



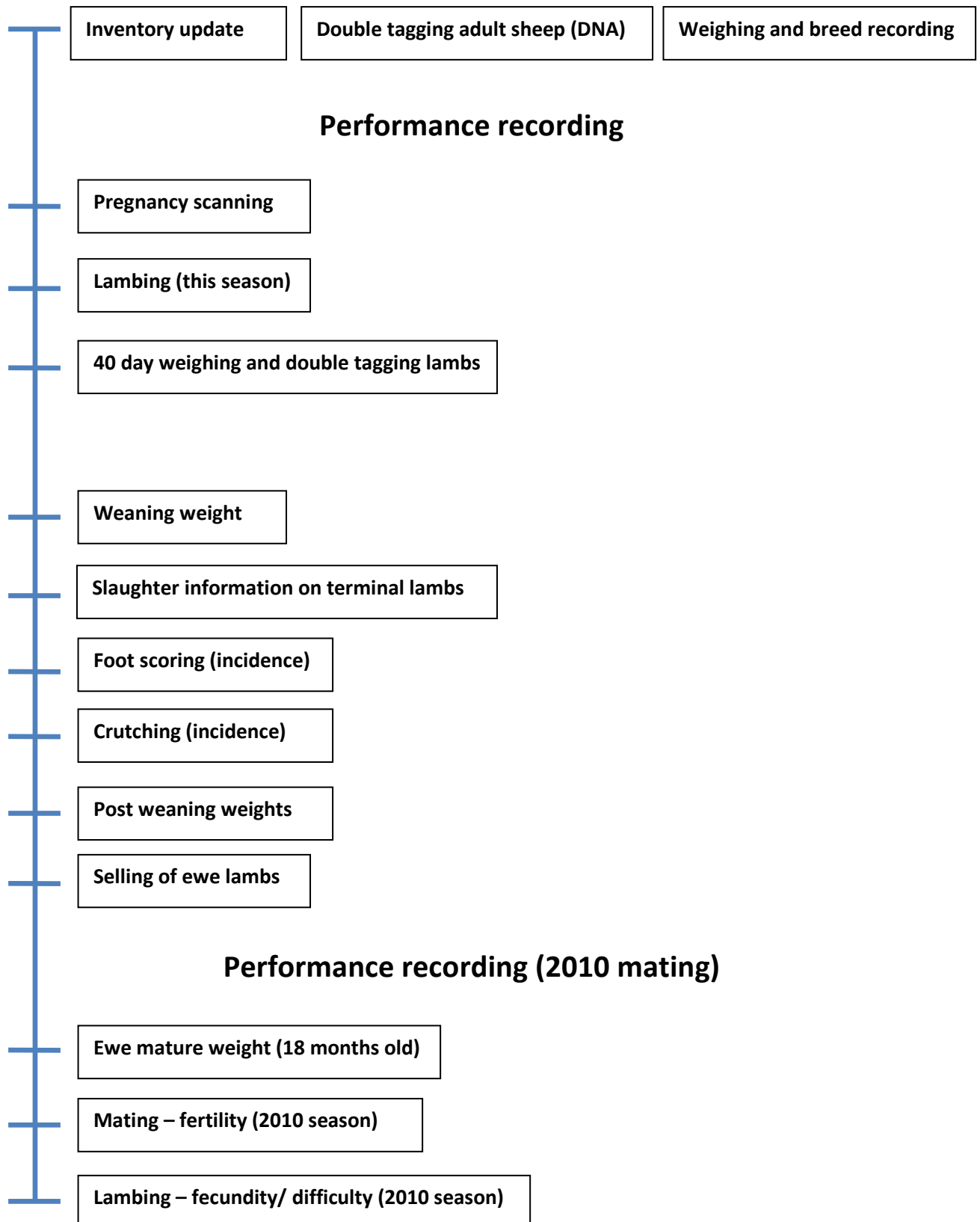
Sheep Ireland LambPlus

Event Timeline for MALP breeders - Draft

What and When to Record

2008

LambPlus Event Timeline – MALP breeders



How this document works

Below is a summary of each of the things to be done in the timeline on the previous page. This applies from the point you joined LambPlus MALP for the 2009 service (excluding ram swapping). Included are performance recording events. More information is available on the website (www.sheep.ie) including a draft recording protocol with full details of trait recording and timing of recording (to be updated preceding the event). Alternatively you can request paper copies from Sheep Ireland by calling 1850 600 900.

Web or paper

On sign up you have indicated a web or a paper service. If you have indicated a web service then all the services can be offered via the website including downloadable protocols and recording sheets. If you have indicated a paper-based service then we will send you protocols and recording sheets. A recording book for lambing information will be provided in either case.

Event Timeline

Inventory update

- Once you have done your mating (swapping rams) we would like a picture of what happened in terms of rams moving and the dates/ timeframes rams were on the farms involved. In addition information is required on the number of ewes rams were mated to (as much as is known).
- Graham can assist you on this.
- Included in Managing Animal Identification protocol fact sheet

Double tagging adult sheep

- As soon as possible all existing ewes need to be double tagged with the MALP DNA tags (all ewes mated to rams in 2008). Rams will also be double tagged and DNA collected.
- Graham will have the tags, and assist you in inserting the MALP tags and correlating this with the existing NSIS tag.
- Included in Managing Animal Identification protocol fact sheet

Weighing and breed recording

- At the time of double tagging a weight should be collected on each of the ewes involved in the MALP. Again Graham will have scales and a weighing system and assist you on this.
- Included in Managing Animal Identification protocol fact sheet

Performance recording

Pregnancy scanning

- Record the pregnancy status of each ewe including detailed foetal aging (this is required to get birth date information and applies to those breeders that are unable to spray identify lambs born in 2 day time periods)

Lambing (this season)

Lambing recording is on an incidence basis, meaning recording is only required for those animals that require assistance. This includes recording:

- Lambing difficulty scores for those ewes that have difficulty (lambing book provided)

However, in addition to this, in order to get accurate evaluation on rams, we need to spray identify the timeframe in which lambs are born (i.e. different colour and location for each week period and lambs grouped on this basis). A full recommended protocol for this will be available. Also required is the treatment group (i.e. singles and multiples fed differently) if applicable; a protocol is available for this.

Alternatively a full recording can be undertaken. This remove that need for spray identification, as birth date will be captured in full recording. In this situation for each lambs record (book provided):

- Its birth dam
- Its unique tag
- Birth date
- Sex
- Birth weight
- Dead lambs
- Mortality code (if applicable)
- Rearing code (if applicable)

For each ewe record:

- Lambing difficulty
- Ewe fate code (if applicable)
- Group (if applicable)

40 day weighing and double tagging

- Record the weight of all lambs
- Record the weighing date (recording sheets/ books will be provided)
- Insert double tags in each of the lambs (one of which will be a DNA tag)
- Support and equipment available from Graham

Weaning weight

For each lamb record:

- Weaning weight
- Weaning date
- Group if applicable (explanation of groups in protocols)
- Support and equipment available from Graham

Slaughter information

- Slaughter information will be gathered on terminal lambs
- Protocol to be developed

Foot scoring

- Foot scoring should be recorded on an incidence basis and continued through the lifetime of the recorded animal (09 born animals)
- Record the date of scoring
- Record the group if applicable (explanation of groups in protocols)
- Draft protocol available

Crutching

- Crutching should be recorded on an incidence basis and continued through the lifetime of the recorded animal (09 born animals)
- Record the date of crutching
- Record the group if applicable (explanation of groups in protocols)
- Need to record lambs that are crutched

Post weaning weights

- Record a weigh for all animals still presents
- Record the weighing date

- Support and equipment available from Graham

Selling of ewe lambs

- Excess ewe lambs sold for further performance recording (other producer group members)

Performance recording (mating 2010)

The performance recording of maternal performance traits for the first recorded progeny will start at mating 2010 (assuming first lambing as a 2-year-old)

Ewe mature weight (2010 season)

- Before mating record the weight hogget (18-month) ewes
- Record the date of weighing
- This applies to the progeny born in 09 (so mature weighing of these ewe lambs won't be until mating 2010, and then yearly following that)

Mating – fertility (2010 season)

- Mating list (need to know what rams are the recorded progeny mated to)
- Record fertility (in lamb or not) for recorded ewe progeny
- We will ensure mating designs that avoid the need for

Lambing – fecundity/ difficulty (2010 season)

- Record lambing difficulty score for recorded ewes
- Record number of lambs born for recorded ewes

