SHEEP TECHNOLOGY ADOPTION PROGRAMME 2015

TERMS AND CONDITIONS
STAP 2015

New in 2015

- There is an opportunity to revise the task selection up to Friday 3rd July 2015, which is the deadline for the return of the STAP2D form (Task Selection Record – Final).

- Participants must attend at least FIVE MEETINGS OF WHICH AT LEAST THREE MEETINGS MUST BE CONFINED TO GROUP MEMBERS AND HELD ON GROUP MEMBERS’ FARMS PLUS UP TO TWO QUALIFYING NATIONAL EVENTS.

- If a combined meeting is held with another group, then there can be only one qualifying national event included IN THE FIVE MEETINGS REFERRED TO ABOVE.

- If there is a change in the date of a proposed meeting, there must be a new application made in respect of the revised date, at least 10 workings days beforehand. If there is a change in the time of a meeting (but not the date), notice must be received at least 5 working days before the date of the meeting.

- In order to allow the Department to monitor the programme effectively, no meetings can have a starting time later than 8 pm. No meetings may be held on Sundays or Public Holidays. No meetings may be held outside the state and no facilitator can host more than 2 meetings for STAP groups in the one day.

- Teagasc facilitators must notify the Department at least 10 working days in advance of any proposed Combined Group Meeting, via e-mail to STAP@agriculture.gov.ie

- There are no compulsory Tasks in 2015. Task 1 is worth the equivalent of 2 Tasks for 2015.

- There is an opportunity to revise the task selection up to Friday 3rd July 2015, which is the deadline for the return of the STAP2D form (Task Selection Record – Final).
Important Dates

- Base Line Survey & Farm Plan must be completed by 29th May 2015.

- Submission of STAP2 by **13 February 2015**

- Initial Task Selection (STAP2B) by **1 May 2015**

- Final Task Selection (STAP2D by **3 July 2015**

- Programme completion STAP3 by **2 October 2015**

*Please ensure the prompt submission of STAP 2a as soon as possible following meetings*

Common Mistakes

Points to note when selecting tasks

- Base Line Survey & farm Plan not completed in full on [www.sheep.ie](http://www.sheep.ie) (see paragraph 13)

- Participants are required to submit a 2015 Single Payment Scheme application form

- Information relating to Tasks 1 and 2 must be entered on [www.sheepireland.ie](http://www.sheepireland.ie)

- Soil sampling is not permitted if you are a participant in AEOS (Task 4)

- TAMS participant (Task 7)

*All queries and notification should be sent to stap@agriculture.gov.ie*
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND THE MARINE

SHEEP TECHNOLOGY ADOPTION PROGRAMME 2015

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Under Food Harvest 2020, ambitious development targets were set for a number of agricultural sectors, including the sheep sector. In order to assist with the achievement of these targets, Exchequer funding was made available in 2013 for the establishment of a Sheep Technology Adoption Programme (STAP) to encourage, through participation in discussion groups, the adoption of best management practice on sheep farms and increase profitability on their holdings. The scheme is being continued for a further year in 2015.

These terms and conditions set out the eligibility criteria and general conditions governing participation in the Programme and will be subject to review over the period of the Programme. The Minister reserves the right to alter from time to time the procedures to be followed in the operation of the Scheme. The Department may expand upon, explain, interpret or define the meaning of any aspect of the Terms or Conditions of the Scheme.

A. ADMINISTRATION OF PROGRAMME

1. The Programme is administered by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) and is delivered by a network of facilitators comprising Teagasc advisory personnel and private service providers. Facilitators shall be trained by Teagasc to a FETAC-accredited standard and approved by DAFM.

2. The Programme will be open to existing members of sheep discussion groups established under the 2013 STAP. STAP group members need not re-apply but are required to submit a 2015 Single Payment Scheme application form.

3. The activities of each discussion group will be managed by an accredited facilitator. A full list of accredited facilitators is available on the DAFM website under Farming Sectors / Sheep and goats / Sheep Technology Adoption Programme. Producers should make contact with an accredited facilitator who will proceed with group formation. The onus is on participants to ensure that the group they join is managed by an accredited facilitator. The Department reserves the right to add or remove facilitator details from the published list.

4. A maximum of 20 members per discussion group is recommended, although facilitators may exercise discretion in this regard where no diminution in the effective functioning of the group is anticipated. However, the Department must be notified where it is intended to form a group of more than 22 members and reserves the right to refuse such a group’s entry to the Programme. Facilitators with groups comprised of more than 22 members in 2015 must first apply to SheepPolicy@agriculture.gov.ie
5. Groups should be properly structured, with an active chairman and secretary in place.

6. Facilitators must notify the STAP Section, SPS Payments Unit, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Old Abbeyleix Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois of the composition of each discussion group by Friday 13 February 2015 using Form STAP2. Amendments to an applicant’s details should be notified to DAFM using Form STAP1A. Notification of Tasks chosen by each participant must be sent to DAFM by 1 May 2015 (STAP2B). There is an opportunity to revise the task selection up to Friday 3 July 2015, which is the deadline for the return of the STAP2D form (Task Selection Record – Final).

The facilitator will also be responsible for notifying DAFM by 2 October 2015, using Form STAP3, details of each group member who has satisfied the terms and conditions of the Programme in order to qualify for payment. DAFM will carry out control checks which include on-the-spot controls to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the Programme.

7. While the precise payment rate to each individual participant will be determined by the overall numbers participating in the Programme the maximum payment will be €1,000 per participant.

B. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

8. In order to be eligible to participate in the Programme:
   (a) Flockowners must have a minimum flock size of 30 breeding sheep, (based on either the 2011 or 2012 Sheep and Goat Census). In addition, applicants who are selling lambs directly for processing must apply for membership of the Bord Bia Beef and Lamb Quality Assurance Scheme (BLQAS) and must have achieved certification by 2 October 2015.

   OR

   (b) For flockowners without breeding stock, they must have purchased a minimum of 100 lambs/hoggets for breeding, (based on either the 2011 or 2012 Sheep and Goat Census) and those selling store lamb finishers directly to factories must have applied for membership of the BLQAS and achieved certification by 2 October 2015.

   Farmers who received payments in respect of their participation in the Dairy Efficiency Programme 2010 – 2012 or the Development Programme for Dairying in 2013 or who participate in any other dairy knowledge transfer programme operational in 2014 shall not be eligible to participate in the STAP.
9. A producer may nominate a third party to attend discussion group meetings on his/her behalf, either due to inability to attend or in recognition of the practical arrangements in place for running his/her farm. Only one such nominee, who must be involved in the running of the farm and must be named in advance on the application form, can be made and such nominee must subsequently satisfy the facilitator as to his/her identity.

The nominated person cannot be a member of the same discussion group in his/her own right or of any other discussion group participating in STAP. The person nominated cannot act as a nominee for more than one participant in the STAP.

10. In the event that the number of applicants exceeds the funding available, the Minister reserves the right to prioritise applications using objective selection criteria.

C PROGRAMME CONTENT.

11. The Programme will focus primarily on 5 areas; financial management, grassland management, flock health, animal breeding / welfare and producing animals to market requirements. A proposed schedule of required topics for group discussions is set out in Appendix 1.

12. Participants in the 2015 STAP shall be required to attend a minimum of FIVE discussion group meetings of which at least THREE meetings must be held on members’ farms and up to TWO qualifying national events on different themes chosen from a list published on the DAFM website. If a combined meeting is held with another group during the year, then only one national qualifying event may be included. It shall be permissible to hold ONE pre-notified meeting on a suitable farm belonging to a farmer who is not a member of the group.

Participants can be credited with attendance at no more than ONE discussion group meeting held between the closing date of the 2014 Programme and the 16th of January 2015 inclusive.

Facilitators will be required to ensure that all members of the discussion groups participate fully in the programme. In this regard, facilitators will be required to record attendance of the participants at meetings. Participants are required to sign an attendance sheet at each meeting/event for collation by the facilitator and subsequent submission to DAFM as proof of attendance at the required number of meetings.

Group meetings shall be held at regular intervals throughout the year. Facilitators, in consultation with the group, must set out a draft schedule of meetings for the year at the first group meeting of the Programme year.
Facilitators shall apply, using Form STAP4, at least TEN working days in advance of the proposed date of each group meeting and only meetings pre-notified in this way shall count as satisfying the requirements of the Programme. DAFM may refuse to approve meeting arrangements where it is considered appropriate to do so for logistical, operational or other reasons. Teagasc facilitators shall post their meeting notifications on the Teagasc website.

If there is a change in the date of a proposed meeting, there must be a new application made in respect of the revised date, at least 10 workings days beforehand. If there is a change in the time of a meeting (but not the date), notice must be received at least 5 working days before the date of the meeting.

All meetings shall be of at least NINETY minutes duration and consist of an on-farm walk during daylight hours if held between April and September inclusive.

There must be a minimum of 20 days between each discussion group meeting. This requirement may be waived in exceptional circumstances, with prior approval from DAFM. Participants attending a qualifying national event will not qualify for attending another discussion group meeting on the same date. No discussion group meetings or qualifying events shall take place between 18 September 2015 and the Programme closing date of 2 October 2015.

Where appropriate outside expertise is being availed of, facilitators may seek DAFM approval to hold a combined meeting of their discussion groups, subject to the following criteria:

- No more than two groups can be combined together for a “combined group meeting”
- Where a group has been combined once, it cannot be involved in another “combined group meeting” in the same Programme year.

Once approval is granted, the normal STAP2A forms can be used to record attendance at a joint meeting.

In order to allow the Department to monitor the programme effectively, no meetings can have a starting time later than 8 pm. No meetings may be held on Sundays or Public Holidays. No meetings may be held outside the state and no facilitator can host more than 2 meetings for STAP groups in the one day.

Private facilitators shall apply directly to DAFM by e-mailing a completed Form STAP2C to SheepPolicy@agriculture.gov.ie for approval at least 10 working days in advance of a proposed Combined Group Meeting.

Teagasc facilitators shall seek internal approval at least 10 days in advance of the proposed date of a “Combined Group Meeting”. Teagasc shall inform the
Department of all such approvals at least 10 working days in advance of the proposed Combined Group Meeting, via e-mail to STAP@agriculture.gov.ie

13. All participating farmers may be required to host a discussion group meeting on their farm. Facilitators must be in a position to certify compliance with the full requirements of the scheme, including attendance at the required number meetings / events no later than 2 October 2015.

In order to optimise the benefits to applicants, a base line survey and farm plan must be updated (as set out in Appendix II) electronically by 29 May 2015 by accessing the Sheep Ireland website (www.sheep.ie)

14. In addition to the regular meetings on participants’ farms, discussion group activities normally include other elements such as attendance at Teagasc open days and visits to BETTERfarms.

A list of qualifying events will be provided on the DAFM website. Applications for approved events shall be submitted to SheepPolicy@agriculture.gov.ie at least 20 days before the proposed event. Details of all approved events will be posted on the live website document.

Facilitators must ensure that accurate and legible attendance records are maintained in respect of attendance at such events and payments to participants will be contingent on the maintenance of these records.

E. GENERAL PROVISIONS

15. Payments under the STAP shall comply with EU State aid rules applicable to enterprises engaged in agricultural production under Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1408/2013 (de minimis regulation). In accordance with that Regulation, the total amount of de minimis aid granted to a single undertaking shall not exceed €15,000 over any period of 3 fiscal years.

Schemes affected by this ‘de minimis’ rule for State aid include (but not exclusively):

Sheep Technology Adoption Programme;
Beef Genomics Scheme;
Bovine Viral Diarrhoea Scheme; &
Any other de minimis aid scheme paid in 2015.

Participants should note that successful participation in the 2015 STAP shall not confer an automatic entitlement to a Programme payment and that crosschecks
will be made by DAFM to ensure that payments made to individual participants in the respect of the years 2013, 2014 and 2015 do not exceed the *de minimis* ceiling.

16. Facilitators will charge a fee to each discussion group member for their services, which must be paid by each participant upon commencement of their involvement in the Programme. Eligible facilitators operating one or more discussion groups may participate in the STAP in a private capacity but they shall not receive an annual DAFM payment in relation to such participation in 2015.

17. Facilitators will be required to ensure that all members of discussion groups participate fully in the Programme. In this regard, facilitators will be required to record the attendance of participants at meetings (and at other approved events mentioned in paragraph 12) using form **STAP2A**.

Finally, they will be required to certify each discussion group member’s compliance with the terms and conditions of the Programme at the end of the scheme year. Records of attendance and of project completion must be maintained in accordance with DAFM requirements.

18. An annual payment will be made on the basis of attending the required group meetings / national events per year) **and** completing 2 tasks from the menu of tasks provided below.

**F. MENU OF TASKS**

**Task 1**
Increase the genetic merit of the flock by using a ram of superior genetic merit. Participants must use a performance recorded €uro Star ram bred by a Lamb Plus breeder as certified by Sheep Ireland. Participants will be required to produce evidence to Sheep Ireland of purchase in 2015 of a pedigree ram that has been performance recorded by Sheep Ireland. The ram must be 3, 4 or 5 Star on either the Terminal or Maternal index. The ram must be used to mate ewes in 2015. A ram that was used to qualify a farmer for Task 1 in 2013 or 2014 may not be used to qualify another farmer in 2015 for this Task.

This task will be worth 2 tasks for STAP 2015. Farmers that choose this Task 1 and successfully verify compliance with the terms and conditions of this task with Sheep Ireland, will not be required to complete any additional tasks for 2015.

Further details on the requirements for this task are available on [www.sheep.ie](http://www.sheep.ie). This task will be verified by Sheep Ireland.

**Task 2**
The objective of this task is to increase the level of pedigree and commercial data being recorded in the Sheep Ireland Database. Further details on the requirements for
Participants must choose one of the 2 following options contained in this task:

**Option A: Weight recording (2A)**
The objective of this measure is to help flock owner’s measure flock performance. They must provide on farm lamb weights to Sheep Ireland, subject to a maximum number of 100 lambs. The requirements for this will be set out by Sheep Ireland.

**Option B: Maternal flock recording (2B)**
The objective of this measure is to help sheep farmers identify better replacement females. Participants choosing this option will be encouraged to establish a ‘Nucleus recording flock’. This flock would be the source of future replacements and would consist of the best ewes from within the flock. The requirements for this will be set out by Sheep Ireland.

**Important**: Any farmer who chose Task 2 – Option C: (Identifying full parentage of lambs through detailed mating records) in year 2 (2014) of STAP, will be required to choose Option B (Maternal Flock Recording) for the 2015 STAP year.

**Task 3 (See Appendix III)**
Carry out a faecal egg count reduction test to establish the level of parasite resistance to the commonly used anthelmintics (i.e. White drench; Benzimidazole (1-Bz), Yellow drench; Levamisole (2-LV) and clear drench / injection Macrocyclic Lactone (3-ML) includes Ivermectin). This must be carried out between 30th May 2015 and 19 September 2015.

A list of approved laboratories will be available on the DAFM website under *Farming Sectors / Sheep and goats / Sheep Technology Adoption Programme*.

**Task 4**
Complete a flock health plan with a veterinary surgeon. A sample template which may be utilised, if suitable, for this purpose in consultation with your veterinary surgeon is attached at *Appendix IV*.

**Task 5 (Qualifying task in 1 year only)**
For farms stocked at less than 170kgs/Ha (of organic nitrogen), complete whole farm soil analysis for entire farm. Soil samples must be taken in accordance with the procedure outlined in Schedule 1 of SI No. 610 of 2010. **Applicants who are required to apply for Nitrates derogation or who are participants in AEOS 2 (2011) and AEOS 3 (2013) are ineligible for this task.** Soil samples must be taken after the commencement of the Programme. In 2015, soil samples must be taken before 2 October 2015.
Task 6
Reseed a minimum of 10% of the net owned and leased grassland area (excluding commonage, habitats and rough grazing), subject to a maximum of 4 ha, of the farm. Receipts for all purchases must be retained by the participant and presented to the facilitator for verification purposes.

Task 7 (Qualifying task in one year only)
Put a rotation grazing system in place on the farm with a minimum of 4 grazing divisions per grazing group and each division must have its own water supply. Grazing divisions may be through permanent fencing or through temporary electric fencing which may be rotated around the farm and must be in place by 1 May 2015. **Existing or previous participants in the Sheep Handling/Fencing TAMS Scheme are ineligible for this task.**

Task 8
Complete a Teagasc Profit Monitor (or equivalent programme approved by DAFM) for the previous production year on the participants’ own farm, as verified by the facilitator.

Task 9
This task is for Hill sheep farmers only. Creep feed concentrates to Hill lambs for at least 4 weeks prior to sale.

Task 10
This task is available for year 3 and may be undertaken from 4 October 2014 onwards. Ultrasound scan all breeding ewes 80 – 95 days post ram turnout. Record litter size using a suitable marker spray on each ewe’s fleece. As proof of task completion, farmers selecting this task shall retain a signed receipt issued by the person providing the scanning service which must include details of the scanning date(s), the number of animals scanned on each date, the total payment for the service and the contact details of scanner.
### APPENDIX I

#### Required Profile of Topics for Discussion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period 1</th>
<th>Period 2</th>
<th>Period 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. How much are you making per hour?</td>
<td>1. Preparing for lambing</td>
<td>1. Turnout to grass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. What is your net profit per ha.?</td>
<td>2. Starting grass measuring</td>
<td>2. Managing swards in difficult weather</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Late pregnancy nutrition</td>
<td>3. Health care issues – lambing &amp; disease control.</td>
<td>3. Early lamb performance – nutrition &amp; healthcare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Farm safety issues.</td>
<td>5. Reviewing profit monitor results</td>
<td>5 Grazing management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Sheep Ireland recording systems</td>
<td></td>
<td>6. Reseeding</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7. Producing lambs to market requirements</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period 4</th>
<th>Period 5</th>
<th>Period 6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Grassland management</td>
<td>1. Flock health issues – parasites, lameness etc.</td>
<td>1. Parasite control in lambs &amp; ewes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Health issues – parasite control, lameness, grass tetany prevention etc</td>
<td>2. Weed control in grass swards.</td>
<td>2. Blowfly prevention – scab, ticks, schmallenberg etc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Does reseeding pay?</td>
<td>4. Role of catch crops – tyfon, chicory, rape, Swedes, St Turnips.</td>
<td>4. Nitrogen spreading plan for the remainder of the year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Preparing for silage – closing up – nitrogen etc</td>
<td>5. Silage/surplus grass – yield, quality, ensilability etc.</td>
<td>5. Prepare for weaning – plan for lambs &amp; ewes</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>7. Early flocks – preparing for mating</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8. Mid season flocks – dry ewe management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>9. Faecal Egg Count Reduction Test</td>
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<tr>
<td>Period 7</td>
<td>Period 8</td>
<td>Period 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>---------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Building up grass covers between now and September</td>
<td>1. Grassland management</td>
<td>1. Mating Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Creep feeding lambs</td>
<td>2. Ewe NCT</td>
<td>2. Raddling the ram</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Lamb drafting</td>
<td></td>
<td>5. Remaining lambs – finish or sell as stores?</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Mineral supplementation – Co, I, Se etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Health care – parasite control, lameness, abortion vaccinations</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Flock Replacements – purchase / selecting</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. Ram NCT</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. Sourcing rams – Sheep Ireland Eurostar evaluations</td>
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<tr>
<td>11. Quarantine procedures</td>
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<tr>
<td>12. Early Flock – Mating management</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>13 Reseeding</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period 10</th>
<th>Period 11</th>
<th>Period 12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Ewe management during mating</td>
<td>1 Management of ewes post mating.</td>
<td>1. Mid pregnancy nutrition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. How long do we leave the ram with the ewe flock</td>
<td>2. Managing rams post mating</td>
<td>2. Labour saving tips on farms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Flock Health – Fluke etc</td>
<td>5. Sheepdog training</td>
<td>5. Lambplus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Planning for spring grass</td>
<td>6. Review flock health plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Taking Soil Samples</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX II

TABLE 1: Three-Year Plan to be completed by STAP participants:

3 Year – Farm Plan Template

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Baseline 2012</th>
<th>Target 2013</th>
<th>Target 2014</th>
<th>Target 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PHYSICAL SYSTEM</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Land base (adj. ha)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stocking rate (ewes/ha)</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Target improvement 5% pa, subject to stocking restrictions on commonages)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BREEDING PERFORMANCE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lambs weaned per ewe joined</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Target improvement 5% pa)</td>
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<tr>
<td>% ewes lambed in first 17 days</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GRASSLAND</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Number of grazing divisions</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- % of farm closed 1 month after ram turnout (Target 35%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>% of farm reseeded in last 10 years (Target 5% reseeding pa)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FINANCIAL FOCUS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Output value (€/ha) &amp; (€/ewe)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>(Target improvement 10% pa)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Variable costs (€/ha &amp; €/ewe)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gross margin (€/ha) &amp; €/ewe</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
# Farm Plan – Actions Required to achieve targets set out

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Areas</th>
<th>Target/ Action Needed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grassland Management:</strong> (paddocks, turnout dates, housing dates, silage conserved, etc.)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Breeding Performance:</strong> (Stock quality, replacement strategy, litter size, lambing spread, etc.)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Financial Performance:</strong> (Variable &amp; fixed costs, cashflow)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Producing Animals to market requirements</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Other</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Physical Performance:</strong> (Stocking Rate, kg lw/ha etc.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health Issues:</strong> (need for health plan, screening etc.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX III

TASK 3:

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FAECAL SAMPLING LAMBS

NOTE: All faecal samples collected must be fresh. Care should be taken not to include samples from adult sheep.

The objective is to establish the effectiveness of commonly used anthelmintic treatments.

This task must be carried out between 30th May 2015 and 19th September 2015. This task is for Lambs only, not ewes. The same group of lambs must be tested in Stage 1 & 2.

You must allow at least six weeks to pass from any previous anthelmintic (wormer) treatment before you start this task. All faecal samples collected must be fresh.

Stage 1 – Collection of pre-anthelmintic faecal samples and treatment with anthelmintic

Collection of pre-anthelmintic faecal samples:

1. Farmer must contact approved laboratory to request empty sample containers, and also arrange a payment procedure.

2. The list of approved laboratories and veterinary practices can be found on the STAP webpage: http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmingsectors/sheepandgoats/sheeptechnologyadoptionprogramme2013/

3. Lambs must be treated with anthelmintic on the same day as the Stage 1 faecal samples are collected.

4. Place 15-20 lambs in a clean pen. Leave them undisturbed for a couple of hours (to pass faeces). Identify the lambs by marking them allowing the same lambs to be identified 1 to 2 weeks later.

5. Remove the lambs from pen for dosing
6. Using gloves collect fresh faecal samples from *at least* 10 different fresh faecal deposits and place them in 10 separate containers. (You must collect more than a ‘teaspoonful’ of faeces, but do not overfill the containers.

7. Treat the lambs with an anthelmintic from one of the classes described below.

**Treatment with anthelmintic Today:**

- Choose an anthelmintic only from the classes listed in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class of anthelmintic</th>
<th>Other name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>Benzimidazole (1-Bz)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow</td>
<td>Levamisole (2-LV)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clear</td>
<td>Macrocyclic Lactone (3-ML) (includes Ivermectin)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Do not** use a dual active wormer with ingredients from more than one of these groups (e.g. Arrest, Combizole)

- **Do not** use a new generation wormer (e.g. Zolvix or Startect)

- Dose in accordance with manufacturer’s recommendations.

- Check calibration of dosing gun/ syringe prior to dosing lambs

- Check expiry date of drug

- Shake bottle/container with anthelmintic well prior to use

- Weigh the three heaviest lambs in the grazing group being tested

- Dose all lambs at rates according to the weight of the *heaviest lamb* in the group.

- Record the name of the product you used and which anthelmintic class it belongs to.
8. Place all filled containers of faeces in the plastic zip lock bag provided.

9. Complete form STAP 3A form (Stage 1 sections and sections common to both Stage 1 and 2) and put in envelope, along with zip lock bag of samples. Remember to include the name of the anthelmintic used on the form. **Incomplete forms may be returned and may affect your payment.**

10. Post samples on the day of sampling, or the following day at the latest. If samples are collected at the weekend store them in a cool place preferably in a fridge (DO NOT FREEZE or PLACE IN DIRECT SUNLIGHT) and post on Monday.

### Stage 2 – Re-sample lambs post anthelmintic treatment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Anthelmintic groups</th>
<th>Timing of 2nd sampling</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White Benzimidazole (1-Bz)</td>
<td>14 days post treatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow Levamisole (2-LV)</td>
<td>7 days post treatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clear Macrocyclic Lactone (3-ML) (includes Ivermectin)</td>
<td>14 days post treatment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. 7 or 14 days post stage 1, depending on the anthelmintic product used (see table above), gather the lambs again for faecal sampling.

2. Place the **same group** of lambs as used for Stage 1 samples in a **clean** pen. Leave them undisturbed for a couple of hours (to pass faeces). Remove lambs from pen.

3. Using gloves collect fresh faecal samples from **at least** 10 different fresh faecal deposits and place them in 10 separate containers. (You must collect more than a ‘teaspoonful’ of faeces, but do not overfill the containers.

4. Place all filled containers in the plastic zip lock bag provided.
5. Complete form STAP 3A form (STAGE 2 sections and sections common to Stages 1 and 2) and put in envelope, along with zip lock bag of samples. Incomplete forms may be returned and may affect your payment.

6. Post samples on the day of sampling, or the following day at the latest. If samples are collected at the weekend store them in a cool place preferably in a fridge (DO NOT FREEZE or PLACE IN DIRECT SUNLIGHT) and post on Monday.

Results:

These results will be reported to you and to DAFM after all procedures are complete (i.e. both Stage 1&2 completed).

Interpretation of results:

The STAP page http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmingsectors/sheepandgoats/sheeptechnologyadoptionprogramme2013/ has a guide to interpreting the results of this Task and your vet and Teagasc adviser will be able to guide you in any management changes arising from the results that are appropriate.
Form STAP 3A

Farmer Name__________________________________________

Address of Farm________________________________________

County of Farm _________________________________________

Flock Number (e.g. A123456) ________________

STAP Discussion Group Name__________________________________

Facilitator_________________________________________________

Facilitator’s Email and Contact No. _____________________________

Estimated Average Lamb weight in test group (kg) ________________

**STAGE 1:** Complete for STAGE 1 samples

Is it at least 6 weeks since you previously treated these lambs with an anthelmintic? Yes ☐ No ☐

(please circle answer)
Date samples collected (must be same date as drench date) __________________________

Name of Anthelmintic (wormer) used: ____________________________ (e.g. Albex, Noromectin)

**STAGE 2:** Complete for STAGE 2 samples

Date samples collected __________________________

**Important Points**

- **Do not** Take samples from lambs that you feel do not need to be treated for stomach worms
- **Do not** take samples from lambs that were treated for stomach worms in the last 6 weeks
- **Do not** take samples from lambs under the age of 10 weeks
- **Do not** take faecal samples from ewes or adult sheep
- **Do not** use a fluke wormer for this task
- **Do not** use a dual active wormer (e.g. Arrest, Combizole)
- **Do not** use a new generation wormer (e.g. Zolvix or Startect)
Remember to:

- Take samples Monday – Wednesday to avoid sample delivery being delayed in the post over weekends.
- Clearly identify the lambs from which samples have been submitted so that these can be sampled again for the post treatment test.
- Complete all details on the STAP 3A Form including your herd number, the wormer used and the date the sample was taken.
- Post the samples on the day they were taken (or the following day).
- Complete DAFM Form 3A fully and include with all faecal samples submitted.
Flock Health Plan*

For

Mr A B Farmer

Field Road

Athenry

*A flock health plan focuses on prevention of problems. It puts the emphasis on dealing with the cause of a problem in addition to treating the problem itself. To be effective it should not be a one-off document. It should be reviewed as required by the farmer and a veterinary surgeon.

Completed on (date):  

Farmer Name:  

Farmer Signature:  

Herd Number:  

Veterinary Surgeon Signature:  

Practice Stamp:
Sheep Flock Health Plan

Farm Details

Name: ___________________________________

Address ___________________________________

_________________________________

_________________________________

Phone: ________________________________

Farm size _______ha (adjusted) Stocking Rate: _______ ewes/ha

Enterprise type ____________________ (e.g. early lamb, Hill Sheep etc.)

Other Enterprises ____________________ (e.g. Dairy, Beef, Tillage etc.)

Physical Details

No. of Sheep

Mature Ewes mated ___________ Breeds _______________________

Ewe lambs mated ___________ Breeds _______________________

Ewe lambs kept dry ___________ Breeds _______________________

Breeding rams ___________ Breeds _______________________

Other Sheep ___________ Breeds _______________________

Breeding Policy

Closed flock yes no

Replacements bred on farm yes no

Quarantine protocol for bought in stock yes no

Selecting for easier care traits yes no
Mortality

Estimated ewe mortality in past 12 months ______%  

Causes:

Parasites (Fluke etc) ______  
Mastitis ______  
Prolapse ______  
Clostridia ______  
Misadventure ______  
Other ______ Specify ________________________

Scanning results (previous year) ________ (A)  
No. of lambs weaned ________ (B)  
Estimated lamb Mortality (A-B) ________  

Causes:

Abortion ______  
Weak lamb’s ______  
Stillborn ______  
Joint ill ______  
Watery Mouth ______  
Hypothermia / Exposure ______  
Clostridia ______  
Misadventure ______  
Other ______ Specify ________________________
Routine Health Programme

Vaccinations

- Clostridia Vaccine: yes, no
- Pasteurella Vaccine: yes, no
- Abortion Vaccine: yes, no, specify_____________________
- Orf Vaccine: yes, no
- Footrot Vaccine: yes, no

Are vaccination programmes carried out according to manufacturers recommendations (i.e. primary two shot course followed by annual booster) ______________________

Footcare

- Incidence of lame sheep; 31\(^{st}\) March ____\%  
  30\(^{th}\) June ____\%  
  30\(^{th}\) Sept ____\%  
  Housing/31\(^{st}\) Dec ____\%

- Footbath present on farm: yes, no
- Type of footbath: batch ____, race ____
- Product used in footbath: ______________________
- Treatment frequency: ______ewes ______lambs

Are all ewes routinely pared: yes, no

Parasites (external)

- Are sheep dipped annually: yes, no
- Injected with ML annually: yes, no
- Treated with pour on: yes, no, specify type ___________

Parasites (internal) liver fluke

- Has liver fluke been identified in sheep: yes, no
- How often are animals treated for liver fluke: ewes____, lambs_______
What products are used specify ________________________________________

Parasites (internal) stomach worms

Are mature ewes routinely treated for stomach worms yes no
If yes specify frequency (e.g. yearly, twice yearly etc.)_____________________

Have drench resistant parasites been identified on holding yes no
If yes to which anthelmintic class ________________________________

When lambs are drenched (e.g. calendar, dirty tails, faecal egg counts etc.)___________

Veterinary identified Risks on this farm
1. _______________________________
2. _______________________________
3. _______________________________
4. _______________________________
5. _______________________________
6. _______________________________
7. _______________________________
8. _______________________________
9. _______________________________
10. _______________________________

Priorities identified for attention over next 12 months in this flock: (e.g. improve fertility / reduce lamb mortality / reduce pneumonia problems etc.) (Different priorities may be tackled each year.)

1. _______________________________
2. _______________________________
3. _______________________________

Sample Action Plan (Note: this is only an example; the actual actions to be carried out will vary considerably from farm to farm and should be tailored to each farm following discussions between a farmer and his/her vet)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Action Needed</th>
<th>Date Performed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>1. Pregnancy scan ewes&lt;br&gt;2. Footbath and treat lame sheep&lt;br&gt;3. Increase energy intake&lt;br&gt;4. Treat for Liver Fluke (if required)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>1. Administer Clostridial Vaccination to ewes&lt;br&gt;2. Footbath&lt;br&gt;3. Prepare lambing pens&lt;br&gt;4. Order lambing supplies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>1. Lambing – supervise to ensure adequate colostrum intake&lt;br&gt;2. Take steps to prevent navel/joint ill &amp; watery mouth&lt;br&gt;3. Consider if freshly lambed ewes need access to high Mg post turnout&lt;br&gt;4. Tail dock (&amp; castrate- optional) lambs with rubber rings in first week of life</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>1. Monitor lambs for signs of Orf, Coccidia &amp; nematodirus&lt;br&gt;2. Footbath ewes and lambs&lt;br&gt;3. Identify and weight a number of lambs to monitor performance&lt;br&gt;4. Consider fluke drench for ewes if in high risk area&lt;br&gt;5. Continue with High Mg supplementation at grass if required</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>1. Monitor lambs for signs of Nematodirus&lt;br&gt;2. Footbath ewes and lambs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>1. Take faecal samples from lambs and dose if required&lt;br&gt;2. Consider mineral supplementation (Co) if required&lt;br&gt;3. Footbath ewes &amp; lambs&lt;br&gt;4. Flystirke prevention required&lt;br&gt;5. Clostridial vaccination for replacements ewe lambs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>1. Check ewe flock for mastitis, persistent lameness &amp; cull&lt;br&gt;2. Take faecal samples from lambs &amp; dose if required&lt;br&gt;3. Vaccinate replacements against abortion - if required&lt;br&gt;4. Footbath all sheep&lt;br&gt;5. Give rams general check up&lt;br&gt;6. Quarantine any bought in sheep</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>1. Take faecal samples from lambs &amp; dose if required&lt;br&gt;2. Footbath all sheep&lt;br&gt;3. Give second clostridial vaccination for replacements ewe lambs&lt;br&gt;4. Consider mineral supplementation (Co) to ewes if required&lt;br&gt;5. Treat individual thin ewes for internal parasites&lt;br&gt;6. Give rams Selenium injection to improve fertility – if required</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>1. Take faecal samples from lambs &amp; dose if required&lt;br&gt;2. Footbath all sheep&lt;br&gt;3. Check ewes before mating – cull sheep with problems / thin ewes&lt;br&gt;4. Check rams before mating – footbath every 2 weeks prior to mating - treat for internal parasites if required</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>December</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Check if treatment for liver fluke is required pre tupping</td>
<td>1. Remove rams &amp; treat for internal parasites – if required</td>
<td>1. House or supplement ewes when they run out of grass and start losing body condition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Treatment for biting lice / scab required if sheep not dipped in summer</td>
<td>2. Footbath all sheep</td>
<td>2. Eliminate lameness prior to housing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Take faecal samples from lambs &amp; dose if required</td>
<td>3. Take faecal samples from lambs &amp; dose if required</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Raddle rams prior to turnout with ewes</td>
<td>4. Check if treatment for liver fluke is required</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Consider feeding concentrates to tail end lambs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Avoid disturbing flock during mating</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>