

## **Sustainable Moorland Management Project (Oct - Dec 05)**

### **Key points**

- This project was completed on 1 Dec 05
- The Rural Development Service (RDS) of the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) funded three demonstration events on Upland Farms.
- The events were held on three different upland farms in the north east region during October and November 2005.
- A wide range of organisations supported the events and The Heather Trust coordinated their input.
- The aim of the events was to focus on management practices and discuss key management issues for upland farms. The options available to each farm to maximise income from all sources was also discussed.

### **Details**

The Heather Trust was awarded a contract by the Rural Development Service of DEFRA to run three demonstration events in the north-east region of England. The project formed the Sustainable Moorland Management part of the Regional Farm Demonstration Programme that was drawn up in the context of the England Rural Development Programme, the Curry report on Farming and Food – A Sustainable Future, the Strategy for Sustainable Farming and Food, and The Rural Delivery Review (The Haskins Report). The Regional Farm Demonstration Programme comprises a mix of activities on a range of topics, forming six separate projects, which have been let as separate contracts.

Farm demonstration events of relevant topics that fit with national DEFRA policy, are an effective way for farmers to access and share information and advice, and that may allow them to adapt the management of their farms to make best use of the current market conditions, agri-environment support and grant opportunities.

The four partners for this project were: The Heather Trust, The Agricultural

Development and Advisory Service (ADAS), The Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG), and The Game Conservancy Trust (GCT). The National Sheep Association, the National Beef Association, the National Farmers Union and the Country Land & Business Association (CLA) also supported the project.

This part of the overall programme provided integrated environmental and economic solutions from the partner and supporting organisations who all had experience of operating on upland and hill farms. Also, it linked relevant research and development to practical farm applications.

This integrated approach to providing farm advice is fundamental to the work of the Trust. The work seeks to make sure that farmers are made aware of the moorland management options, are informed of the rationale behind such options, have the opportunity for discussion, and then have the confidence to implement relevant ideas on their own farms.