

# Sheep Information Service (SIS)

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1



## Contents

- **Consultation**
- **Opportunities of improvement to present systems**
- **Opportunities for new systems**
- **Selection and Design of services**
- **Feedback from Producer Groups**
- **Recommendations**



2



# Consultation

## Where do you sell the majority of your lambs?

- Mart?
  - Store lambs
  - Breeding stock
- Factory?
  - Flat rate
  - Graded
- Private sale?
  - Store lambs
  - Breeding stock



# Where do you sell the majority of your lambs?

1. Factory
  2. Mart
  3. Private sale
- Factory
    - Mix of graded and flat rate



## Ram Breeding

What is your breeding Goal?

What is your system to achieve this?





# Ram Breeding

- Breed (face colour) then visual traits are used to select breeding
- Rams are often in contact with relatives at mating
- Majority is targeted at slaughter lambs



# Ram Breeding

- Majority retain terminal-type replacements
- Often a small proportion of maternal sires are kept to produce replacements
- Purchasing replacements is widely practiced from both sales and directly from farms.



# Where do you buy your rams?

- Premier sale
- Local sale
- Direct from breeder
- Other?

## Why buy rams from there?

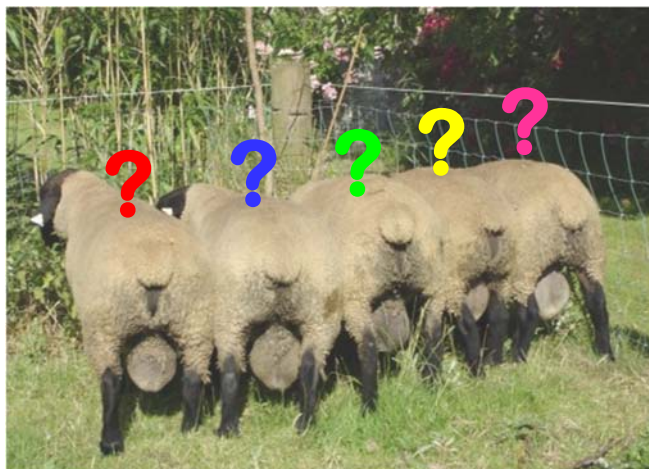


## Ram Buying

- Premier sales are becoming less used (price, feeding levels and dislike for pedigree breeding trends)
- Local sales are more frequently used (lower price and less overfed animals)
- Farm yard sales
  - Liked because they get an estimation of feed and farm system used
  - Disliked as the selection is small (blood lines)

# When purchasing rams how do you select the right one?

- Figures
- Visually
- Handling
- Bloodlines
- Breed
- Wool
- Talking to the breeder



## Ram Selection

- **Genetic evaluations** (or figures) are not used because they are neither, trusted or understood.
- **Size/conformation** followed by **Functionality** are the trait based purchasing signals but the **Price** is the most important determining signal.
- **Maternal traits** within breed appear to be often unconsidered in the sire selection

# EID (*Electronic Identification*)

## What is your opinion?



## Interest in utilising EID for data collection

- Low to Moderate interest at present, because:
  - Knowledge
  - Basic interest in technology use
  - Age distribution (47% over 55 and 8% under 35)
  - Cost is high for initial investment
  - Benefits are not seen yet
- In 5 years all breeding ewes will have EID
- Large flocks have more to benefit through economies of scale

# Opportunities of Improvement to Present Systems

## On Farm Recording (MALP/CPT)

### Most interest

1. **Mastitis**
2. **Cold tolerance**
3. **Colostrum sampling**
4. **Entropion**
5. **FCR (Feed conversion ratio)**
6. **Test foreign AI or stud sires in CPT**
7. **Linear scoring**

### Least interest

- Scrotal size
- Loss of teeth in mountain breeds
- Wool tightness
- Body fat mobilisation
- Health index / health incidence value
  - Coccidiosis
  - etc

## Factories

- Lamb length
- Relocation of subcutaneous (*under the skin*) and intermuscular (*between muscles*) fat to intramuscular (*in the muscle*) fat

## LambPlus

- Fertility testing of ram lambs.

## Opportunities for new systems



## On Farm Recording

- Commercial flock recording system
- Ewe breeders system
- Ram follow up

## €uroStar Utilising Systems

- Star Selector
- All eurostar rams for sale should be advertised (IFJ, [www.sheep.ie](http://www.sheep.ie) and brochure)



## Factory

- Factory paying premium on desired sires from data gathered in factories

## Producer group

- Factory report
- Ram bursaries
- Web storage of doc's
- Ewe lamb sales within group

## Sales

- Specific elite euro star sale

# Selection and Design of services

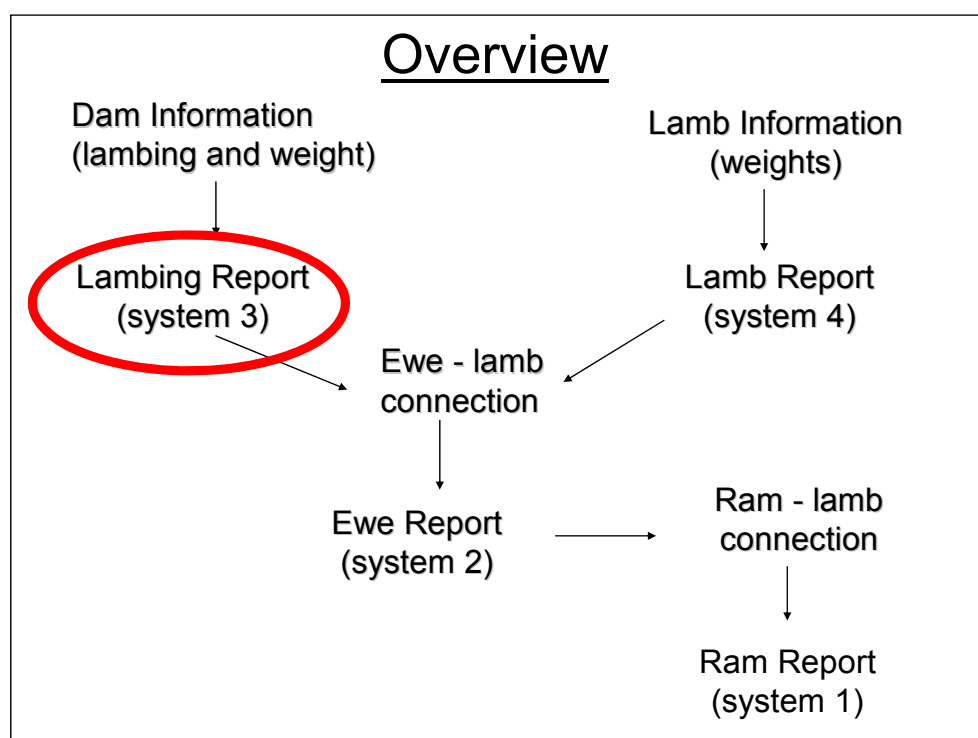
## Selected systems

- On farm recording
  - (Full parentage)
  - (1/2 parentage)
  - (No parentage)
- Star Selector
- Factory report

# On-Farm Recording

23

## Design – On Farm Recording



24

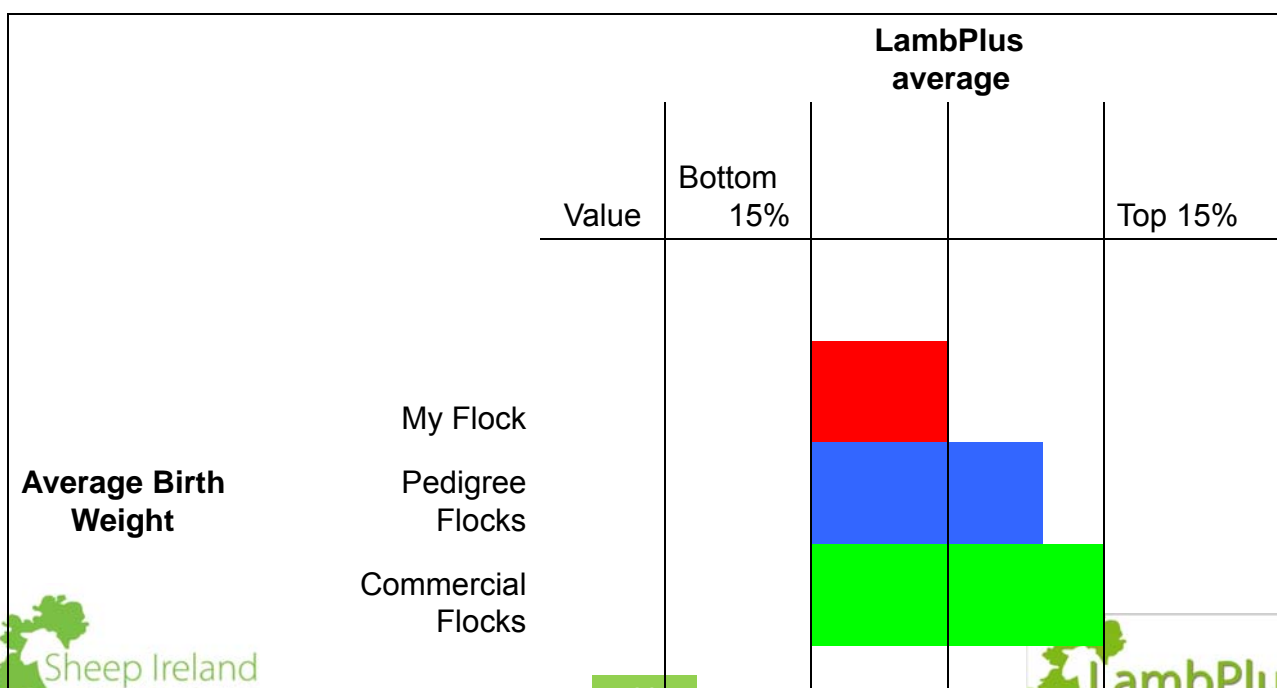
# On Farm Recording – Lambing report

- Some information being recorded at present
- Critical time of season (number of lambs and labour)
- Little change is required to record
- No parentage establishment
  - Need maternal score system
  - Reduced labour and risk for farmer
- Paper can still be used for large flocks with incidence recording
- EID can be used in the future



## Reports

- Summary page



# Reports

- Individual animal (Example of ewe report)

ID & Breed	Ewes Year of birth	Lambs DOB	Lambing Ease	Lamb Mortality	Average Lamb Birth Weight
IE123456789 SU	2001	15/3/10	4	30%	5.4

## What is your opinion on?

### Lamb vigour scoring

Essential	Very useful	Useful	Not sure	Useless
√	√			

### Mothering scoring

Essential	Very useful	Useful	Not sure	Useless
√	√			

### Milking score

Essential	Very useful	Useful	Not sure	Useless
√	√			

# Novel Traits

	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2
Mothering			Poor	Average	Excellent	
Milk			Poor	Average	Excellent	
Entropion	Severe	Moderate	Mild	None		
Mastitis		Severe	Mild	None		
Lamb Vigour		Very Poor	Poor	Average	Good	Very Good
Udder shape			Poor	Average	Good	

# Novel Traits

- Poor accuracy but starting point and acts as an identifier to performance
- Ewe is given an adjusted total score
- Allows selective breeding of top performing ewes to maternal sire
- Followed by commonly practiced lamb selection methods (*number of lambs, breed, functionality DLWG, etc.*)

# Star Selector

31

## Star Selector

- Poor access to LambPlus rams
  - Home sales
  - Catalogue
- Difficult to identify rams with desired evaluations
- No benefits for present LambPlus flocks
- Should be a free service available to all

# Star Selector

Breed

Select the required traits to identify desired sires

Location

## €uro Stars

	Not interested	1 Star	2 Star	3 Star	4 Star	5 Star	Primary trait/traits
Overall sheep value		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	
Lambing		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	
Production		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maternal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Back						Search <input type="text"/>	

[www.sheep.ie](http://www.sheep.ie)

33

LAMBPLUS  
Profit through Science

# Factory Report

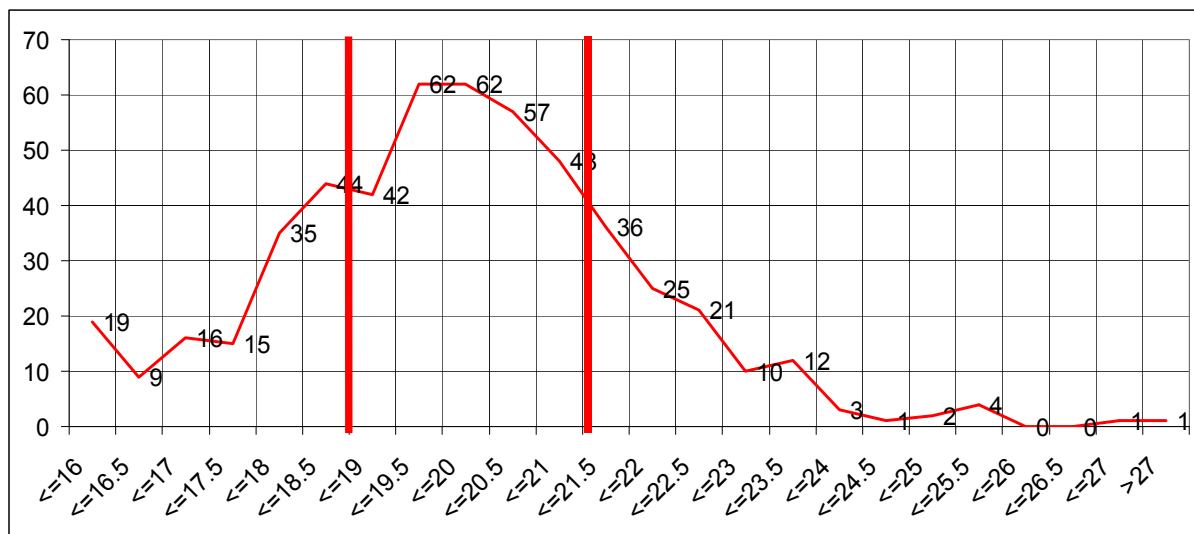
34

# Factory Report

- Poor use of information
- Income not optimised by lamb selection
- Carcase conformation distribution not recorded
- Income per kg/ewe/lamb not known
- Fluke is a problem but not reported
- Yearly performance not compared

# Factory Report

Weight distribution



# Factory Report

<b>Totals</b>	
Total income lost (€)	
Total weight lost (kg)	
<b>Over weight</b>	
Total income lost (€)	
Total weight lost (kg)	
<b>Under weight</b>	
Total income unachieved (€)	
Total weight unachieved (kg)	

Animal ID	Carcase wt (kg)	Weight inaccuracy (kg)	Income lost/unachieved (€)
IE123456789	25.4kg	3.4kg	€14.62
IE123456788	17.5Kg	1.5kg	€6.45

# Factory report

Conformation and fat grade distribution (*price lost by grade outside optimum*)

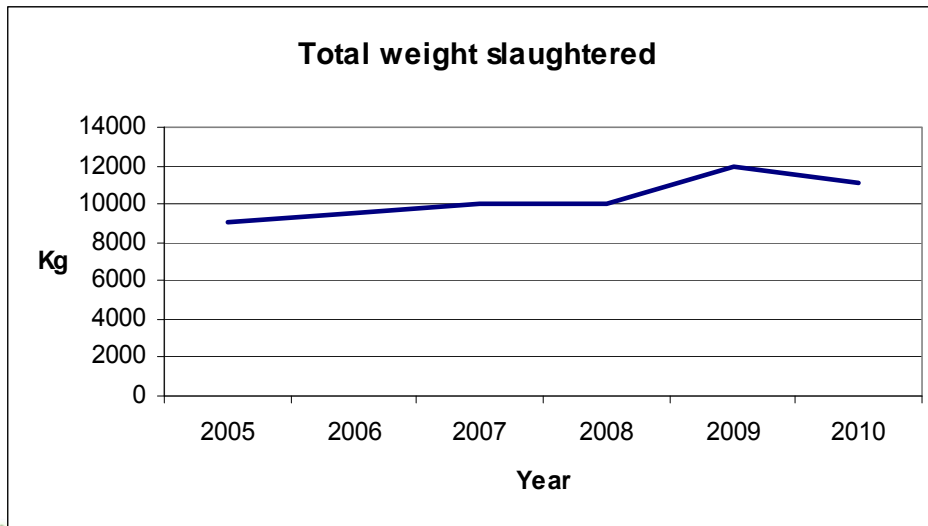
	1	2	3	4	5
<b>E</b>					
<b>U</b>		10 (10%) (€)	20 (20%) (€)		
<b>R</b>		20 (20%) (€)	50 (50%) (€)		
<b>O</b>					
<b>P</b>					

Slaughter Totals		
Lambs		525
Total income	€	40,637
Total weight	Kg	10,416

Averages		
Average €/lamb		76.96
Average €/Kg		3.9149
Average weight		19.728

# Factory report

- Fluke report
- Year comparisons
- % condemned



# Factory Data

Abattoir	Tag number	Carcase type	Kg dead weight	Grade	Price per kg	Total price achieved	Kill Date
ICM Camolin	Last 4 digits of NSIS		√	√	√	√	√
ICM Navan							
Kildare Chilling	Carcase number Herd Number Last 4 digits Animal number	√	√	√	√	√	√
Kepak Hacketstown							
Kepak Athleague							
Dawn Ballyhaunis							
Moyvalley							
Bord Bia	?	√	√	√	√	?	√

# Feedback from Producer Groups

## Rate Usefulness of Services

*Score is multiplied by votes*

Usefulness Score	Essential (5)	Very useful (4)	Useful (3)	Not sure (2)	Useless (1)	Average
<b>On-farm Recording</b>	25	36	9	2	2	<b>14.8</b>
<b>Star Selector</b>	40	36	9	2	1	<b>17.6</b>
<b>Factory Report</b>	25	32	18	4	0	<b>15.8</b>

# Estimate Uptake of Services

*Score is multiplied by votes*

Uptake Score	Long term High (5)	Long term Low (3)	Short term High (4)	Short term Low (2)	None (1)	Average
<b>On-farm Recording</b>	35	21	0	28	1	<b>17</b>
<b>Star Selector</b>	60	12	16	22	0	<b>22</b>
<b>Factory Report</b>	55	6	48	6	1	<b>23.2</b>

# Overall Rating of Services

*Score is multiplied by votes*

Overall Score	Excellent (5)	Good (4)	Average (3)	Poor (2)	Very poor (1)	Average
<b>On-farm Recording</b>	25	52	6	2	1	<b>17.2</b>
<b>Star Selector</b>	15	40	12	2	0	<b>13.8</b>
<b>Factory Report</b>	15	52	9	0	3	<b>15.8</b>

# Summary

*Score is multiplied by votes*

Averages	Usefulness Score	Uptake Score	Overall Score	Total Scores
On-farm Recording	14.8	17.0	<b>17.2</b>	<b>16.3</b>
Star Selector	17.6	22.0	13.8	<b>17.8</b>
Factory Report	15.8	23.2	15.8	<b>18.3</b>



## Recommendations

# Recommendations

- Factory Report
  - Target April 2011 for launch
- Star Selector (*Free*)
  - Target June 2011 for launch
- On farm recording – Lambing report
  - Design and test extensively
  - Target November 2013 or 2014 for launch

**Thank you for your  
time**