



# Breeding Profitable Sheep for Ireland - LambPlus

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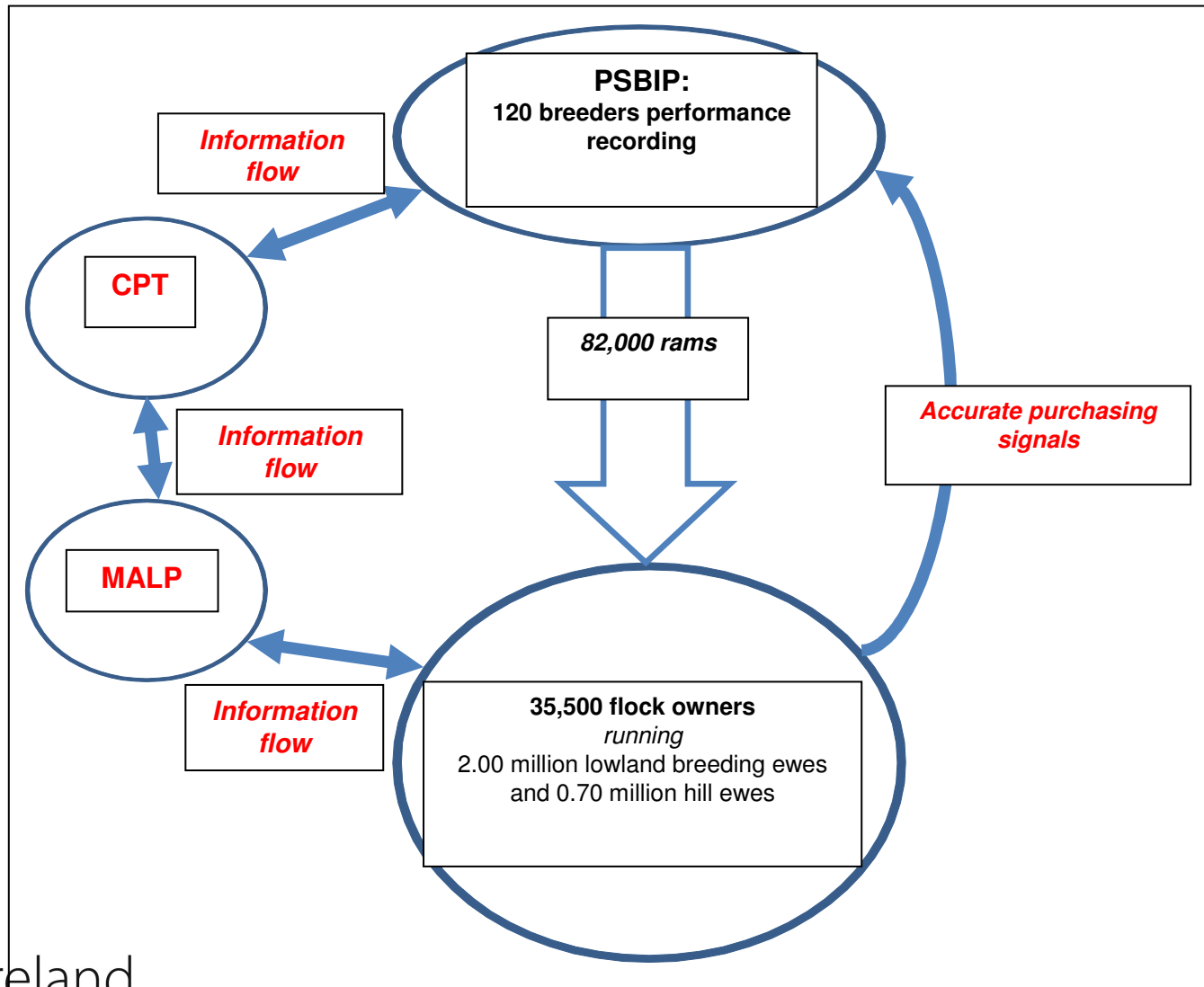
# Sheep Ireland Mission Statement

“To achieve the greatest possible improvement, from genetic and other factors, in the profitability of the national sheep flock for the benefit of Irish farmers and the sheep industry”

# Background

- Malone Report.
  - ICBF involvement in Sheep Breeding.
- Strategy Project Team
  - Irish sheep industry meeting (~50 people)
  - Provided “pointers” for recommendations
  - Review with key stakeholders
  - Final Report
- Interim Sheep Board
  - Adopted recommendations.
  - Implementation proceeding

# Overview



# What are We Doing?

- Getting permanent ID on participating sheep (two tags for life)
- Building database to capture and store recorded information
  - Including LMI information in the new system
  - Data input by breeder and commercial farmer
  - Invitation letter has been sent to existing LMI breeders and receiving application now

# What's on the database?

- Create one database for:
  - Animal performance information
    - Many traits
      - Reduce inputs (Labour, vet etc)
      - Increase output (Lambs/ ewe etc)
  - Pedigree information
    - Highly linked ancestry
  - Progeny Test
    - Traits
    - Use of well recorded rams
    - Intense recording of maternal traits
  - Factory information

# What are We Doing?

- Establishing protocols for recording existing and new traits
  - Standards for data collection
  - Recording books
  - Evaluating existing procedure of muscle and fat scanning
  - **Almost complete**
- Establishing website ([www.sheep.ie](http://www.sheep.ie))
  - Sheep Ireland and LambPlus Information
  - Recording screens

# What are We Doing?

- Established progeny test scheme
  - Progeny testing sires in ram sharing groups
  - Demonstrate differences in profit for individual rams genetics.
    - Maternal traits
    - Terminal traits
  - Technology trials
    - EID
    - Genomic Selection

# What Traits will we Get?

- Breeders can record:
  - Birth weight
  - Growth rate
  - Mature weight
  - Fertility
  - Fecundity (lambs born dead and alive)
  - Foot health
  - Ewe and lamb survival
  - Faecal Egg Counts (FEC)
  - Lambing ease
  - Back fat, eye muscle (as in LMI)

# How are These Traits Recorded?

- The whole system has a web based focus
  - Paper options available
  - Recording book
- Breeders will put information in via the website.
- Possibly using EID in the future.

# How will the results look?

- Merit display is yet to be decided (€ profit based)
  - Indexes for maternal
  - Indexes for terminal
  - Indexes for health
- Results whenever needed for sales
- Further discussions needed

# What are the Merits of LambPlus?

- No more cost over old scheme
- More flexibility
  - In recording and evaluations
  - Continually updated indexes
- Reduced labour through selection for:
  - Lambing ease
  - Reduced foot rot
  - Worm resistance

# What are the Merits of LambPlus?

- Improved profit through selection for:
  - Carcase conformation
  - Growth rate
  - Litter size and lamb survival
  - Health traits
- Improvement in more traits (if you record them)

# How will this effect me?

- More traits evaluated
- More flexibility in evaluations
- Fast turn around of results
- Faster genetic gain
- With persistence and some investment you have more to offer clients!!!

# Support Sheep Ireland

# Thank You

