



30th October 2008

Mr N. Holeran
Animal Health Division
DAFF
Kildare Street
Dublin.

Dear Noel,

Re: Sheep Identification – use of NSIS by Sheep Ireland

The purpose of this letter is to confirm that Sheep Ireland has been granted approval by DAFF to operate the following extension of the National Sheep Identification Scheme (NSIS) for the purpose of facilitating genetic improvement of the national flock.

For flocks participating in Sheep Ireland recording schemes:

- Double tagging at birth of all lambs with permanent, identical NSIS tags.
- The original left ear NSIS tag would become the permanent identifier.
- The like-for-like replacement of the NSIS tag (white) for all animals in either the flock of birth or another flock, providing the flock owner is a Sheep Ireland participant.
- In the case of adult animals in a participating flock that have an NSIS tag in the left ear only, an identical tag can be placed in the right ear.
- In the case of animals that have entered into the flock and have a tag in the right ear, that right ear tag can be replaced with an identical tag to that in the left ear.
- If an animal moves from one participating Sheep Ireland flock to another, the two original tags can be left in place.
- If the animal moves to a non-participating flock, the normal NSIS rule applies and the right ear tag is replaced with the new flock owners tag.
- For Sheep Ireland participating flock owners who purchase in stock from a non-participating flock or from abroad, like for like replacement of tags is allowed.

- Sheep Ireland will be responsible for ensuring participating flock owners are fully aware of the requirement that all changes of tags and replacement of tags are fully and clearly recorded in the flock register.
- Sheep Ireland will maintain a record of all flocks participating in its recording schemes. This record will be available to DAFF for inspection as and when required.
- Implementation will proceed on a flock by flock basis with the first flocks adopting the scheme no sooner than 12th November 2008.
- Rules governing the participation in the breeding programme will include a requirement that all participants must be fully compliant with NSIS.
- Any changes to these arrangements will be notified and agreed with DAFF before they are implemented.

Yours sincerely,



Brian Wickham
Chief Executive

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