The Knowledge Transfer Sheep Programme shall be administered by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) and is delivered by a network of approved Knowledge Transfer Facilitators.

Sheep is one of 6 Sectors in the Programme along with Beef, Dairy Equine, Poultry and Tillage.

Participants can join groups in 2 different sectors. The first sector submitted on the KT online system automatically becomes the Primary Sector. Participants can nominate an individual to represent them at meetings/events.

Programme Objectives are to:
- Encourage efficiency and effectiveness of work
- Help farmers to deal with complex issues
- Build capacity of individuals in a group environment
- Ensure farmers engage in a process of continuous improvement
- Encourage innovation and new ideas
- Enhance the delivery of other related measures proposed under the RDP

Framework:
KT Groups have between 12 and 18 members, lead by an approved facilitator.
Based on successful attendance at 5 Group Discussion meetings and creating a Farm Improvement Plan (FIP).
Facilitators will be at all meetings, including a meeting on Farm Health & Safety and with a Private Veterinary Practitioner.
Meetings must be at least 2 hours duration.

Main topics:
The focus of the programme will be on the General Principles of Sheep Farm Management. The topics covered will include:
- Animal Health & Management
- Profitability & Financial Management
- Grassland Management Plan
- Farm Health & Safety
- Farm Progression
- Carbon Navigator
- Breeding Plan

3 Year Programme:
- Year 1: 1st June 2016 and 31st May 2017
- Year 2: 1st June 2017 and 31st May 2018
- Year 3: 1st June 2018 and 31st May 2019

Participant Eligibility:
- 18 years or older
- Active Herd Number with Herd Owner Status
- Valid BPS for each year of the programme
- KT participants must have a minimum flock size of 30 breeding ewes over 12 months of age, (based on 2015 Sheep and Goat Census).
- KT Participants without breeding stock must have a minimum of 100 Sheep (based on the 2015 Sheep and Goat Census).

Farm Improvement Plan (FIP) requirements:
- E-Prof Monitor
- Animal Health Measures
- Grassland Management Plan
- Carbon Navigator
- Farm Health and Safety

National Events:
Approved National events will be advertised on DAFM website. One National Event may be considered in lieu of one group meeting.

Rates of Payment:
€750 per participant for Primary Sector
€375 per participant for Secondary Sector

Under Regulation 1305/2013 the facilitator is the beneficiary and is responsible for reimbursing successful participants for each successful year of the programme. Penalties may apply.

How to apply:
Applications to join the Programme for the full three year contract will be accepted from 19th May 2016 up until 30th June 2016 – TO APPLY PLEASE CONTACT A KT FACILITATOR.

A list of approved Knowledge Transfer Facilitators is available at www.agriculture.gov.ie

Queries:
Queries may be sent to the Innovation Unit at KTInformation@agriculture.gov.ie.

Responsibility:
It shall be the responsibility of the participant/nominee to familiarise his/herself with the Knowledge Transfer Sheep Programme’s Terms and Conditions and any amendments thereto and with the consequence for breaches of the Knowledge Transfer Sheep Programme Terms & Conditions.

This flyer only gives a brief overview of the Programme.
Please refer to the full Terms & Conditions at www.agriculture.gov.ie
KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER SHEEP PROGRAMME

Actions of the Farm Improvement to be completed in Year 1

An E-Profit Monitor must be completed in year 1 of the Programme. It is completed on the Teagasc Website and the content of the plan is based on the previous production year.

The Grassland Management Plan has 3 elements: Soil Fertility, Reseeding policy and Grass utilisation. This must be submitted on the DAFM KT System.

The Animal Health & Management Measure must be completed in year 1 of the Programme. The targeted areas are
- Flock Health & Production
- Parasite Control
- Lameness
- Bio security

This must be completed on the DAFM Animal Health Computer System (AHCS) with a DAFM approved Knowledge Transfer Private Veterinary Practitioner.

The Carbon Navigator must be completed in year 1, on Bord Bia website. The participant and a Knowledge Transfer Facilitator must complete this together.

The Farm Health and Safety element of the FIP must be completed in year 1 of the programme on a Farm Work Efficiency Worksheet. The participant and Knowledge Transfer Facilitator must complete this together.

Breeding Plan must be completed in year 1 of the programme. It must be completed on the Sheep Ireland website by the facilitator and the participant.

Actions of the Farm Improvement to be completed in Year 2

The E-Profit Monitor must be updated in year 2 of the Programme it must be completed on the Teagasc website and the content of the plan is based on the previous production year.

The Grassland Management Plan has 3 elements: Soil Fertility, Reseeding policy and Grass utilisation. This must be submitted on the DAFM KT System.

The Animal Health & Management Measure must be updated in year 2 of the Programme. The targeted areas are
- Flock Health & Production
- Parasite Control
- Lameness
- Bio security

This must be completed on the DAFM Animal Health Computer System (AHCS) with a DAFM approved Private Knowledge Transfer Veterinary Practitioner.

The Carbon Navigator must be updated in year 2 on Bord Bia website. The participant and a Knowledge Transfer Facilitator must complete this together.

The Farm Health and Safety element of the FIP must be updated in year 2 of the programme on a Farm Work Efficiency Worksheet. The participant and Knowledge Transfer Facilitator must complete this together.

Breeding Plan must be updated in year 2 of the programme. It must be completed on the Sheep Ireland website by the facilitator and the participant.

Actions of the Farm Improvement to be completed in Year 3

The E-Profit Monitor must be updated in year 3 of the Programme. It must be completed on the Teagasc website and the content of the plan is based on the previous production year.

The Grassland Management Plan has 3 elements: Soil Fertility, Reseeding policy and Grass utilisation. This must be submitted on the DAFM KT System.

The Animal Health & Management Measure must be updated in year 3 of the Programme. The targeted areas are
- Flock Health & Production
- Parasite Control
- Lameness
- Bio security

This must be completed on the DAFM Animal Health Computer System (AHCS) with a DAFM approved Private Knowledge Transfer Veterinary Practitioner.

The Carbon Navigator must be updated in year 3 on Bord Bia website. The participant and a Knowledge Transfer Facilitator must complete this together.

The Farm Health and Safety element of the FIP must be updated in year 3 of the programme on a Farm Work Efficiency Worksheet. The participant and Knowledge Transfer Facilitator must complete this together.

Breeding Plan must be updated in year 3 of the programme. It must be completed on the Sheep Ireland website by the facilitator and the participant.

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