



## NEWS RELEASE

**Use: Immediate**

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### **CROFTERS WELCOME GOVERNMENT FOOD INITIATIVE**

The Scottish Crofting Foundation have hailed the Scottish Government's food policy discussion and the forthcoming meeting with supermarket representatives hosted by the First Minister as ground-breaking.

SCF food spokesman Donald MacDonald said "the Scottish Government have taken an unprecedented step in recognising that we need to change the way in which we produce and consume food in Scotland. Their food discussion initiative is not only welcome but is extremely exiting. We have the chance now to make some fundamental changes, to look forward to doing what crofters do best – produce good, healthy, fresh food – and to get just reward for that. The fact that the supermarket representatives are willing to participate in the discussion is a very clear indicator that they too recognise the need to change."

The Scottish Government have been holding a national discussion which will close this week. A constant in the discussion has been criticism of the power supermarkets wield over producer and consumer alike, and there are calls for a supermarket regulator. Supermarket representatives have agreed to meet with the Scottish Government.

Macdonald again "Scotland has the reputation of producing some of the world's finest foods, based on our high nature value, high health and high animal welfare production methods. This government initiative is positioning us to lead the UK in food policy development."

**END**

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#### **Notes to editors**

Pictures can be found at: <http://www.croftingfoundation.co.uk/index.php/home>