



Breeding Profitable Sheep for Ireland – LambPlus®

Progress report – Interim
Sheep Board

31st March 2010

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**

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.

7.Data Rec. – Data Capture

- **Handheld Units:**
- Being used on 4 CPT Flocks for 2010 Lambs.
- Being used on 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.
 - 5 Tender Documents received.

- **Medigenomix was chosen Service Provider**
 - DNA Parentage analysis €10.14/Lamb.
 - Reduction of 30% on 2009 cost/sample.
 - SNP analysis option possible.
 - Longterm sample storage also possible.

1 1 .Breeding Schemes – CPT

- CPT Objective:
- Assess a large number of Rams for economically important traits through their progeny & link this information to an even wider number of animals throughout that Breed's Pedigree System.
- 4 Commercial Flocks
- 2000 Ewes
- 100% AI
- 75% Conception



1 1 .Breeding Schemes – CPT

- CPT is **not** a Breed Comparison – more a Ram & Trait comparison.
- Focussed on identifying the best genetics regardless of Breed.
- Intention to evaluate as many new Rams each year as possible whilst maintaining linkages through Breed ancestry systems.



1 1 .Breeding Schemes – CPT



- 30 Rams highly linked within their own Breed used.
- 5 Breeds used in year 1:
 - Belclare
 - Charrolais
 - Suffolk
 - Texel
 - Vendeen

11 Breeding Schemes – CPT

- >2500 Lambs born
- All Lambs born in CPT Flocks:
 - Linked to their Dam.
 - Weight Recorded.
 - Lambing Difficulty Recorded.
 - Sex Recorded.
- All data recorded through Electronic Handhelds & sent back to Sheep Ireland database.



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 & Loaded |
| • Charollais | Not Received |
| • Galway | Received |
| • Rouge | Received & Loaded |
| • Suffolk | Making Arrangements to receive |
| • Texel | Not Received (Council to decide in April) |
| • Vendeen | Not Received (Communication underway) |
- 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 Evaluation Template being designed:
- Catalogues & Catalogue Inserts
- Ram Search Engine

Lot:1	Owner: John & Mary Flock, Bighill, Co.Tipperary		Scrapie Status: ARR/ARR					
Animal Details		Ancestry Details		€URO-STAR INDEXES				
Official Tag:	IE1110222702116			% Rank	Star Rating	Indexes	Index	Acc%
Tattoo:	BGL0125834	Sire's Sire:	Bighill Terry (IE8177132385123)	51	★★★	Overall Sheep Value	€3	38%
Animal Name:	Bighill Lenny	Sire's Dam:	Royal Cecilia (IE1432834023894)	35	★★	Lambing	€1.80	3%
Date of Birth:	01-Jan-10	Sire:	Bighill Frank (IE8177456372931)	82	★★★★★	Production	€0.80	10%
Breed:		Dam:	Bighill Sabina (IE8177456372931)	95	★★★★★	Maternal	€0.40	8%
Sex:	Male	Dam's Sire:	Mr Lancelot (IE8177456374431)	Other Key Traits				
Birth Type:	Twin	Dam's Dam:	Star Linda (IE8177455574431)	99	★★★★★	Days to Slaughter	-2.5 Days	5%
Dams Litter Rec:	122			78	★★★★★	Lamb Survival	8%	8%
Comment: First Prize winner at many Summer Shows								