



# Breeding Profitable Sheep for Ireland - LambPlus

Teagasc Sheep Meetings  
2008

# Background

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

# Overview

- Plan and Progress on:
  - Individual ID
  - Data capture and recording
  - Genetic evaluations
  - Breeding and demonstration schemes
  - Support structure for development and function
- Impact of the proposed improvement scheme

# ID\* and the Sheep Database

- Left ear and right ear– NSIS
- Lost tags – replaced with same ID
- Movement to another participating flock – retain both tags, no new tag
- New Sheep Ireland ID system agreed with DAFF
- Sheep database established and PSBIP data loaded

# Data Capture and Recording

- Web-based capture focus but range of systems available, EID in future
- Increase timing and breadth of recording across economically-important traits
- Strategy and process being developed to collect DNA samples on MALP and breeder flocks
- Protocols being developed for trait recording in CPT and MALP as part of LambPlus\*

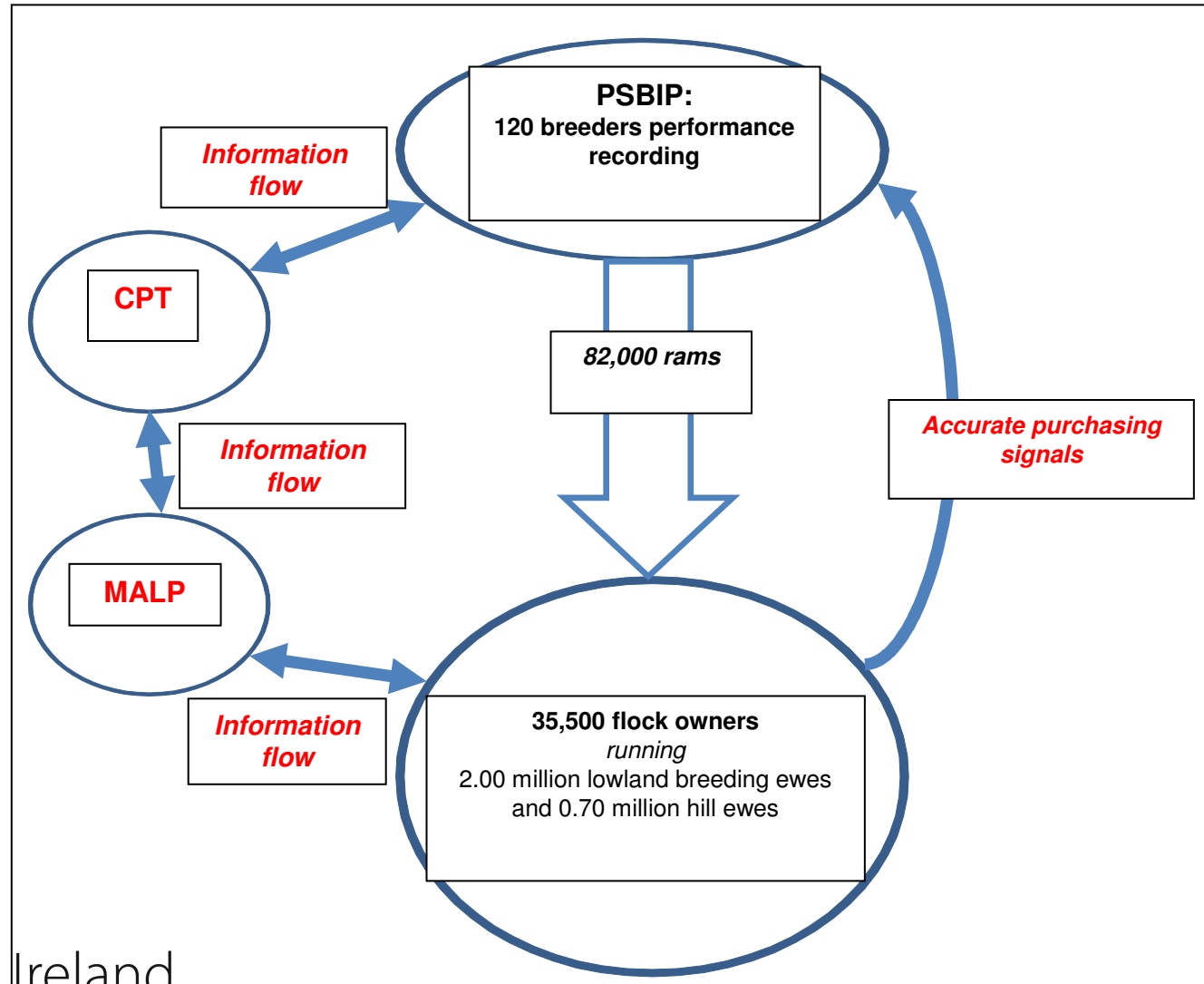
# LambPlus

- Performance recording service to breeders, producers, MALP & CPT
- Web based data recording and reporting
- Protocols under development
- 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

- Modern web-based rapid turn around system
- Need a wide range of results for breeders and commercial buyers
- Draft version of the breeding objective prepared for further industry consultation
  - Focus on easy care, low cost maternal traits
  - Continued focus on terminal traits

# New Sheep Ireland Breeding Scheme



# Breeding and demonstration schemes

- Pedigree breeders; Meeting now
  - ID/recording, genetic evaluations, and services
- CPT; Start 2009 breeding season
  - Assess large number of rams for wide range of traits from across the sheep industry
- MALP; underway with 5 groups
  - Demonstration of differences in ram profit
  - Additional recording of maternal traits
- **Commercial ram buyers; Expect profit indexed rams going forward**

# Support Structure

- The need for a collective support structure.
  - All industry working for a common goal.
- Invite letters to current breeders and LambPlus services under development
- Sheep Ireland @ [www.sheep.ie](http://www.sheep.ie) established
- Sheep Ireland Ltd being established.
  - Consideration being given to permanent structure
- We look forward to your support and participation