



# Sheep Industry Meeting

6<sup>th</sup> October 2011

Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore



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## Agenda

- Welcome and Introduction – Brian Wickham
- Database – Sean Coughlan
- LambPlus – Eamon Wall
- CPT & MALP – Stephen Potterton
- Genetic Evaluations – Thierry Pabiou
- Financial – Sean Coughlan
- Future Plans
  - Feedback from roundtable meetings – Eamon Wall
  - Structure & Funding – Brian Wickham
- AOB

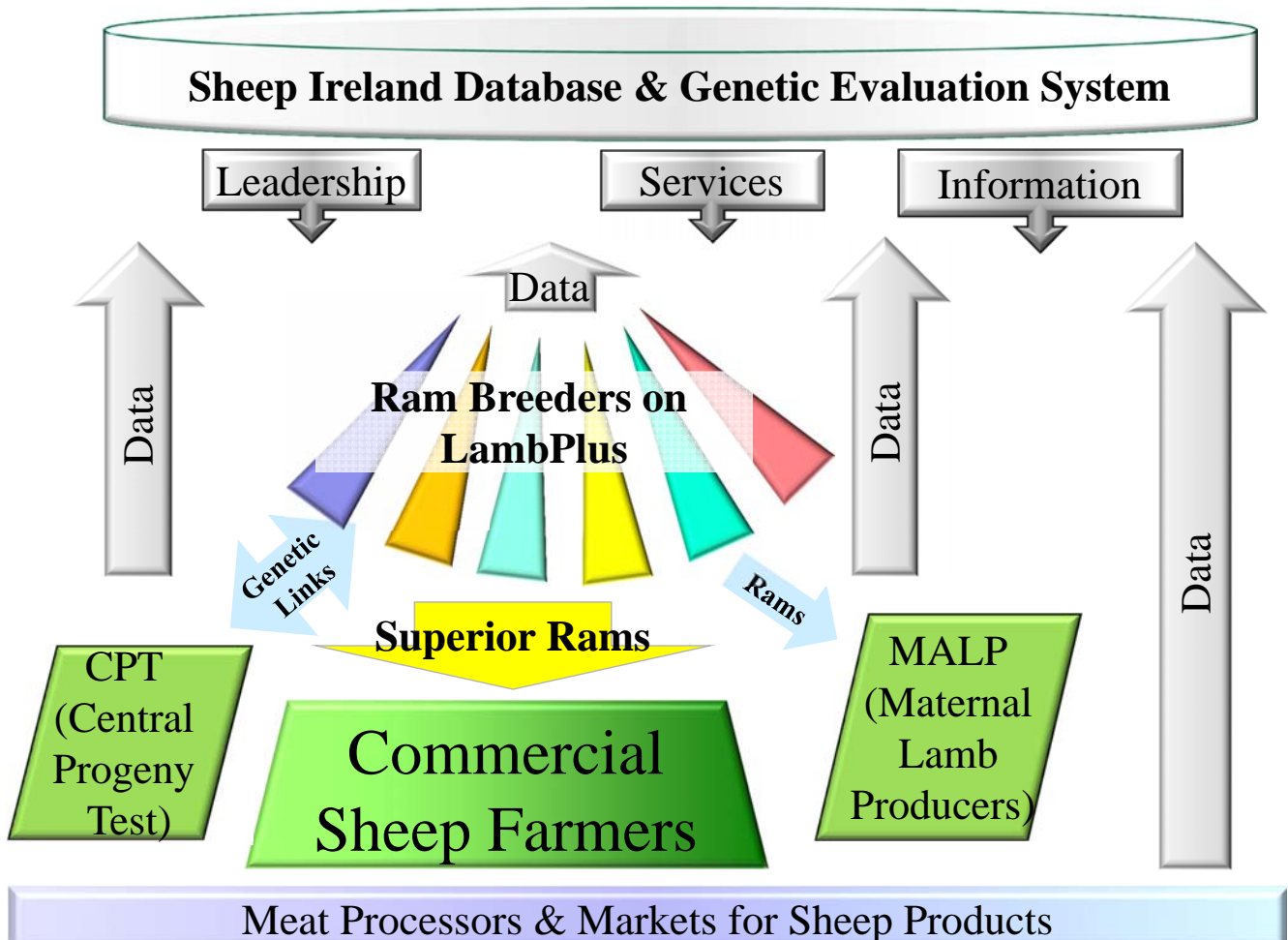


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# Introduction

- 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 mostly and small contribution from service fees.
- Reviewing plans for future.

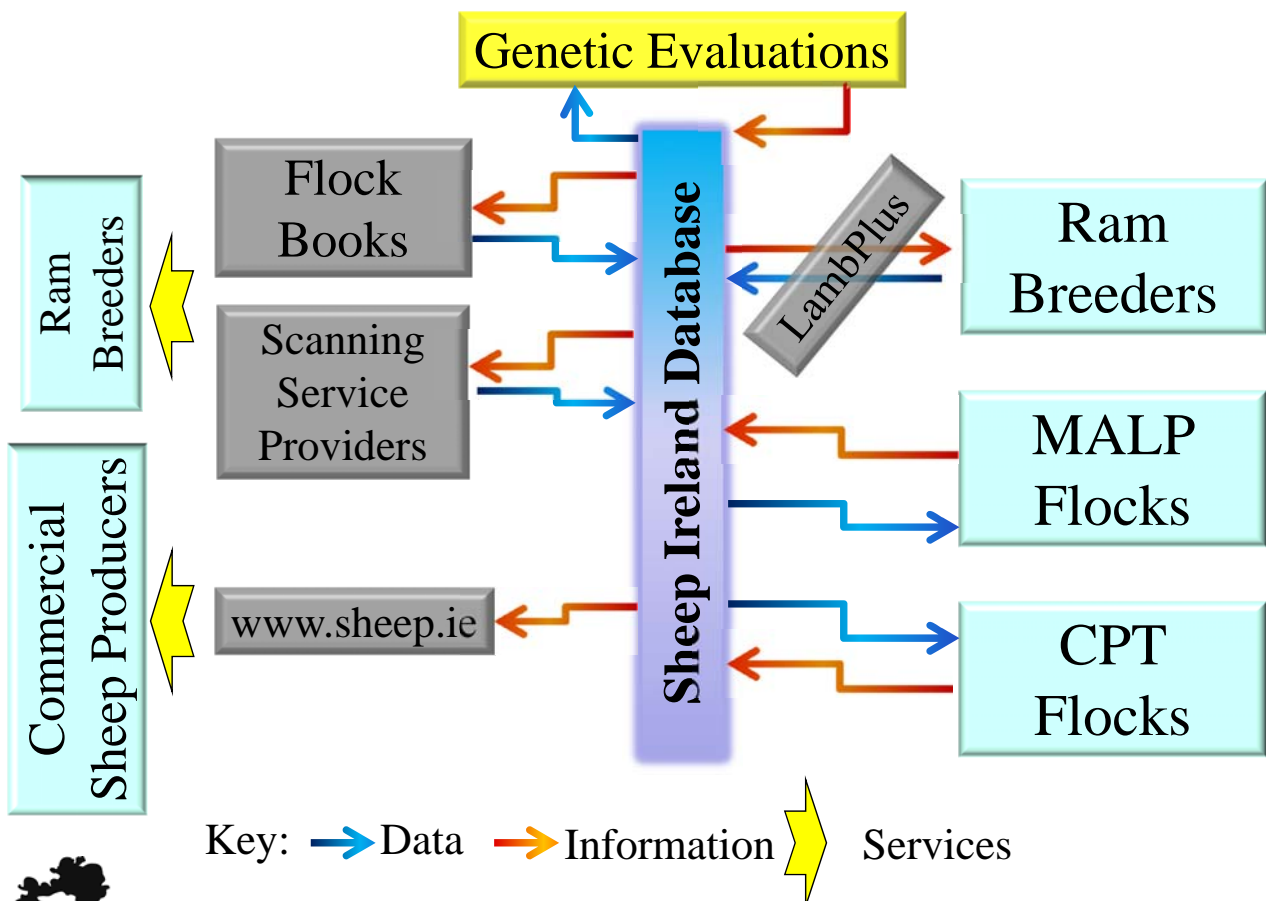


Sean Coughlan

# DATABASE PROGRESS REPORT



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## LambPlus

- Inventory
- Mating
- Lambing
- Weighing
- Eurostar profile
- Weighing profile
- Eurostar report
- Lambing notebook

## Flockbooks

- Flockbook management app.
- On-line public flockbook
- Certificate printing
- Catalogue generation
- ET management
- Full integration with LambPlus

## MALP / CPT

- EID handheld recording
- Integration with Sheep Ireland Database
- Handheld messaging/sheep management (with latest details from database)

Eamonn Wall

# LAMBPLUS PROGRESS REPORT

## 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	Dam	SJI06027	Top 40%	★★★★★	Maternal	€0.098	26%
Sex	Female	Dam's Sire	ZEI06032	<b>Other Key Traits</b>				
Birth type	Twin	Dam's Dam		Top 20%	★★★★★	Days to Slaughter	-2.273 days	42%
Dam rec	2			Top 5%	★★★★★	Lamb Survival	1.446%	22%
Musc & fat scan date	08-Jun-2011							
Comment:		Copyright, Sheep Ireland						

**% 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.



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## 2011 Breeder Participation

Breed	Breeder's
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

Stephen Potterton

# CPT AND MALP PROGRESS REPORT



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## 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.



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# 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.

# 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

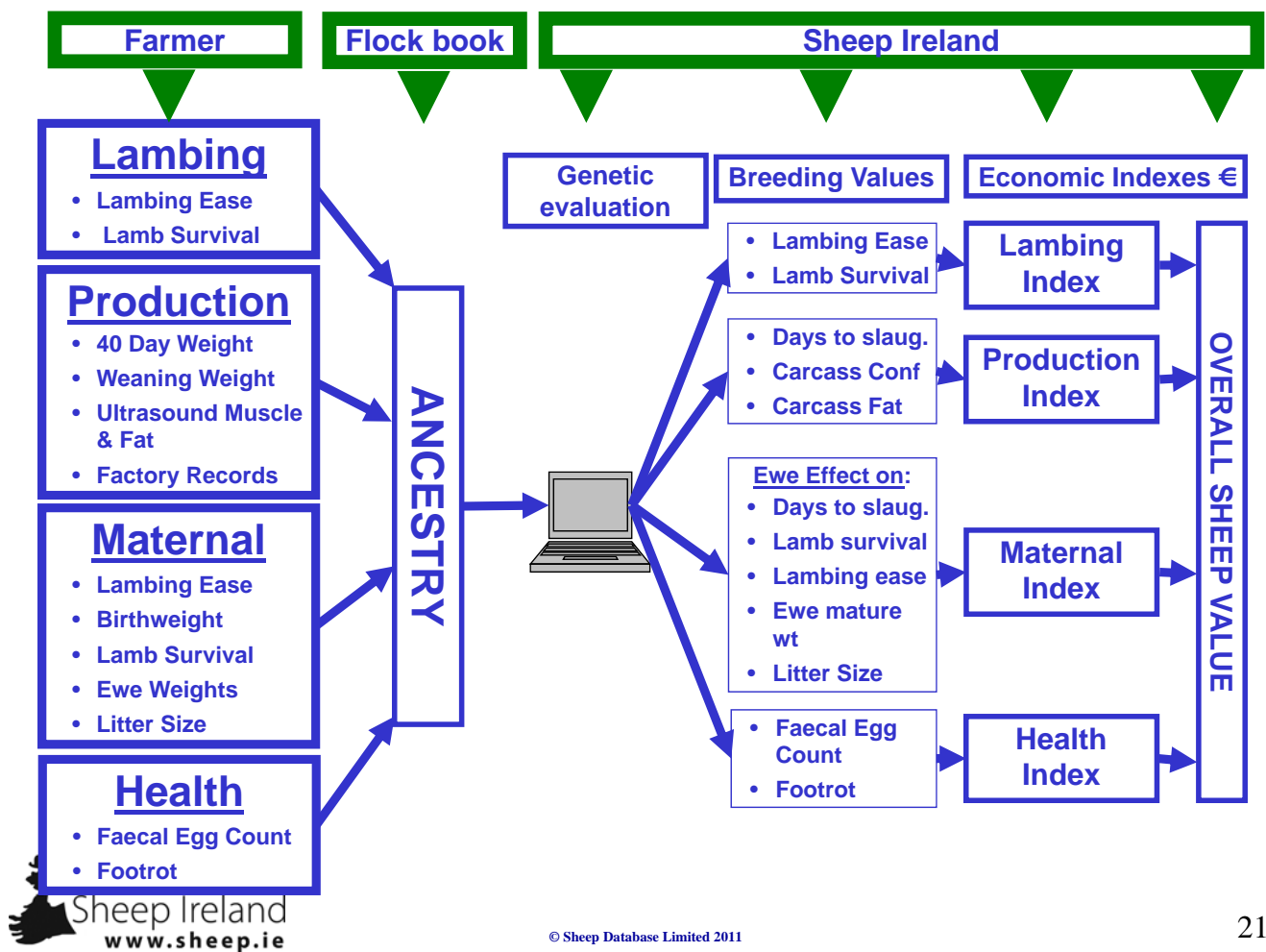
- **4 Groups**
  - Kildare/Offaly
  - Kilkenny
  - Clonbur/Tourmakeady
  - Westport/Achill
- **Recording Progeny of MALP born ewes only in 2012**
- **Approximately 3,250 ewes**

# MALP & 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



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## 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**

# Demonstrating Potential of Ram Selection

- Performance of progeny of 5 vs 1 star rams used in MALP and CPT flocks:
  - Weight records and **production** sub-index
  - Lambing records and **lambing** sub-index
  - Number of lambs born and **maternal** sub-index
- Genetic trend in MALP flocks:
  - Average Euro-Star index by birth year

**Note:** This slide was corrected on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2011 following the identification of an error in the original as presented on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October.

## Lamb weights vs Ram stars

Progeny birth year Sire Euro-Star Production sub-index	2009		2010		2011	
	*	*****	*	*****	*	*****
<i>No. with 40 day weight</i>	2,136	1,762	2,559	2,835	1,615	2,840
<b>Av. 40 day weight (kg)</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>18.7</b>	<b>15.3</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>16.6</b>
<i>No. with weaning wt.</i>	2,694	2,100	2,354	2,594	1,610	2,714
<b>Av. weaning wt. (kg)</b>	<b>28.6</b>	<b>30.6</b>	<b>28.8</b>	<b>30.5</b>	<b>28.2</b>	<b>31.7</b>

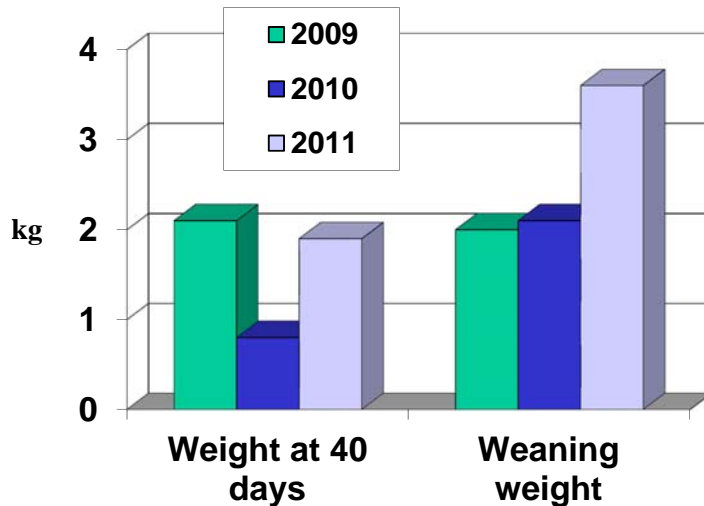
*40 day weight, and weaning weight were adjusted to 40, and 100days, respectively.*

*Weights from MALP & CPT flocks*

*Weights excluded from the table when accuracy of sire Euro-Star production sub-index = 0.*

# Lamb weights vs Ram Euro-Stars

Difference in progeny weights between a 5 and a 1 star ram



- *kg = Av. progeny weight for 5 stars rams – Av. progeny weight in 1 stars rams*
- *40 day weight, & weaning weight were adjusted to 40, 100 days, respectively.*
- *Weights from MALP & CPT flocks.*
- *Phenotypes excluded from the table when accuracy of sire Euro-Star production sub-index = 0.*

# Lambing scores vs Ram stars

Progeny birth year Sire Euro-Star Lambing sub-index	2010		2011	
	*	*****	*	*****
No. difficult lambings	132	168	63	164
% difficult lambings	19%	10%	12%	9%

- *% difficult lambing = (number of lambing scored 3,4 or 5 / total number of lambing scored) x 100.*
- *Lambings from CPT flocks.*
- *Lambing excluded from the table when accuracy of sire Euro-Star lambing sub-index = 0.*

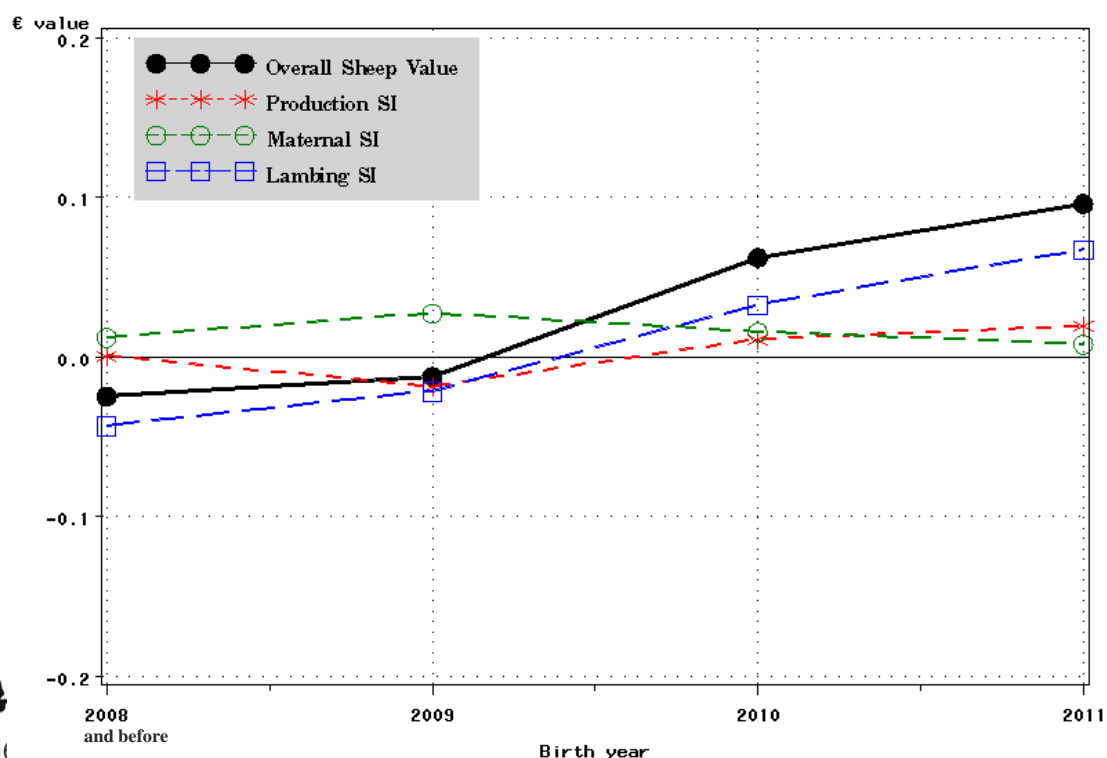
# Number of Lambs vs Ram stars

Progeny birth year	2011	
<b>Sire Euro-Star Maternal sub-index</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>*****</b>
<i>Number of records</i>	499	332
Number of lambs born / lambing	1.24	1.36

- *Number of lambs / ewe = total number of lambs (alive and dead) per ewe lambing.*
- *Lambings from MALP & CPT flocks.*
- *Phenotypes excluded from the table when accuracy of sire Euro-Star maternal sub-index = 0.*

## Genetic trend across Malp

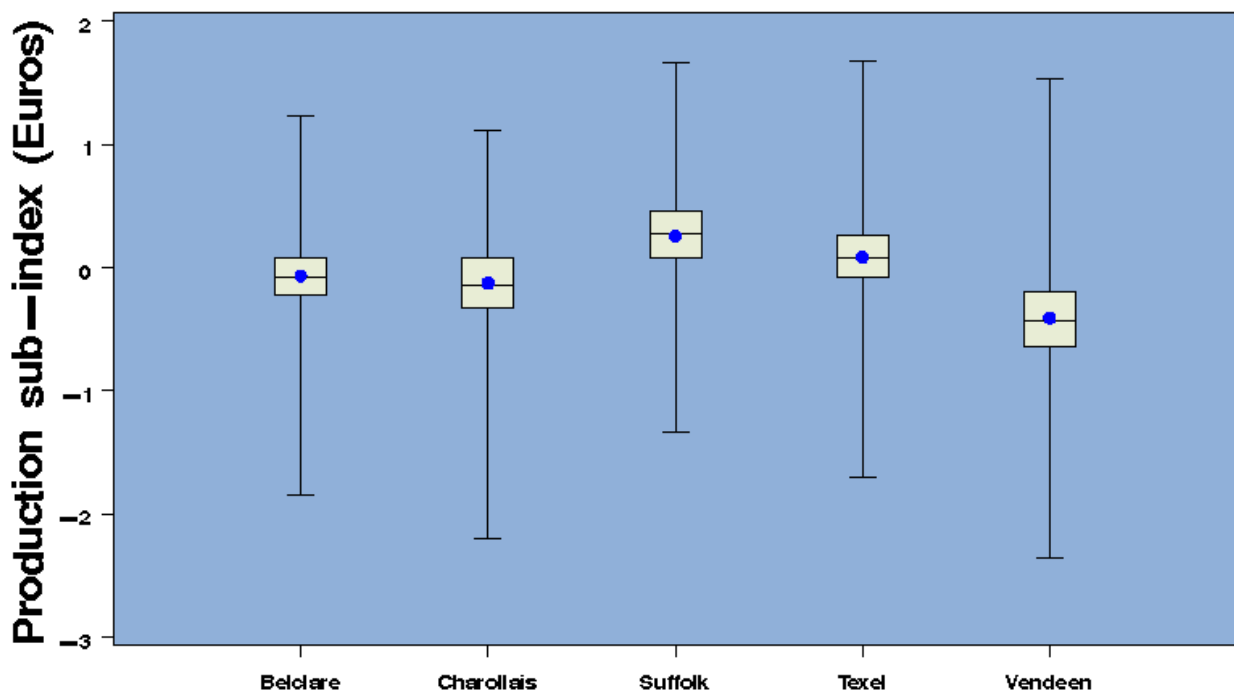
ALL BREEDS – MALP



# Across breed evaluation

- Test run in Sept 2011
- 3 methods tested
- Need across breed phenotypes across several flocks
  - Start to build up for weight records
  - Not yet fully in place for maternal traits
  - Important function for CPT flocks
- Across breed test will be run every year
  - Until ready

## Dispersion of production sub-indexe (Euros) – Five main breeds



Overall statistics by breed

N	4954	2209	5865	9986	2768
Min	-1848	-2.2	-1.328	-1.705	-2.354
Mean	-0.06318	-0.12346	0.261007	0.087868	-0.40495
Max	1229	1.119	1.662	1.683	1.533



Eamon Wall

# FEEDBACK FROM ROUNDTABLE MEETINGS



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## Main Issues Raised

- Web/IT issues
  - User friendly changes to our web system
  - Ram web search facility to give potential ram buyers access to rams in LambPlus flocks
  - Slaughter data entry screen
  - Flock reports - flock growth reports, genetic trend reports
  - Handhelds - providers, cost & compatibility with Sheep Ireland, potential for MALP / CPT handhelds to be used by ram breeders
- Genetic Evaluation
  - Education - Breeder & Commercial ram buyer
    - Media
    - Website Improvement
    - Teagasc - Advisory, Athenry, Colleges
  - Importance of getting pedigree flocks linked - boost accuracies
- Scanning
  - Compulsory/Optional?
  - Restrict entry to Sheep Ireland sales to scanned rams only
  - Improved 'branding' of scanned animals - education
  - Society to impose rule to scan all recorded animals
  - Clear message from Sheep Ireland that scanning is best practice for ram breeders



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# Main Issues Raised

- Scanning cont.
  - Improved planning to facilitate 'area scanning' - reducing cost
  - Re-tendering of the scanning contract - to reduce cost
  - Scanning seen as an essential way of verifying 'honest' recording
  - Improved timing of scanning - many breeders scanned too late in 2011.
  - Scanning of all lambs to improve the information being collected and to reduce the cost of scanning overall.
- Education & Promotion
  - Feeling that breeders & farmers do not yet understand the Euro-Stars
  - Increased level of communication with public needed
    - Illustrate the benefits that we have recorded
    - Detail trends of genetic gain from 5 Star Vs. 1 Star
  - Sheep Ireland ram Sale
    - Essential education & publicity tool
    - Increase minimum ram entry level for 2012
    - Additional sale venues (2-3 in total)
    - Greater level of Pre & Post sale publicity needed (Classified advertisements)
    - Increase number of rams for each breed so that there is a good selection available

# Main Issues Raised

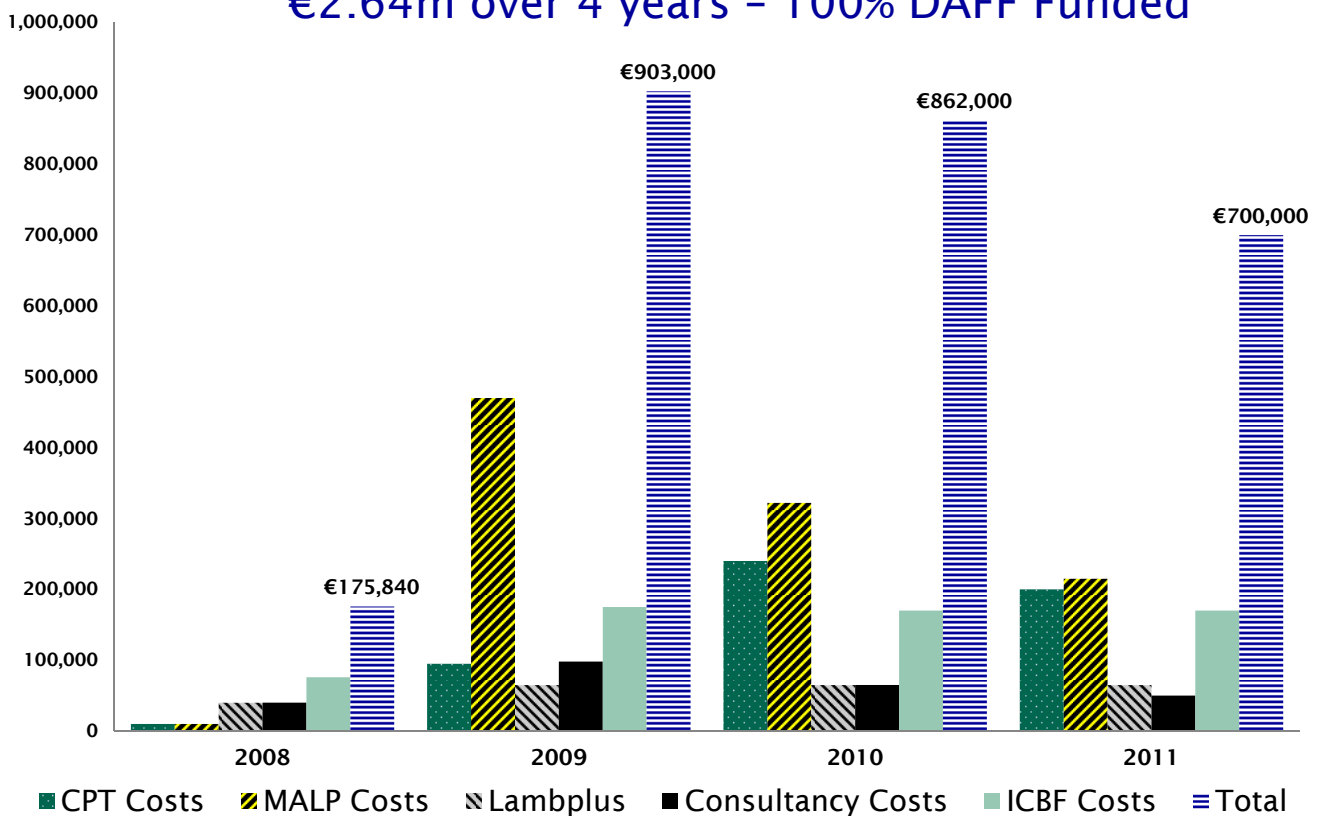
- Education & Promotion
  - Breed societies to help promote recorded rams, in association with Sheep Ireland.
  - Producer group incentives to recorded ram buyers
- Other topics discussed
  - Role of breed societies - support is essential to further progress
  - Factory data - very important for significant progress to be made
  - Across breed comparisons - not ready yet
  - CT scanning - potential for LambPlus
  - Importation and use of foreign evaluation data
  - Necessity of NSIS check letter in the recording process - look to develop web screens to make recording easier and to keep errors low - maintain file of tags purchased and used / not used.

Sean Coughlan  
**FINANCE**



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**Sheep Ireland Funding**  
 €2.64m over 4 years – 100% DAFF Funded



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Brian Wickham

# STRUCTURE & FUNDING

## Structure & Funding



- **Board**
  - Expand to cover Processors
  - Modify to ensure LambPlus service users (ram breeders) are represented
  - Farmer chair person
- **Funding**
  - Establish mechanism for industry contribution

# DISCUSSION