



Workshop 4: Reaching and supporting semi-subsistence farms

Case study, Crofting in Scotland: policies to address semi subsistence farms' needs

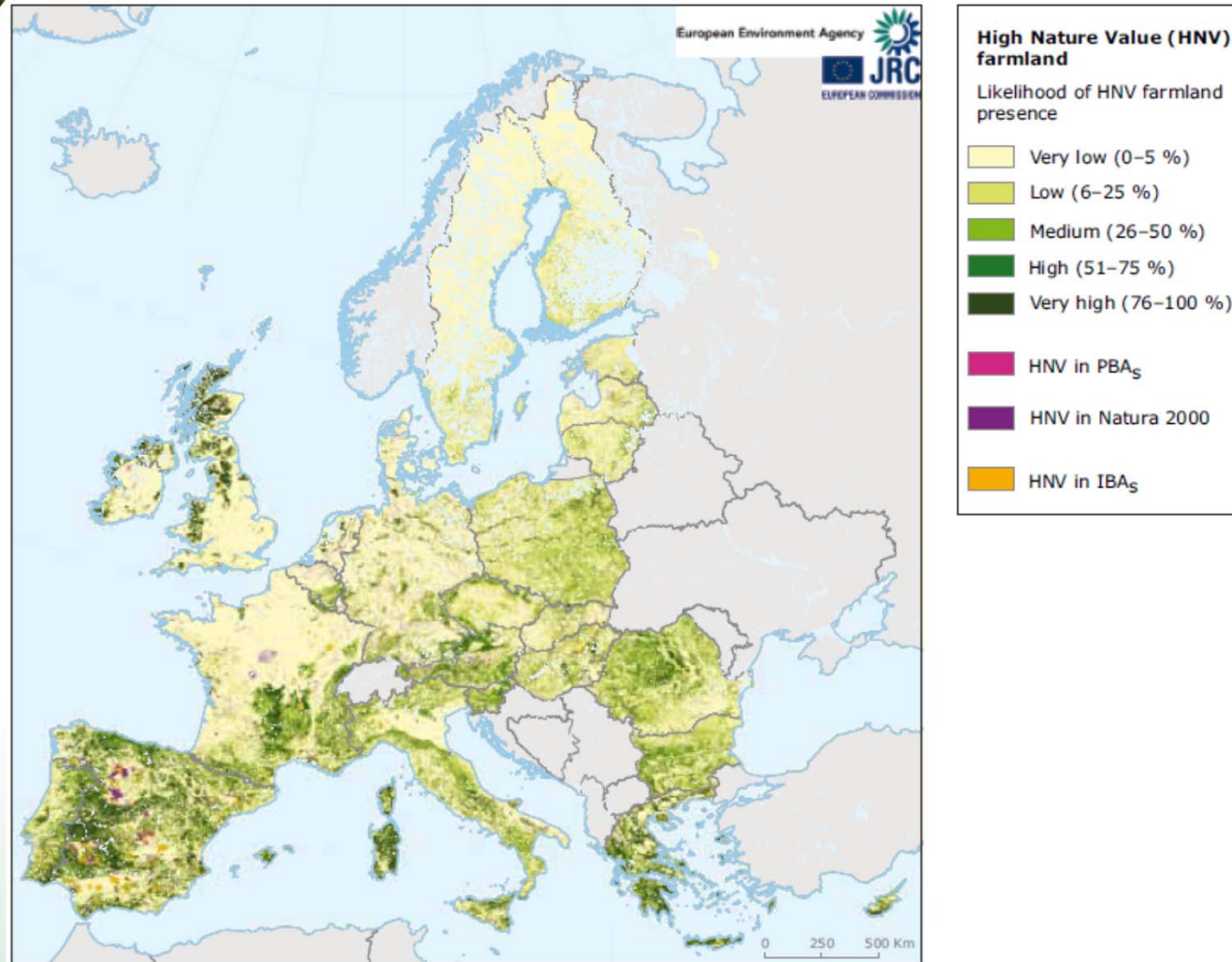
*Mr. Angus McHattie
13 – 15 October 2010, Sibiu, Romania*



Connecting Rural Europe

A photograph of a coastal town on the Isle of Skye, Scotland. The foreground is dominated by dark, choppy water with white foam from breaking waves. In the middle ground, a small town with several buildings is visible along the shoreline. The background features a large, prominent mountain with a snow-capped peak, partially obscured by a thick layer of mist or low clouds. The overall atmosphere is overcast and moody.

Isle of Skye, Scotland



Source: High Nature Value Farmland in Europe — An estimate of the distribution patterns on the basis of land cover and biodiversity data (Paracchini *et al.*, JRC-IES and EEA, 2008). http://agrienv.jrc.ec.europa.eu/activities_HNV.htm.



UK Less Favoured Areas



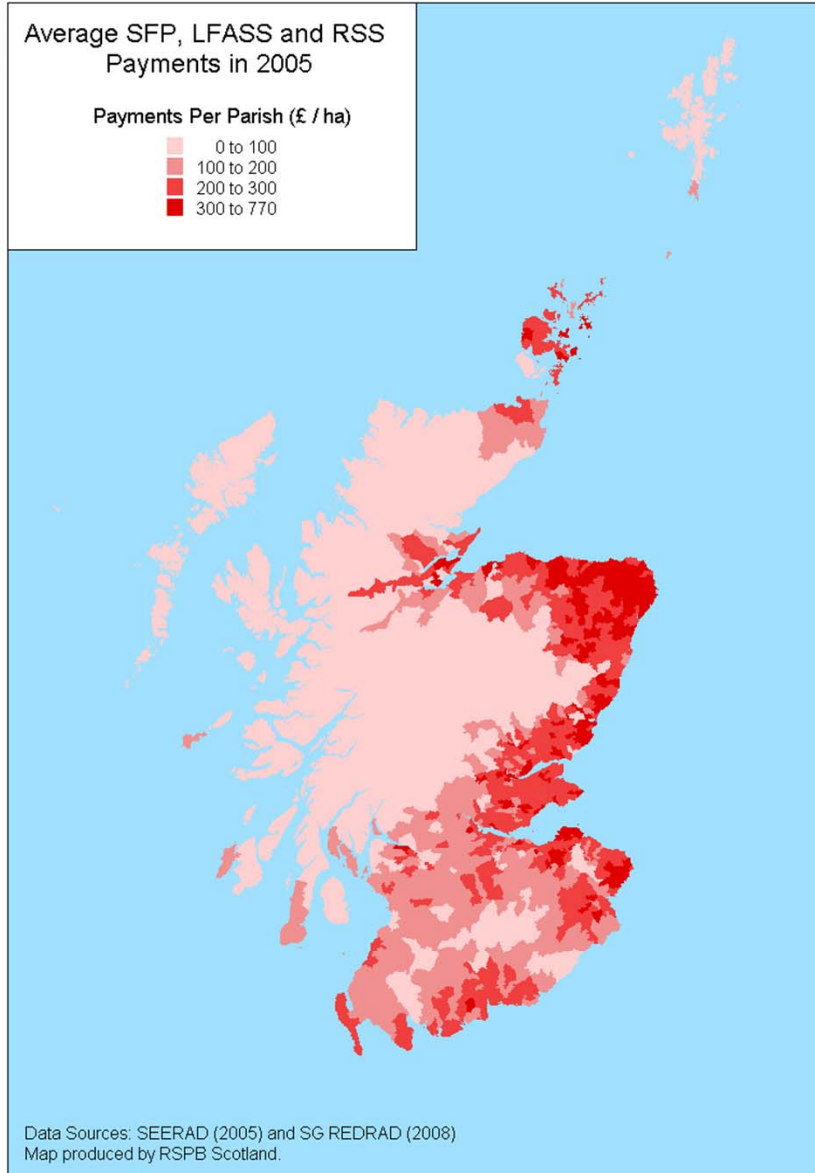
Map produced by Science Services,
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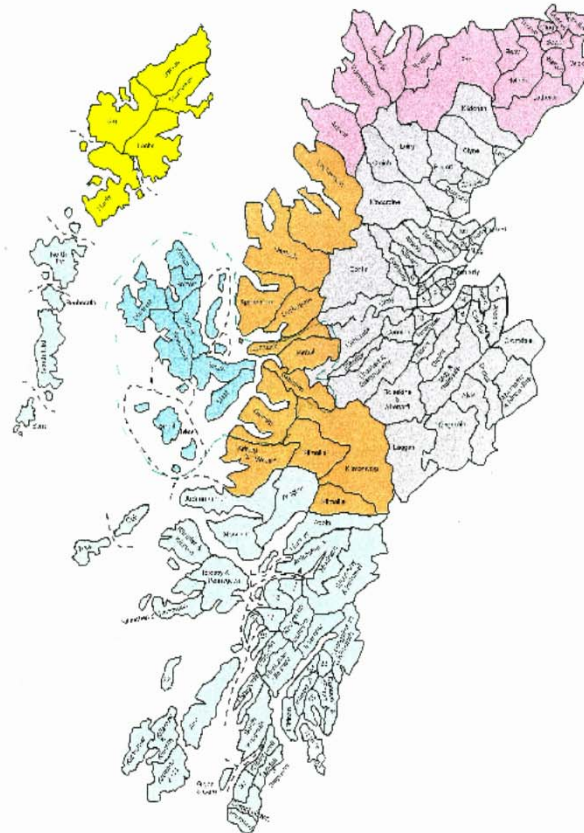
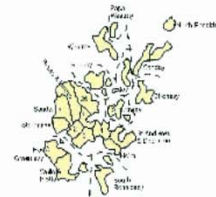
Average SFP, LFASS and RSS
Payments in 2005

Payments Per Parish (£ / ha)





Crofters Commission Crofting Counties



- Shetland and Orkney Commissioner Area
- Caithness and West Sutherland Commissioner Area
- East Inverness, East Ross-shire and East Sutherland Commissioner Area
- Lewis and Harris Commissioner Area
- West Ross-shire, South and West Inverness Commissioner Area
- Ross and the Small Isles Commissioner Area
- Argyll, Argyll Islands, the Jura and Barra Commissioner Area

1 Tain	16 Kinross & Kirkcaldy
2 Sutherland	20 Inverness & Kirkcaldy
3 Caithness	21 Caithness
4 Kirkwall & Orkney	22 Culterney & Caithness
5 Orkney	23 Shetland
6 Kilbrannoch	24 Kinross
7 Inverness	25 East Inverness
8 Kinross	26 Caithness
9 Kinross	27 Sandness
10 Ross	28 Ross
11 Ross	29 Ross
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79 Ross	97 Ross
80 Ross	98 Ross
81 Ross	99 Ross
82 Ross	100 Ross

Typical Crofting Community





Tiree's Crofting Townships

Land management has evolved through the centuries within the communities on Tiree and is based on the townships.

There are 32 townships on Tiree. Although they have been in existence for many centuries, the way they operate was laid down in the Crofting Act of 1886, the act that finally gave people security over the land they worked. Each township nominates a clerk and has a grazing committee which regulates how they will graze the land. This is also influenced by regulations laid down by different government and environmental bodies.

Each township consists of a collection of crofts and most crofts are made up of three types of land: 'in-bye' is reclaimed land used mainly for growing crops and winter feeding; machair (Gaelic for plain) and sliabh (Gaelic for the less fertile rugged peaty ground) are used for common grazing for the townships' livestock.

The committee in each township has a grazing regime which allows the machair and sliabh to be preserved as a resource for everyone. Limits are set on the number of animals each crofter can put on the common grazing. Rules which vary from township to township lay down when the animals should be moved from the machair to the sliabh. This allows the machair to recover and reseed.

The township committees and individual crofters on Tiree work closely with the environmental agencies (in particular Scottish Natural Heritage) to preserve areas of habitat which are Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Crofters can volunteer to work with the RSPB and harvest later in the year than normal, allowing birds such as the corncrake to finish breeding.

In addition, parts of Tiree are designated Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) which means the Department of Agriculture sets the rules about how the land must be managed.

- Land management on Tiree is based on the Townships.
- There are thirty two townships on Tiree.
- 'In-bye' is reclaimed land mainly used for growing crops and winter feeding.
- The machair and the sliabh are used as common grazing for townships' livestock.
- The township committees and individual crofters on Tiree work closely with the environmental agencies to preserve areas of different habitat types.



SLOW DOWN

**CHILDREN, DOGS AND
CROFTERS ON ROAD**



What is a crofter?



l Europe



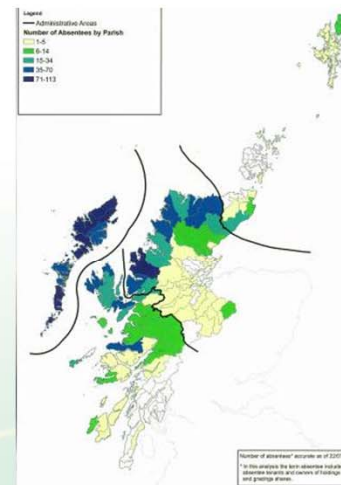
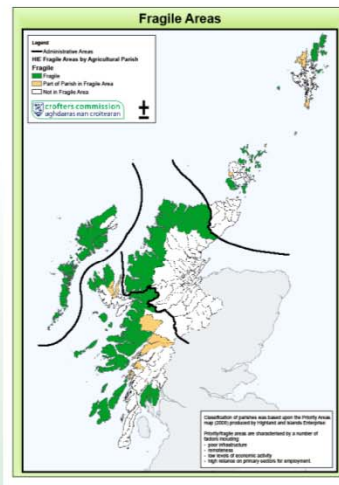
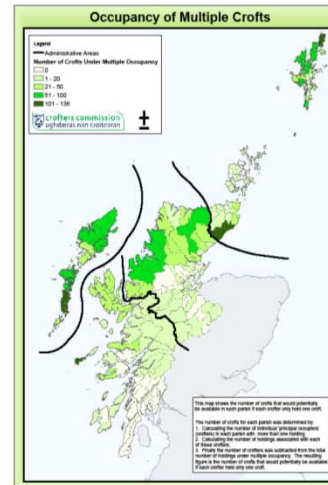
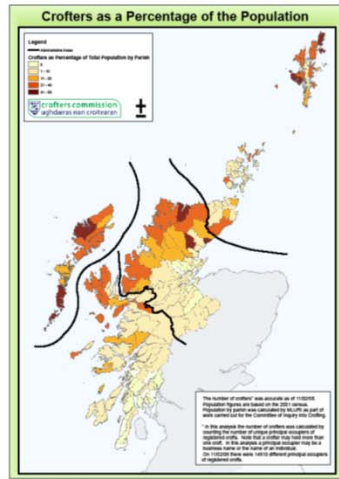


Uist Machair



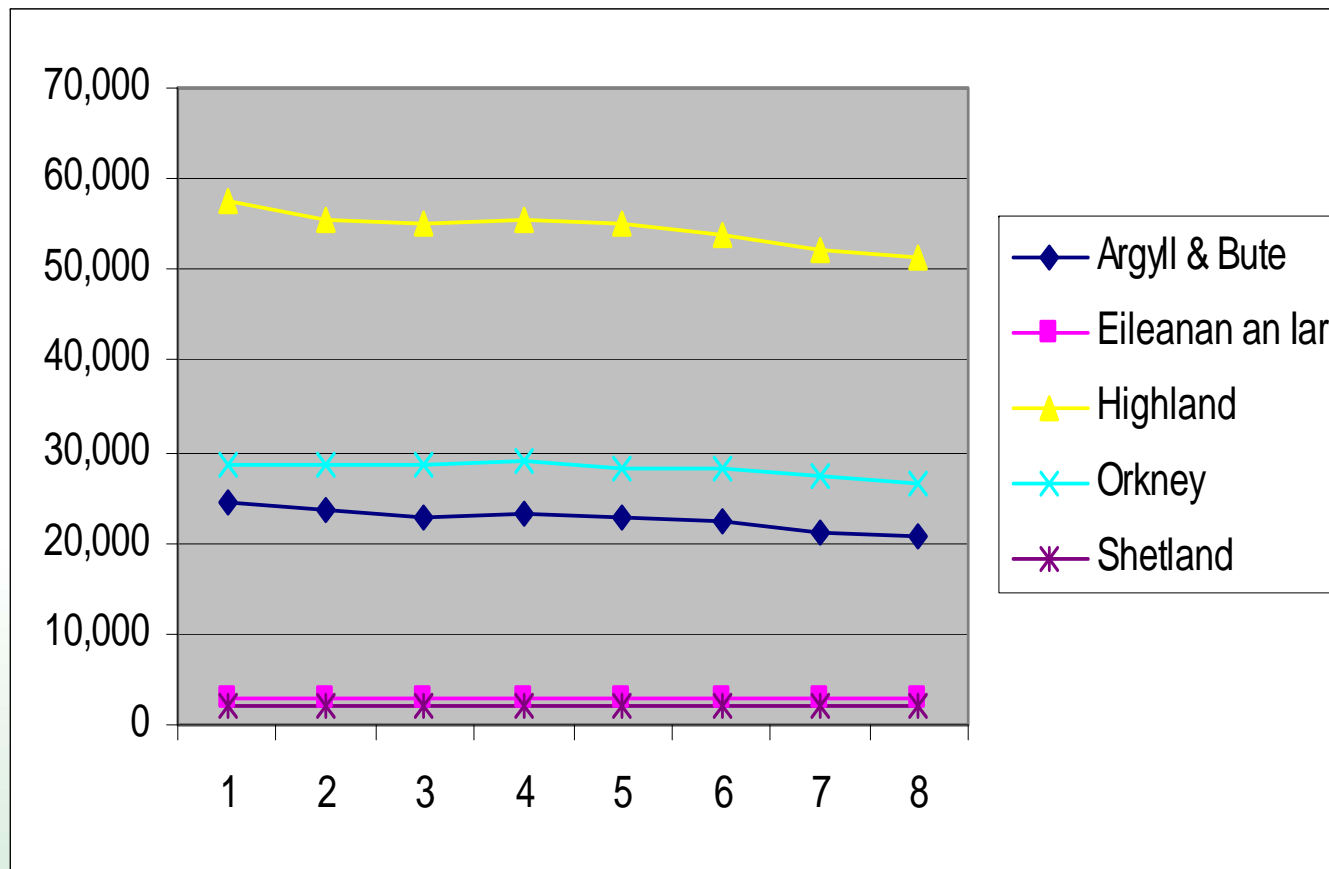


Tiree Cattle



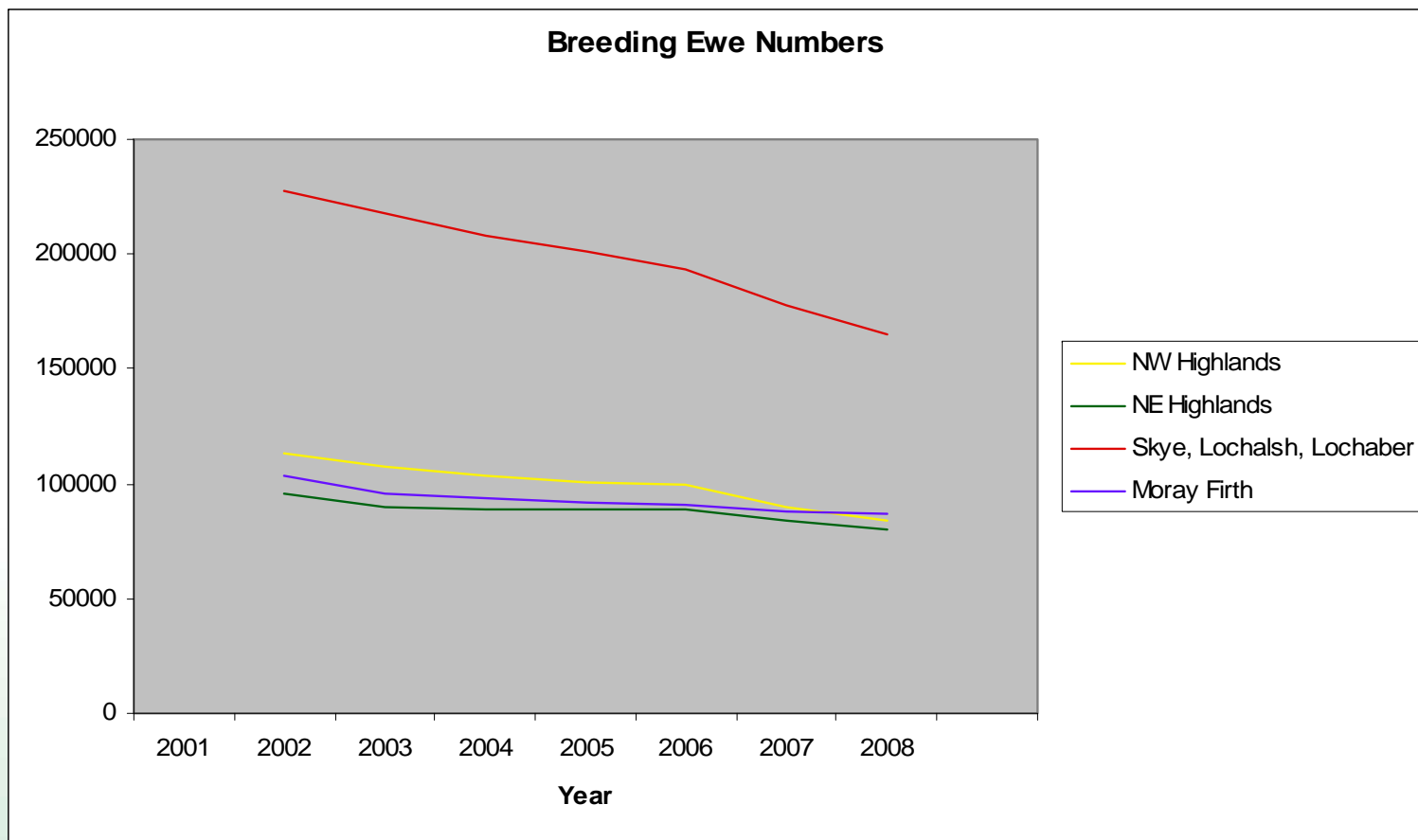


Cattle Numbers by Area 2000-2008



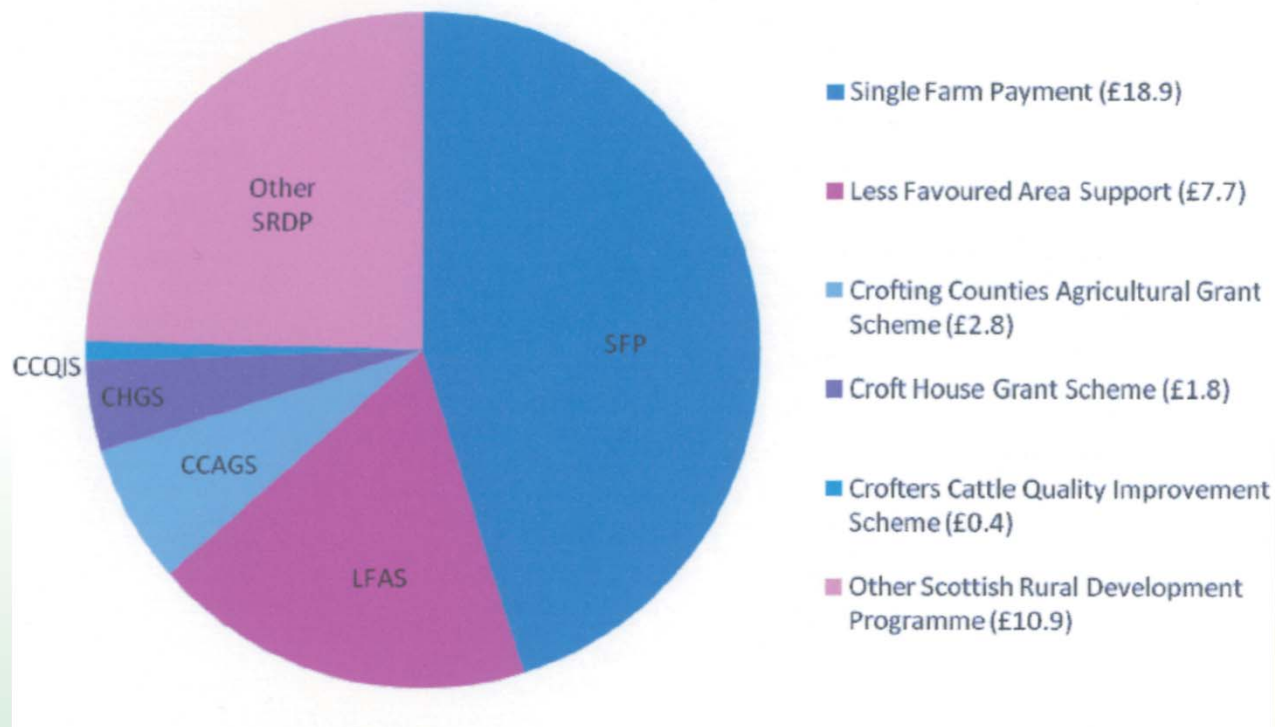


Breeding Ewe Numbers by Area 2000-2008



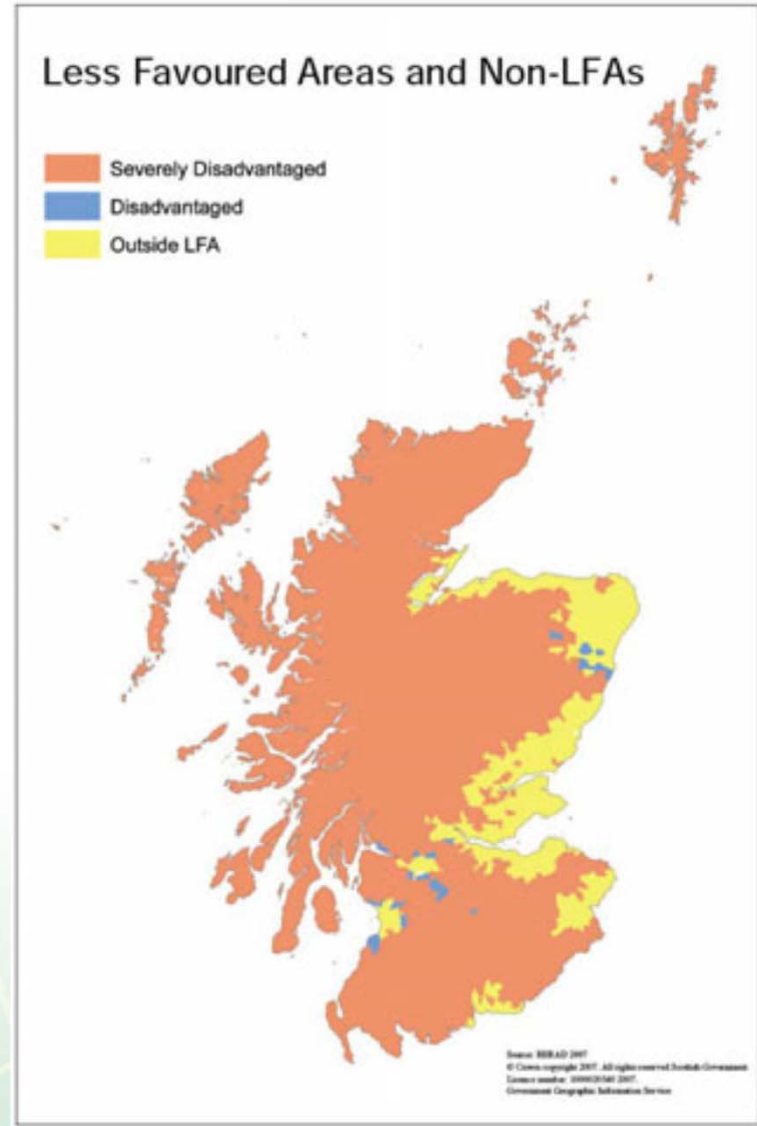


Public Expenditure in the Crofting Areas in 2005-06 (£million)





How to make one size fit all?



New Crofts on Rhum





Lessons from Crofting?

- Crofting has been instrumental in maintaining people in areas that otherwise would be increasingly empty.
- Crofting contributes to a vibrant and living landscape.
- Unfortunately crofting has become increasingly dependant on external financial support with financial support measures becoming less easy to access.
- Where collaborative projects have happened benefits have been widespread, but there is a cost, in time and effort which may not always be recouped.
- Crofters are active in promoting their own products, not just in the livestock sector, but in tourism and service industries.
- Crofters have made use of EU schemes which have had many beneficial effects.
- Crofters have shown that they are capable of taking charge of their own destiny through involvement in land ownership.





The Future

