



Breeding Profitable Sheep for Ireland

Progress report – Interim
Sheep Board

21st April 2011



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Overview

Industry Engagement

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Performance Recording | 2. Breed Societies |
| 3. Meat Processors | 4. Multi-Breed Euro-Star Sale |

Technical

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|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 5. Develop Com Farm Services | 6. Improve Recording Methods |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|

Breeding Scheme Structure

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|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 7. More Extensive Recording | 8. Evolution of MALP Flocks |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|

Provision for Genomics

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|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 9. DNA Sampling & Inventory | 10. International Co-Operation |
| 11. Research Direction | 12. Gene Test Validation |

13. Genomic Breeding Strategies



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Performance Recording CPT

Average Birth Weight: **4.87kg**

Individual breed average weights:

- 4.84kg - Belclare
- 4.84kg - Suffolk
- 5.03kg - Texel
- 5.10kg - Charolais
- 5.06kg - Vendeen



Performance Recording CPT

Average Lambing Difficulty: **1.36kg**

Individual breed breakdown:

- 1.55 - Belclare
- 1.53 - Suffolk
- 1.22 - Texel
- 1.37 - Charolais
- 1.41 - Vendeen

Number of Females Vs Males:

- 1328 - Males
- 1417 - Females



Performance Recording CPT

- Average litter size - **1.89 lambs**
- Average weights for single - **5.66kg**
- Average weight for twins - **4.97kg**
- Average weight for triplets - **4.23kg**



Performance Recording CPT

Busiest lambing day:

- Andrew Moloney - **105 lambs** born 15th March
- James Napper - **149 lambs** born 16th March
- John Large - **173 lambs** born 15th March
- UCD - **99 lambs** born 11th March



MALP Update

- Lambing in Lowland Flocks nearly finished.
- No issues reported.
- 40 day weighing dates set
- 120 day weighing dates set



Promotion

- Multi-Breed Euro-Star Sale
- Set for Monday 22nd August 2011 in Kilkenny Mart
- George Chandler auctioneer
- Need to organise committee for Sale Rules and running order etc



Promotion

- Article Planned with Darren Carty Farmers Journal with CPT Stats and Lamb Plus update in next few weeks
- Teagasc plan to have a farm walk last week of May on Joe Scahill's Farm Westport.
- Joe is a MALP farmer and we will use his Euro-Star figures from last year as a demonstration.

Lamb Plus

- Preliminary Evaluation to be run after majority of 40 day weights entered.
- This will identify 4 and 5 Star lambs earlier and give flockowner a chance to treat accordingly and select them.

Breed Societies

Suffolk update:

- Lambplus sign-up forms & data transfer forms sent to all non-Lambplus Suffolk breeders (April 6th).
- Five new members thus far. Eight data transfer forms. Responses & queries coming in daily.
- Total Suffolk breeders – 26. (Total breeders ~ 200)
- Phonecalls will now be made to remaining breeders.



Breed Societies

Texel update:

- Fifty breeders currently recording. (Total breeders ~ 200).
- Data request forms sent to all breeders in March, responses still coming in.
- Twenty three data transfer forms received to date. Sign up forms sent to these breeders.
- Phonecalls will now be made to remaining breeders to encourage signing up.



Breed Societies

Vendeen update:

- Seventeen breeders currently recording. Total breeders – 49.
- Society has been contacted to arrange a meeting with currently Lambplus members to plan the development of Lambplus across the society in general.

Breed Societies

Belclare update:

- Thirty breeders currently recording.
- Dealing with members on a daily basis to implement and improve service provided.

Galway update:

- Fifty breeders recording.
- Again dealing with breeders on a daily basis.

Breed Societies

Mayo Mountain update:

- Meeting took place with breeders April 5th.
- Eight breeders currently recording, awaiting sign ups and flock information from a number of other breeders. Approx 20 more interested.
- Developing flockbook from this base.
- Giving presentation at Blackface Ram AGM.

Feedback received:

- Would like incentive to encourage more to record.



Breed Societies

Lleyn update:

- Currently recording three flocks
- List of Irish breeders has been sourced and contact will be made with these breeders.
- Hopeful to begin an Irish Lleyn flockbook.

Others breeds:

- As the numbers of Lambplus members grow among the main breeds mentioned, more emphasis will be placed on the minor breed societies.



Thank you

