

Living the dream

– meet some of our tenants



“We had been looking for a tenancy for seven years. **It's important not to give up.** Stay focused and if at first you don't succeed try, try, try again.”

“Ten years will allow us to build on our experience and balance sheet to enable us to compete on a level footing with other established farmers.”

Ross & Kirsty Williams, Upper Tullochbeg, Huntly

For further information about Forestry Commission Scotland's starter farm initiative visit www.forestry.gov.uk/starterfarms

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Starter Farms

Supporting Scotland's Future



Breathing new life into Scotland's farming sector

Forestry Commission Scotland's starter farm initiative is providing new entrants, who have no direct route into the farming sector, with tenancy opportunities across Scotland.



Enthusiastic new entrants, looking to establish their farm businesses and reputation within the agricultural sector, are benefiting from securing ten year tenancies on the National Forest Estate.

The starter farm initiative is breathing new life into Scotland's farming industry and it is complementing Forestry Commission Scotland's wider woodland creation activity which is a vital part of the Scottish Government's climate change programme.



"We'd been trying for a tenancy for about eight years. **Without this initiative then we probably would never have got this chance.** The staff have all been approachable, knowledgeable and supportive in every step of this journey."

"We did most of the background work ourselves for the business plan and budgets, so it meant that no interview question was an issue."

Michael & Fiona Burns, Glenside, Kirkmichael

"This has **given me stability** to build up an established regular age flock, business awareness and hopefully strong financial cash flow, which will make me a strong candidate to secure my next tenancy."

Alister Orr, Carserigg, Kirkcubrecht



"This is a tremendous opportunity the Forestry Commission Scotland has provided for genuine young entrants as **a chance like this does not come along very often.** It is a true honour to have been awarded this tenancy in the face of such stiff competition."

Craig Malone (pictured right), Pitcairn, Lochgelly

"I am delighted to have been selected for the South Dundonald tenancy, **giving me the opportunity to farm in my own right.** The experience I will gain over ten years will be invaluable to me."

Zander Hughes (pictured left), South Dundonald, Lochgelly

"Completing our application ourselves meant that we had analysed every business decision and knew inside and out what it would take to make the business work."

"It is completely cheesy, but **dreams can come true - it still doesn't seem real that we have this chance.**"

Mark Donald & Harriet Smith, Rynaclach, Port of Montieith

