



# Breeding Profitable Sheep for Ireland

Progress report – Interim  
Sheep Board

24<sup>th</sup> March 2011



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## Overview

Industry Engagement	
1. Performance Recording	2. Breed Societies
3. Meat Processors	4. Multi-Breed Euro-Star Sale
Technical	
5. Develop Farm Services	6. Improve Recording Methods
Breeding Scheme Structure	
7. More Extensive Recording	8. Evolution of MALP Flocks
Provision for Genomics	
9. DNA Sampling & Inventory	10. International Co-Operation
11. Research Direction	12. Gene Test Validation
13. Genomic Breeding Strategies	



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# 1. Performance Recording

- 2010/11 CPT Lambing Underway
- UCD- Start Date 8-Mar-2011
- Naper- Start Date 10-Mar-2011
- Maloney- Start Date 11-Mar-2011
- Large-Start Date 12-Mar-2011
- Lambing Nearly finished 7-10 day lambing spread.
- Weather was good which helped a lot.
- Single Pens Purchased last year proved very Important.



## 8. MALP

- Issues resolved about change - €6 per ewe agreed
- Lambing started on most Flocks
- All flocks using handhelds to record exceptions eg. difficult lambing, mortality ...
- Dates pencilled in for recording 40 day weights in optimum period
- Letter being sent to Flock owners conveying this giving them plenty of notice.



## 2. Breed Societies

- Eamon Wall started in place of Cathal McNulty
- Is doing very well. Concentrating on recruitment of flocks.
- Communications sent to all previous members about signing up .
- Letter sent to Texel Society with form for flock-owner to request their ancestry be shared with Sheep Ireland.
- Same letter sent to Vendeen breeders.



## Breed Societies

- Contacted main Charolais Breeders to identify issues. Planning to arrange meeting soon.
- Mayo Mountain 'Ram Breeder' structure required. Meeting organised with MALP blackface breeders and John Noonan of Teagsac for early April.
- Discussions on-going with LLeyn breeders about providing flock book in Ireland.
- Day to day contact with Belclare and Galway Breeders servicing flock book.
- Working with Suffolk Society to target influential breeders this year.



## 1. Promotion

- Multi-Breed Euro-Star Sale
- Event on CPT farm for Pedigree Breeders
- Event on MALP farm (possibly around Evaluation release date)
- Event on MALP farm in West (August)
- Articles in Farmers Journal
- Articles in Farming Independent
- In-Service training day for Teagasc Advisors
- Sheep Ireland presence at Premier Sales
- Sheep Ireland presence at Premier Black Face Sale
- Teagasc events (Farm Walks)



## 1. Promotion

- Multi-Breed Euro-Star Sale
- Initial contact made with breed societies regarding organising sale regarding available dates etc.
- Tentatively September 2011



### 3. Industry Engagement Meat Processors

- Meat Processors where MALP / CPT kill their lambs have been contacted about retrieving Kill data from their flocks.
- Form sent to MALP/CPT flocks who use ICM Camolin requesting their permission to get data.
- No problem getting data, time issue on processors end compiling data.



### 5. Develop Commercial Farm Services

- 20 Commercial Flocks signed up largely due to TAMS scheme.
- Update letters and promotional material sent to each flock owner.
- We are putting in place a structure for commercial Farmers
- This year being a member means purchasing a Lamb Plus ram.
- Teagasc Flocks – aim in 2011 to work with Teagasc flocks re: data capture, storage & extraction using Sheep Ireland database.

