



## Roundtable with users of Sheep Ireland services

28<sup>th</sup> September – Mallow

29<sup>th</sup> September – Carlow

3<sup>rd</sup> October – Athlone



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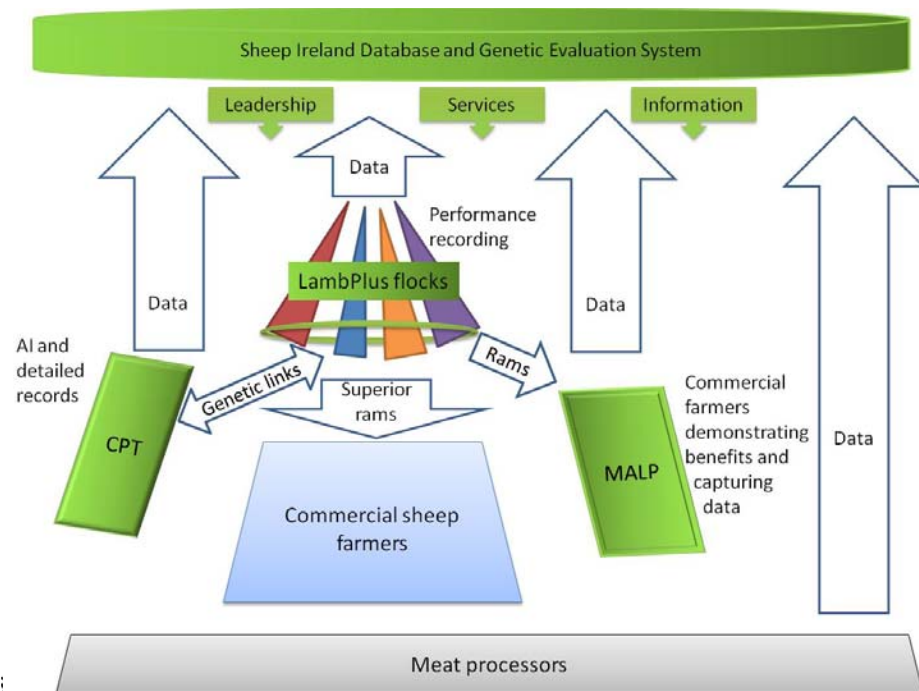
## Agenda

- Welcome and Introduction – Brian Wickham
- LambPlus Progress Report – Eamonn Wall
- CPT & MALP Progress Report – Stephen Potterton
- Genetic Evaluation Progress Report – Thierry Pabiou
- Database Progress Report – Brian Wickham
- Discussion and Feedback
  - Should scanning be compulsory?
  - What can Sheep Ireland do better?
  - How do we get more ram breeders participating?
  - How do we get more ram buyers interested?
  - Other?
- AOB
- Cup of Tea



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## Introduction

- Sheep Ireland established in 2008 as integral part of ICBF.
- Interim Board – Chair from DAFF, 3 from Farm Organisations, 3 from Flock Books.
- Funding – DAFF and service fees.
- Reviewing plans for future.



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Eamonn Wall

## LAMBPLUS PROGRESS REPORT



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# LambPlus

## Key Purposes

- To enable ram breeders to identify rams that will maximise profits in commercial sheep flocks
- To improve the genetic make up of ram breeders flocks by identifying high genetic merit rams and ewes
- To provide ram buyers with information that enables them to make better ram buying decisions
- To add value to the national flock



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## Sheep Euro-Star Catalogue - Example

Lot: 148		Owner: John Murphy: Ballyvan, Hillcrest, Co. Waterford						
Animal Details		Ancestry Details		Euro-Star Indexes - 02/08/11				
Official Id	IE041111701081E	Sire's Sire	TXC08029	% Rank	Star Rating	Indexes	€ Value	Acc%
Tattoo	ZEI11019	Sire's Dam	EWI08011	Top 5%	★★★★★	Overall Sheep Value	€ 0.784	23%
Name		Sire	EWI10021	Top 5%	★★★★★	Lambing	€ 0.5	15%
Birth date	15-Jan-2011	Dam	ZEI08034	Top 40%	★★★★	Production	€ 0.186	37%
Breed	Texel			Top 40%	★★★★	Maternal	€ 0.098	26%
Sex	Female	<b>Other Key Traits</b>						
Birth type	Twin	Dam's Sire	SJH06027	Top 20%	★★★★	Days to Slaughter	-2.273 days	42%
Dam rec	2	Dam's Dam	ZEI06032	Top 5%	★★★★★	Lamb Survival	1.446%	22%
Musc & fat scan date	08-Jun-2011	Copyright, Sheep Ireland						
Comment:								

**% Rank**  
Rams rating within Star Value

**Star Rating**  
Help give an instant indication as to where an index for a particular animal places it compared to all others within its breed.  
5 Stars: Top 20%  
4 Stars: Top 60-80%  
3 Stars: 40-60%  
2 Stars: Bottom 20-40%  
1 Star: Bottom 20%

**Overall Sheep Value**  
Gives the overall Euro Star Rating of the Sheep.



## 2011 Breeder Participation

Breed	Breeders
Texel	50
Suffolk	26
Belclare	30
Vendean	18
Charollais	9
Smaller breeds	20
Northern Ireland	8
Galway(registering births only)	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>211</b>



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## 2011 LambPlus Numbers

Pedigree recorded 2011 born rams in LambPlus	
Total Rams	4,200
Texel	1,160
Belclare	681
Suffolk	604
Vendeen	260
Lleyn	190
Charollais	185
Other Breeds	1,120

## Potential

- **2.2 million breedings ewes**
  - Ram breeding with 40-50 ewes
  - Breeding lifetime 3-4 years
- **This translates into a annual ram requirement of some 14,000 rams**
  - LambPlus – 4,200
  - LambPlus 5 Star rams – 1,200

## 2011 Progress

- Overall breeder numbers increased, this increase would have been greater if we didn't lose breeders from the scheme.
- Early 2011- 18 breeders ceased recording.
- LambPlus sale – feedback has been good, non-recording breeder interest has increased due to the sale.
- Teagasc – 2011 has seen far greater collaboration with Teagasc Sheep Advisory & Research.

## Where to for 2012

- **Active engagement with current LambPlus breeders & Societies to get more breeders recording.**
- **Possible actions:**
  - Sending LambPlus 'Pack' to all non-recording breeders??
  - Phone calls to non-recording breeders??
  - Visiting 'crucial breeders'??
  - Other ideas???
- **Flock books can assist their members by helping with these initiatives.**

Stephen Potterton

## CPT AND MALP PROGRESS REPORT

## What is the CPT?

- CPT – Central Progeny Test.
- Assess the progeny of Rams that are well related within their own breed & **link** this information to an even wider number of animals throughout the breed.
- It is an essential element in ensuring evaluations are comparable between rams from different ram breeder flocks.



## Central Progeny Test

- 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.



## CPT

- 4 Flocks- Kilkenny/Offaly/Meath/Lyons Estate UCD
- **2010/2011**
  - 2,100 ewes
  - Average Conception rate - 70%
  - 2,745 lambs born.
- **2011/2012**
  - 32 rams
  - 6 Suffolk, 1 Rouge, 3 Charollais, 7 Belclare, 8 Texel, 7 Vendeen
  - AI dates 12th - 19th October
  - Innovis carrying out Laparoscopic AI.

## CPT

- **Present and Immediate Future**

- Rams who have not jumped before being trained to jump now in Lyons Farm UCD.
- All rams in Ram training centre by Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October.
- Sponging and weighing of ewes being carried out on flocks at present.

## What is MALP (Maternal Lamb Producers)?

- A demonstration in commercial flocks that ram selection can have a big impact on flock profitability.
- Has become a good source of sheep breeding data.

## MALP

- **4 Groups**

- Kildare/Offaly
- Kilkenny
- Clonbur/Tourmakeady
- Westport/Achill

- **Recording Progeny of MALP born ewes only in 2012**

- **Approximately 3,250 ewes**

## MALP

- **Present and Immediate future**

- Weighing breeding ewes for mature weight.
- Weighing replacement ewe lambs.
- Full list of MALP rams to be compiled
- New Rams to be DNA'd for DNA profiling
- Single sire mating being discussed with small group of MALP farmers for the coming breeding year.

# MALP & CPT

- **How MALP & CPT Flocks benefit LambPlus service users.**
  - Having your Lambplus Ram used in MALP or CPT increases linkages, and increases the number of progeny that will be recorded from these rams.
  - This helps increase the accuracy of the evaluations of your ram lambs.
  - Commercial producers become more aware of the value of choosing a good ram and understanding how to use the Euro-Star indexes.

Thierry Pabiou

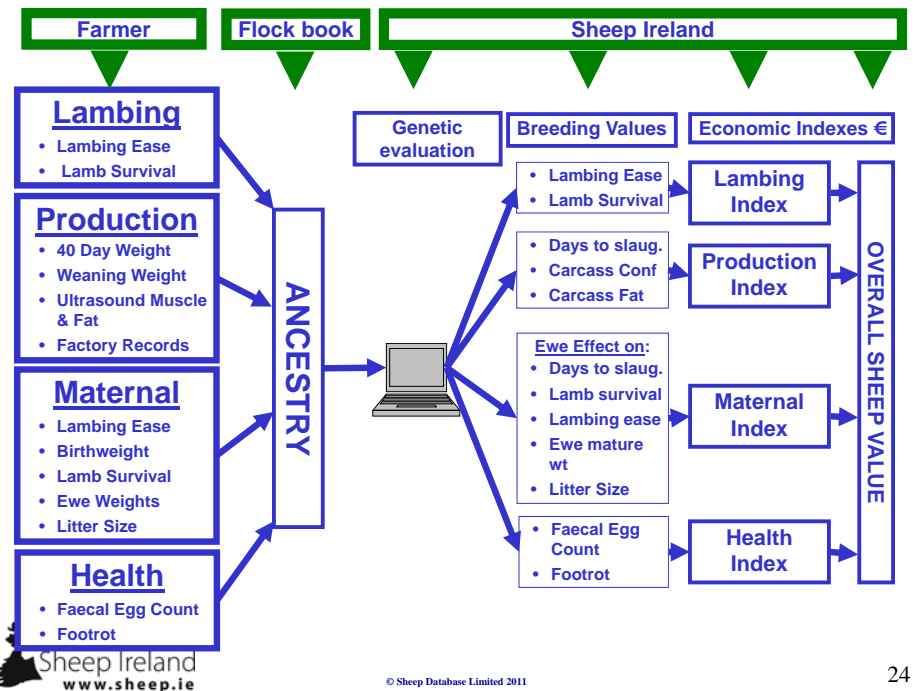
# GENETIC EVALUATION PROGRESS REPORT

## Purpose of Genetic Evaluation

Procedure that ranks animals according to their genetic merit for a common goal

Production goal	Lambing goal	Reproduction goal
Optimise growth rate and carcass quality	Optimise lamb survival and lambing ease	Optimise number of lambs born

**Overall Sheep Value**  
Optimise overall profit per lamb born to a ram



# Genetic Evaluation

- **Extract every Friday evening**
- **New proofs loaded every Monday**
- **3 modules**
  - Production traits
  - Lambing traits
  - Reproduction traits
- **Within breed**
- **Evaluation takes 8 hours**
- **From data extraction to loading of results takes 13 hours**



# Post Evaluation Processing

- **Breeding Value (BV) Base = 2005**
  - Mean adjustment
- **Adjustment to Texel BV spread**
  - Standard deviation adjustment
- **If accuracy = 0 then BV = null**
- **Creation of Sheep Ireland Economic Indexes (€)**
  - Production
  - Lambing
  - Maternal
  - Overall Sheep Value



# Future projects

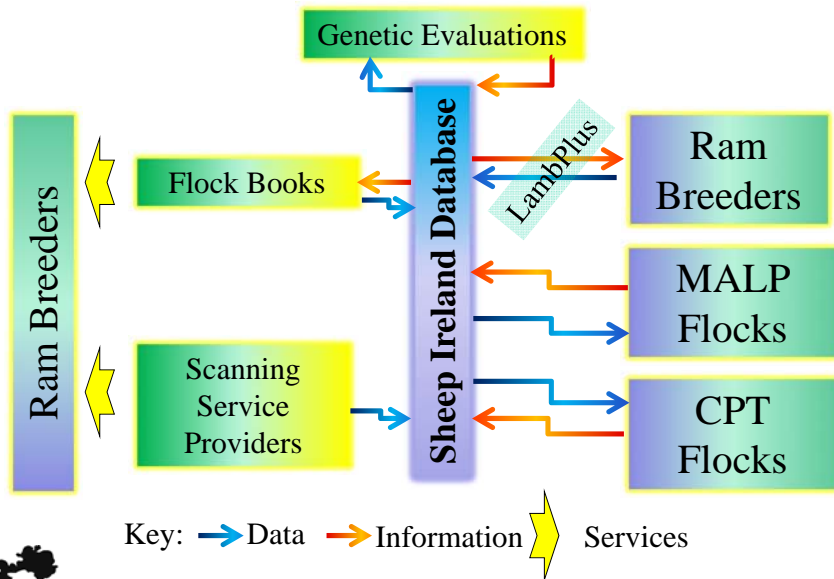
Project	Timetable
Consolidate MALP & CPT lambing data	From 2012
Consolidate current model	2012
Study to integrate foreign data	2012
Across breed evaluation test	Every year till ready
Health evaluation feasibility	From 2012



Brian Wickham

# DATABASE PROGRESS REPORT





## Flock Book Services

- Galway
- Belclare
- Proposal for expand this service to these and other breeds:
  - Web search
  - Catalogues & Pedigree Certs
  - Integrated with birth recording in LambPlus

## Discussion & Feedback

- Should scanning be compulsory?
- What can Sheep Ireland do better?
- How do we get more ram breeders participating?
- How do we get more ram buyers interested?
- Other?