



**CROFTING COMMISSION
COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD**

CROFTING CENSUS

Working Together for the Future of Crofting

The Crofting Census and the Common Grazings Census will help the Commission to establish a clear picture of the current state of crofting. We will be able to use the information to advise Scottish Ministers, the Scottish Parliament and other agencies of the value of crofting and its contribution to life in Scotland. With the information provided, the Commission will be able to raise issues facing crofting and work with others to improve the future of crofting.

The Census allows crofters to contribute to improving support for crofters, shaping the future of their crofting community and strengthening the crofting system.

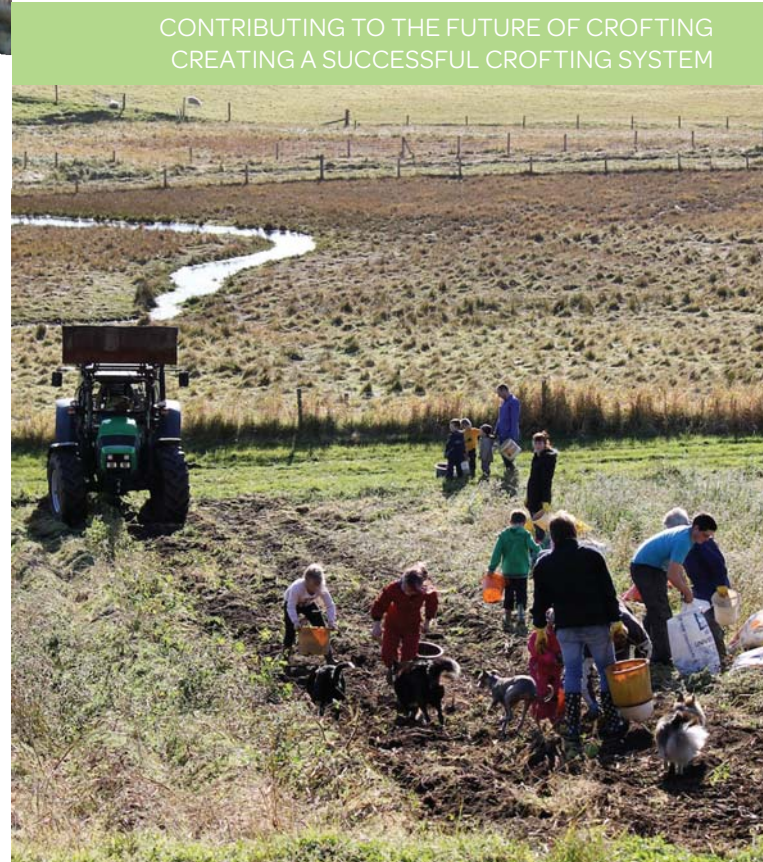


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CONTRIBUTING TO THE FUTURE OF CROFTING
CREATING A SUCCESSFUL CROFTING SYSTEM

The Commission is working to secure the future of crofting and ensure the crofting system contributes to the sustainable development of rural communities.

What is the Crofting Census?

The Crofting Reform (Scotland) Act 2010 requires the Crofting Commission to find out if crofters are fulfilling a range of duties through the Crofting Census (Annual Notice).

All crofters have a legal duty to complete and return the Crofting Census form.

Crofters can contribute to the future of their crofts and communities by:

- Completing the Crofting Census form and providing the Commission with valuable information
- Understanding their responsibilities as a crofter
- Making sure they fulfil the duties of a crofter
- Taking steps to put things right if they are not fulfilling their duties.

The Commission wants to encourage crofters to understand their responsibilities and to self-regulate. Self-regulation means crofters stay in control over what happens with their croft providing options so they can contribute to the future of the croft, township and to the whole system of crofting.



What are the duties of a crofter?

- A duty to be a resident on, or within 32 kilometres of, their croft
- A duty not to neglect their croft
- A duty to cultivate and maintain their croft or to put it to another purposeful use.

What does 'cultivate' mean?

'Cultivate' includes keeping livestock, poultry or bees, growing fruit and vegetables, planting of trees, cropping and conservation activity.

A croft can also be put to another purposeful use such as a camping site, golf course or equestrian centre, but which will not prevent the croft from being used for cultivation in the future.

What should a crofter do if they are not fulfilling their duties?

If a crofter finds they are not fulfilling their duties the Crofting Commission is on hand to support and advise crofters on the options available to them.

If crofters are unable to comply with their duties there are a number of possibilities that can be considered such as:

- Cultivate the croft or put it to another purposeful use
- Return to live on or within 32km of the croft
- Apply to the Commission to be absent from the croft
- Apply to the Commission to sublet or short term let the croft
- Assigning the croft
- Transferring ownership of the croft.

Visit:

www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk/croftingcensus to find out more.

