

PR1392 – 1 July 2010

Interested in the game and wildlife industry?

Set impressively in the grounds of Scone Palace, Perth the Scottish Game Fair is taking place from 2 – 4 July 2010.

A three day celebration of the countryside with gundogs, shooting, falconry, fly fishing, educational exhibits, sport, entertainment and good country food and drink, the Scottish Game Fair is regarded as one of the main countryside events of the year, demonstrating the importance of game and other wildlife, and their contribution to the countryside and the Scottish economy.

Lantra, the Sector Skills Council for environmental and land-based industries represents the game and wildlife and the fisheries management sectors, to ensure that Scotland has the right skills to protect its habitat and promote bio-diversity.

National Director for Scotland, Willie Fergusson said: Whilst protecting the habitat, this industry also supports tourism and recreation, and provides a source of high quality meat. But we need to ensure that people working in this industry have the right skill set to be able to do so, that's why Lantra have developed National Occupational Standards for Game and Wildlife Management; a review of the Game and Wildlife Modern Apprenticeship in Scotland is also currently underway to ensure that the skills industry get are the skills that industry needs.

Willie continued: Game and wildlife and fisheries contribute £240 million* to the Scottish economy; approximately 6,550 people are employed in these industries across a range of job roles, including: game keepers, ghillies, stalkers, conservation consultants, land agents, conservation managers, countryside rangers, water bailiffs, fisheries managers and fisheries biologists, to name but a few. The ability of those in this industry to manage game for shooting and angling provides motivation and money which can be used to diversify habitats, improve bio-diversity by controlling the numbers of some common pests and predators, and supply valuable quality food, some of which is exported. This means that hill, farmland, woodland and rivers become better environments for many plants and animals, in addition to allowing game species to be sustainable.

If you're interested in finding out more about the game and wildlife management industry please visit www.lantra.co.uk. Specific information regarding careers in the sector can be found at www.afuturein.com and relevant course information at www.lantraonestopshop.co.uk. Alternatively you can call 0845 707 8007 for further assistance.

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ISSUED BY:

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EDITOR S NOTES:

" Lantra, the Sector Skills Council for the environmental and land-based sector, is licensed by the UK Government to drive forward the new skills, training and business development agenda for the sector.

" Lantra represents 17 industries and 1.5 million workers and volunteers in agricultural crops, agricultural livestock, animal care, animal technology, aquaculture, environmental conservation, equine, farriery, fencing, fisheries management, floristry, game and wildlife management, land-based engineering, landscape, production horticulture, trees and timber and veterinary nursing. For more information see www.lantra.co.uk

" *PACEC report (2006) reports the shooting industry to be worth £240 million to the Scottish Economy