



## Breeding Profitable Sheep for Ireland – LambPlus®

Progress report – Interim  
Sheep Board

21<sup>st</sup> October 2010



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## Overview

### • Progress on 20 Recommendations:

1. **Animal ID - System**
2. Animal ID - Database
3. Data Rec. - EID
4. Data Rec. – Traits & Flex.
5. Data Rec. – Rec. Criteria
6. Data Rec. – Rec. Systems
7. Data Rec. – Data Capture
8. Data Rec. – Genomics
9. Gen. Evaluations – Timing
10. Gen. Evaluations – Report
11. **Breeding Schemes - CPT**
12. **Breeding Schemes - MALP**
13. Breeding Schemes – CPT & MALP
14. Breeding Schemes – CPT Location
15. Breeding Schemes – MALP Operation
16. Impact of Gen.Eval Scheme
17. **Support Structure**
18. Structure - Processors
19. Structure – Pedigree Breeders
20. **Structure – Flock Books**



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## 1. Animal ID – System

### • NSIS/EID Tag Issue

- New NSIS Algorithm received from DAF.

Tattoo	Old NSIS	Recent NSIS	New NSIS
GHT4598	IEA1234567B00172	IE2454839824598	IE041234554321C
	Length = 16	Length = 15	Length = 15

- EID Correlation Screen is going live shortly and LambPlus breeders can record EID tags.
- Important that breeder's record the tag number against the lambs tattoo



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## 11. Breeding Schemes - CPT

- 31 Rams Entered the CPT.
- Rams that were never used for AI entered on 24-09-10
- Rams that were used for AI before entered on 04-10-10
- All rams passed initial Health Checks
- Rams were put into isolation for 3 Days before entering the 'ram shed'
- Break down of breeds - 9 Texel, 7 Suffolk, 8 Belclare, 5 Vendeen, 2 Charollais,



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## 11. Breeding Schemes - CPT

- 3 Rams never jumped despite being given a lot of training
  - these rams will not be used
- 3 Other rams are still doubtful – Semen quality was poor and require further testing.
- Attempted to freeze 50 straws per ram – 7 rams could not have straws frozen due to poor mobility of semen
- AI began on CPT farms last week and finishes this week



## 11. Breeding Schemes - CPT

- On UCD's flock - a successful test trial by Alan Fahey was carried out to compare conception rates of fresh versus chilled semen.



## 12. Breeding Schemes - MALP

- DNA results have been finalised with Medigenomix genetic evaluations are being released.
- 80% of Lambs assigned parentage in MALP.
- Reasons for delay and unsatisfactory match rates in DNA results include:
  1. Incomplete Ram List Received
  2. Closely Related Rams in different MALP flocks
  3. Ram Lambs being used as sires caused identification issues in the lab
  4. Data Transfer issues between Weatherbys and Eurofins Medigenomix



## 12. Breeding Schemes - MALP

- DNA collection/analysis/results & inclusion in genetic evaluations is currently taking too long.
- Evaluation Results reaching MALP farmers too late
- Medigenomix meeting with Sheep Ireland to investigate ways of streamlining the process.
- Meeting scheduled for the 27<sup>th</sup> October 2010 in Highfield House, Bandon.
  - Meeting's will then be held with each MALP Group to discuss the current program and plan ahead



## 17.Support Structure

- Development work has begun on a new Events Profile Screen for LambPlus, MALP and CPT farmers
- Development work has also begun on having automated output's of MALP weighing reports and Evaluation results from the database
- Once MALP farmers receive all their evaluation results – articles will be written and distributed to compare the difference in 5 star ram versus a 1 star ram and what differences commercial farmers can expect



## 20.Support Structure – Flockbooks

- Current Situation

Breed	Back Ancestry Data Status
-------	---------------------------

- |              |                                |
|--------------|--------------------------------|
| • Belclare   | Received & Loaded              |
| • Charollais | Not Received                   |
| • Galway     | Received & Loaded              |
| • Rouge      | Received & Loaded              |
| • Suffolk    | Making Arrangements to receive |
| • Texel      | Not Received                   |
| • Vendeen    | Awaiting response to contract  |
- Breeds that share Back Ancestry for their entire Breed with Sheep Ireland will receive more accurate genetic evaluations than those who only have Ancestry from Lambplus Flocks included.

