



Breeding Profitable Sheep for Ireland – LambPlus[®]

Progress report – Interim
Sheep Board

22nd January 2009



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

- New NSIS tag algorithm **received**
- Old NSIS tag algorithm **not received**
- Updating Flock details – currently manual
- Spec **designed** for Flock owners to enter same thru web
- Tag protocol document **sent** to tag providers
 - Explains Lamb Double Tagging Requirement
 - Explains Ewe & Ram Double Tagging Requirement
- Double tag instructions in ‘Update letter’ – **to be sent**
 - Explains Lamb Double Tagging Requirement
 - Explains Ewe & Ram Double Tagging Requirement
 - Awaiting Lambing, Rearing & Mating Screen Development
- Tag ordering screen **to be developed.**

2. Animal ID - Database

- Sheep database established - PSBIP data **loaded**
- Inventory Screen **Upgraded**
 - DOB, Sire & Dam fields may be edited
 - New animals may be added
 - ‘Unknown’ option may be used
 - 80% ‘Lock’ function put in place
 - Ensures that Flock’s data is as complete as possible before performance data is recorded.
- Breeders frustrated at having to enter back pedigree data second time – absence of Flock Book data

3.Data Rec. - EID

MALP & CPT Flocks

- Plans for **ordering** EID tags being finalised.
- Plan to make full use of EID technology in MALP & CPT flocks
- Investigating method for Lamb ID's to be **downloaded** to Handheld Device
- Investigating method for Scanning & Weight data attached to a Lamb's ID to be **uploaded** back to the database.

4.Data Rec. – Traits & Flexibility

- Protocols Sheets **available** on website
- ‘Update’ Letter contains information on most relevant trait for recording
 - Current Update letter contains info on:
 - Lambing Data
 - Mating Data
 - Rearing Data
 - 40 Day weighing
- Letter to be sent following ‘live’ testing of screens

5.Data Rec. – Rec. Criteria

- Pedigree Flocks
- Currently being **made aware** of:
 - Inventory
 - Lambing
 - Rearing
 - Mating
 - 40 day weight
- MALP & CPT – Criteria to be rolled out

6.Data Rec. – Rec. Systems

- **Web** – Screens **released** for
 - Inventory
 - Lambing
 - Rearing
 - Mating
- **Paper** recording sheet **released** for:
 - Inventory
- **Currently being designed:**
 - Web recording screen for 40-day weight
 - Paper recording sheets for:
 - Lambing, Rearing, Mating & 40 day weight

6.Data Rec. – Rec. Systems

- **Scanning & Weighing**

- Meeting held with possible Scanning & Weighing Provider
- Proposal to be received by 30th Jan
- Fees for 2009 will be no greater than those in 2008

- **FEC Recording**

- Discussions with possible Service Provider
- FEC analysis performed abroad ruled out
- Possibility of License being attained
- Laboratory required
- Expecting update from Service Provider – early Feb

7.Data Rec. – Data Capture

- **Pedigree Flocks**
- **Web**
 - Inventory – NSIS & Back Ped data **saved successfully**
 - Lambing – Lambing data **saved successfully**
 - Rearing -
 - Mating – Mating Data **saved successfully**
- **Paper:**
 - Inventory Sheets received & data **being keyed**
- **MALP & CPT**
 - Data to be recorded **electronically**
- **Scanning & Weighing**



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Data to be recorded **electronically**

* See details on www.sheep.ie

8.Data Rec. – Genomics

- **MALP Flocks**

- DNA Button tags used to collect DNA for 214 MALP Rams
- Blood samples also collected on same Rams
- DNA also required on MALP Ewes – **plan underway**
- Lamb DNA Samples to be taken using Caisely NSIS tag with EID & DNA sampling capability
- 2 Labs contracted to undertake DNA sampling
 - 1 German Lab – Medigenomix
 - 1 Irish Lab – Weatherbys
- DNA Results file format discussions **underway**

9.Gen.Evaluations - Timing

- No action required at this time

10.Gen.Evaluations - Reporting

- Tim Byrne has **commenced** this work
 - Due back in Ireland in April
 - Further Workshops will be necessary to establish indexes

11. Breeding Schemes - CPT

- Not currently a priority
 - A number of flocks have indicated a willingness to provide this service

12. Breeding Schemes - MALP

- 3 Producer groups participating
- 8000 ewes & 200 Rams
- 7 Breeds involved in MALP so far
- Mobile Sheep Handling unit purchased for use in these flocks



13. Breeding Schemes – CPT & MALP

- Not currently a priority
- Emphasis on traits rather than breeds

14. Breeding Schemes – CPT Location

- Not currently a priority
- Ideally spread around the country

15. Breeding Schemes – MALP Operation

- DNA Sample Collection
 - Completed for Rams
 - Planned for Ewes & Lambs
- ID Collection
 - DNA tag with NSIS tag match to be completed for
 - Rams
 - Ewes & Lambs
- Trait data collection
 - To commence for all Flocks asap

16. Impact of Gen.Eval Scheme

- Completed



* See details on www.sheep.ie

17.Support Structure

- Several Lambplus users have identified faults/errors
- Feedback used to make improvements
- Such feedback is crucial
- Informal User Group already taking shape

18. Structure - Processors

- Not currently high priority

19. Structure – Pedigree Breeders

- Workshop held 8th, 9th & 10th December
 - Good feedback received
 - 60 Flock Owners signed up
 - 55 PSBIP clients from 2008 & 5 new entrants joined
 - Remaining 47 PSBIP Breeders from 2008 now being called & being asked to join.
 - Results from calling 19 of these:

No	Maybe	Yes
7	3	9

20. Structure – Flock Books

- Meeting to be scheduled
 - Very important – frustrating for Breeders to have to enter backpedigree data on sheep a second time