Structural change in UK pastoral agriculture: what is the end-game?

Dr John Milne
Editor-in-Chief, The Rangeland Journal, Hon. Professor, University of Aberdeen, Scotland

Date: Friday, 21 September 2012
Time: 4.00 - 5.00 pm
Place: Agriculture Lecture Theatre (Room G.013, Agriculture North Wing)
Parking: Hackett Drive, Entrance No. 2, 3 and 4 (visitor parking)

While the structure of pastoral agriculture in the UK underwent little change for several decades, the past ten years have seen considerable shifts in the patterns of land use and land management practices in the UK, driven mainly by changes in the European Union Common Agricultural Policy, climate change policy in the UK, and wider economic and world food price issues. Prof Milne’s lecture describes these changes and their causes with particular reference to Scotland and its multi-faceted and increasingly complex (and sometimes contradictory) land use policy.

As the drivers for change continue to evolve and changes will continue to occur, the need to resolve potential conflicts and offer options for future land use becomes increasingly important. Prof Milne’s lecture explores how the future of pastoral agriculture may develop under different policy scenarios to meet (competing) societal demands.

Professor John Milne is the Editor-in-Chief of The Rangeland Journal with a research career and over 100 publications on the subject of pasture-animal interactions, with a particular focus on rangeland systems in Europe. Besides leading research groups for twenty years, he has acted as a consultant on policy-related rangelands issues in many temperate and semi-arid regions of the world. He was the Deputy Director of the Macaulay Land Use Research Institute for ten years until 2004 and was awarded an MBE in 2003. More recently, he has been an Honorary Professor at the University of Aberdeen, contributing to teaching on rangeland issues, and Chairman of the Deer Commission for Scotland, a Scottish Government wildlife organisation, for seven years.