



Breeding Profitable Sheep for Ireland – LambPlus®

Progress report – Interim
Sheep Board

25th February 2010

Overview

- Progress on 20 Recommendations:

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

1. Animal ID – System

- **NSIS/EID Tag Issue – Lambing Screen**
 - Lambing Screen requested NSIS tag before saving.
 - Flockowners not using NSIS tags until EID situation clarified by DAF.
 - Requirement for NSIS tag removed from webscreen.
 - Flockowners may enter lambs with ‘Within Flock ID’ number.
 - Risk of loss of link between ‘Within flock ID’ & NSIS.
 - NSIS numbers will eventually have to be re-entered.

3.Data Rec. – EID

- **MALP Flocks**
 - MALP Ewes tagged with EID/DNA Tags .
 - DNA Analysis results received for 12 flocks to-date.
 - Will allow us finalise Parentage of certain lambs.

7.Data Rec. – Data Capture

- **Webscreens**
 - Testing on Webscreens completed.
 - 2009 Users happier with Screens.
 - New 2010 Users recording a lot of data already.
- **Ultra – Sound Muscle & Fat**
 - Request for Tender Proposals sought
 - Tenders received & evaluated.
 - Donegal FRS secured contract for 2010.
 - Funding of Service changed from being a Subsidised Service to a ‘User Pays’ service.

7.Data Rec. – Data Capture

- **Ultra – Sound Muscle & Fat**
- **PSBIP** €222 (first 15 ewes) + €1.90/each extra ewe.
- Remainder of Operator's costs subsidised by DAF.
- **Lambplus 2009** (Donegal FRS)
 - €100 Callout & €4/lamb (first 100 lambs).
 - €2/each extra lamb.
 - 100% Subsidised by Sheep Ireland.
- **Lambplus 2010** (Donegal FRS)
 - €70 Callout & €3/lamb (first 100 lambs), €0.88/each extra lamb
 - User pay service.
 - 0% Subsidised by Sheep Ireland.

7.Data Rec. – Data Capture

- **Handheld Unit**
- Handheld Units received and are being made operational for CPT & MALP Flocks – Spring 2010.
- Data Capture:
 - Ancestry
 - Lambing Difficulty, Birthweight & Fostering data
 - Health Records – Mastitis etc
 - Liveweight
 - Pregnancy Scanning
 - Footrot
 - Week of Birth Spray codes
 - Culling Reasons

8.Data Rec. – Genomics

- **DNA Parentage Tender**
 - Request for Tender Proposals sought.
 - 11 Laboratories contacted.
 - SNP analysis option requested.
 - Proposal documents currently being evaluated.
 - Flockbooks expressed interest in also availing of Service Provider for Pedigree Lamb Parentage Verif.

19.Support Structure – Pedigree Breeders

- New Ped Breeders signed up.
- Pocket Notebook modified, re-ordered & received.
- Belclare Breeders data loaded.
- Logons & Passwords distributed & contacted by phone.
- Galway Breeders notified by letter of Lambplus®.
- Meeting held with Galway Breeders – signups being received.
- 2009 Breeders contacted to confirm participation for 2010

19.Support Structure – Pedigree Breeders

Lambplus Membership		
	2009	2010
Texel	47	44
Suffolk	22	22
Vendeen	10	16
Belclare	2	33
Galway	0	29
Charollais	6	7
Rouge	0	3
	87	154

- Focus now is on maximising level of Recording.
- Major recruitment drive to commence July 2010.

20.Support Structure – Flockbooks

- Ancestry request explanatory letter sent.
- Ancestry only required for Genetic Evaluation & Research.
- Full Ancestry data loaded to database for Belclare Breed
- Breed Societies to confirm their positions following Council Meetings.
- Option 1: Provide Complete Ancestry Data as requested.
 - Resulting in Evaluations with Optimum Accuracy.
- Option 2: Provide Partial Ancestry Data (e.g.Lambplus Breeders Only)
 - Resulting in Evaluations with less than Optimum Accuracy.

20.Support Structure – Flockbooks

- Current Situation

<u>Breed</u>	<u>Back Ancestry Data Status</u>
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- | | |
|--------------|---|
| • Belclare | Received |
| • Charollais | Not Received |
| • Galway | Received |
| • Rouge | Received |
| • Suffolk | Not Received |
| • Texel | Not Received (Council to decide in March) |
| • Vendeen | Not Received |
- 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.

20.Support Structure – Flockbooks

- **Sheep Ireland Information Day – 10th February.**
- 12-2pm CPT Farmers met to discuss & plan lambing
- 3-6pm MALP Farmers met to discuss MALP 2010
- 7-9pm Public Sheep Ireland Information Evening

- | Speakers | Topic |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Cathal & Stephen | Lambplus, MALP & CPT |
| • Darren Carty | Industry Overview |
| • William Hutchinson | Sheep Farming Experience |
| • Michael McHugh | Profitability & Sheep Farming |

20.Support Structure – Flockbooks

- 2 Page Sheep Ireland Article in IFJ Lambing Supplement
- National Sheep Day – 26th June 2010 Confirmed
- Sheep Ireland, Teagasc, UCD
- Monthly Organising Committee Meetings being held.
- Genetic Evaluation meeting scheduled for March.