

Agriculture in Argyll and the Scottish Rural Development Programme

Bill Dundas
SG Rural Payments and Inspections
Directorate

Agriculture in Argyll and Bute

- 2000 crofts and farms covering 485000 ha
- Predominately grass or rough grazings.
- 1200 active businesses.
- 8000 diary cows, 20000 beef cows and 440000 sheep

Agriculture in Argyll and Bute

Employment

- Working Occupiers (and spouse)

Full time 495

More than half time 325

Less than half time 840

Total 1660

Agriculture in Argyll and Bute

- Employees

Full time 600

Part time 290

Casual 130

Total 1020

Agriculture in Argyll and Bute

Challenges

- Age structure of occupiers and employees is not balanced.
- Steady increase in regulatory requirements difficult for small businesses to manage
- Volatile price for product
- Future shape of EC farm support

Agriculture in Argyll and Bute

Opportunities

- Growing worldwide demand for food means agriculture is profitable
- EC support since 2005 has removed link to specific production
- Add value to primary product and improve profitability of core business

SRDP - what is it?

- The programme for delivering public support to land managers and communities of rural Scotland from 2007 - 2013
- Must comply with the EU Rural Development Programme and be approved by the EU to receive EU funding support.
- EU Mandatory objectives are set out under 4 Axes or themes

2007-13 SRDP - What is it?

- The major programme for assisting rural development in Scotland by delivering public support to land managers & assoc. communities.
- Governed by EC Rural Development Regulation (No. 1698/2005)
- EC mandatory Objectives set out in themes (Axes) and Scottish Govt Strategic Objectives

SRDP Key Outcomes

- Business viability and competitiveness
- Environmental improvements
 - Water
 - Climate Change
 - Landscape and Biodiversity
- Thriving rural communities

SRDP – 9 delivery mechanisms!

- Land Managers Options
- Rural Priorities
- LEADER
- LFASS
- CCAGS
- Processing & Marketing Grant Scheme
- Woodland Creation
- Forestry Challenge Funds
- Training scheme

Rural Priorities

- Outcome focused - SRDP outcomes & National Priorities
- Delivered within **regional** context (regional priorities)
- Funding 75 “options” or types of projects – management or capital
- Open to individuals and groups
- Competitive scheme
- On-line based
- Integrated delivery by FCS, SNH and RPID

Some examples of what we have funded

Agricultural Investment....

Environmental Management....

Forestry....

Communities....

Rural Enterprise....

Rural Priorities funding in Argyll

To date:

Agricultural Investments: £2.3 million

Agri environment and forestry: £21 million

Rural Enterprise: £4.4 million

Future Funding for Rural Priorities?

- Funding round for agri environment announced – September 2011
- Funding rounds for Agricultural investment and rural enterprise still to be announced.