



Breeding Profitable Sheep for Ireland - LambPlus

Progress report – Interim
Sheep Board

4th December 2008

Overview

- Progress on:
 - Individual ID
 - Sheep database
 - Data capture
 - Data recording
 - LambPlus
 - Genetic evaluations
 - Breeding and demonstration schemes
 - Extension and communication

Individual ID

- Double tagging to start within 2 weeks for MALP
- Collecting inventory (what's on farm) from pedigree flocks
- DNA tagging and EID tagging being explored – exciting options!
 - Weatherbys (Ireland)
 - Caisley (Germany)
 - Catapult (New Zealand)

Sheep Database

- Sheep database established and PSBIP data loaded
- Development of capability for web-based input ongoing
 - Inventory update ready early next week
 - Have some screens ready

Data Capture

- Lambing book <\\SBS2003R2\Users\tbyrne\My Documents\Peter Amer\ICBF\2008 visit - August\Sheep\Lambing notebook\LambPlus book.pdf>
- Mobile weighing/ auto-drafting/ and yards
 - Used for MALP and CPT
- Protocols near finalised for trait recording (including CPT and MALP) as part of LambPlus*

Prattley and Tru-test



Call: 1850 600 900

Visit: www.sheep.ie

Data Recording

- Web screens for:
 - Inventory update \\SBS2003R2\Users\tbyrne\My Documents\Peter Amer\ICBF\2008 visit - August\Sheep\Website\Web_pages\index.html
 - Mating lists
 - Lambing \\SBS2003R2\Users\tbyrne\My Documents\Peter Amer\ICBF\2008 visit - August\Sheep\Website\Web_pages\lambing.html
 - Rearing
- Protocols near finalised for trait recording (including CPT and MALP) as part of LambPlus*

LambPlus

- Performance recording service to breeders, producers, MALP & CPT
- Web based data recording and reporting
- Protocols developed in “fact sheets” with timeline(s)
- Genetic evaluation and other information reports
- Annual base fee plus fees for extra services, initially supported by DAFF
- Payments by direct debit
- **Training workshops early December**



Genetic Evaluations

- Draft version of the breeding objective prepared for further industry consultation
 - More work needed on economically relevant traits
 - Further workshops needed to establish indexes
 - Focus on easy care, low cost maternal traits
 - Continued focus on terminal traits

Breeding and demonstration schemes

- Pedigree breeders; Meeting now
 - ID/recording
 - Genetic evaluations
 - Services
 - Training
- MALP; underway with 5 groups
 - Meeting to sort issues with each group
 - Weighing and double tagging due to start

Extension and communication

- Teagasc sheep meeting presentations
- Meeting with more producer groups
- Meeting at breed society AGMs
- Training
- Invites sent to existing performance recording breeders
- Communication very much underway