



2009 Annual Report

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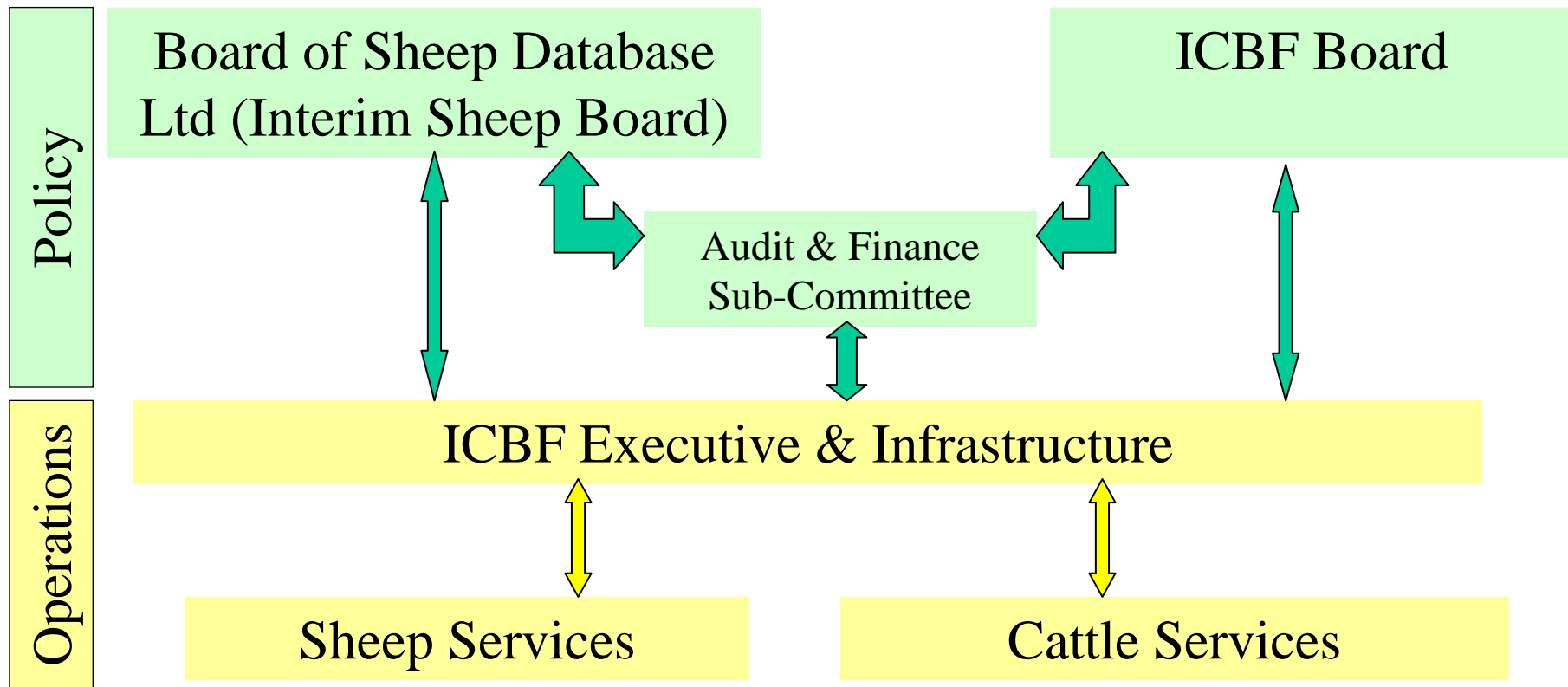
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Background

- June '06 – Sheep Industry Development Strategy ... recommend ICBF involvement in sheep breeding
- February '07 – ICBF Proposal modelled on structure for cattle
- April '07 – Strategy Implementation Group recommend ICBF involvement
- July '08 – First Meeting of Interim Sheep Board
- September '08 – Adoption of recommendations of Strategy Project Team report
- Oct to Dec '08 – Sheep Ireland established and Sheep Database Ltd incorporated.

Sheep & Cattle Structure



Database - Recording & Information System

- Web based database - operational
- Flock owner recording – identification, ancestry & performance
- Genetic evaluations - computed & stored
- Information reports – flock owners & ram breeders
- Back data – from PSBIP & Flock Books
- Research data – genetic evaluations

Identification & Recording

- Variation to NSIS - agreed with DAFF to facilitate recording
- EID – tagging, tissue sampling, weight recording, handheld computers
- Recording protocols – lambing, growth & maternal traits

Genetic Evaluations

- Breeding objective – established & basis of all genetic evaluations
- Within breed animal model genetic evaluations operational
- Across breed evaluation – under active research

Breeding Scheme

- Demonstration of benefits of breeding:
 - MALP – 2008, 22 flocks, 10,000 ewes
 - DNA to establish sires
 - EID, Prately weighing, handhelds for exception recording
- Linkage between breeding flocks:
 - CPT – 2009, 4 flocks, 2000 ewes
 - AI using 30 well linked rams
 - EID and handhelds for all recording

Performance Recording Services

- LambPlus[®] established
- User-pays for ram breeders – paper or electronic
- Actively recruiting ram breeders
- Telephone support

Operational Structure

- Unit for weighing & tagging in MALP
- Contractors (FRS) – scan and weigh
- Contracted DNA testing (Medigenomix)

Acknowledgements

- Teagasc
- DAFF
- Irish Grasslands Assn
- Flock Books
- Contractors – AbacusBio Ltd

Prospects

- Laying foundation
- Vision goes beyond sheep breeding
- Must complete breeding before moving to other areas
- Severe economic pressures