



INTEGRATED LAND MANAGEMENT WITH PROF DAVY MCCRACKEN

TALKING POINTS

1. What are three characteristics of upland systems? (See *Why the focus on these upland systems?*)
2. What makes the challenges facing upland systems unique, compared to lowland systems? (See *What are the challenges that upland systems face?*)
3. Why don't scientists just leave innovation in land management to the farmers? (See *How is Scotland's Rural College improving matters?*)
4. Why does the Hill & Mountain Research Centre work from farms rather than in the lab? (See *How is Scotland's Rural College improving matters?*)
5. Explain one way how SRUC's work has made upland livestock farming more efficient. (See *How is Scotland's Rural College improving matters?*)
6. What is integrated land management, and why is it important? (See *About Integrated Land Management*)
7. How should integrated land management interact with conservation measures? (See *What is the role of the environment in integrated land management?*)
8. Name four areas of study that could lead to a career in land management. (See *Opportunities in land management*)

ACTIVITIES FOR HOME OR IN THE CLASSROOM

Think about how uplands differ from other environments. How might land management need to be done differently in the lowlands, or in other environments around the world – for instance, tropical, arid or polar regions? Think about these things:

- How could selective breeding make livestock (e.g. cattle, sheep, goats) more suited to their environment? Consider:
 - Regulating body temperature
 - Navigating terrain
 - What they eat and drink
- How would the land managers keep their stock healthy? Consider:
 - Keeping track of injury and disease
 - Defence from predators
 - Finding and accessing their stock
- What biodiversity and sustainability concerns might need to be accounted for? Consider:
 - The effect of livestock on native species
 - The resource use associated with rearing the stock
 - The stock's contribution to climate change

MORE RESOURCES

- The Uplands Management Group advises UK government bodies on best practice. Their website provides an insight into the unique issues affecting uplands: <https://www.uplandsmanagement.co.uk/>