



SHEEP TECHNOLOGY ADOPTION PROGRAMME 2013

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND THE MARINE

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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 has been 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. Participation in the Programme should provide farmers with the additional knowledge and skills necessary to improve the performance of the sheep sector.

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 Schemes. The Department may expand upon, explain, interpret or define the meaning of any aspect of the Terms or Conditions of the Schemes.

It is expected that the Programme will last for 3 years, subject to funding being available.

A. ADMINISTRATION OF PROGRAMME

1. The Programme is administered and managed by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) and has been drawn up with the assistance of Teagasc. Group facilitators approved by DAFM, who can either be Teagasc or private professionals, must be trained by Teagasc to a FETAC-accredited standard in order to operate a group.
2. The Programme will be open to existing members of sheep discussion groups and to those wishing to join or form groups for the first time. Applicants will be required to submit an application (**Form STAP1**) to their discussion group facilitator to participate in the Programme and to undertake to meet the requirements in relation to attendance and project completion – see section D below. Application forms for those farmers wishing to participate in the programme will be available on the Department's website (www.agriculture.gov.ie).
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 2013*. 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.

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 20 members and reserves the right to refuse such a group's entry to the Programme.
Groups will function most effectively if they are properly structured, with a chairman and a secretary in place and it is essential that the dynamic within groups allows for open and honest discussion of selected topics.
5. Fully completed application forms (**Form STAP1**) must be submitted to discussion group facilitators by **15 February 2013**.
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 **1 March 2013** 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 **30 April 2013 (STAP2B)**.

The facilitator will also be responsible for notifying DAFM by **4 October 2013**, using **Form STAP3**, that each group member has satisfied the terms and conditions of the Programme in order to ensure payment. DAFM will carry out control checks 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, however the maximum payment will be €1,000 per participant.

B. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

8. In order to be eligible to participate in the Programme:
 - (a) Farmers 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 Lamb Quality Assurance Scheme **by 28 March 2013** and achieve certification by **30 September 2013**.

OR

(b) For farmers 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 apply for membership of the Bord Bia Lamb Quality Assurance Scheme by **2 September 2013**, with a view to achieving certification before the commencement of year 2 of STAP.

OR

(c) if numbers allow, provision may be made for new entrants.

Farmers who are participants in the Beef Technology Adoption Programme are eligible to participate in the STAP- provided that they choose different tasks in each programme. Attendance at BTAP discussion group meetings will not count for the purposes of meeting the requirements of STAP. A task that is common to both BTAP & STAP will only count for payment in one programme in a given year.

Herd owners who are participants in the new Development Programme for Dairying or who received payments in respect of their participation in the Dairy Efficiency Programme 2010 – 2012 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 they must subsequently satisfy the facilitator as to their identity. The nominated person cannot be a member of a discussion group under BTAP or STAP and cannot act as a nominee for more than one participant in either BTAP or STAP.

C. SELECTION CRITERIA

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.

D. 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. **In 2013, participants will be required to attend at least 4 discussion group meetings or 3 meetings plus 1 national event** (List will be published on DAFM Website). It is recommended that each discussion group meet at least 6 times during the Programme year. Meetings held by groups since 31 January 2013 will qualify once an accurate attendance record has been maintained by the facilitator for these meetings.

There must be a minimum of 20 days between each discussion group meeting and participants attending a qualifying national event will not qualify for attending another discussion group meeting on the same date.

There must be a minimum of 2 days between BTAP & STAP discussion group meetings where participants are qualifying for both schemes

No discussion group meetings can take place from 20 September 2013 to the closing date on 4 October 2013. 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, to allow an adequate notice period. Dates of meetings must be sent to DAFM by the facilitator at least one week prior to the meeting taking place.

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 a standard attendance sheet at each meeting for collation by the facilitator and subsequent submission to DAFM as proof of attendance at the required number of meetings.

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 **4 October 2013**.

In order to optimise the benefits to applicants, a base line survey and farm plan must be completed (as set out in Appendix II) electronically.

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 BETTER/Monitor farms. Such activities may also be a scheduled feature for the groups participating in the Programme. A list of qualifying events will be provided on the DAFM website. In the event that further events are added to the list, details will be posted on the website. 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. **EU State Aid Rules:** STAP payments must comply with EU rules regarding the cumulative amount of state aid granted for primary agricultural production over any 3-year period.

Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1535/2007 provides that such aid is restricted to a maximum of €7,500 per claimant over any period of 3 fiscal years. The following Schemes are affected by this *de minimis* ceiling:

- Beef Technology Adoption Programme.
- BVD for producers; &
- Any other *de minimis* schemes paid in 2013.

Participants should note that successful participation in the 2013 STAP shall not confer an automatic entitlement to payment and that cross-checks will be made by DAFM to ensure that payments made to individual participants in respect of the years 2011, 2012 and 2013 do not exceed the *de minimis* limit of €7,500.

16. The network of facilitators delivering the Programme will consist of Teagasc advisory personnel and private service providers. A current list of accredited facilitators is published on the DAFM website as noted in paragraph 3 above. The Department reserves the right to add or remove facilitators from this list.
17. Facilitators may 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 may participate in the STAP in a private capacity but they shall not receive an annual DAFM payment in relation to such participation in 2013.
18. 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.

19. 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

This task is compulsory in either year 1 or year 2

Increase the genetic merit of the flock by using a ram of superior genetic merit. Participants must use a performance recorded EuroStar 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 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 or 2014 of a pedigree ram that has been performance recorded by Sheep Ireland. The ram must be 3, 4 or 5 Star on either Production, Maternal or Lambing sub index. The ram must be used to mate ewes in either year 1 or 2 of the programme. The minimum requirement is one EuroStar recorded ram satisfying the above criteria per participating flock. Hill farmers with a majority of ewes that consist of Blackface Mountain, Cheviot, or a cross of these breeds do not have to pick this task as a compulsory task.

Further details on the requirements for this task are available on 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 this task are available on www.sheep.ie. Completion of this task will be verified by Sheep Ireland.

Participants must choose one of the 3 following options;

Option A: Weight recording

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

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.

Option C: Identifying full parentage of lambs through detailed mating records

Participants would be required to identify the sires of lambs born in the flock. This will be done through recording rams used on a minimum of 20 ewes in the flock. Full requirements will be set out by Sheep Ireland.

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 Macrocylic Lactone (3-ML) (includes Ivermectin). This must be carried out between 1 June 2013 and 20 September 2013.

On farms where test results show a pre drench faecal egg count of under 600 eggs per gram, the faecal test must be repeated 3-4 weeks later.

On farms where test results show a pre drench faecal egg count of over 600 eggs per gram, the drench test instructions must be followed.

A list of approved laboratories will be available on the DAFM website.

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**. This flock health plan must be reviewed with the relevant veterinary surgeon annually for the duration of the programme.

Task 5 (Qualifying task in 1 year only)

For farms stocked at less than 170kgs/HA, 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) or who have selected Task 4 in BTAP are ineligible for this task.** Soil samples must be taken after the commencement of the Programme. In 2013, soil samples must be taken before 30 September.

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 2013. **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. **BTAP Participants who opt for Task 1 under BTAP in 2013 are ineligible for this Task.**

Task 9

This task is for Hill sheep farmers only. Creep feed concentrates to Hill lambs being sold as store for at least 4 weeks prior to sale.

Task 10 – For year 2

This task is available for year 2 (from 5 October 2013). Ultrasound scan all breeding ewes 80 – 95 days post ram turnout. Record litter size using a suitable marker spray on each ewes fleece.

APPENDIX I

Required Profile of Topics for Discussion

| Period 1 | Period 2 | Period 3 |
|--|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How much are you making per hour? 2. What is your net profit per ha.? 3. Late pregnancy nutrition 4. Healthcare – parasites & clostridia. 5. Farm safety issues. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preparing for lambing 2. Starting grass measuring 3. Health care issues – lambing & disease control. 4. Nitrogen – rates and dates, response to N 5. Reviewing profit monitor results 6. Sheep Ireland recording systems | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Turnout to grass 2. Managing swards in difficult weather 3. Early lamb performance – nutrition & healthcare 4. Nitrogen on silage ground 5. Grazing management 6. Reseeding 7. Producing lambs to market requirements |
| Period 4 | Period 5 | Period 6 |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Grassland management 2. Health issues – parasite control, lameness, grass tetany prevention etc 3. Marketing of early lamb & dry ewe management 4. Does reseeded pay? 5. Preparing for silage – closing up – nitrogen etc 6. Lamb performance 40 day weights | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Flock health issues – parasites, lameness etc. 2. Weed control in grass swards. 3. Oversowing white clover 4. Role of catch crops – tyfon, chicory, rape, Swedes, St Turnips. 5. Silage/surplus grass – yield, quality, ensilability etc. 6. Review of lambing – positives & negatives. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parasite control in lambs & ewes 2. Blowfly prevention – scab, ticks, schmallerberg etc 3. Silage harvest – steps to maximise quality 4. Nitrogen spreading plan for the remainder of the year 5. Prepare for weaning – plan for lambs & ewes 6. Lamb performance 100 day weights 7. Early flocks – preparing for mating 8. Mid season flocks – dry ewe management 9. Faecal Egg Count Reduction Test |

| Period 7 | Period 8 | Period 9 |
|--|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Building up grass covers between now and September 2. Creep feeding lambs 3. Weed control in grassland 4. Ewe management – Body condition scoring 5. Lamb drafting 6. Mineral supplementation – Co, I, Se etc. 7. Health care – parasite control, lameness, abortion vaccinations 8. Flock Replacements – purchase / selecting 9. Ram NCT 10. Sourcing rams – Sheep Ireland Eurostar evaluations 11. Quarantine procedures 12. Early Flock – Mating management 13 Reseeding | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Grassland management 2. Ewe NCT 3. Critical Look at handling facilities 4 Sowing forage crops | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mating Management 2. Raddling the ram 3. Tackling lameness 4. Fertiliser Nitrogen – what is the response in September 5. Remaining lambs – finish or sell as stores? |
| Period 10 | Period 11 | Period 12 |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ewe management during mating 2. How long do we leave the ram with the ewe flock 3. Mating ewe lambs – targets / options 4. Lamb thrive on grass 5. Flock Health – Fluke etc 6. Planning for spring grass 7. Taking Soil Samples | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Management of ewes post mating. 2. Managing rams post mating 3. Preparing for Housing 4. Interpreting the silage analysis results sheet 5. Sheepdog training 6. Review flock health plan | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mid pregnancy nutrition 2. Labour saving tips on farms 3. Winter Feed Budgeting 4. Review of the year – successes and failures of tried out new things 5. Lambplus |

APPENDIX II

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

3 Year – Farm Plan Template

Farmer Name: _____ Facilitator: _____

| Measure | Baseline 2012 | Target 2013 | Target 2014 | Target 2015 |
|--|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| PHYSICAL SYSTEM | | | | |
| Land base (adj. ha) | | | | |
| Stocking rate (ewes/ha) | | | | |
| (Target improvement 5% pa, subject to stocking restrictions on commonages) | | | | |
| BREEDING PERFORMANCE | | | | |
| Lambs weaned per ewe joined | | | | |
| (Target improvement 5% pa) | | | | |
| % ewes lambing in first 17 days | | | | |
| GRASSLAND | | | | |
| - Number of grazing divisions | | | | |
| - % of farm closed 1 month after ram turnout (Target 35%) | | | | |
| % of farm reseeded in last 10 years (Target 5% reseeding pa) | | | | |
| FINANCIAL FOCUS | | | | |
| Output value (€/ha) & (€/ewe) | | | | |
| (Target improvement 10% pa) | | | | |
| Variable costs (€/ha & €/ewe) | | | | |
| Gross margin (€/ha) & €/ewe | | | | |

| Farm Plan – Actions Required to achieve targets set out | |
|---|------------------------------|
| Key Areas | Target/ Action Needed |
| Grassland Management: (paddocks, turnout dates, housing dates, silage conserved, etc.) | |
| Breeding Performance: (Stock quality, replacement strategy, litter size, lambing spread, etc.) | |
| Financial Performance: (Variable & fixed costs, cashflow) | |
| Producing Animals to market requirements | |
| Other Physical Performance: (Stocking Rate, kg lw/ha etc.) Health Issues: (need for health plan, screening etc.) | |

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.

1. Place lambs in a **clean** pen. Leave them undisturbed for a couple of hours (to defecate). Remove from pen.
2. Using the gloves, collect fresh faecal sample at random from ***at least*** 10 different faecal deposits and place them separately in the small plastic zip lock bags or air tight containers. (It does not matter what amount you collect as long it is more than a 'teaspoonful', is fresh and each sample is kept separate)
3. Remove air from each bag, seal and place them all in the larger plastic zip lock bag - remove air and seal. Other containers should be sealed and placed in a secure plastic bag.
4. Complete the details of sample type, etc. (i.e. Pre drench / post drench & name address & contact number) and post to one of the approved laboratories.
5. Put in the post as soon as possible, preferably on the day of sampling. Should there will be some delay prior to posting store in a cool place preferably in a fridge (DO NOT FREEZE or PLACE IN DIRECT SUNLIGHT).

DRENCH TEST INSTRUCTIONS

If faecal egg counts demonstrate that there is a need to treat animals (i.e. egg count greater than 600 eggs per gram) then the following guidelines should be followed.

Stage 1 – treat sheep with anthelmintic

DOSING GUIDELINES

- Choose an anthelmintic that you wish to use – See table 1.
- Dose in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations
- Check calibration of dosing gun/ syringe
- Check expiry date of drug
- Shake bottle/container well
- 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.
- Take a note of the name of the product you used and which anthelmintic class it belongs to (see table 1 below)

Table 1 – Anthelmintic Groups

| Class of wormer | Other name |
|-----------------|--|
| White | Benzimidazole (1-Bz) |
| Yellow | Levamisole (2-LV) |
| Clear | Macrocyclic Lactone (3-ML) (includes Ivermectin) |

Stage 2 – test efficacy of the anthelmintic

Faecal sampling post-treatment with wormer

The timing of when you faecal sample post treatment with the wormer depends on the class of wormer you have used (see table 2 below).

Faecal sample lambs from the same grazing group you sampled before. Use the same procedure as described on the faecal sampling protocol.

Table 2

| Wormer groups | Timing of 2 nd sampling |
|--|------------------------------------|
| White drench Benzimidazole (1-Bz) | 10-14 days post treatment |
| Yellow drench Levamisole (2-LV) | 7 days post treatment |
| Clear Macrocyclic Lactone (3-ML) (includes Ivermectin) | 14-17 days post treatment |

APPENDIX IV

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)

| Month | Action Needed | Date Performed |
|--------------|--|-----------------------|
| January | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pregnancy scan ewes 2. Footbath and treat lame sheep 3. Increase energy intake 4. Treat for Liver Fluke (if required) | |
| February | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Administer Clostridial Vaccination to ewes 2. Footbath 3. Prepare lambing pens 4. Order lambing supplies | |
| March | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lambing – supervise to ensure adequate colostrum intake 2. Take steps to prevent navel/joint ill & watery mouth 3. Consider if freshly lambed ewes need access to high Mg post turnout 4. Tail dock (& castrate- optional) lambs with rubber rings in first week of life | |
| April | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitor lambs for signs of Orf, Coccidia & nematodirus 2. Footbath ewes and lambs 3. Identify and weight a number of lambs to monitor performance 4. Consider fluke drench for ewes if in high risk area 5. Continue with High Mg supplementation at grass if required | |
| May | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitor lambs for signs of Nematodirus 2. Footbath ewes and lambs | |
| June | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Take faecal samples from lambs and dose if required 2. Consider mineral supplementation (Co) if required 3. Footbath ewes & lambs 4. Flystirke prevention required 5. Clostridial vaccination for replacements ewe lambs | |
| July | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Check ewe flock for mastitis, persistent lameness & cull 2. Take faecal samples from lambs & dose if required 3. vaccinate replacements against abortion - if required 4. Footbath all sheep 5. Give rams general check up 6. Quarantine any bought in sheep | |
| August | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Take faecal samples from lambs & dose if required 2. Footbath all sheep 3. Give second clostradial vaccination for replacements ewe lambs 4. Consider mineral supplementation (Co) to ewes if required 5. Treat individual thin ewes for internal parasites 6. Give rams Selenium injection to improve fertility – if required | |

| | | |
|-----------|--|--|
| September | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Take faecal samples from lambs & dose if required 2. Footbath all sheep 3. Check ewes before mating – cull sheep with problems / thin ewes 4. Check rams before mating – footbath every 2 weeks prior to mating -treat for internal parasites if required 5. Check if treatment for liver fluke is required pre tupping 6. Treatment for biting lice / scab required if sheep not dipped in summer | |
| October | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Take faecal samples from lambs & dose if required 2. Raddle rams prior to turnout with ewes 3. Consider feeding concentrates to tail end lambs 4. Avoid disturbing flock during mating | |
| November | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remove rams & treat for internal parasites – if required 2. Footbath all sheep 3. Take faecal samples from lambs & dose if required 4. Check if treatment for liver fluke is required | |
| December | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. House or supplement ewes when they run out of grass and start losing body condition 2. Eliminate lameness prior to housing | |