



# Breeding Profitable Sheep for Ireland – LambPlus<sup>®</sup>

Progress report – Interim  
Sheep Board

2<sup>nd</sup> April 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

- New NSIS tag algorithm **received**
- Old NSIS tag algorithm **received**
- Updating Flock details – currently manual
- Spec **designed** for Flock owners to enter same thru web
- Double tag instructions in ‘Update letter’ – **sent**
  - Explains Lamb Double Tagging Requirement
  - Explains Ewe & Ram Double Tagging Requirement
- Tag ordering screen **to be developed.**

## 2. Animal ID - Database

- **Feedback from Breeders has led to many improvements;**
- **Inventory Screen Updated**
  - DOB, Sire & Dam fields may be edited
  - New animals may be added & remain in Inventory screen
  - 'Unknown' option may be used
  - 80% 'Lock' function put in place
  - Tattoo field may now be edited
- **Lambing Screen Updated**
  - Flock Designator pre-populated
- **Rearing Screen Updated**
  - Lambs ordered on tag number - not date of birth
- **Mating Screen Updated**
  - All mating data now shown on screen

# 3.Data Rec. - EID

## MALP Flocks

- EID tag ordering process rolled out.
- EID Tags for all 2009 lambs ordered.
- NSIS tag numbers for all ewes recorded.
- Ewe NSIS tags currently being keyed.
- First instalment of payment in hand.
- EID Race Reader ordered.
- Meetings with Factories have commenced.

# 4.Data Rec. – Traits & Flexibility

- Protocols Sheets **available** on website
- ‘Update’ Letter sent to all Lambplus® Users on 1<sup>st</sup> February on;
  - Lambing Data
  - Mating Data
  - Rearing Data
- New Update Letter to be sent asap on:
  - 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
- Current Communication
  - Scanning & Weighing

# 6.Data Rec. – Rec. Systems

- **Web** – Screens **available** for
  - Inventory
  - Lambing
  - Rearing
  - Mating
- **Paper** recording sheets also now **available** for:
  - Inventory
  - Lambing
  - Rearing
  - Mating
- **Paper Sheets & Web Screen** being developed for:
  - 40-day weights

# 6.Data Rec. – Rec. Systems

## • Scanning & Weighing

- Scanning & Weighing Service Provider Sourced
  - Donegal FRS – Austin Duignan – Field Manager.
- Team - Sean McHugh, Paul McGirr, Roger Hayes, Michael McHugh.
- 20 years experience – preg scanning – Ire, UK & New Zealand.
- 1<sup>st</sup> session of training completed – Ballyhaise Ag College.
- Electronic Handheld Unit will be used to transfer data.
- Update letter will include info on Scanning Service.
- Fees for 2009 will be no greater than those in 2008

## • FEC Recording

- Discussions with Innovis in Wales
- Vacuum Pack & Post to UK trial will be attempted.
- Necessity of Lab here in short term can then be decided.



\* See details on [www.sheep.ie](http://www.sheep.ie)

# 7.Data Rec. – Data Capture

- **Pedigree Flocks**
- Web
  - Inventory, Lambing, Rearing & Mating 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 on farm on day of visit

# 8.Data Rec. – Genomics

- **MALP Flocks**
  - DNA Button tags used to collect DNA for MALP Rams
  - Blood samples also collected on same Rams
  - DNA also required on MALP Ewes – **plan underway**
  - Lamb DNA Samples to be 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
  - DNA Results file format discussions **underway**

# 9.Gen.Evaluations - Timing

- No action required at this time

# 10.Gen.Evaluations - Reporting

- Tim Byrne has **commenced** this work
  - Due back in Ireland in May with Gemma Payne from Abacus Bio
  - Further Workshops will be necessary to establish indexes

# 11. Breeding Schemes - CPT

- Not currently a priority
  - A number of flocks have indicated a willingness to provide this service

# 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.



# 13. Breeding Schemes – CPT & MALP

- Not currently a priority
- Emphasis on traits rather than breeds

# 14. Breeding Schemes – CPT Location

- Not currently a priority
- Ideally spread around the country

# 15. Breeding Schemes – MALP Operation

- DNA Sample Collection
  - Completed for Rams
  - Planned for Ewes & Lambs
- ID Collection
  - DNA tag with NSIS tag match to be completed for
    - Rams
    - Ewes & Lambs
- Trait data collection
  - To commence for all Flocks asap
- IGA Open Day planned for John Renehans Flock

# 16. Impact of Gen.Eval Scheme

- Completed

# 17.Support Structure

- Several Lambplus users have identified faults/errors
- Feedback used to make improvements
- Such feedback is crucial
- Informal User Group already taking shape

# 18. Structure - Processors

- Not currently high priority

# 19. Structure – Pedigree Breeders

- Good feedback constantly being received
  - 82 Flocks signed up
  - 62 Electronic
  - 20 Paper
- Lambing Performance Report designed
- Users being rang & written to - encourage use of the system

## 20. Structure – Flock Books

- Meeting to be scheduled
  - Belclare Society 18<sup>th</sup> February
  - Clynn Society 7<sup>th</sup> April
  - Texel Society 7<sup>th</sup> April
  - Rouge Society Meeting asap
  - Vendeen Society Meeting Requested