

Sheep Breeding Programme
Provision of Consultancy Services and Technical Expertise to the Irish Sheep Industry
Summary Information

Background

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (DAFF) recently transferred its sheep breeding programme to an Industry company called 'Sheep Ireland'. The need to establish a new breeding programme initially arose out of an industry study of the Irish sheep sector, which highlighted the poor state of the sector, a decline in the national flock, poor economic returns and a decrease in participation in the existing Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food breeding programme. The study recommended the establishment of a totally new programme.

Aims and objectives of the Programme

The focus of the programme is to

- increase the profitability and sustainability of the national sheep flock, by improving productivity and reducing the costs to the sector, with a clear focus on the requirements of the market place.
- Progress significant infrastructural changes and enhancements to the national breeding system to ensure a viable and sustainable sheep breeding structure into the future.

Beneficiaries of Programme

No aid will be paid to producers. Producers will benefit through subsidised services which are accessible to all, irrespective of affiliation to producer organisations or other structures.

Eligible Projects

Support will be provided towards the costs of hiring consultants and technical expertise in;

- identification of the infrastructure and resources required for the breeding programme
- enhancing data recording, collection, verification, storage, analysis and dissemination systems
- designing appropriate breeding and demonstration schemes
- project work to improve on-farm profitability.

- designing systems for provision of ancestry details to flockowners and pedigree breed societies
- Support is not available for funding towards the cost of consultants hired for a continuous or periodic activity or an activity relating to the undertaking's usual operating costs.

Level of Aid

Aid at a maximum level of up to 100% of eligible costs is available to consultants and technical experts, in accordance with Article 15 (2) (c) of Commission Regulation (EC) 1857/06- provision of technical support in the agriculture sector- for activities carried out on behalf of 'Sheep Ireland'. All work must be pre-approved.

How to apply

Producers seeking more information on how to avail of these services and consultants or technical experts wishing to obtain more information in relation to the provision of technical expertise should contact Livestock Breeding, Production & Trade Section, Department of Agriculture, Food & The Marine, Government Buildings, Farnham Street, Cavan, Ireland or at e mail address statebodiescavan.gov.ie

The terms and conditions of the proposed scheme are available at

http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/ndp_state_aid

Further information is available on www.sheep.ie

Please note that this programme is currently subject to approval by the European Commission