



Breeding Profitable Sheep for Ireland – LambPlus[®]

Progress report – Interim
Sheep Board
7th May 2009

Overview

- Progress on 20 Recommendations:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Animal ID - System | 11. Breeding Schemes - CPT |
| 2. Animal ID - Database | 12. Breeding Schemes - MALP |
| 3. Data Rec. - EID | 13. Breeding Schemes – CPT & MALP |
| 4. Data Rec. – Traits & Flex. | 14. Breeding Schemes – CPT Location |
| 5. Data Rec. – Rec. Criteria | 15. Breeding Schemes – MALP Operation |
| 6. Data Rec. – Rec.Systems | 16. Impact of Gen.Eval Scheme |
| 7. Data Rec. – Data Capture | 17. Support Structure |
| 8. Data Rec. – Genomics | 18. Structure - Processors |
| 9. Gen. Evaluations – Timing | 19. Structure – Pedigree Breeders |
| 10. Gen. Evaluations - Report | 20. Structure – Flock Books |

1. Animal ID - System

- **Pedigree Flocks** – NSIS tags continue to be recorded
 - More ‘User Friendly’ input screen required.
- **MALP Flocks** – NSIS tags & EID tags in use.
- Missing backpedigrees & rekeying ancestors still causing frustration.

2. Animal ID - Database

- Feedback from Breeders has led to many improvements.
- More Improvements still to be made to the system.
- Detailed list of outstanding 'fixes' compiled.
- User Group meeting held on 5th of May;
 - Thorough examination of system completed.
- Improvements to be put in place asap.

3.Data Rec. - EID

MALP Flocks

Lambs

EID & NSIS tags for all lambs ordered mid March

- EID tags for 8 flocks received by 1st May
- 5 of these flocks have EID tags in lambs.

EWES

First order of 2000 tags made. No tags received

- Ewe NSIS tags currently being keyed – 80% complete.

Farmers

- First instalment of payment made.€5/Ewe
- Average of €1700/Flockowner

4.Data Rec. – Traits & Flexibility

- Protocols Sheets **available** on website
- New Update Letter sent to all Lambplus Users on:
 - Recording Lambing Data
 - Scanning & Weighing
 - 40 day weighing

5.Data Rec. – Rec. Criteria

- Pedigree Flocks
- Have been **made aware** of:
 - Inventory, Lambing, Rearing, Mating, 40 day weight
- More timely recording of data required.
 - Benefits of recording data
 - Text Alerts

6.Data Rec. – Rec. Systems

- **Web** – Screens & Paper sheets **available** for
 - Inventory, Lambing, Rearing, Mating, Weights
- **Scanning & Weighing**
 - Scanning team fully trained & equipped with Handhelds
 - Extra resource required to help flocks that have not yet filled in data.
- FEC Recording
 - Plan to send samples to Innovis in Wales
 - Possibility of Irish Lab being involved

7.Data Rec. – Data Capture

- **Pedigree Flocks**
- Web
 - Inventory, Lambing, Rearing, Mating & Weight data **saved**
- Paper:
 - Inventory, Lambing & Mating data **keyed**
- Participation of Lambplus Users being **closely monitored**
- All Users being **contacted by phone**
- **MALP & CPT**
 - Data to be recorded **electronically**
- **Scanning & Weighing**

Data to be recorded **electronically**



Receipt left
www.sheep.ie

* See details on www.sheep.ie

8.Data Rec. – Genomics

- **MALP Flocks**
 - DNA Button tags used to collect DNA for MALP Rams
 - Blood samples also collected on same Rams
 - Lamb DNA Samples 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
 - Full parental DNA analysis to be completed when Ewe DNA is collected.

9.Gen.Evaluations - Timing

- **First genetic evaluation run due before release on 9th June**
- Regular genetic evaluation run schedule yet to be defined
- As per recommendation capability to conduct on a weekly basis throughout the year
 - Key times include mating (breeder) and ram selling (breeder and buyer)

10.Gen.Evaluations - Reporting

- Work has **commenced** on this (Tim Byrne):
 - Draft Breeding Objective complete and ready for industry consultation
 - Preliminary Goal Trait Groups and Sub Indexes proposed and ready for industry consultation
 - Production, Lambing, Maternal, Health
 - Genetic Evaluation system spec'd and development underway (Neville Jospon/ Peter Amer – AbacusBio Ltd)

11. Breeding Schemes - CPT

- A number of flocks have indicated a willingness to provide this service
 - Further meetings planned to confirm participation in next few weeks

12. Breeding Schemes - MALP

- 3 Producer groups participating
- 8000 ewes & 200 Rams
- 7 Breeds involved in MALP so far
- Mobile Sheep Handling unit is being used.
- EID tagging of Lambs has commenced



13. Breeding Schemes – CPT & MALP

- **Emphasis on traits rather than breeds**
- However efforts made to ensure all (major) breeds get representation in CPT/ MALP going forward
- Good level of recording for traits in MALP

14. Breeding Schemes – CPT Location

- Ideally spread around the country

15. Breeding Schemes – MALP Operation

- DNA Sample Collection
 - Completed for Rams
 - Underway for Lambs
 - Pending for Ewes – tags to be received.
- ID Collection
 - Pratley collecting ID & weight data
 - Sending data back to the database
- Genetic Evaluation meeting – Abbeyleigh Manor – 20th May
- IGA Open Day - John Ranehans Flock – 9th June

16. Impact of Gen.Eval Scheme

- Completed



* See details on www.sheep.ie

17.Support Structure

- Phone Support for Lambplus Users in place
- Lambplus Office
- Resource in place for keying Lambplus & MALP data
- Resource in place for helping Scan team on-farm

18. Structure - Processors

- Not currently high priority

19. Structure – Pedigree Breeders

- Good feedback constantly being received
 - 82 Flocks signed up
 - 62 Electronic
 - 20 Paper
- Reports showing data recorded are now available
- Users being rang & written to - encourage use of the system

20. Structure – Flock Books

- Meetings have taken place with
 - Belclare Society 18th February
 - Lleyn Society 7th April
 - Texel Society 7th April
 - Vendeen Society 14th April
 - Suffolk Society 30th April