

News Release  
Scottish Tenant Farmers Association  
Culmailly Farm  
Golspie  
Sutherland  
KW10 6TA  
[stfa@tfascotland.org.uk](mailto:stfa@tfascotland.org.uk)

9th August 2010

#### ENDING SLIPPER FARMING MAY BENEFIT NEW ENTRANTS

The Scottish Tenant Farmers Association has hailed Cabinet Secretary Richard Lochhead's announcement today approving the recommendations in Brian Pack's interim report on the future support for Scottish Agriculture as a step in the right direction. In particular, the STFA welcomes the government's commitment to tighten the link between single farm payments and activity, thus limiting the scope for "slipper farmers".

Commenting on the Cabinet Secretary's announcement STFA Chairman Angus McCall said; "The Scottish Government's undertaking to take action against inactive farmers will undoubtedly lead to some creative thinking as slipper farmers work out ways of circumventing the new rules. It is to be hoped that the industry will be able to come up with a robust set of activity rules which will ensure that single farm payments are targeted in the right direction.

"Access to land has always been the stumbling block for new entrants and there will potentially be opportunities for new entrants as inactive farmers seek to create some activity over their land. Allowing young farmers to graze some of the destocked hill areas on a peppercorn rent may well be a cost effective alternative to loss of SFP for some claimants. The government and the industry should look at ways on encouraging cost effective arrangements giving young farmers access to land which would go some way towards compensating them for their lack of SFP. Closing this loophole may even unlock a new door for the many eager young farmers looking for an opening"

For further comment:

Contact: Angus McCall: 01408 366275