



PRESS RELEASE

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HILL FARMING MATTERS CONFERENCE - 29TH JANUARY 2009

A gathering for all those committed to farming in the fells, dales and moors

A major conference for hill farmers in Cumbria will take place on Thursday 29th January 2009 at Penrith Rugby Club from 10am to 3.30pm. Organised by the Carnegie UK Hill Farming in the North of England Project, the conference will cover the following issues:

- **The new Uplands Entry Level Scheme** – with speakers including Will Cockbain NFU, Peter Welsh Natural England and with Tim Farron, MP and Shadow DEFRA spokesman, giving a political perspective on this and other upland issues.
- **Marketing** – is there scope for a new marketing initiative promoting beef and lamb from the uplands of Cumbria and the north of England?
- **Helping young farmers and new entrants into hill farming** – what needs to be done?
- Opportunities for hill farmers from **the new Rural Development Programme**
- The **Commission for Rural Communities' inquiry into the future for England's upland communities**

Geoff Brown of Carnegie UK Trust said: *“we were overwhelmed by the interest in last year's conference which demonstrated how much hill farmers value the opportunity to meet with people involved in influencing policy and other hill farmers who are committed to the future of hill farming. We are delighted to be able to offer this opportunity again in conjunction with Action with Communities in Cumbria.”*

To book a place at the conference, please call Dani Hudson at ACT on 01768 869511 or email danihudson@cumbriaaction.org.uk

- Ends -

Photo:



Gwyn Jones, European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism, speaking at the 2008 Hill Farming Conference

Further press information available from:

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Notes to Editors:

- The Hill Farming Matters conference will take place at Penrith Rugby Club, Near Penrith, Cumbria, on Thursday 29th January 2009 from 10.00am to 3.30pm.
- The Carnegie UK Trust's Hill Farming in the North of England Project is based at Action With Communities in Cumbria. The project is carrying out research with hill farming communities across the north of England to work towards a sustainable future for the sector.

Action with Communities in Cumbria

(Previously known as Voluntary Action Cumbria)

- ACT is Cumbria's Rural Community Council and a registered charity.
- ACT is working with people and communities to improve the quality of life in rural Cumbria.
- ACT is an independent organisation able to work with a wide range of partners on an open and equitable basis.
- Established in 1948, for 60 years ACT has been supporting communities that are socially, economically and environmentally vibrant where the needs of all are considered.
- To find out more information, please visit ACT's website: www.cumbriaaction.org.uk
- **Please note, this website is currently being built, information can be found at our old website www.ruralcumbria.org.uk**