



# Breeding Profitable Sheep for Ireland – LambPlus®

Progress report – Interim  
Sheep Board

16<sup>th</sup> Sept 2010



# Overview

- Progress on 20 Recommendations:

- |                                      |                                       |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. <b>Animal ID - System</b>         | 11. <b>Breeding Schemes - CPT</b>     |
| 2. Animal ID - Database              | 12. <b>Breeding Schemes - MALP</b>    |
| 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. <b>Support Structure</b>          |
| 8. Data Rec. – Genomics              | 18. Structure - Processors            |
| 9. Gen. Evaluations – Timing         | 19. Structure – Pedigree Breeders     |
| 10. <b>Gen. Evaluations – Report</b> | 20. <b>Structure – Flock Books</b>    |

# 1. Animal ID – System

- **NSIS/EID Tag Issue**
  - New NSIS Algorithm received from DAF.
  - New ‘ID Master screen’ being developed to handle different types of ID:

<b>Tattoo</b>	<b>Old NSIS</b>	<b>Recent NSIS</b>	<b>New NSIS</b>
GHT4598	IEA1234567B00172	IE2454839824598	IE041234554321C
	Length = 16	Length = 15	Length = 15

- Currently being developed

# 10. Genetic Evaluations – Report

- Genetic Evaluations distributed:
  - Vendeen Breeders
  - Charollais Breeders
  - Belclare Breeders
  - Suffolk Breeders
  - Texel Breeders
  - Ile de France & Rouge
- Catalogue generated for Belclare Sale & on-farm sale.
- Catalogue inserts generated for Texel & Suffolk Sales.

# 10. Genetic Evaluations – Report

- Breeders were informed whether their flock is ‘linked’ or not.
- 40 day Reports also sent to nearly all Breeders.
- Tullamore Show attended.
- Teagasc farm walks attended
  - Sheep Ireland overview
  - Ram display - Euro-Stars explained
- Planning for Ploughing underway

# 10. Breeding Schemes - CPT

- Target ram list generated for 2010 CPT program.
- Ram Owners contacted.
- List of rams being assembled.
- Ram shed at Lyons being setup.
- AI protocol finalised with UCD.
- Good interest in the CPT following last year's test.

# 10. Breeding Schemes - MALP

- DNA results to be finalised with Medigenomix before genetic evaluations are released.
- DNA collection/analysis/results & inclusion in genetic evaluations is currently taking too long.
- Medigenomix meeting with Sheep Ireland to investigate ways of streamlining the process.

# 17.Support Structure

- Developments
- David Cottle – New England University, Armidale, Aus.
  - ‘Mating Advice’ program being adapted (Brian Kinghorn).
  - Being tested on Belclare breed (as 13 years of pedigree records for the entire breed are known).
  - Help Flockowner choose ‘right’ ram.
  - Balance present & future inbreeding versus Index values.

# 17.Support Structure

- Developments
- Alan Fahey – UCD
  - Pre-Test trial being run to investigate factors influencing Ram libido at semen collection.
    - Certain Rams in 2009 failed to give semen.
  - On-Test trial being planned to compare conception rates from fresh v chilled semen.

# 17.Support Structure

- Developments
- Graham Potterton
  - Sheep Information Services Project
  - Investigate possibilities to increase commercial Sheep Farmer's participation in Sheep Ireland.
  - Data Farmers would record.
  - Information they would find useful.

## 20.Support Structure - Flockbooks

- Belclare Flockbook now operating fully from Sheep Ireland Database.
- Transfer of flockbook delayed in 2009 – database dev.
- Belclare registrations now processed through Sheep Ireland database.
- Belclare sale catalogues generated from Sheep Ireland database.

# 20.Support Structure – Flockbooks

- Current Situation

## Breed                      Back Ancestry Data Status

- Belclare                      Received & Loaded
- Charollais                      Not Received
- Galway                      Received & Loaded
- Rouge                      Received & Loaded
- Suffolk                      Making Arrangements to receive
- Texel                      Not Received
- Vendeen                      Awaiting response to contract
- Breeds that share Back Ancestry for their entire Breed with Sheep Ireland will receive more accurate genetic evaluations than those who only have Ancestry from Lambplus Flocks included.