

**NEWS RELEASE**  
**Scottish Tenant Farmers Association**  
**Culmailly Farm**  
**Golspie**  
**Sutherland**  
[www.tfascotland.org.uk](http://www.tfascotland.org.uk)

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**NEW FARMS FOR NEW ENTRANTS**

The Scottish Tenant Farmers Association (STFA) is welcoming indications that, at last, farms are beginning to trickle on to the let land market. STFA has long believed that there are a number of farms which could be rented out on proper tenancies, but which, for one reason or another have been held back and only let out on grazing or seasonal arrangements. It is now heartening to see over the past week or two, some landowners prepared to make the commitment to rent out their land on both Short Limited Duration Tenancies and Limited Duration Tenancies.

This week sees five farms advertised for let on the Island of Bute and one hill farm near Oban, STFA members are hopeful that some of these farms may be made available to new entrants rather than to the highest bidder.

It is significant that all of these farms are stock farms and, as such, not suitable for contract farming arrangements. The landowners concerned should look towards the future of farming in the highlands and islands and choose new entrant tenants for these farms rather than looking for the highest rent which, if left to the vagaries of the open market, will inevitably come from a neighbouring or already established farmer. Scottish agriculture is desperately in need of new blood but unless new entrants are given a fair wind they will never be able to compete for farms on the open market.

The much vaunted New Entrant Scheme announced by the Scottish Government has had little uptake to date and the £10m is likely to remain unspent unless new entrants are able to get hold of the land they so desperately crave. STFA is proposing the creation of a special starter tenancy which, in conjunction with SRDP measures will give the new entrant a competitive advantage in bidding for a tenanted unit and which will encourage landlords to let to a new entrant. STFA is exploring this with government officials and hopes to be able to develop this idea with other stakeholder groups over the coming weeks.

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