



Land reform in Scotland

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Map 2: Less Favoured Areas and Non Less Favoured Areas

- Severely Disadvantaged
- Disadvantaged
- Outside LFA



Work in progress



- Priority for Scottish Parliament since set up in 1999
- Absurd pre-Napoleonic concentration of ownership – 423 people 50% of land
- Historical grievance of clearances - depopulation
- Land Reform Act 2003 – community right to buy, right to roam
- 200,000 ha in community ownership in Highlands and Islands

Recent changes



- Land Reform Review Group – ‘be radical’
- New principles – land to be owned and managed in the public interest and for the common good
- New rights to buy – derelict and vacant land, land not being managed for sustainable development
- Transparency on ownership
- Rates on sporting estates, deer management
- Rents linked to productive capacity

Some good news



- Slow decline in number of holdings
- Still 18,000 crofts, new young crofters
- Renewed interest from young non-farmers, though small numbers
- Strong growth in urban food groups
- Growing interest in agroecology
- Cross-cutting food bill

No revolution yet



- Land being held back, decline in tenancies
- Consolidation, esp in dairy
- Tenants still being evicted, high profile cases
- Land prices inflated by subsidy and as investment (better than gold)
- Support for new entrants (€70,000, starter farms) but hard for those new to farming
- 'Real farming' seen as large farm producing commodities rather than peasant farming for local markets
- Decline in farm incomes in last 3 years

Land rented in Scotland

