# THE PERCEPTIONS OF JOINT FARMING VENTURES AMONGST ASPIRING AND RECENT NEW ENTRANTS IN SCOTTISH AGRICULTURE

Karen Ross (2019)

There is a shortage of young farmers entering the agricultural industry in Scotland

which is considered as a threat to both the sustainability and efficiency of the

profession. While there are many barriers to entry for young people, the ability to afford

and access land is identified as the overwhelming cause of this issue in Scotland. Joint

Farming Ventures – share farming, contract farming and junior/senior partnerships -

have increasingly been considered as a potential solution to this problem - both by

policy makers and in academic discourse.

This study aims to build on the existing literature on Joint Farming Ventures by

investigating the perceptions that aspiring and recent young new entrants have towards

Joint Farming Ventures and the factors which may affect their potential willingness to

engage in such agreements. The quantitative data which forms the basis of this

research, was obtained by means of a questionnaire and distributed electronically to the

target population – young farmers in Scotland (18-35years old).

The study ascertains that while respondents are noted as holding a mainly positive

perception of Joint Farming Ventures, more intervention is required for the majority of

young farmers to consider Joint Farming Ventures as a viable farming model to

undertake.