-saved seed. The OSTs is accredited by the International Seed Testing Association. It is also accredited by UKAS to the NAMAS Standard.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – OSTs, East Craigs, Edinburgh, EH12 8NJ, Tel: 0131 244 8908, Fax: 0131 244 8971, e-mail Caroline.Cadger@sasa.gsi.gov.uk or visit www.sasa.gov.uk/seed_testing/osts/index.cfm

SEERAD Online

SEERAD Online is part of SEERAD's Modernising Government Initiative and also fulfils one of the recommendations made by the External Communications Strategy (a strategy developed by a panel of industry representatives) for the electronic submission of subsidy claims.

The website enables producers and their agents to send claims directly to the Department over the Internet. This is a free and secure service, the site is available 24 hours a day seven days a week. Personalised claim forms have automatic checks on dates, calculations and related information minimising the chance of making errors before you submit your claim. Once you have transmitted/submitted your form to the Department you receive an electronic receipt, which can be printed at any time. You are already enrolled and there is no need to register.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – Visit website
<http://www.scotfarmonline.gov.uk/>

Sheep (& Goat) Identification and Traceability

On 18 February 2002 the new Scottish Animal Movement System covering sheep and goat identification and traceability throughout Scotland began. The new system comprises of:

- baseline tagging or tattooing;
- movement tags;
- standardised movement documents; and
- notification of movement to the Scottish Animal Movement Unit (SAMU).

Full details of the system were issued to individual keepers in February 2002. It is important that keepers are aware of their responsibilities regarding the new system.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – Producers who wish to notify movements to SAMU electronically should go to The Scottish Executive website – www.scotland.gov.uk/agri/ then to SEERAD Animal Identification & Traceability where the form should be completed as directed.

- Local SEERAD Area Offices can supply new movement document forms. SAMU, Room 211, Pentland House, 47 Robbs Loan, Edinburgh, EH14 1TY, Tel: 0131 244 4202, Fax: 0131 244 1946 or e-mail: samu@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Soil Association Scotland (SA Scotland)

Producer Services

SA Scotland is part of an independent, not for profit body which supports and advises farmers converting to organic production. The SA Scotland team can provide advice, information and support through technical guides, training events and over the telephone advice. The guides and information cover a wide variety of topics from horticulture, beef and arable production to listings of organic abattoirs and feed companies. Also published by the Soil Association is the Organic Farming magazine and Scottish supplement which provides up to date, topical and informative articles. SA Scotland's information service to organic farmers is backed up by its championing of organic products with consumers, initiatives to develop the organic supply chain and strategic policy work.

Soil Association Certification Limited (SA Cert)

SA Cert is a leading UK organic certification body for both farmers and processors. A fee is payable for the certification scheme. All licensees are given practical support by SA Scotland and the national producers services team.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – The Soil Association Scotland, Tower Mains, 18 Liberton Brae, Edinburgh, EH16 6EA, Tel: 08701 202110, e-mail matheson@sascotland.org or visit www.soilassociationscotland.org

Soil Testing

The Scottish Agricultural College (SAC) provides analyses of soil samples. A charge is made for this service.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – Any SAC Office (see local phone book) or visit <http://www.sac.ac.uk/corporate/Contact.asp>

Veterinary Diagnostic and Advisory Services

SAC Veterinary Services, which receives funding from SEERAD to support statutory disease surveillance and provision of services in remote areas, provides laboratory diagnostic and advisory services to farmers in Scotland through private veterinary surgeons. These services are provided through a network of eight centres each of which is manned by veterinary, scientific and support staff and equipped with the latest advances in laboratory technology.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – Full information can be obtained from your local veterinary practice, the nearest SAC Veterinary Centre (see local phone book), or Tel: 01738 620042, Fax: 01738 643331, e-mail to: a.greig@ed.sac.ac.uk

Wages

Copies of the Wages Orders of the Scottish Agricultural Wages Board and the Guide "Agricultural Wages in Scotland" detailing the minimum rates of wages, overtime rates, holidays, sick pay and other terms and conditions of employment for workers in agriculture may be obtained from:

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – The Secretary, Scottish Agricultural Wages Board, Room 261, Pentland House, 47 Robb's Loan, Edinburgh, EH14 1TY, Tel: 0131 244 6392 or visit the Scottish Executive's website at www.scotland.gov.uk/library3/agri/awgs-00.asp

Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme

This Scheme exists to investigate the cause of death of any animals (wild animals, livestock or companion animals) in circumstances where pesticide poisoning may be implicated.

► **CONTACT & INFORMATION** – Information and/or samples in relation to any suspected incidents should be given to the Local SEERAD Area Office or directly to the Scottish Agricultural Science Agency, Tel: Ken Hunter or Elizabeth Sharp on 0131 244 8874. E-mail ken.hunter@sasa.gsi.gov.uk or elizabeth.sharp@sasa.gsi.gov.uk or visit http://www.sasa.gov.uk/pesticide_wildlife/wiis/index.cfm

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE ENVIRONMENT AND RURAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT
 LOCAL AREA OFFICE CONTACT DETAILS

| Area | Area Office | Address and Telephone Number | Local Offices | Telephone Number |
|--------------------------|-------------|--|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Argyll/ Western Isles | Oban | Cameron House Albany Street PA34 4AE 01631 563071 | Stornoway Benbecula | 01851 702392 01870 602346 |
| Grampian | Inverurie | Thainstone Court AB51 5YA 01467 626222 | Elgin | 01343 547514 |
| Highland | Inverness | Longman House 28 Longman Rd IV1 1SF 01463 234141 | Portree | 01478 612516 |
| Northern | Thurso | Strathbeg House Clarence Street KW14 7JS 01847 893104 | Lairg | 01549 402167 |
| Northern Isles | Kirkwall | Tankerness Lane KW15 1AQ 01856 875444 | Lerwick | 01595 695054 |
| Central | Perth | Strathearn House Broxden Business Park Lamberkine Dr PH1 1RX 01738 602000 | | |
| Southern | Dumfries | 161 Brooms Road DG1 3ES 01387 255292 | | |

| Area | Area Office | Address and Telephone Number | Local Offices | Telephone Number |
|---------------|-------------|---|---------------|------------------|
| South Eastern | Galashiels | Cotgreen Road Tweedbank TD1 3SG 01896 758333 | | |
| South Western | Ayr | Russell House King Street KA8 0BE 01292 610188 | Hamilton | 01698 281166 |

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE ENVIRONMENT AND RURAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT
 LOCAL ANIMAL HEALTH OFFICE CONTACT DETAILS

| Divisional Office | Address and Telephone Number | Local Offices | Telephone Number |
|--------------------------|--|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Ayr | Russell House King Street KA8 0BE 01292 268525 | Dumfries Stranraer | All enquiries through Ayr Office |
| Galashiels | Cotgreen Road Tweedbank TD1 3SG 01896 758806 | Hamilton | 01698 286509 |
| Inverness | Longman House 28 Longman Rd IV1 1SF 01463 234141 | Thurso | 01847 893275 |
| Perth | Strathearn House Broxden Business Park Lamberkine Drive PH1 1RX 01738 602211 | Oban | 01631 562502 |
| Inverurie | Thainstone Court AB51 5YA 01467 626300 | Kirkwall Elgin | 01856 873301 01343 543871 |

**S.E.E.R.A.D.
 AREA BOUNDARIES AND OFFICES
 PRINCIPAL AGRICULTURAL OFFICER COMMANDS
 AS FROM 17 FEBRUARY 2003**



