

Saturday 7 July | Teagasc, Athenry

# SHEEP 2018 FARM TO FORK



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,  
Bia agus Mara  
Department of Agriculture,  
Food and the Marine





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## PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

**10am to 5pm: Open to the public**  
**10.30am: Official opening ceremony**

Time	Event
<b>ALL DAY</b>	Technical workshops and stands open all day
<b>ALL DAY</b>	Food village
<b>10:00</b>	Event opens
<b>10.30</b>	Official opening ceremony
<b>10.30</b>	Young shepherd competition
<b>11.00</b>	Butchery demonstration (meat marketing village)
<b>12.00</b>	Cooking demonstration with Catherine Fulvio (meat marketing village)
<b>13.00</b>	Producer group discussion (meat marketing village)
<b>13.00</b>	Education forum (education village)
<b>14.00</b>	Cooking demonstration with Catherine Fulvio
<b>14.30</b>	Brexit and industry discussion (education village)
<b>15.00</b>	Butchery demonstration
<b>17.00</b>	Event concludes

## VILLAGE LISTINGS

- Meat industry
- Education
- Grassland
- Hill sheep
- Flock health
- Project Baa Baa
- Meat marketing
- Health and safety
- Nutrition
- Agricultural sustainability

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# Welcome to Sheep 2018 – Farm to Fork

**MICHAEL G DISKIN, TEAGASC, MELLOWS  
CAMPUS, ATHENRY, CO GALWAY**

**T**har ceann Teagasc agus na páirtithe go léir atá baint acu le seachadadh Sheep2018 - Farm to Fork, tá áthas orainn fáilte a chur roimh chuig Baile Átha an Ri.

*Tá réimse leathan gníomhaíochtaí agus taispeántaí ar taispeáint inniu le fócas láidir ar éifeachtacht theicniúil, brabúsacht agus ar deireadh shiar feabhas a chur ar inbhuanaitheacht táirgeadh caorach chomh maith le eolaíocht agus táirgeadh bia. Iarraimid ort cuairt a thabhairt ar na taispeántais agus na taispeántaiseoirí uile, gabháil leis an bhfoireann agus leis na ceardlanna agus tiomantas do roinnt athruithe a dhéanamh a fheabhsóidh éifeachtacht agus brabúsacht do ghnóthais.*

On behalf of Teagasc and all of the partners involved in delivering Sheep 2018 - Farm to Fork, it's our pleasure to welcome you to Athenry today. There are a wide range of activities and exhibits on display today, with a strong focus on improving the technical efficiency, profitability and ultimately the sustainability of sheep production, as well as strong focus on food science and food production. We ask you to visit all of the exhibits and exhibitors, engage with the staff and workshops and commit to making a number of changes that will improve the efficiency and profitability of your enterprise.

Several months of preparation have gone into today's event. The original six partners – namely Bord Bia, the De-

partment of Agriculture Food and the Marine, the *Irish Farmers Journal*, Sheep Ireland, University College Dublin and Teagasc – have been joined by Galway County Council this year to tie in with Galway West of Ireland 2018 European Region of Gastronomy designation.

Sheep production is a significant contributor to the agricultural and national economy producing 67,000t of sheepmeat valued at more than €320m annually.

Over the past number of years, we have seen small but steady increases in sheep numbers, which currently stand at 2.6 million ewes in 36,313 flocks. In 2017, almost 2.94 million sheep were processed in Irish factories, with 57,000t of sheepmeat exported and valued at €274m. This represents a 14% increase in the volume exported and a 12% increase in the value of exports when compared with 2016. This is an excellent performance, notwithstanding weaker sterling and the pressure it is putting on Irish lamb in both the British and continental European markets.

The welcome increase in output and value of output partially reflects the expansion in the size of the national flock and also the development of new export markets for Irish sheepmeat. New markets, particularly in Canada and Switzerland, are welcome. These markets will become increasingly important in the context of Brexit.

The Irish hill sheep sector plays an important role in the economic health of rural economies and the maintenance of the natural landscape in many of Ireland's most scenic areas. Low output and



often depressed markets for hill lambs has resulted in low margins. Notwithstanding this, the hill ewe is very hardy and resilient and has a significant untapped potential both in the hill environment and as the dam of prolific crossbred ewes.

This year, there is a very strong emphasis on technology transfer relating to all aspects of sheep production from grassland, breeding, flock health, nutrition, hill sheep, BETTER Farms, the environment, health and safety, meat industry and markets, education and wool, in addition to factual and informative stands on farm partnerships, inheritance and farm management.

This year, to tie in with Galway West of Ireland 2018 European Region of Gastronomy designation, there will be

a significant emphasis on food – hence the slogan farm to fork. This designation focuses attention on the food industry in the west of Ireland and how central it is to the economic wellbeing of the area. The award presents the region with a European platform to showcase Galway and its surrounding area on the wonderful food produced herein. Ireland produces enough food to feed 40 million people and food is a major export earner for the country. Galway County Council and its local enterprise office (LEO) are partnering with Teagasc for this year's event. The food element of the event will be hosted in a specially designated food village. This will include:

- Food science with the Teagasc meat and food science and food for health.
- Cooking demonstrations - with a con-



centration on cooking of lamb dishes.

- Artisan food and food markets – providing local artisan food companies an opportunity to showcase and sell their produce.
- Food heritage – focusing on our rich local heritage of food preparation, cooking and preservation.
- Information on establishing a food company. Stands providing the full suite of information relating to establishing a food company.
- Galway has been named European Cap-



ital of Culture for 2020. Project Baa Baa, which is a central tenant of the planned year-long events, celebrates sheep in its entirety from fabric to meat, cheeses, weaving and knitting.

We are delighted with the strong presence of the sheep breed societies at this event. They play a central role in breed improvement in the sheep industry. Equally, we recognise the importance of the trade sector and without their support events like this would be significantly less attractive.

### THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS, BUÍOCHAS DÁR N-URRAITHEOIRÍ

The organisers of Sheep 2018 – Farm to Fork wish to acknowledge the significant financial support of Irish Country Meats without whose financial assistance this event could not be held.

We would like to thank the significant financial and/or product support from the following:

- MSD Animal Health.
- Zoetis.
- Chanelle.
- FBD.
- Germinal Seeds.
- Cormac Sheep Equipment.

We thank the six original partners – Bord Bia, the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine, the *Irish Farmers Journal*, Sheep Ireland, University College Dublin and Teagasc – who, this year, have been joined by Galway County Council, for their financial and material support and for giving unselfishly of their time in organising and preparing for this event over the past six months.

We thank all of the sheep breed societies for holding regional and/or national competi-

tions and/or exhibiting at Sheep 2018 – Farm to Fork, as well as the many commercial and trade exhibitors. We also thank the many farmers who provided sheep for the various exhibits on the day. We thank all of the food science, artisan food and Project Baa Baa exhibitors.

Technology transfer is a major part of Sheep 2018 – Farm to Fork. We would like to sincerely thank all of the staff participants on the stands, exhibits and workshops.

We thank the gardaí, fire service, HSE, environmental health, planning office Galway County Council, Irish Rail and Regional Veterinary Laboratories for their support in organising Sheep 2018 – Farm to Fork.

We thank you, the public, for attending and hopefully you and your family had a productive and memorable day.

Finally, we thank Teagasc Mellows Campus, Athenry, for providing an excellent site and all of the local staff and staff from other centres across the country for their huge effort in preparing for and hosting Sheep 2018 – Farm to Fork.

Ár mbuíochas.



## Join the Bord Bia Sustainable Beef & Lamb Assurance Scheme and help secure our best markets.

Securing access to the **EU's top retail groups**, along with **major foodservice** and **manufacturing companies** is critical to the future prospects of our **beef** and **lamb** sectors.

In general, our **highest paying customers** will only buy beef and lamb coming from **Quality Assured farms**. That means if your farm isn't a member of the Bord Bia **Sustainable Beef** and **Lamb Assurance Scheme (SBLAS)**, **you could be losing out**.

The Bord Bia Quality Mark is our **assurance to customers** that the beef and lamb they buy meet the **highest standards** with regard to **safe, sustainable food production, complete traceability** and **animal welfare**.

On the home market, Bord Bia's promotional program for lamb focuses on **Quality Assurance**. **94% of the lamb sold by Irish retailers carries the Bord Bia Quality Mark.**

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Scan here for more information on the Bord Bia Quality Mark.



# Sheep breeding and genetics

**FIONA MCGOVERN, TEAGASC, MELLOWS CAMPUS, ATHENRY, CO GALWAY.**

**G**enetics is known to contribute approximately 50% to productivity gains across species. Therefore, the use of genetics in animal production is a powerful tool that allows farmers to select superior animals to become parents of the next generation.

The breeding and genetics village will showcase the latest results from a number of Teagasc and Sheep Ireland projects, which demonstrate the impact of new technologies and advancements in national and international breeding and genetics programmes. A number of practical workshops will showcase best practices in preparing your animals for breeding and ensuring the long-term sustainability of your flock.

## **PREPARING ANIMALS FOR BREEDING**

Profitable sheep enterprises require a ewe that efficiently produces lambs with good weight gain from a grass-based production system. Practical workshops will focus on key topics which are central to a successful breeding programme. Selecting ewes and addressing shortfalls in ewe body condition score will be covered along with preparing your ram for mating by ensuring the animal is physically correct and in a fit condition.

## **THE INZAC FLOCK**

The INZAC flock was established in 2015 and is in its third production year. The

## **TAKE-HOME MESSAGES**

- ➔ Ewe and ram functionality and body condition score is critical to the success of every breeding flock
- ➔ The Teagasc INZAC flock is demonstrating that high index Irish ewes are outperforming low index ewes while the suitability of New Zealand ewes to an Irish system is also being examined.
- ➔ Genetics, through the use of the Sheep Ireland Euro-Stars, in addition to physical attributes, can be a powerful tool in assisting farmers when purchasing rams which will best suit their production system.
- ➔ Genetic improvement is permanent as long as breeders follow a consistent breeding plan and consistently purchase high genetic merit rams.

primary objectives of the flock are: 1) validate the Replacement Euro Stars and to 2) compare Irish versus New Zealand genetically elite animals in a common environment. The flock consists of 180 ewes from two breeds, Texel and Suffolk.

## **GENETIC EVALUATIONS – VALIDATING OUR GENETIC INDEX**

It is vitally important with any good breeding programme that the indexes (Euro-Stars) are validated annually. To do this, we compare the physical performance of one Euro-Star animals versus five Euro-Star animals across all the traits being recorded. Results will be pre-



sented using this validation and the new Teagasc Bio-Economic Model (a financial calculator) where the economic difference between a commercial flock using a team of five Euro-Star rams and three Euro-Star rams (the average non-recorded ram) across their flock was predicted.

### **RAM EURO-STAR EVALUATIONS – FINDING A RAM TO SUIT YOUR FLOCK**

- ➔ 1. RamSearch.ie: Farmers can search for EuroStar rams and apply filters for a specific breed, flock, county(s), age (lamb or hogget) and EuroStar rating. Once you have found a ram that meets your criteria the breeder's details are available.
- ➔ 2. Ram Sales: Most pedigree society sales now display EuroStars in the sales catalogue.
- ➔ 3. Sheep Ireland Guide & Directory: This booklet contains a list of all the LambPlus (Performance recording) flocks and their contact details. Available upon request.

### **GENETICS OF SHEEP HEALTH TRAITS**

Lameness has a major impact on the profitability of sheep production. To accurately record the cause of lameness ewes must be turned and each hoof scored; as this can be labour intensive there is a need for new technologies to simplify the process. By measuring hoof temperature or how a sheep distributes her weight, it may be possible to collect this health data for genetic evaluations or to monitor flock health. It is possible to breed animals to be less susceptible to lameness, mastitis etc. Analysis of health data recorded on sheep flocks through the OVIGEN project has shown that lameness scores, dag score and mastitis are partially under genetic control and are heritable. This research has facilitated the construction of a health breeding sub-index by Sheep Ireland which was introduced in 2017. The index ranks ani-

mals on lameness and dagginess specifically while further research is on-going with the aim of including more health traits over time.

### **INTERNATIONAL GENETIC EVALUATIONS FOR SHEEP BREEDING**

Increasingly selection decisions made by Irish and UK sheep breeders are based on genetic indexes (star ratings/estimated breeding values) of individual animals for economically important traits. However, these genetic indexes are currently only relevant within country preventing the accurate comparison of animals between countries. This study will develop international genetic evaluations for animals from Ireland and the UK which will enable more informed selection decisions and facilitate the trade of superior genetics between countries.

### **GENOMICS & SHEEP BREEDING**

Genomics is the study of DNA. Genes are made up of DNA, and they remain the same throughout an animals' life and are identical in every cell of the body. Results derived from the OVIGEN research project have facilitated the implementation of low-cost genotyping for sheep in Ireland. Genotyping an animal allows us to examine their DNA and can be used to determine accurate parentage, their scrapie status etc.

### **BREEDING ON THE BETTER FARMS**

Meet first-hand some of the Teagasc BETTER farmers who have incorporated the latest technologies and research outcomes to improve efficiency and production on their farms. There will be three farmers from the BETTER farm programme displaying their breeding objectives and how they've worked with Teagasc to improve their breeding programme on each of their farms and discuss the results they have achieved.

# Committed to sheep sector

**MICHAEL CREED TD,  
MINISTER FOR  
AGRICULTURE, FOOD  
AND THE MARINE**



**T**he development of a sustainable sheep sector both in hill and lowland areas is a key priority for the Government. Sheep production has a multifunctional role in both being a profitable land use, but also in helping to deliver a range of environmental services, particularly in our hill areas and along the western seaboard. It is a critical part of farming enterprises in these areas, and the dominant land use activity in a large part of the country.

Sheep numbers have stabilised at 2.65m ewes, which bodes well for the continuance of the sector. The strong export performance in the last number of years through the joint efforts of our processors, my Department and Bord Bia is very positive to see, with exports of €275m in 2017 an excellent achievement.

## **RANGE OF SUPPORTS**

A range of supports and services are currently being provided by my Department to the sector. These include funding for upgrading housing and facilities through TAMS, and improving environmental sustainability of the sector through GLAS. The core support of BPS and ANC contribute a valuable portion of income to sheep farmers.

I was delighted to be able to introduce a new targeted sheep scheme through the Sheep Welfare Scheme. Payment of €10 per ewe is available to all sheep farmers through implementing a range of actions at farm level. These actions help to improve specific areas of a flock and are chosen by each farmer based on the unique profile and requirements of each flock. Feedback from sheep farmers has been very positive on this scheme, which has paid out over €18m to 21,000 farmers for the 2017 year. This new funding has proved to be a significant support to incomes, and has helped revitalise interest in the sector.

## **BREED IMPROVEMENT**

We need to develop and invest in breed improvement in order to identify the most profitable breeding ewes and rams. I continue to support the excellent work of Sheep Ireland, who work closely with industry stakeholders in this area. I believe a strong research foundation is critical to the future of the sector, and have committed funding for a number of Teagasc research programmes. The new Knowledge Transfer programmes being implemented by my Department also play a key role in getting this research out onto commercial farms.

The Government continues to believe that a strong sheep sector is critical to rural Ireland and will continue to provide appropriate supports for the development of the sector.



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# Brexit and the Irish sheep sector

**KEVIN HANRAHAN, HEAD RURAL ECONOMY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, MELLOWS CAMPUS, ATHENRY, CO GALWAY**

It is now over two years since the UK voted to leave the EU. Uncertainty concerning the nature of the future trade relationship between the UK and the EU (including Ireland) continues and is unlikely to be resolved until the autumn of 2018.

The UK will leave the EU on 29 March 2019. The nature of the exit will hinge on whether the ongoing talks between the UK and the EU reach a successful conclusion and on what type of future relationship between the UK and the EU is envisioned within that agreement.

On 29 March 2019, following Brexit, the UK may continue as a member of the EU single market and customs union, either on a transitional or effectively permanent basis, or it could leave the EU without any agreement with the EU on the nature of the future relationship.

The nature of the Brexit outcome and the details of the trade relationship between the UK and the EU will be very important for the future economic environment within which Irish sheep farmers will operate.

The UK is the largest producer and largest exporter of sheepmeat in the EU28, but also one of the largest importers of sheepmeat – with most UK imports sourced from outside of the EU. If, following Brexit, there are barriers to trade sheepmeat between the UK and the EU27, the balance of the EU market for

sheepmeat will change as compared with today. The nature of the change in the market balance and the implications for the future evolution of EU lamb prices will depend, at least in part, on how trade relations, and in particular EU tariff rate quota for sheepmeat imports from New Zealand and other non-EU countries, are allocated between the UK and the EU.

Exports currently account for close to 85% of Irish production, with most of these exports to continental markets. The principal competing sheepmeat products on these EU export markets are locally produced EU lamb, lamb from the UK and lamb from outside the EU.

Barriers to UK exports of lamb would be expected to increase EU prices. However, increased imports of lamb by the EU27 from New Zealand and other non-EU sources would mitigate the projected positive impact of Brexit on sheep prices.

Analysis by Teagasc using data from the Teagasc NFS has looked at the farm level impact of possible Brexit-related price shocks and possible impact of Brexit on the value of direct payments.

Looking at the impact of possible Brexit-related price shocks in isolation indicated that farm income on the average Irish sheep farm could fall by up to 8% as a result of Brexit.

Any Brexit-related reduction in direct payment receipts would further magnify the impact of Brexit on sheep farm incomes. The ongoing negotiations relating to the EU budget and the CAP for the period post-2020 will, together with the Brexit negotiations, be critical in determining future farm incomes in Ireland.



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# Sheep industry village

**CIARAN LYNCH, SHEEP SPECIALIST,  
TEAGASC, BALLYHAISE, CO CAVAN**

**T**he industry village will focus on a number of key areas where sheep producers interact with other farmers, processors and direct with customers and on factors affecting the eating quality of lamb meat. In addition, it will also deal with the procedures and processes that now form part of the modern sheep industry in which farmers now operate

## PRODUCER AND MARKETING GROUPS

In many areas of the country, farmers have organised groups and pooled resources to increase the end value of their product and create linkage, transport and marketing channels with potential customers.

There are a wide range of groups operating throughout the country. These include producer, breeding and store lamb groups, with some farmers going direct to the customer with a premium product.

### KEY MESSAGES

- Producer groups in various forms operate throughout the country.
- Provide an added value to their produce.
- Good organisation and committed membership are key to group success.
- Benefits, challenges and potential of groups will be discussed.

## SELECTING LAMBS FOR DRAFTING

Understanding market requirements is a key element of delivering in-spec lamb and value for producers and industry.

Drafting lambs is one of the final steps for producers. However, as kill-out changes

during the season, producers need to be aware of correct selection process and how it affects meeting carcass specification. Additionally, care must be taken to avoid carcass bruising and damage during handling when drafting lambs.

### KEY MESSAGES

- Understand market requirements to deliver in-spec carcass.
- Weigh regularly and assess fat cover.
- Draft lambs as they come fit.
- Handle lambs with care.

## CLEAN LIVESTOCK POLICY

In 2017, the Department of Agriculture implemented the clean livestock policy for the sheep sector. The policy operates a three-category system requiring food business operators at slaughter plants to categorise sheep as follows – A: satisfactory; B: acceptable; or C: unacceptable.

Sending dirty sheep to slaughter increases the contamination risk from harmful bacteria, putting customers' health at risk.

Dirty sheep cost money and could damage the sheepmeat and fleece markets. Producers and those involved in transport have a role to play.

A demonstration by Department of Agriculture staff will demonstrate the differences between the three categories of lambs, issues surrounding transport and what remedial action can be taken.

### KEY MESSAGES

- Farmers, hauliers and processors have a role to play in reducing the risk of food contamination following transport of livestock.
- Cleanliness of livestock is influenced by

a variety of factors, many of which can be aided by changes in management practice.

➔ Vehicles used for transport of lambs to processing plants must be clean and absorbent materials should be used where there is a risk of fleece contamination.

### **EFFECT OF CASTRATION AND SLAUGHTER AGE ON THE SENSORY QUALITY OF MEAT**

Rams (intact males) are superior to wethers (castrated males) with respect to efficiency of feed utilisation, growth rate and the production of leaner carcasses.

However, it has been reported that rams produce meat with less desirable sensory characteristics than castrates.

This study aimed to determine if consumers could detect differences in the sensory quality and acceptability of meat from rams and castrates slaughtered at mean ages of seven months (slaughtered in October) or 13 months (in April).

#### **KEY MESSAGES**

- ➔ Small sensory differences exist between meat from rams and castrates.
- ➔ Consumers do not dislike meat from rams compared with castrates, but prefer meat from castrates slightly more.
- ➔ Meat from older lambs has a more intense flavour and off-flavours are more frequently detected than meat from younger lambs.

### **CONSUMER ACCEPTABILITY OF MEAT FROM LAMBS FED DIFFERENT DIETS**

The relationship between human diet and disease has increased consumers' interest in the healthiness of food. In animal production, dietary strategies can be used to improve the nutritional value of meat, eg by altering the fatty acid profile. Such interventions also affect meat sensory quality, which influences consumer acceptability. In this study, pasture-fed lambs were finished either at pasture or in one of four concentrate diets.

#### **KEY MESSAGES**

- ➔ Feeding lambs with pre-slaughter diets known to alter muscle fatty acid profile does not result in significant differences in sensory aroma or flavour characteristics or in intensity of unpleasant aroma or taste.
- ➔ Differences in fatty acid profile in meat attributed to the pre-slaughter diets of lambs may not be sufficiently large to elicit detectable differences in sensory aroma or flavour characteristics or in intensity of unpleasant aroma or taste.
- ➔ The absence of differences in consumer acceptability of lambs attributed to pre-slaughter diets of lambs can also be due to the minor differences in intramuscular fat content and aroma compounds in meat.
- ➔ Improving the nutritional profile of lamb meat through feeding interventions may not adversely affect its overall acceptability.

### **DISCRIMINATION OF MEAT FROM LAMBS FED DIFFERENT CONCENTRATE RATIONS**

Consumers are increasingly concerned regarding the origin and quality of the meats they consume; thus, it is important to develop systems that will enable discrimination and authentication of meat that derives from different production systems. Diet is a key factor in lamb production systems, affecting the composition and quality of meat. Aroma compounds in cooked meat derive from reactions involving fatty acids.

This study evaluated the use of aroma compounds to discriminate between meats from ram lambs fed different cereal concentrate-based diets.

#### **KEY MESSAGES**

- ➔ Measurement of aroma compounds in meat permits discrimination between meat from lambs fed different concentrate diets.
- ➔ Discrimination between lamb samples is at a high level of accuracy (93%).

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# 2018 is set to be a great year for food in Galway

**G**alway and the west of Ireland is very fortunate to have been designated one of two European regions of gastronomy for 2018. We are the first region in Ireland to attain this award, alongside Noord Brabant in the Netherlands.

Acquiring this designation took significant time and dedication from a committed food community. The designation was won by the people of Galway for the people of the region and we would love to have everyone within our vibrant food community involved.

Food plays a critical role in all our lives in Galway, from farmer and fisherman to chef, restaurateur and consumer. We produce enough food to feed over 1.5 million people, which is a testament to our local landscape. We boast over 12,000 farms, 689km of coastline, 52 islands and over 350 restaurants. Food and food culture are at the centre of our regional fabric, engrained in all our lives.

## WHAT IT MEANS TO THE REGION

The overall theme that has been set out for our term is *From the Ground Up, Feeding our Future*.

The designation aims to make good food accessible to all and use food as a way to bring people together. It aims to bridge the gap between food producers and consumers by creating a greater awareness of foods produced in Galway and the West of Ireland and making them more accessible to all.

We will explore our food and associated culture across five key focus areas, as follows:

↪ Education and health.

- ↪ Linking urban with rural.
- ↪ Cultural diversity.
- ↪ Sustainability and feeding the planet.
- ↪ Supporting SMEs and innovation.

The designation is yet another fantastic opportunity for Galway and the West of Ireland to showcase our strengths and place us at the forefront of gastronomic excellence.

Visit our website on: [www.galwaygastronomy.ie](http://www.galwaygastronomy.ie) or email us at: [regionofgastronomy@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:regionofgastronomy@galwaycoco.ie).



**Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe**  
**Galway County Council**

As one of the lead partners with Galway City Council, GMIT and Teagasc in the 2018 European Region of Gastronomy designation for the Galway West of Ireland region, Galway County Council is delighted to be involved in Sheep 2018. Today's event is a flagship event with the 2018 European Region of Gastronomy Programme in Galway.

Galway County Council has been fostering economic development in the food sector for over a decade. In the past, a significant amount of this work was in improving food quality, animal welfare and improving access to new markets for food producers in the region. The council

## FOOD VILLAGE - ACTIVITY ON THE GASTRONOMY VAN

- 10:30 Recycling Ambassador
- 11:00 Slieve Aughty Honey
- 11:30 Velvet Cloud
- 12:00 Taste & Tales of Joyce Country
- 12:30 Croí
- 13:00 Velvet Cloud
- 13:30 Recycling Ambassador
- 14:00 Slieve Aughty Honey
- 14:30 Croí
- 15:00 Taste & Tales of Joyce Country
- 15:30 Recycling Ambassador
- 16:00 Velvet Cloud
- 16:30 Taste & Tales of Joyce Country
- 17:00 Slieve Aughty Honey

established the Made in Galway brand as a mechanism to increase awareness of consumers of the origin of food products.

The council was instrumental in securing European Region of Gastronomy designation for Galway.

Galway County Council has worked closely with Teagasc on these projects for a long number of years, which has led to the collaborative project of developing the BIA innovator campus – Ireland west food innovation and incubation hub on the campus in Athenry.

The heritage office of Galway County Council, Galway Community Heritage (a member of Irish Community Archive Network), a number of heritage groups in the county of Galway and Galway Men's Sheds will provide a taste of the rich gastronomical heritage of the county.

There will be a traditional kitchen and old-style shop display, churning and bread making, digging with the loy, some old farm machinery, fishing boats, displays of artifacts and photographs relating to the food heritage of different parts of the county. We will also be show-

casing the work of Galway Gastronomy Heritage Project. In addition to this, Loughrea Craft Club will be on hand with its make-and-do food-related workshops for children. Frans Photo booth will be there to capture your photos. Melanie Loren, a craft maker who works with straw, will be giving talks and undertaking workshops on the wonder of wheat.

Staff from the Irish Workhouse Centre in Portumna will be on hand to share the workhouse story and tell us about life and diet in the workhouse. A free booklet on food in the workhouse will be available on the day.

You might bump into Declan Coyne and some of the fair balladeers. Join Le Chéile for round the house and mind the dresser music, song and dance seisiúns that will take place at 10.30am, 11.45am, 12.30pm and 1.45pm, finishing off with a céilí mór from 4-5pm. You might also spot the odd scarecrow or two.

Food heritage and heritage in general are key themes within Galway 2020. This occasion is fast approaching and will provide a great opportunity for us all to showcase our culture and agrarian heritage to the world. Project Baa Baa is another example of how we can creatively showcase our unique and invaluable wealth of culture and heritage. Please support these efforts and the efforts of communities all over County Galway to participate in Galway 2020.

In the food village, we are showcasing local producers. Please remember to support your local producer, be they food producers or craftworkers, to keep employment local.



# BIA innovator campus

**B**IA Innovator Campus is a step-change project that will transform the food entrepreneurship landscape in the west of Ireland. It addresses the need for regional food workspace infrastructure by realising a dynamic food and drink innovation and incubation centre of scale, taking up 2,301 square metres (23,767 sq ft).

It will create 360 jobs over 40-plus businesses delivering training, development and support to in excess of 2,400 entrepreneurs and learners, injecting in excess of €11.5m in payroll in the region and facilitating the development of nearly 500 new products, all within three years based on the recently completed Enterprise Ireland supported Feasibility Study.



The proposal and compelling location at Teagasc, Athenry, Co Galway, at the converse of the M17/M18 and the M6, has the backing of the highest impact collaboration of public, industry, community and education ever assembled in the food sector in Ireland.



Specifically, the BIA innovator campus comprises nine independent own-door starter or growth units, three independent own-door HPSU growth units and four unique co-working food incubators (dairy, meat, seafood and multi-product – a first in Ireland) backed by a potent mix of technical, innovation and commercial support at the same time in the same place.

The proposal includes the provision of essential training and development space to meet demands of the sector in the widest sense (eg entrepreneurs, chefs, food scientists), with all the key agencies delivering their services, making it a true one stop shop and centre of excellence.

The GRETB will be anchor tenants delivering training to support the sector in a co-ordinated and planned manner working with the project partners and the strategic advisory group.

Businesses will be able to accelerate their growth with a much-needed continuum collaborative pathway to support them and they will have access to facilities such as the business engagement zone, innovation space, training space, demonstration and showcasing areas, as well as the food grade production space.

The BIA innovator campus will provide an exceptional and unique ecosystem based on best practice nationally and internationally, packaging same into an exceptional bundle.

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# Ireland's main education providers in one venue

**TOMMY BOLAND, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN, AND JOE DAY, TEAGASC, KILDALTON**

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**T**he education village at Sheep 2018 brings together many of the main players in agricultural and agricultural science education in Ireland to present the range of options for people wishing to upskill in these areas.

Teagasc, institutes of technology and universities will all be represented. The importance of the agri-food sector in Ireland's economy is reflected in the wide range of offerings presented in the education village.

Whether people are interested in practical training or engaging in a science or business-based degree option, the appropriate information will be available.

University College Dublin will outline its undergraduate offerings, postgraduate opportunities, taught masters programmes and research masters and PhD programmes, plus presenting the science underpinning everyday aspects of food.

For the first time, the Irish Agricultural Science Teachers Association (IASTA) will be present. IASTA members will be on hand to outline the increasing popularity and importance of agricultural science as a leaving certificate subject and detail how the curriculum has advanced to reflect new knowledge.

Agri Aware will also be present and promise to have attractions for all members of the family, with their expertise in communicating the importance of agriculture and food to the Irish economy.

There will be an opportunity to hear

about the importance of education from some of the brightest young people in the industry, as they highlight how they have balanced their studies while excelling in other aspects of life, such as sport.

Teagasc education officers will also have representatives on hand to field questions about the new QQI Level 6 training programmes, as well as part-time and distance education courses.

A key aspect to the education village will be the young sheep farmer skills competition from 10.30am to 12pm, where the best young shepherds from the ag colleges lock horns in a test of knowledge and skill.

This is being generously sponsored by Irish Country Meats and past winners have represented Ireland at both European and world competitions subsequent to the national events. It will test various practical skills such as correct handling, dosing, drafting and assessing conformation and fat cover, etc.

Outside the education village, there will be a short trail with various challenges along the way which the public are encouraged to engage with.

The aim is to showcase some of the skills, knowledge and competencies which modern students acquire through various training programmes.

The challenges are short, specific, relevant and, most of all, fun to engage with, especially as part of a group and the all-important answer sheets will be provided along the route. There is also an opportunity to win a cash prize on the day, sponsored by the Irish Farmers Association, by entering a short sustainability challenge.

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# The money is in the grass

**PHILIP CREIGHTON, TEAGASC MELLOWS CAMPUS, ATHENRY CO GALWAY**

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**G**rass-based livestock production systems in Ireland have the potential to grow between 11-15t of grass dry matter (DM) per hectare annually. However, total annual grass DM production varies considerably across farms, depending on location, farm type, season, and grazing management decisions applied. Herbage utilisation at farm level can be increased through the measuring and budgeting of pastures and the use of rotational grazing systems.

The main objective of grassland management for sheep systems is to supply high-quality digestible pastures to the grazing ewe and her lambs. Growing as much grass as the farm is capable of should be the first step in any plan. The next step will be how to best utilise the grass and produce as much lamb output from it as possible in a profitable manner.

It is estimated that the average drystock farm in Ireland utilises approximately 5.6t of grass DM/ha/yr. Every additional 1t of grass DM/ha utilised will increase profit by €105/ha on drystock farms. Results from recent grassland systems research in Athenry show that every 1t of grass DM grown will support a ewe plus her lambs for a year including winter feed.

Data from Athenry and commercial sheep farms participating in the Teagasc BETTER sheep farm programme indicates that there is room for significant increases in the level of grass grown and utilised on Irish sheep farms. In order to achieve this there are five key areas that we must focus on:

- 1. Soil fertility.
- 2. Field division/grazing groups.
- 3. Grazing management.
- 4. Measurement/budgeting.
- 5. Reseeding.

## 1. SOIL FERTILITY

Productive soils underpin any successful farming system. Pastures will not perform to their potential if soil fertility is not correct. The soils ability to provide the appropriate quantity of nutrient at the appropriate time for grass growth determines the productivity of a field, and consequently, soil fertility should be foremost in the mind of those who wish to maximise the return from grazed grass.

## 2. FIELD DIVISION/GRAZING GROUPS

Rotational grazing systems offer greater flexibility in grassland management by providing increased control over sward structure, grazing severity, regrowth periods and overall pasture supply. This involves dividing the grassland area into a number of paddocks, which are then grazed, fertilised and rested in turn and can allow greater levels of herbage utilisation to be achieved.

## 3. GRAZING MANAGEMENT

During the main grazing season the objective is to achieve high animal performance from an all-grass diet. This is achieved by ensuring there is a high quantity of leaf in the sward. Grazing lower grass covers of 1,100kg to 1,300kg DM/ha (7cm to 8cm) will help maintain grass quality. Stronger covers of grass 10cm+ (2,000+kg DM/ha) should not be grazed as utilisation levels will be lower but instead should be conserved as high-quality baled silage.





#### 4. MEASUREMENT/BUDGETING

With the basic building blocks of soil fertility, infrastructure and management in place, the next step to getting more from grass is to develop grass measurement and budgeting skills. Grass measurement and budgeting does not have to be complicated or expensive as is often the perception. There are a number of methods that can be used to measure grass supply on farms. The use of sward sticks, rising plate meters and the quadrant and shears method are all common. What method you use is irrelevant, the important thing is that some form of measurement is carried out on a regular basis which can be used to aid management decisions.

#### 5. RESEEDING

Research has shown that old permanent pasture produces, on average, 3t DM/ha less than reseeded perennial ryegrass swards. Reseeding when combined with improvements in management, utilisation and, where necessary, increasing soil fertility can increase profitability by up

to €300/ha/year through improved grass DM production and increased nitrogen use efficiency during the growing season. The increased profitability of the reseeded pasture would cover the reseeding cost in just over two years. This means reseeding is one of the most cost-effective on-farm investments.

The grassland village at Sheep2018 will address each of these important areas and provide an opportunity to talk one-to-one with relevant researchers and specialists in these areas to have your questions answered. There will also be a number of workshops which will go into the more detailed and practical aspects of grazing management for sheep including pre- and post-grazing sward height/mass targets and their importance to maximise grass growth and utilization as well as optimising animal performance, grass measuring and budgeting techniques and how to use the information gathered and finally sheep fencing options for creating permanent and temporary grazing paddocks/divisions.

# Sheep Ireland at Sheep 2018



**S**heep Ireland is a non-profit organisation funded by the Department of Agriculture and Irish sheep farmers. Our role is to operate Ireland's national sheep breed improvement programme with the overall aim of increasing the profitability of all Irish sheep farmers through the improvement of our sheep genetics.

We are excited and proud to once again be a partner in Sheep 2018, following on from hugely successful events in 2010, 2012 and 2015.

The Irish sheep industry now has access to a wealth of world-leading research in all aspects of sheep production, including sheep genetic improvement. Sheep 2018 is the greatest national showcase for this work, as it brings it all together in one location.

The Irish sheep breed improvement programme is continuing to grow year on year, which bodes well for all Irish sheep farmers.

Every time an Irish farmer chooses a new stock ram for their flock, it can have a major bearing on the future profitability of the flock.

Will a ram produce faster-growing lambs, will his progeny be hard to lamb down, will he produce daughters with lots of milk, will he produce fertile and prolific daughters – these are just some of the questions that all farmers would like to be able to answer when purchasing a ram.

These questions cannot be answered by only looking at a ram's physical appear-



Sheep €uro-Star indices are helping Irish sheep farmers to identify more profitable and sustainable sheep genetics.

ance on the day of sale, they can only be answered using performance data collected from the ram's family tree.

The role of Sheep Ireland is to provide the programmes and infrastructure to collect this data and produce €uro-Star indices (predicted future performance indices) based on this performance data.

The benefits of collecting such performance data to enable genetic improvement has been proven beyond doubt in other industries such as dairy, poultry and pig.

Sheep Ireland has now built an infrastructure which can drive sheep genetic improvement over the coming decades.

It is imperative that Irish commercial farmers use sheep €uro-Star indices as a selection tool when purchasing rams.

Genetic gain is extremely valuable, as it can be built on year on year. The breeding village in Sheep 2018 concentrates on explaining the value of the sheep €uro-Stars and how to use this information to deliver maximum return to your flock.

Genetic improvement will increase profitability for all Irish sheep farmers and we need to make sure we maximise this potential.

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# Lots of opportunities at UCD

**U**CD is one of Europe's leading research-intensive universities, an environment where undergraduate education, masters and PhD training, research, innovation and community engagement form a dynamic spectrum of activity.

UCD is also Ireland's most globally engaged university, with over 33,000 students drawn from over 138 countries and includes almost 5,000 students based at locations outside of Ireland.

The university's main Dublin campus located at Belfield occupies an extensive parkland estate of more than 130ha and offers world-leading facilities. UCD Lyons Farm is located adjacent to the village of Newcastle, Co Kildare. Consisting of approximately 220ha, it is used for teaching and research field activities by the UCD school of agriculture and food science and UCD school of veterinary medicine.

## UCD SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SCIENCE

The UCD school of agriculture and food science is the only academic institution in Ireland that delivers education and research on the complete food chain from initial on-farm production through processing to final consumption by the consumer.

The school supports the agri-food industry in Ireland by educating students to become industry leaders and by conducting world-class research. The school is the first destination of choice for students in Ireland interested in developing their careers in the agri-food sector.

UCD was recently ranked as the number one university in the world on citations per paper in both agricultural science and food science and technology, based on Thomas Reuters InCites data

among institutions publishing at scale.

Agriculture and forestry is also one of 13 subject areas in UCD ranked in the top 100 universities in the world based on the QS World Rankings by subject 2017. The school of agriculture and food science offers the following honours undergraduate degree programmes which span the entire food chain:

- DN250: Agricultural Science (candidates entering via DN250 have the option of specialising in one of six options listed below):
- DN250 Agricultural Systems Technology.
- DN250 Animal and Crop Production.
- DN250 Animal Science.
- DN250 Animal Science - Equine.
- DN250 Food and Agribusiness Management.
- DN250 Food Business with Chinese Studies.
- DN252 Dairy Business.
- DN253 Agri-Environmental Sciences.
- DN261 Food Science.
- DN262 Human Nutrition.
- DN271 Forestry.
- DN272 Horticulture, Landscape and Sportsturf Management.

The school of agriculture and food science also offers an extensive range of postgraduate education (taught and research) that is delivered at the UCD Belfield Campus, at UCD's Lyons Farm and online. Our research contributes to improving the productivity and the sustainability of agriculture and the environment, to the quality and security of the food produced and to consumer well-being.

The research ethos of the school is to foster curiosity-based and hypothesis-driven research to best international standards in areas of key strategic relevance to Ireland.

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# Improving flock output of hill sheep in Ireland

**FRANK CAMPION, TEAGASC, MELLOWS CAMPUS, ATHENRY CO GALWAY**

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**H**ill sheep farming plays a vital role in Irish agriculture and in maintaining the natural landscape along with providing income to local communities. In Ireland, hill breed ewes account for 23% of the national ewe flock, while a further 18% of the national ewe flock are hill breed crosses.

Despite the hill sheep industry numerically making up a prominent part of the Irish sheep industry, particularly along the western seaboard, the sector is characterised by low levels of production, poor economic margins and difficult working conditions.

Work from Teagasc and international research groups has demonstrated that adopting the latest on-farm technologies can significantly improve flock output and on-farm efficiencies which ultimately increase margins on hill sheep farms.

Hill sheep tend to be very hardy and resilient breeds and can be hugely responsive to improved nutrition.

The hill ewe has a significant untapped potential both in the hill environment and as the dam of prolific cross bred ewes for the lowlands.

The hill sheep village at Sheep 2018 - Farm to Fork will focus some of the key technologies that can help increase the physical and financial output from their hill flocks and also on the management of hill and upland vegetation. The main areas covered on the day will be:

## MANAGING LAMBS POST-WEANING

While the best available option to manage lambs post-weaning will differ between each individual farm and be influenced by lamb prices and indeed weather conditions to a degree, it is still important that farmers are aware of their options and have a plan in place prior to weaning time.

Ultimately, the decision on what way to market hill lambs post-weaning is dependent on the grass available on the farm. The key take-home messages from this section will focus on:

- Managing lambs by weight category post-weaning.
- Options for finishing store lambs on farm.
- When is meal feeding an option.
- Achieving the correct fat cover on light lambs.

## PREPARING HOGGET EWES FOR THE BREEDING SEASON

Hogget ewes on most hill farms may have had a difficult winter/spring given the weather conditions and the shortages of fodder.

Having ewes and replacement hogget ewes in the correct live weight and BCS is vitally important in order to maximise output from the flock and ensure ewes are in adequate condition come lambing time.

The key take-home messages from this section will focus on:

- The importance of achieving target live weights and BCS.
- How to address ewes that are behind these targets.



## LATEST DATA FROM THE BETTER HILL SHEEP FARMS

A key part of the Teagasc BETTER farm programme is the hill sheep programme with 4 of the flocks currently running hill sheep enterprises with 2 more joining this year. Flock performance results from the BETTER farms and results from some of the on-farm single sire mating trials will be discussed on the day. The key take-home messages from this section will focus on:

- Breeding strategies on the BETTER farms.
- Flock performance results from the BETTER farms.

## CROSSBREEDING

The primary objective in hill flocks is to provide sufficient replacement ewe lambs to meet flock requirements. There is scope in some flocks for some cross breeding and indeed many flocks are now cross breeding a proportion of their flocks to produce high prolific ewe lambs for lowland flocks or store lambs for slaughter.

Generally the cross bred lamb is heavier at weaning and is more saleable. The key take-home messages from this

## TEAGASC HILL SHEEP BETTER FARMERS

Alongside of all this there will be breed displays, an opportunity to meet with some of the Teagasc Hill Sheep BETTER farmers and an advisor clinic to talk producers through the Teagasc Store Lamb calculator.

section will focus on:

- When is crossbreeding an option for your flock.
- Choice of rams

## UPLAND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

The management of hill and upland vegetation is a vitally important part of hill sheep farming, and a large proportion of direct payments are provided on the condition that upland areas are kept in good order. Therefore, this year the village will also have a large display on environmental management on hill sheep farms including a section on rush control and managing different forage species on the hills.

# Flock health – foundation for sheep performance

**MICHAEL GOTTSTEIN, SHEEP SPECIALIST, TEAGASC, MACROOM, CO CORK**

**E**xpenditure on flock health is the second-biggest variable cost on sheep farms. Apart from the cost associated with preventing and treating sheep for diseases, there are also significant costs associated with poor animal performance, ill thrift and mortality resulting from flock health issues. The flock health village will focus on a number of key areas that will be of interest to the sheep industry.

## INTERNAL PARASITES

These two stands will focus on:

- Viewing of parasites and their eggs under the microscope and will outline some of the research that Teagasc is doing in the field of internal parasites and tackling parasite resistance to the drugs that we use to control them.
- The second stand will be in a workshop format, where advisory and veterinary professionals will demonstrate faecal sampling, proper drenching procedures and will discuss how sheep farmers can identify what products are still effective on their farms and how they can reduce the speed at which parasites become resistant to the chemicals used to control them.



## KEY MESSAGES

- Identify what drugs are still effective on your farm.
- Identify effective control strategies for your flock.
- Only treat lambs when necessary.
- When treating, ensure you are giving the correct dose rate and that the animal receives the full dose.

## EXTERNAL PARASITES

This year, there will be a big focus on controlling external parasites on sheep. Recent research in the UK has found widespread macrocyclic lactone (Ivermectin, Moxidectin and Doramectin) resistant sheep scab mites.

With this in mind, we will have a detailed workshop on the appropriate use of dips, pour-ons and injectable products to control external parasites in sheep. On hand will be veterinary and technical experts who will discuss and demonstrate the options that are currently available.

## KEY MESSAGES

- Recent research in the UK has found widespread macrocyclic lactone-resistant sheep scab mites.
- Sheep shower units are ineffective at controlling sheep scab.
- The use of macrocyclic lactone injections to control sheep scab should be questioned in light of the UK research and increasing levels of anthelmintic resistance to these drugs.



- Properly applied pour-on products are effective tools in preventing blowfly strike on sheep farms.

## LAMENESS

There will be one workshop dedicated to the prevention and treatment of lameness in sheep. Advisory and veterinary professionals will demonstrate appropriate procedures that farmers can implement on their farms to:

- Identify the cause of lameness.
- Treat the infection or cause where possible.
- Procedures for reducing the spread between sheep.
- Culling of persistently lame sheep.
- Prevention measures to reduce the incidence of lameness in the future.
- Antimicrobial resistance is now a big issue. We should strive to reduce antibiotic use in farm animals.

### KEY MESSAGES:

- Learn to identify the cause of lameness, as treatment options vary between diseases.
- Stop routinely hoof-paring sheep, as this increases the level of lameness in the flock.
- Appropriate quarantine procedures should be implemented on every farm to prevent purchasing sheep that carry diseases such as CODD.

## OVINE PULMONARY ADENOCARCINOMA (OPA) / JAAGSIEKTE

Ovine Pulmonary Adenocarcinoma (OPA) is an infectious fatal lung disease of sheep. Animals can be latently affected for long periods before displaying clinical signs. Early detection and culling are key strategies to reducing its spread.

Recently developed methods of ultrasound lung scanning sheep for OPA (Jaagsiekte) will be demonstrated by a veterinary surgeon from NI who has specialised in the diagnosis of this disease.

### KEY MESSAGES:

- Learn more about OPA, a contagious fatal lung condition of sheep caused by the Jaagsiekte retrovirus.
- Post-mortem examination of the lungs is advised in order to confirm the diagnosis.
- Ultrasound scanning of the lungs can provide early detection of OPA in sheep before any clinical sign appears and provide the only current screening method available.
- Appropriate quarantine procedures should be implemented on every farm, particularly where breeding stock are being purchased.
- Control strategies, including risk classification of suspect animals and culling strategy, will be discussed.

## VACCINATION

Millions of euro are spent each year on vaccines for the prevention of diseases in sheep flocks throughout the island of Ireland.

There is a huge range of vaccines, from live vaccines that are given intramuscularly, scarification vaccines which are applied via a scratch on the skin to inactivated vaccines which are given subcutaneously.

A workshop on vaccines will deal with all aspects of vaccination, from storage, to site of administration, vaccination equipment and also timing of vaccinations.

### KEY MESSAGES

- Gaining an understanding of how vaccines work.
- Why booster doses are required and why these must be given within the recommended time frame for the vaccine to be effective.
- Inappropriate vaccine storage and handling can render products useless.
- Why proper vaccination equipment is essential to maximise protection.

# Important existing and emerging sheep diseases

**SEAMUS FAGAN, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOOD AND THE MARINE, REGIONAL VETERINARY LABORATORY, COOSAN, ATHLONE, CO WESTMEATH**

**T**he use of vaccines is a powerful preventive tool if applied properly, which means scrupulous attention to the vaccination procedure, dose and scheduling. It also means ensuring that you are vaccinating against the correct disease and that you are clear that vaccination is the most appropriate and effective measure for that disease.

While vaccines are available for footrot and toxoplasmosis, the most common cause of ovine abortion in Ireland, there are other control measures that will help prevent these diseases that are very effective and will help lower the disease challenge.

No vaccine is infallible, and while vaccination helps the animal's immune system fight the relevant pathogen (micro-organism that causes the disease), reducing the pathogen load in the animal's environment will help ensure its effectiveness.

The key thing to remember is that there is no silver-bullet solution to animal health management. Vaccines, by themselves, are not a push-button solution to most disease issues.

In sheep farming, the one exception is probably clostridial vaccination, which works really well, and where there are

few additional measures indicated to prevent this group of highly fatal diseases.

For most other diseases, prevention is best considered as a tailored plan for your farm: such a programme will need to be built around your production system, housing arrangements and other aspects unique to your farm.

Effective flock health planning will be a partnership between you, your vet and your Teagasc adviser, and the RVLs remain available to your vet to help definitively diagnose causes of losses on your farm and to investigate and advise on any disease issues which are not well controlled by your flock health plan.

## EMERGING DISEASE CHALLENGES IN INTENSIVE HOUSED SHEEP SYSTEMS

Intensification is a clear trend in Irish sheep production and it brings its own

health challenges. While many

of the diseases associated with intensification are very familiar and well understood, such as pasteurilla pneumonia, new disease challenges are emerging.

Some of these are diseases we are well familiar with, such as psoroptic mange (sheep scab), and at the other end of the spectrum are diseases that are new to Irish

farmers and their vets, such as caseous lymphadenitis and jaagsiekte, where both the diagnosis and the prevention and control are challenging.

There is another group of sheep diseases which are well understood, but are



regarded as emerging diseases – these are diseases which were formerly rare, but which are likely to occur in an intensive environment with a large susceptible population of animals in a small physical space.

### **EMERGING DISEASE RISKS IN INTENSIVE LAMB REARING**

Intensive lamb fattening in large feedlot-type settings are a relatively new enterprise type (see excellent Teagasc advice leaflet on these systems) and the RVLs and meat factories report an increasing trend of two parasitic diseases in these farms that affect the appearance of meat: sarcocystosis and cysticercosis.

Both of these diseases cause significant cysts, abscessation and other blemishes and have resulted in a significant amount of carcase trimming, and in some cases complete carcass condemnation at veterinary inspection in the meat plant.

These diseases are on the increase. The preventive measures work well when they are applied.

To understand the prevention, we need to look at the life cycle. What these diseases have in common is a life cycle involving carnivores (dogs, cats, foxes) and sheep.

Sarcocystosis is caused by a protozoan (microscopic single-celled organism) that lives in the intestine of carnivores and infects sheep if their feed or forage is contaminated by an infected dog or cat.

The life cycle is completed if the sheep carcase is not properly disposed of and cats or dogs consume part of it and thus the cycle continues.

Cysticercosis is caused by a tapeworm, *Taenia ovis*, which lives in the small intestine of dogs and foxes and, again, is transmitted to sheep when they consume feed or forage contaminated by dog or fox faeces.

At pasture, these diseases occur at very low prevalence and are almost impossible to completely eradicate, but they are relatively uncommon and cause very low levels of carcase trimming and condemnation.

In housed sheep, and especially where lambs are being fed mixed rations, the contaminated feed may be spread through a large amount of feed, with a lot more lambs or other sheep exposed. Thus the need for specific controls is much more acute in intensive rearing units.

The control measures for this group of diseases are very simple:

- ☛ Worm dogs regularly on the farm with a wormer effective against tapeworms. This should be done every eight weeks with the farm dog on sheep farms – less frequent dosing risks infection with tapeworms and the shedding of eggs.
- ☛ Ensure that meal is stored in a completely secure store, ideally in a purpose-designed steel silo. The stores should be secure and rodent-proof (to prevent other disease such as salmonella). A feed store that is mouse-proof definitely won't be contaminated by a dog or a cat. Similarly, for forage storage areas, these are attractive areas for dogs and cats and their exclusion from hay, straw or silage that is to be fed to sheep is essential.
- ☛ Dispose of sheep carcasses promptly and properly. Do not allow foxes, dogs or cats have any access to dead sheep. Control carcasses, retrieve and store them securely in a predator-, bird- and rodent-proof store (eg an enclosed steel trailer), and dispose of them promptly.
- ☛ Ensure that any farm you purchase stock from is implementing the same preventive measures. Otherwise, you may carry the risk and costs of losses at the factory, even though you are implementing good preventive measures on your farm.

# Sheep 2018

# Exhibitors

## **AGRI-AWARE**

Irish Farm Centre  
Bluebell Dublin 12  
01-4601103

## **AGRIHEALTH**

Clones Road Monaghan Co.  
Monaghan  
047-71800/1890-515151

## **AGRIKNIVES DIRECT**

Cornaher Tyrellspass Co  
Westmeath  
087-3671031

## **AGRIMIN LTD**

Arranda Way Humberside  
Airport North Lincs DN39  
6YH England  
01-652688046

## **ALOE HEALTH & WELLBEING**

Gortadoeey Claregalway, Co  
Galway  
087-1203946

## **ANIMAX**

c/o Rockview Lodge Stony-  
ford Co. Kilkenny  
087-0635950

## **AURIVO**

Finisklin Business Park, Co  
Sligo  
071-9186500

## **BIMEDA**

Broomhill Road Tallaght,  
Dublin 24  
01-4667900

## **BONANZA CALF**

Coes Road Industrial Estate

Dundalk Co Louth  
042-9336001

## **BORD BIA**

Clanwilliam Court, Lower  
Mount St, Dublin 2  
01-6685155

## **CHANELLE VETERINARY**

IDA Business & Technology  
Park Dublin Road Loughrea  
Co. Galway  
091-841788

## **CLARKE MACHINERY LTD**

New Inn Ballyjamesduff Co  
Cavan  
049-8544353

## **CLIPLEX FENCING LTD**

Quin Road Business Park  
Ennis Co Clare  
087-1914360

## **CLIPPERS IRELAND**

Unit 011, Marina Commer-  
cial Park Centre Park Road  
Cork Co Cork  
021-4874441

## **CONNACHT AGRICULTURE**

Claremorris Co. Mayo  
094 9362662

## **CORMAC SHEEP EQUIPMENT / TUAM FARM SUPPLIES**

Vicar Street Tuam Co.  
Galway  
093-28231

## **CORMAC TAGGING**

Vicar Street Corralea West  
Tuam Co Galway  
093-52385

## **COYLE VETERINARY PRODUCTS**

U 5 Kilkerrin Pk Liosban  
Ind Est Tuam rd Galway  
H91V96T Co. Galway  
091-753375

## **CRYSTALYX**

Solway Mills Silloth Cumbria  
CA7 4AJ  
0044-7850494861

## **DAWN MEATS**

Clare Rd Ballyhaunis Co  
Mayo  
094-9632400

## **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

Agriculture Hse Kildare ST  
Dublin 2  
076-1064400

## **DLF SEEDS**

Ballymountain Ferrybank  
Co. Waterford  
051-897060

## **DOLAN FARM SUPPLIES**

Gortaire Cam Lodge Athlone  
Co Roscommon  
087-6370351

## **ELANCO**

Lilly House Priestly Road,  
Baskingstoke UK RG249N2  
0044-1256353131

## **ELVERYS SPORTS**

Intersport Elverys Moneen

Bradagh Ind Estate Moneen,  
Castlebar Co Mayo  
094-9020300

### **FBD INSURANCE**

FBD House Bluebell Dublin  
12  
01-7617617

### **FORCEFIELD ACTIVE TECHNOLOGY LTD**

Unit 3 Portdrine Business  
Park Portdrine, Cratloe, Co.  
Clare  
061-357618

### **GERMINAL**

Horse & Jockey Thurles Co  
Tipperary  
0504-41100

### **GIBNEY STEEL PRODUCTS**

Moylagh, Oldcastle, Co  
Meath  
049-8541302

### **GOLDCROP LTD**

Springhill Carrigtwohill Co.  
Cork  
021-4882800

### **GRASSLAND AGRO**

Ballymount House Parkway  
Business Centre Ballymount  
Cross Dublin 24  
01-4264500

### **HIPRA**

Biocity, Innovation Centre,  
Pennyfoot Street NG1 1GF  
Nottingham UK  
0044-1159124320

### **IFA**

Irish Farm Centre Bluebell  
Dublin 12  
01-4500266

### **INFORM NUTRITION IRELAND**

Whites Cross, Co Cork  
021-4394770

### **INNOVIS LTD**

Peithyll Capel Dewi Aberyst-  
wyth SY23 3HU

01970 828236

### **IOMLÁN ANIMAL SCIENCE**

Udaras Na Gaeltachta Indus-  
trial Park Tourmakeady Co  
Mayo  
094-9544708

### **IRISH CATTLE & SHEEP FARMERS ASSOCIATION (ICSA)**

3 Gandon Court Ross-  
leaghan Portlaoise Co. Laois  
057-8662120

### **IRISH COUNTRY MEATS**

Bayland, Camolin, Enniscor-  
thy Co Wexford  
053-9366300

### **IRISH FARMERS JOURNAL**

Irish Farm Centre Bluebell  
Dublin 12  
01-4199500

### **IRISH NATURA & HILL FARMERS ASSOCIATION**

The Square Tubbercurry Co  
Sligo  
071-9302715

### **J GRENNAN & SONS**

Rath, Birr, Co Offaly  
057-9133002

### **JETWASH LTD**

Carrigallen Co Leitrim  
049-4339703

### **JFC MANUFACTURING CO LTD**

Weir Road Tuam Co Galway  
093-24066

### **KEPAK GROUP**

Kepak Group HQ Clonee Co.  
Meath  
01-8015000

### **KIERNAN MILLING LTD**

Granardkille Granard Co  
Longford  
043-6660000

### **MAAM CROSS MART**

Maam Cross Recess Co  
Galway  
091-552254

### **MAYO HEALTHCARE**

Unit 18 Westport Industrial  
Park Wespport Co. Mayo  
098-25879

### **MILLWOOD CRAFTS**

106 Milltown Road Benburb  
Co. Tyrone  
0044-02837548477

### **MSD**

Red Oak North South  
County Business Park Leop-  
ardstown Dublin 18  
01-2970172

### **MULLINAHONE CO-OP**

Mullinahone Co. Tipperary  
052 915 3900

### **NATURAL STOCKCARE LTD**

Doon Co. Limerick  
086-2518944

### **NUTRIBIO**

Tivoli Industrial Estate Tivoli  
Cork  
021-4550126

### **O'DONOVAN ENGINEERING**

Coachford Co. Cork  
021 7334066

### **ORGANIC TRUST LTD**

Vernon House 2 Vernon  
Avenue Clontarf Dublin 3  
01-853027

### **ORLDEN**

14 Woodlands Warrenpoint  
Co Donegal  
048-41753157

### **RAY FORDE CRAFT**

Cappamore Barefield Ennis  
Co Clare  
086-3701237

### **ROADSTONE**

Fortunestown, Tallaght D24  
086-3027560



**SALESIAN AG COLLEGE**

Don Bosco Road Pal-laskenry  
061-393100

**SES STANLEY EQUIPMENT LTD**

Castlefleming Errill Co Laois  
0505-44145

**SHANE RABBITT TRACTORS**

Monivea Road Athenry Co Galway  
091-844300

**SHEARWELL DATA**

Putham Wheddon Cross  
Mineikao Somerset, TA24  
7AS, UK  
0044-7926973524

**SHEEP IRELAND**

Highfield House Shinagh  
Bandon Co Cork  
023-8820222

**SHEEPDIPPING.IE**

086-2676697

**SHEPHERDSMATE**

Augherskilly Ballyconnell Co Cavan  
049-9526327

**STOCKPROOF FENCING PRODUCTS**

Ballyduff Thurles Co Tipperary  
0504-45070

**TEAGASC**

Oak Park Carlow  
059-9170200

**TGM SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS**

31 St John's Road Hillsborough Co Down BT266ED  
086-92689681

**TOPFLOCK**

(c/o Farmcare Products 150  
Derrylin Rd, Enniskillen Co Fermanagh

01-4376894

**TURBO AGRI PRODUCTS**

Coose Whitegate Co. Clare  
061-654990

**UCD SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SCIENCE**

Belfield Dublin 4  
01-7167777

**UNIVET**

Tullyvin Cootehill Co. Cavan  
049-5553203/049-5553266

**VOLAC IRELAND**

Church Street Kileshandra Co. Cavan  
049-433 4755

**WHELEHAN CROP PROTECTION**

Suite 10, Bunkilla Plaza,  
Bracetown Business Park,  
Bracetown, Clonee, Dublin  
15  
01-8068600

**ZOETIS**

Cherrywood Business Park,  
Building 10, Floor 2, Bray  
Road, Loughlinstown, Dublin  
01-2569800

**FOOD VILLAGE**

**TASTE & TALES OF JOYCE COUNTRY**

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087-9065252

**TRIBAL FOODS**

Heneghan's Nursery Castle-lambert Athenry Co Galway  
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083-1308879

**VELVET CLOUD**

Rockfield Dairy Rockfield  
Claremorris Co Mayo  
087-9881583

**FOODS OF ATHENRY**

Oldcastle Kilconieron  
Athenry Co Galway  
086-8528920

**DK CONNEMARA OYSTERS**

Ballinakill Bay Dawros Let-terfrack Co Galway  
087-9186997

**REVIVE ACTIVE**

Galway Natural Health Com-pany 6A Liosban Business  
Park Tuam Road Co Galway  
1800-910000

**SLIABH AUGHTY HONEY**

Carrowmore Loughrea Co Galway  
083-4780022

**GRAN GRANS**

Kilchreest Loughrea Co Galway  
087-7507580

**IVY HOUSE CHOCOLATES**

Tynagh Loughrea Co Galway  
087 669 0522

**BROWN BAG DONUTS**

Corrandulla village Corran-dulla Co Galway  
085-7402071

**GUINNEOG LTD**

Shraheen's Balla Castlebar Co Mayo  
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**CABOTS OF WESTPORT**

Lanmore Co Mayo  
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**NOO CHOCOLATES**

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087-4161848

**DOZIO'S OF MAYO LTD-ARTISAN CHEESEMAKERS**

Barroe Carracastle Bal-  
laghadereen Co Mayo  
086 872 6277

**SEAN KELLY BUTCHERS**  
Main Street Newport Co  
Mayo Co Mayo 098-41149

### FOOD PROVIDERS

**LINNALLA ICE CREAM**  
New Quay The Burren Co  
Clare  
087-6183894

**ROGAN'S SMOKE HOUSE**  
Corry Rathowen Co West-  
meath  
087-9904707

**CREPE DELIGHT**  
Connemara Aille East  
Inverin Co Galway  
086-8563206

**LYDON HOUSE CATERING**  
3 Buttermilk Walk Middle  
street Galway  
091-564372

**GALWAY CATERING COM-  
PANY**  
214 Upper Sathill Galway  
City  
086-8258083

**SUPERMACS, PAPA JOHN  
AND SUPERSUBS**  
Ballybrit Business park Bal-  
lybrit Galway  
091-774100

**BANDITOS**  
Tonroe Oranmore Galway  
087-4197213

**GALWAY ROAST**  
Vicar St Tuam Galway  
086-7754435

**HELL'S BBQ**  
Glenstall Limerick  
087-3354189

**TREAT CAFÉ**  
Claregalway Co Galway  
091-739405

**AMERICANO ICE CREAM**  
Coldwood Craughwell Co  
Galway  
087-9565522

**FIRE AND SMOKE GASTRO-  
NOMIC GRILL**  
Ballymore Co Westmeath  
085-8638115

### SHEEP EXHIBITS

**BLEU DU MAINE SHEEP  
SOCIETY**  
Roy Butler Moatland Street  
Village Mullingar Co. West-  
meath  
087-2030333

**BROCKAGH SWALEDALE &  
MAYO BLACKFACE**  
Patrick Boyle Loughnam-  
braddan Fintown Donegal  
PO Co Donegal  
083-4668950

**DONEGAL MULE GROUP**  
William Gallen Gorticharr  
Crossroads Killygordan Co  
Donegal  
087-9055711

**EASY RAMS NEW ZEALAND  
SUFFOLK AND TEXEL**  
Niall Walsh Castlegrogan  
Errill Portlaoise Co Laois  
087-9088544

**GALWAY SHEEP BREEDERS  
ASSOCIATION**  
Tom Murphy Shralea Cre-  
agh, Ballinsaloe Co Galway  
087-9486530

**HAMPSHIRE DOWN**  
C/o Adrian Curtin Newtown  
Eadestown Co Kildare  
086-8302300

**IRISH ROUGE SHEEP  
SOCIETY**  
Hilary Workman Drumhurk  
House Monaghan  
047-81463 / 086-0788220

**JACOB SHEEP SOCIETY**  
Martin Harney Kilcrin  
Ahascragh Ballinasloe Co.  
Galway  
087-2996656

**EASY CARE SHEEP  
(WOOL SHEDDING)**  
John Brennan Knocka  
Drom, Templemore, Co  
Tipperary  
086-4009908

**BORRIS EWE BREEDERS  
ASSOCIATION**  
Maurice Donoghue Leinster  
Coop Marts Killeshin Rd  
Carlow Co Carlow  
087-9871695

**SCHWARZKOPF SHEEP  
SOCIETY (IRL) EU**  
Perry Podger French Furge  
Kildare Co Kildare  
085-1057140

**SHROPSHIRE SHEEP**  
John White Leitrim North  
Cloonacool Co Sligo  
071-9186202 / 086-8547770

**ZWARTBLES EIRE  
NATIONAL SHEEP CO-OP**  
Timothy Kelleher Sheperd  
Lodge Kilmicheal Macroom  
Co Cork  
085-7183901

**MAYO MOUNTAIN &  
BLACKFACE SHEEP  
BREEDERS**  
Breege Biggins Friar Court  
Glebe St Ballinrobe Co  
Mayo  
087 7994194

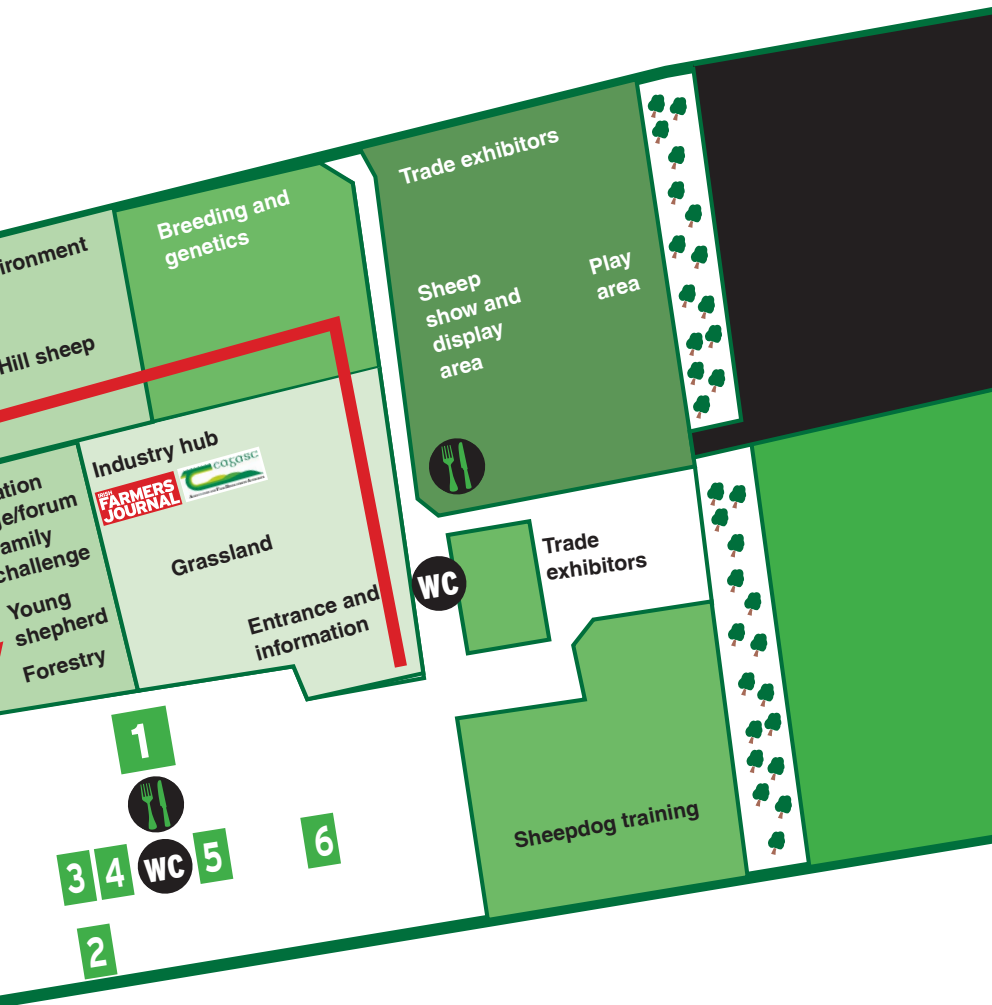
➔ See pages 42-61 for  
sheep breed competition  
listings.

# SITE MAP

- 1** Meat marketing village
- 2** Heritage displays
- 3** Teagasc food science
- 4** Project Baa Baa
- 5** Seating and rest area
- 6** Food displays/European region of gastronomy



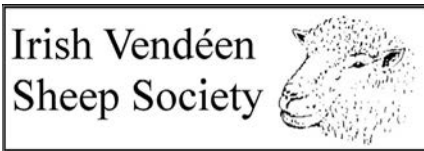




→  
Suggested  
technical route

# Irish Vendéen Sheep Society All-Ireland Show 2018

Kindly sponsored by J Grennan & Sons



**Prizes:** Product and Cash

**Judge:** Brian Hanthorn, DARD, Northern Ireland

**Breed secretary:** Ann Ford, Kilnacrott, Ballyjamesduff, Co Cavan,  
Tel: 086-0237721

**Website:** [www.venddensheep.ie](http://www.venddensheep.ie)

Surname	Forename	Address	Telephone number	Entry/exhibit number(s)
Anderson	Cyril and Keith	Springfield, Lismacaffrey, Co Westmeath	087 3030175	V10, V11, V23
Coughlan	Ciaran	Noggus, Fербane, Co Offaly	086 8229900	V2, V4, V12, V13, V24, V25, V29, V30, V35, V36
Crowe	Mark and Audrey	Killeen Road, Dunsany, Co Meath	087 2856203	V3, V5, V6, V16, V17, V38, V39
Lynch	John	Ballinascraw, Ballinalee, Co Longford	086 8061568	V14, V15, V31, V37
McGrath	Michael	Edmonstown, Monelia, Mullingar, Co Westmeath	087 1347366	V18, V19, V40, V41
Nagle	Ena	Landmark, Ballylough, Michelstown, Co Cork	022 25370	V1, V8, V9, V22, V28, V34
O'Brien	Cheryl	Springvale, Killdorrery, Co Cork	022-25214	V7, V20, V21, V26, V27, V32, V33, V42, V43

<b>Entry/ Exhibit number</b>	<b>Class number (For breed soc)</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Exhibitor(s)</b>	<b>Place</b>
V1		Senior Ram	Ena Nagle	
V2		Senior Ram	Ciaran Coughlan	
V3		Senior Ram	Mark and Audrey Crowe	
V4		Shearling Ram	Ciaran Coughlan	
V5		Shearling Ram	Mark and Audrey Crowe	
V6		Shearling Ram	Mark and Audrey Crowe	
V7		Shearling Ram	Cheryl O'Brien	
V8		Ram Lamb	Ena Nagle	
V9		Ram Lamb	Ena Nagle	
V10		Ram Lamb	Cyril and Keith Anderson	
V11		Ram Lamb	Cyril and Keith Anderson	
V12		Ram Lamb	Ciaran Coughlan	
V13		Ram Lamb	Ciaran Coughlan	
V14		Ram Lamb	John Lynch	
V15		Ram Lamb	John Lynch	
V16		Ram Lamb	Mark and Audrey Crowe	
V17		Ram Lamb	Mark and Audrey Crowe	
V18		Ram Lamb	Michael McGrath	
V19		Ram Lamb	Michael McGrath	
V20		Ram Lamb	Cheryl O'Brien	
V21		Ram Lamb	Cheryl O'Brien	
V22		Senior Ewe	Ena Nagle	
V23		Senior Ewe	Cyril and Keith Anderson	
V24		Senior Ewe	Ciaran Coughlan	
V25		Senior Ewe	Ciaran Coughlan	
V26		Senior Ewe	Cheryl O'Brien	
V27		Senior Ewe	Cheryl O'Brien	
V28		Shearling Ewe	Ena Nagle	
V29		Shearling Ewe	Ciaran Coughlan	
V30		Shearling Ewe	Ciaran Coughlan	
V31		Shearling Ewe	John Lynch	
V32		Shearling Ewe	Cheryl O'Brien	
V33		Shearling Ewe	Cheryl O'Brien	
V34		Ewe Lamb	Ena Nagle	
V35		Ewe Lamb	Ciaran Coughlan	
V36		Ewe Lamb	Ciaran Coughlan	
V37		Ewe Lamb	John Lynch	
V38		Ewe Lamb	Mark and Audrey Crowe	
V39		Ewe Lamb	Mark and Audrey Crowe	
V40		Ewe Lamb	Michael McGrath	
V41		Ewe Lamb	Michael McGrath	
V42		Ewe Lamb	Cheryl O'Brien	
V43		Ewe Lamb	Cheryl O'Brien	

# Lleyn Sheep Society

Kindly sponsored by Mayo Health Care



**MAYO HEALTHCARE**

**Enhancing Animal Health**

**Tel:** (098) 25879 / 25622

**Email:** sales@mayhealthcare.ie

**Prizes:** 60, 40, 30, 20, 10

**Judge:** Simon Brown

**Breed secretary:** David Oliver,  
davidoliver07@gmail.com

**Website:** facebook.com/Lleynsheepireland

## Class 1: Lleyn aged ram

Number of animals	Exhibitor	Place
1	Orla Barry	
2	Alan Mc Donald	
1	Mick Murphy	
1	David Power	
1	David Oliver	
1	David Beattie	

## Class 2: Lleyn aged ewe

1	Orla Barry	
2	Alan Mc Donald	
1	Mick Murphy	
1	David Power	
1	David Oliver	
1	David Beattie	
1	Padraig Geraghty	

### Class 3: Lleyn hogget ram

1	Orla Barry	
2	Alan Mc Donald	
1	Mick Murphy	
1	David Power	
1	David Oliver	
1	David Beattie	

### Class 4: Lleyn hogget ewe

1	Orla Barry	
2	Alan Mc Donald	
1	Mick Murphy	
1	David Power	
1	David Oliver	
1	David Beattie	
1	Pdraig Geraghty	

### Class 5: Lleyn ram lamb

1	Orla Barry	
2	Alan Mc Donald	
1	Mick Murphy	
1	David Power	
1	David Oliver	
1	David Beattie	
1	Pdraig Geraghty	

### Class 6: Lleyn ewe lamb

1	Orla Barry	
2	Alan Mc Donald	
1	Mick Murphy	
1	David Power	
1	David Oliver	
1	David Beattie	
1	Pdraig Geraghty	

Name	Address
Alan Mc Donald	Co Offaly
David Beattie	Co Cavan
David Oliver	Co Louth
David Power	Co Wexford
Mick Murphy	Co Kilkenny
Orla Barry	Co Wexford
Pdraig Geraghty	Co Galway

# Belclare Sheep Society



**Sponsor:** Bimeda

**Secretary:** Mike Neenan, Secretary, 087 2777721

Number of animals	Competition	Exhibitor	Place
1	Belclare Ewe Lamb	Conor McDonough	
2	Belclare Ewe Lamb	Richard/John Lalor	
1	Belclare Ewe Lamb	James Hannon	
1	Belclare Ewe Lamb	Sonny Jennings	
1	Belclare Ewe Lamb	Liam Dunne	
2	Belclare Ewe Lamb	Declan and Joe Miley	
1	Belclare Ram Lamb	Conor McDonough	
2	Belclare Ram Lamb	Richard and John Lalor	
1	Belclare Ram Lamb	James Hannon	
1	Belclare Ram Lamb	Sonny Jennings	
2	Belclare Ram Lamb	Liam Dunne	
1	Belclare Ram Lamb	Declan and Joe Miley	
1	Belclare Senior Ewe	Liam Dunne	
2	Belclare Senior Ewe	Declan and Joe Miley	
1	Belclare Senior Ram	Richard and John Lalor	
1	Belclare Senior Ram	Sonny Jennings	
1	Belclare Senior Ram	Liam Dunne	
2	Belclare Shearling Ewe	Richard and John Lalor	
1	Belclare Shearling Ewe	Conor McDonough	
1	Belclare Shearling Ewe	Liam Dunne	
2	Belclare Shearling Ewe	Declan and Joe Miley	
2	Belclare Shearling Ram	Richard and John Lalor	
1	Belclare Shearling Ram	John C Murphy	
1	Belclare Shearling Ram	Liam Dunne	

Name	Address
Conor McDonough	Milltown, Carndonagh, Co Donegal
Declan and Joe Miley	Ballyglass, Knockcroghery, Co Roscommon
James Hannon	Islandmore, Kilmaine, Co Mayo
John C Murphy	Ballinahinch, Nicholastown, Kilcock, Co Kildare
Liam Dunne	Gurteen, Tubber, Moate, Co Offaly
Richard and John Lalor	Rathkenty, Lisronagh, Clonmel, Co Tipperary
Sonny Jennings	Cahergal, Tuam, Co Galway

# West Of Ireland Lanark Breeders



**Sale date:** Saturday, 15 September at Aurivo Mart, Ballinrobe, Co Mayo

**Contact:** Tom – 087-2607883

John – 086-3994418

Victor – 086-8289926

Entry/ Exhibit number	Class number <i>(For breed soc)</i>	Class	Exhibitor(s)	Place
1		Aged ram	Victor Barber	
2		Aged ram	Victor Barber	
3		Aged ram	Tom Staunton	
4		Aged ram	Tom Staunton	
5		Hogget ram	Joe Scahill	
6		Hogget ram	Victor Barber	
7		Hogget ram	Victor Barber	
8		Hogget ram	Victor Barber	
9		Hogget ram	Victor Barber	
10		Hogget ram	Tom Staunton	
11		Hogget ram	Tom Staunton	
12		Hogget ram	Raymond Prendergast	
13		Hogget ram	Raymond Prendergast	

14		Hogget ram	Raymond Prendergast	
15		Hogget ram	John Morohan	
16		Ram lamb	Joe Scahill	
17		Ram lamb	Joe Scahill	
18		Ram lamb	Victor Barber	
19		Ram lamb	Victor Barber	
20		Ram lamb	Victor Barber	
21		Ram lamb	Victor Barber	
22		Ram lamb	Tom Staunton	
23		Ram lamb	Tom Staunton	
24		Ram lamb	Tom Staunton	
25		Ram lamb	Tom Staunton	
26		Ram lamb	John Morohan	
27		Ewe lamb	Joe Scahill	
28		Ewe lamb	Joe Scahill	
29		Ewe lamb	Victor Barber	
30		Ewe lamb	Victor Barber	
31		Ewe lamb	Victor Barber	
32		Ewe lamb	Victor Barber	
33		Ewe lamb	Tom Staunton	
34		Ewe lamb	Tom Staunton	
35		Ewe lamb	Tom Staunton	
36		Ewe lamb	Tom Staunton	
37		Ewe lamb	John Morohan	

<b>Surname</b>	<b>Forename</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Exhibit numbers</b>
Barber	Victor	Munninane, Grange, Co Sligo	1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 18, 19, 20, 21, 29, 30, 31, 32
Morohan	John	Coolisduff, Kilamine, Co Mayo	15, 26, 37
Prendergast	Raymond	Letter Tourmakeady, Claremorris, Co Mayo	12, 13, 14
Scahill	Joe	Prospect, Westport, Co Mayo	5, 16, 17, 27, 28
Staunton	Tom	Shanvalleyard, Tourmakeady, Claremorris, Co Mayo	3, 4, 10, 11, 22, 23, 24, 25, 33, 34, 35, 36



# Bluefaced Leicester All-Ireland Show 2018



**Judge:** Mr. John Holden (Blairmount Flock) 9 Golden Vale Drive, Larne Co Antrim. BT40 2NS.

**Breed secretary:** K McGrath

**Contact:** K McGrath@caoramor.net

Number of animals	Class	Exhibitor (name and address)	Place
1	Bluefaced Leicester	Joe Scahill, Prospect, Wesport, Co Mayo	
1	Bluefaced Leicester	Declan Molloy, Baurisheen, Oughterard, Co Galway	
1	Bluefaced Leicester	John Morahan, Coolisduff, Kilmaine, Co Mayo	
1	Bluefaced Leicester	Alec Jeffery, Kilbeg House, Ladybridge, Castlemartyr, Co Cork	
1	Bluefaced Leicester	Paul Salmon, Lakeview, Firmount, Carrigahorig, Nenagh, Co Tipperary	
1	Bluefaced Leicester	Tom Staunton, Shanvallyard, Tourmakeady, Claremorris, Co Mayo.	
1	Bluefaced Leicester	Kieran and Patrick McGrath, Kiltyfergal, Cloghan, Co Donegal.	
1	Bluefaced Leicester	Emmett Sweeney, Quigabar Flock, Enniscrone, Co Sligo	

# Donegal Mule Group



**Sale date:** 6pm, 31 August 2018 at Ballybofey and Stranorlar Mart,  
F93 E127

**Contact:** Kieran – 083-1112973  
William – 087-9055711  
Facebook – Donegal Mule Group

Entry/Exhibit number	Class number <i>(For breed soc)</i>	Class	Exhibitor(s)	Place
1		Mule ewe lamb	Patrick McGrath	
2		Mule ewe lamb	Patrick McGrath	
3		Mule ewe lamb	Pauric Gallen	
4		Mule ewe lamb	Pauric Gallen	
5		Mule ewe lamb	Charlie Tinney	
6		Mule ewe lamb	Charlie Tinney	
7		Mule hoggets	Patrick McGrath	
8		Mule hoggets	Patrick McGrath	
9		Mule hoggets	Pauric Gallen	
10		Mule hoggets	Pauric Gallen	
11		Mule hoggets	Charlie Tinney	
12		Mule hoggets	Charlie Tinney	

Surname	Forename	Address	Exhibit numbers
McGrath	Patrick	Kiltyfergal, Cloghan, Co Donegal	1, 2, 7, 8
Gallen	Pauric	Gorticharr, Crossroads, Killygordan, Co Donegal	3, 4, 9, 10
Tinney	Charlie	Ballyrairie, Letterkenny, Co Donegal	5, 6, 11, 12

# West of Ireland Registered Pedigree Suffolk Breeders Club



## Class 1: Shearling ewe

Number of animals	Exhibitor	Place
1	Kenneth Bailey	
2	Coote Geelan	
1	Garth Graham	
2	Gerry Killilea	

## Class 2: Aged ewe

1	Kenneth Bailey	
1	Coote Geelan	
1	James Rooney	

## Class 3: Ewe lamb

1	T J Broderick	
1	Peter Clooran	
3	Coote Geelan	
2	Garth Graham	
2	Sean Holloran	
2	Kevin and Mattie Kelly	
2	Gerry Killilea	

1	Padraic Niland	
1	Matt Pearse	
2	James Rooney	

#### **Class 4: Shearling ram**

1	Kenneth Bailey	
1	Coote Geelan	
1	Garth Graham	

#### **Class 5: Aged ram**

1	T J Broderick	
1	Coote Geelan	
1	Matt Pearse	
2	Peter Colleran	

#### **Class 6: Ram lamb**

2	Liam Higgins	
1	Kenneth Bailey	

#### **Class 7: Open ram lamb**

2	TJ Broderick	
1	Coote Geelan	
2	Garth Graham	
2	Sean Halloran	
2	Kevin and Mattie Kelly	
2	Gerry Killilea	
1	Padraic Niland	
1	Matt Pearse	
2	James Rooney	

## Class 8: Group of two (mixed)

1	Kenneth Bailey	
1	T J Broderick	
1	Peter Colleran	
1	Coote Geelan	
1	Garth Graham	
1	Sean Halloran	
1	Liam Higgins	
1	Kevin and Mattie Kelly	
1	Gerry Killilea	
1	Padraic Niland	
1	Matt Pearse	
1	James Rooney	

## Class 9: Young handlers

1	Conor Bailey	
2	Oisin Colleran	
3	Clodagh Geelan	
4	Harry Graham	
5	Darragh Kelly	
6	Cathal McGowan	
7	Eoin McGowan	

Name	Address
Coote Geelan	Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim
Kenneth Bailey	Castlerea, Co Roscommon
Garth Graham	Ballygawley, Co Roscommon
Gerry Killilea	Claregalway, Co Galway
James Rooney	Grange, Co Sligo
Kenneth Bailey	Castlerea, Co Roscommon
Kevin and Mattie Kelly	Ballinasloe, Co Galway
Liam Higgins	Athlone, Co Westmeath
Matt Pearse	O'Briens Bridge, Co Clare
Padraic Niland	Kinvara, Co Galway
Peter Clooran	Moylough, Co Galway
Sean Halloran	Roscahill, Co Galway
T J Broderick	Menlough, Co Galway

# Irish Texel Sheep Society - West Region



**Competition:** West Region Annual championships

**Judge:** Mr David Chestnutt, 9 Clougher Road, Bushmills, Co Antrim

**Secretary:** Lorraine Brennan – 086-8546772

Class	Exhibitor	Place
Texel aged ram	Pat Lyons	
	Michael Murphy	
Texel aged ewe (must have visible signs of having reared a lamb in 2018)	Sean, Lorraine and Alma Brennan	
	Thomas Kenny	
	Thomas Kenny	
	Tony and Cathal Lavin	
	Tony and Cathal Lavin	
	Pat Lyons	
	Gerard Warde	
Texel shearling ram	Sean, Lorraine and Alma Brennan	
	Sean, Lorraine and Alma Brennan	
	Michael Haverty	
	Thomas Kenny	
	Pat Lyons	
	Donal Mee	
	Michael Murphy	
	Mark Noble	
	Mark Noble	
	Fintan Thornton	
Gerard Warde		

<b>Texel shearling ewe</b>	Sean, Lorraine and Alma Brennan	
	Sean, Lorraine and Alma Brennan	
	Brian Connelly	
	Brian Connelly	
	Garry Dempsey	
	Shane and Patrick Hynes	
	Patrick Joyce	
	Thomas Kenny	
	Thomas Kenny	
	Thomas Kenny	
	Pat Lyons	
	Pat Lyons	
	Pat Lyons	
	John McGloin	
	Michael Murphy	
	Gerard and Margaret Niland	
	Gerard and Margaret Niland	
	Padraic Niland	
	Brian O'Dowd	
	Brian O'Dowd	
Caragh O'Dowd		
<b>Texel ram lamb</b>		
	Sean, Lorraine and Alma Brennan	
	Trevor Burke	
	Trevor Burke	
	Brian Connelly	
	Michael Haverty	
	Thomas Kenny	
	Thomas Kenny	
	Gerry Killilea	
	Tony and Cathal Lavin	
	Pat Lyons	
	John McGloin	
	Michael Murphy	
	Gerard and Margaret Niland	
	Padraic Niland	
	Mark Noble	
	Brian O'Dowd	
	Brian O'Dowd	
	Fintan Thornton	
	Fintan Thornton	
	Padraig and Michael Treacy	
Padraig and Michael Treacy		
Gerard Warde		

<b>Texel ewe lamb</b>	Sean, Lorraine and Alma Brennan	
	Trevor Burke	
	Trevor Burke	
	Brian Connelly	
	Gerry Davis	
	Patrick Joyce	
	Patrick Joyce	
	Thomas Kenny	
	Thomas Kenny	
	Tony and Cathal Lavin	
	Tony and Cathal Lavin	
	Pat Lyons	
	John McGloin	
	Michael Murphy	
	Gerard and Margaret Niland	
	Padraic Niland	
	Mark Noble	
	Mark Noble	
	Brian O'Dowd	
	Brian O'Dowd	
Fintan Thornton		
Padraig and Michael Treacy		
Gerard Warde		
<b>Texel ram lamb born after 1 March</b>	Michael Haverty	
	Jarlath Joyce	
	Thomas Kenny	
	Thomas Kenny	
	Tony and Cathal Lavin	
	Gerard and Margaret Niland	
	Padraic Niland	
	Jack Walsh	
<b>Texel ewe lamb born after 1 March</b>	Kenneth Bailey	
	Kenneth Bailey	
	Kenneth Bailey	
	Patrick Joyce	
	Thomas Kenny	
	Gerard and Margaret Niland	
	Padraic Niland	
	Mark Noble	
Jack Walsh		



<b>Texel ram lamb (Confined to breeders who joined the Society on or after 2012)</b>	Brian Connelly	
	Gerry Davis	
	Gerry Davis	
	Garry Dempsey	
	Shane and Patrick Hynes	
	Tony and Cathal Lavin	
	Conor Lyons	
<b>Group of three from same flock (no more than one from each category above)</b>	Entries on the day	
<b>Young handler</b>	Entries on the day	

<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>
Michael Haverty	Dunblaney, Dunmore, Co Galway
Michael Murphy	Moneen, Cummer, Tuam, Co Galway
Padraic Niland	Chessy, Kinvara, Co Galway
Padraig and Michael Treacy	Gailey, Knockcroghery, Co Roscommon
Pat Lyons	Turoe, Bullaun, Loughrea, Co Galway
Patrick Joyce	Cahir, Recess, Co Galway
Sean, Lorraine and Alma Brennan	Lisgobbin, Co Roscommon
Shane and Patrick Hynes	Highwarren, Baylin, Athlone, Co Westmeath
Thomas Kenny	Hillswood, Kilconnell, Ballinasloe, Co Galway
Tony and Cathal Lavin	Ardikillen, Strokestown, Co Roscommon
Trevor Burke	Tavanaghmore, Corofin, Cummer, Tuam, Co Galway

# Zwartbles Sheep Association Southern Ireland branch



**Secretary:** Linda Walsh – 087-7695170

Number of animals	Class	Exhibitor (name and address)	Place
1	Ewe lamb	Ray Sweeney	
1	Ewe lamb	Tullamain Flock	
1	Ewe lamb	Peter Howard	
2	Ewe lamb	Jonathan Workman	
1	Ewe lamb	Colin Stephenson	
1	Ewe lamb	Mick O Connell	
2	Ewe lamb	Linda Walsh	
1	Ewe lamb	Suzanna Crampton	
1	Ram lamb	Tullamain Flock	
2	Ram lamb	Peter Howard	
2	Ram lamb	Jonathan Workman	
1	Ram lamb	Colin Stephenson	
1	Ram lamb	Mick O Connell	
1	Ram lamb	Linda Walsh	
1	Ram lamb	Suzanna Crampton	
1	Ewe shearing	Ray Sweeney	

2	Ewe shearling	Tullamain Flock	
1	Ewe shearling	Peter Howard	
1	Ewe shearling	Jonathan Workman	
1	Ewe shearling	Colin Stephenson	
1	Ewe shearling	Linda Walsh	
1	Ewe shearling	Suzanna Crampton	
1	Ram shearling	Tullamain Flock	
1	Ram shearling	Peter Howard	
1	Ram shearling	Colin Stephenson	
1	Ram shearling	Linda Walsh	
2	Aged ewe	Tullamain Flock	
1	Aged ewe	Colin Stephenson	
1	Aged ewe	Linda Walsh	
1	Aged ewe	Suzanna Crampton	
2	Aged ram	Tullamain Flock	
1	Aged ram	Linda Walsh	
1	Aged ram	Suzanna Crampton	

<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>
Colin Stephenson	Baltinglass, Co Wicklow
Jonathan Workman	Drumhirik House, Co Monaghan
Linda Walsh	Heatherlodge Farm, Derryvarogue, Donadea, Naas, Co Kildare
Mick O'Connell	Patrickswell, Co Limerick
Peter Howard	Attyflin, Patrickswell, Co Limerick
Ray Sweeney	Ardee, Co Louth
Suzanna Crampton	Maidenhall, Co Kilkenny
Tullamain Flock	Fethard, Co Tipperary

# Mayo Mule and Greyface Group



**Breed contacts:** Joe 086-1577154, Oliver 086-8923381, Tom 087-2607883  
**Sale dates:** Two-day Friday 24th, Saturday 25th August; Saturday 8th September; Friday 28th September – Aurivo Mart, Ballinrobe

[www.mayomuleandgreyface.com](http://www.mayomuleandgreyface.com)

Entry/ Exhibit number	Class number (For breed soc)	Class	Exhibitor(s)	Place
1		Mule ewe lamb	Tom Staunton	
2		Mule ewe lamb	Tom Staunton	
3		Mule ewe lamb	Tom Staunton	
4		Mule ewe lamb	Tom Staunton	
5		Mule ewe lamb	Oliver Cawley	
6		Mule ewe lamb	Oliver Cawley	
7		Mule ewe lamb	Joe Scahill	
8		Mule ewe lamb	Joe Scahill	
9		Mule ewe lamb	Joe Scahill	
10		Mule ewe lamb	Joe Scahill	
11		Mule ewe lamb	Padraic Kelly	
12		Mule ewe lamb	Padraic Kelly	
13		Mule ewe lamb	David Prendergast	
14		Mule ewe lamb	David Prendergast	
15		Mule ewe lamb	Brain Moran	
16		Mule ewe lamb	Brain Moran	
17		Mule ewe lamb	Tom Carter	
18		Mule ewe lamb	Tom Carter	
19		Mule ewe lamb	John Morohan	
20		Mule ewe lamb	John Morohan	
21		Mule ewe lamb	Adrain Carter	

22		Mule ewe lamb	Adrain Carter	
23		Mule ewe lamb	Raymond Prendergast	
24		Mule ewe lamb	Raymond Prendergast	
25		Mule hoggets	Anthony Fadden	
26		Mule hoggets	Anthony Fadden	
27		Mule hoggets	John Flannelly	
28		Mule hoggets	John Flannelly	
29		Mule hoggets	John Flannelly	
30		Mule hoggets	John Flannelly	
31		Mule hoggets	John Morohan	
32		Mule hoggets	John Morohan	
33		Mule hoggets	Tom Staunton	
34		Mule hoggets	Colin Walsh	
35		Mule hoggets	Colin Walsh	
36		Mule hoggets	Marie Maloney	
37		Mule hoggets	Marie Maloney	

<b>Surname</b>	<b>Forename</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Exhibit numbers</b>
Carter	Tom	Killawalla, Westport, Co Mayo	17, 18
Carter	Adrian	Killawalla, Westport, Co Mayo	21, 22
Cawley	Oliver	Derrribbeen, Clogher, Westport, Co Mayo	5, 6
Fadden	Anthony	Kiladoone, Louisburgh, Co Mayo	25, 26
Flannelly	John	Rathredmond, Ballinrobe, Co Mayo	27, 28, 29, 30
Kelly	Padraic	Devlsh, Killawalla, Westport, Co Mayo	11, 12
Maloney	Marie	Ballybannon, Tourmakeady, Claremorris, Co Mayo	36, 37
Moran	Brian	Manusflynn, Belclare, Tuam, Co Galway	15, 16
Morohan	John	Coolisduff, Kilamine, Co Mayo	19, 20, 31, 32
Prendergast	Raymond	Letter, Tourmakeady, Claremorris, Co Mayo	23, 24
Prendergast	David	Gortmore, Tourmakeady, Claremorris, Co Myo	13, 14
Scahill	Joe	Prospect, Westport, Co Mayo	7, 8, 9, 10
Staunton	Tom	Shanvalleyard, Tourmakeady, Claremorris, Co Mayo	1, 2, 3, 4, 33
Walsh	Colin	Kiltroon, Ballinrobe, Co Mayo	34, 35

# Project Baa Baa

**P**roject Baa Baa, celebrating the cultural, economic and environmental contribution of sheep farming and associated traditions across Europe, has been approved by GALWAY 2020 to host a series of events, exhibitions and an EU congress in 2020.

It will launch its primary schools sheep project at Sheep 2018 - Farm to Fork. Project Baa Baa has co-ordinated volunteers from wool craft, eco, food cheese and meat, farming and agri-tourism to provide a varied programme for the day.

Starting the day with traditional music using uilleann pipes, there will be a sheep shearing demonstration by George Graham, who will talk you through the stages. Senior head instructor for Republic of Ireland sheep shearing, George knows his shearing, both electric and hand.

There are sheepdog trials outside with Rockland Sheep Trials, Eamon Egan. Caherconnell Fort, Glen Keen Family Farm and Killary Sheep Farm experiences will be there to tell you about their farms. Glen Keen is one of the largest single-owned family farms in Ireland's agri-tourism offering, over 1,400 acres in size.

Killary Sheep Farm is a traditional working mountain farm with approximately 200 ewes and lambs roaming freely in the mountain overlooking Killary fjord. They run mainly Scottish Blackface sheep suited to these mountains during the harsh winters.

At Killary Sheep Farm, visitors can view working sheepdog, sheep shearing and turf-cutting demonstrations. This



group will bring sheep trials and shearing, as well as audio-visuals of farm days out.

The Irish Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers (IGWSD) will demonstrate spinning raw wool after shearing, wool washing, sorting, blending, dyeing and weaving, as well as different finishing methods. IGWSD PRO Grace O'Neill, well-known as the babbles travelling yarn blogger, will give a demonstration too.

Eddie Doherty, a well-known hand weaver based in Ardara, Co Donegal, will



an cheeses from Ireland, England, Italy, Spain, Portugal, France and Corsica will be on display by Sheridans, Galway.

McGeough's Meats – Connemara Fine Foods will present on curing and smoking meats and Cumbrian, Farmer Sharp, will speak and demonstrate the difference in lamb from different breeds, advised by Achill Mountain Lamb, Kerry Hill Lamb and Connemara Hill Lamb. A fun element for the day is the launch of the primary schools sheep project and the Project Baa Baa and Teagasc colouring competition. Children can draw on a sheep mural or try a colouring competition with parents or map their location in Ireland to Galway on the wool map puzzle. Working with wool by artist Kathy Ross will be explained.

Find out about the life cycle of the sheep, parts of the sheep, uses of wool, meat cuts and how to register your food on EU PGI and Slow Food arc of taste, registers. Slow Food Ireland will explain its role in encouraging good, clean, fair food since its beginnings 25 years ago.



demonstrate hand weaving on his own loom. Eddie produces a wide range of traditional handcrafted products from tweed using 100% Irish wool.

Johnny Spinning Wheels will be on hand to show off his handmade spinning wheels.

Irish cheese will be presented by Cáis na Tíre, Rockfield Velvet Cloud, Cratloe Hills and Cashel Blue. Maturing Europe-

A documentary on traditional Irish crafts by David and Sally Shaw Smith will present spinning and weaving at woollen mills. Woollen mills will be represented by Donegal Yarns, Kerry and Cottondale Woollen Mills.

The natural fibers and skills, acquired through generations, enable them to produce Irish wool blankets, throws, yarns and fashion accessories.

The schedule of demonstrations will be available in shed 10 on the Teagasc Sheep 2018 event guide and on the website [www.projectbaabaa.com](http://www.projectbaabaa.com).

# Meat marketing village

## DECLAN FENNELL, BORD BIA

**T**he meat marketing village at Sheep 2018 is a must-see for all producers, where an action-packed programme of butchering and cooking demonstrations, as well as producer group talks, will be held over the course of the day.

Centrally located on the Athenry campus and beside the main hub of technical displays and exhibits, Bord Bia will be highlighting its key programmes in the area of market promotions, Quality Assurance, Origin Green and consumer insights.

The Bord Bia team, including representatives from the meat and livestock division and sustainability and quality assurance departments, will be available throughout the event to speak to producers.

### PROMOTIONS

Visitors to the stand will learn more about a wide range of Bord Bia activities relating to the new Quality Assurance TV campaign, which will be aired nationwide in two separate waves commencing this summer and to be repeated in autumn 2018, as well as an online programme of digital and PR activities which will support the campaign.

In advance of the official launch of a new €10.2m EU co-funded promotion Lamb – Try It, Love It, which will be rolled out across Ireland, France, Germany and the UK from July onwards, Bord Bia will be on hand to provide updates on how this new promotional drive is targeting younger consumers into the lamb category.

Broadening the export reach of Irish lamb in the context of Brexit is an added

imperative. In this regard, the Bord Bia information stand will address market access and the importance of international promotions such as the €2.75m EU co-funded promotion European Beef & Lamb – Excellence in Food Safety & Sustainability, which is currently under way in China and Hong Kong.

As well as providing updates on the market outlook for 2018, the Bord Bia information stand will provide insights into the latest promotional initiatives that are under way for hill lamb and the organic sheep sectors.

### SUSTAINABLE LAMB QUALITY ASSURANCE

Irish farmers in the Bord Bia Quality Assurance scheme play a key role in the success of the Q mark, which is one of the key drivers for them in choosing product.

Since the launch of the new Sustainable Beef and Lamb Assurance Scheme (SBLAS), a number of new measures to include a close-out period and helpdesk facility has made the scheme more user-friendly.

As part of the Origin Green programme, Bord Bia is currently piloting a carbon footprint assessment which will lead towards the development of a carbon navigator for Irish sheep producers.

Bord Bia staff members will be available throughout the day to address any questions relating to the scheme.

### BUTCHERING DEMONSTRATION

Sheepmeat markets have changed significantly in the last decade, with over three-quarters of Irish sheepmeat output now destined for export markets.

On account of a greater emphasis on exporting boneless product, getting the ideal carcase specification is of the ut-





most importance.

With this in mind, Bord Bia will coordinate a series of butchery demonstrations, where a qualified butcher will share practical insights on various cuts that are derived from ideal, over-weight and under-finished carcasses and will discuss their suitability for the local butcher, retail and food service sectors.

The butchery demonstration has always generated strong interest among producers.

The demonstration provides an ideal opportunity to see first-hand how the carcass is broken down into individual cuts and gain an appreciation of the importance of having a minimum and maximum fat cover to ensure the product meets the market specification.

Recognising the important role of producer groups, a dedicated time slot has been set aside on the main demonstration stage for a panel discussion to share best practices on how producer organ-

isations can be an effective forum for producers wishing to market their lambs.

### COOKING DEMONSTRATION

Celebrity chef Catherine Fulvio will host a number of cooking demonstrations throughout the show.

Catherine will present a number of tasty dishes that all the family can enjoy, including quick and delicious meal solutions, with Quality Assured lamb.

Catherine will be cooking with products carrying the Bord Bia Quality Mark, which mean they have been produced to the highest standards and can be traced back to the farm.

Representatives from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, the Irish Farmers' Association and the main sheepmeat export plants will also be located in the Meat Marketing Village and will be available to answer any queries from producers.



# Bord Bia's campaign to promote new-season Irish lamb on TV

Last month, Bord Bia rolled out a new nationwide TV ad campaign targeted at Irish consumers as part of an initiative to promote new-season Irish lamb carrying the Quality Assurance mark.

Between now and the end of October, Irish consumers will experience 11 weeks of promotional activities including two EU-supported campaigns in July and September.

Irish farmers in the Bord Bia Quality Assurance scheme play a key role in the success of the Q mark, which is one of the key drivers for them in choosing product. In a nationally representative survey, six out of 10 shoppers say that they are more likely to choose lamb that carries the Quality Mark when shopping.

Among Irish grocery shoppers, 89% say that they are aware of the Quality Mark and it continues to be deemed the most reassuring of all food labels/logos for quality, safety, origin and being independently audited.

The advertising campaigns are in four waves:

- ☛ **WAVE 1:** 18 June – 16 July Summer QA TV Promotion (four weeks).
- ☛ **WAVE 2:** 16 July – 29 July 'Lamb – Try it, Love it' Promotion' (two weeks).
- ☛ **WAVE 3:** 3 Sept – 16 Sept 'Lamb – Try it, Love it' Promotion' (two weeks).
- ☛ **WAVE 4:** 17 Sept – 7 October Autumn QA TV promotion (three weeks).

## ☛ QA MARK TV PROMOTION

The new TV campaign focuses on the versatility of three specific cuts – stir fry, cutlets and a leg of lamb – as well as the various social occasions from a quick

and easy mid-week meal, to the summer BBQ and special family occasions.

The TV campaign will be supported by social media activities, which will reach the target groups through digital channels, including Facebook, Instagram and Youtube, providing them with QA lamb content relevant to that channel.

This will include imagery and video content featuring a range of meal options with lamb, recipes, nutritional benefits and what the Quality Mark means for lamb. Search activity will direct online traffic to the lamb content on the Bord Bia Youtube channel and website.

## ☛ LAMB – TRY IT, LOVE IT

The new €10.2m EU co-funded Lamb – Try It, Love It promotion will go live in mid-July to coincide with peak availability of new-season lamb and complement and build on the QA lamb activity (Waves 1 and 4). Targeting 25- to 35-year-old female shoppers, the focus will be on convenience and easier-to-cook cuts (eg mince, diced lamb, chops) which reinforce the ease and simplicity of lamb as a quick meal ingredient. The key messages will centre on the fact that lamb is modern, convenient and versatile and suitable for everyday meals.

Key activities will include the creation of new digital content, digital advertising and an outdoor advertising campaign. PR activities will focus on driving awareness of the benefits of lamb through national and regional media, while partnerships with relevant bloggers and social influencers will involve them producing lamb recipes and editorial content for circulation to their followers.

# Sheep Breeding

**COMING  
SOON**  
DON'T MISS  
YOUR CHANCE  
TO ADVERTISE

## 21 JULY EDITION

Topics that will be discussed include;

- Getting back on track for breeding after a difficult spring
- Optimum use of vaccines
- Ensuring your rams are primed for breeding
- Latest research updates

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# Best practice for health and safety on Irish sheep farms

**SERENA GIBBONS, TEAGASC, MELLOWS CAMPUS, ATHENRY, CO GALWAY**

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**F**arm accidents and ill health cause tragedy, suffering and long-term disability. They also have the potential to jeopardise a person's capacity to farm effectively and hence jeopardise farm income. Therefore, it is in everyone's best interests to give practical safety and health management adequate attention.

In 2017, 24 fatal farm accidents occurred. In 2018, seven deaths occurred to 1 May. An estimated 2,800 serious accidents take place each year.

Farmers have been identified as an occupational group which has a high level of ill health. The data available suggests that farmers need to give maintaining their health more attention, including having a regular GP checkup.

Considerable grant aid support for farm safety improvements is available through the Targeted Agricultural Modernisation Scheme (TAMS) II up until 2020. Sheep farmers need to consider how to make the optimum application for this scheme.

Farmers need to comply with the legal requirements of recent revised standards for agricultural vehicles and trailers used in public roads and of the sustainable use of pesticides directive.

## **LEGAL DUTY TO COMPLETE A RISK ASSESSMENT**

All workplaces, including farms, have a legal duty under safety, health and welfare at work (SHWW) legislation to conduct a risk assessment to ensure that

work is carried out safely. An updated green-covered risk assessment document has been prepared to accompany the farm safety code of practice. It is a legal requirement to complete this document before 31 December 2018. The requirement to conduct a risk assessment replaced the requirement to prepare a safety statement for farms with three or less employees, which make up about 95% of farms nationally.

## **AGRICULTURAL VEHICLE STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC ROADS**

Revised standards for use of agricultural vehicles on public roads are in place. In addition to vehicles, the standards include both trailers and attached machines. The purpose of the standards is to enhance the safety of road users. A booklet on the revised standard can be downloaded from the RSA website at [www.rsa.ie/en/RSA/Your-Vehicle/Vehicle-Standards/Agricultural-Vehicles](http://www.rsa.ie/en/RSA/Your-Vehicle/Vehicle-Standards/Agricultural-Vehicles).

An Garda Síochána will be on hand to demonstrate key requirements of the new legislation such as braking, lighting and visibility, weights, dimensions and coupling.

## **PREVENTING MACHINERY ACCIDENTS**

Vehicle- and machinery-related deaths account for 50% of all farm deaths. With vehicles, being crushed (67%) is the most frequent cause of death, followed by being struck by the vehicle (25%), falling from vehicle (6%) and being pierced by a vehicle part (2%).

With machinery, being crushed (41%) or struck (38%) are the most frequent causes of death, followed by entangle-



ment (14%) and falls from machines (5%). The data shows that most fatal accidents occur due to being crushed or struck, so safety vigilance is especially needed when in proximity to moving vehicles or machines.

Demonstration of blind spot areas around farm vehicles will take place at the health and safety village.

Quads (ATVs) are useful machines on farms for travel, but they have a high risk of death and serious injury if misused. A demonstration of safe driving of an ATV or quad will take place at regular intervals during the day.

### SAFETY OF CHILDREN ON FARMS

Safety of children and young persons must be paramount on farms. IFA farm family committee members will be on hand to discuss safety of children on farms.

The following precautions need to be considered when children are present on a farm: provide a safe and secure play area for children away from all work activities; where children are not in a secure play area a high level of adult supervision is needed; children should not be allowed to access heights; action should be taken to keep children away from dangerous areas such as slurry tanks; all open water tanks, wells and

slurry tanks should be fenced off; give children clear instruction on farm safety issues and children to be carried in the tractor cab (aged seven or older) need to wear a seat belt.

### STORING OF ROUND BALES

If round bales must be stacked, the safest stacking method is on their curved sides in a pyramid stack. The bales on the outside of the bottom row should be prevented from moving by means of chocks or other supports. The maximum height of the stack should be three bales high.

### FARMERS' HEALTH

A major Irish study has indicated that farmers in the working age (16-65 years) have a 5:1 higher all-cause death rate than the occupational group with the lowest rate. The major causes where death rates are elevated include cardiovascular disease (CVD), cancers and injuries.

A further Irish study indicated that 59% of farmers had a GP health check in the last year compared with 74% for the general population. Among farmers, despite 60% being classified as overweight or obese, just 27% believed that they were too heavy.

Irish Heart Foundation nurses are on hand at Sheep 2018 to conduct blood pressure checks and provide health-related advice to farmers. We also have information on staying fit for farming, your wellbeing and how to prioritise, plan and pace your activities on your farm.

### BACK CARE WITH SHEEP

Special attention needs to be given to preventing musculoskeletal injuries when handling sheep.

Sheep handling facilities and equipment designed particularly with safety in mind are on display at the health and safety village.

# Nutrition: the foundation and fundamentals of flock profitability

**TIM KEADY, TEAGASC, MELLOWS CAMPUS, ATHENRY, CO GALWAY**

**N**utritional management covers key aspects of the annual cycle of prime lamb production from when the ewes are joined with rams until lambs are drafted for slaughter. Thus nutritional management has a major impact on flock profitability.

## GRASS SILAGE FEED VALUE

Grass silage is the basal forage for the majority of ewes that are housed during mid and late pregnancy. Digestibility (DMD) is the most important factor influencing animal performance, as it influences both the intake characteristics and energy concentration. Research at Athenry has shown that each 5% unit increase in DMD of silage offered to ewes during mid and late pregnancy increases ewe weight at lambing by 6.5kg and lamb birth weight by 0.25kg. Increasing silage feed value has the ability to reduce concentrate requirements by up to 75%. To produce high feed value grass silage:

- Apply adequate levels of nitrogen fertiliser [100 units/acre (120kg/ha) for first cut; 80 units/acre (100kg/ha) for second cut]. If nitrogen has already been applied for grazing, assume that approximately 30% of what was applied for the previous grazing is still available. If applying slurry, assume five units per 1,000 gallons of undiluted slurry applied.
- Base phosphorus and potassium (fertiliser or slurry) application on soil analysis.
- Harvest after a six- to seven-week regrowth interval and after inspection of the sward. On inspection, evaluate the level of seed head emergence and the ac-

cumulation of dead material at the base of the sward.

- If wilting, aim for a rapid wilt and ensile after 24 to 36 hours by spreading the herbage at mowing or ted out shortly after mowing.
- Achieve anaerobic conditions post-ensiling by sealing rapidly.
- Apply six layers of wrap on bales to be offered to sheep to reduce the risk of listeria.

## LATE PREGNANCY CONCENTRATE SUPPLEMENTATION

The quantity of concentrate to offer during late pregnancy depends on forage feed value, expected litter size and expected lambing date. Twin-bearing ewes offered precision chopped 72DMD silage, using good feeding management, require 18kg concentrate in late pregnancy. Research shows that each 1% unit decrease in silage DMD requires an extra 1.5kg of concentrate supplementation per ewe during the last six weeks of pregnancy to maintain animal performance. When purchasing concentrate, buy based on ingredient composition and not price alone. Studies at Athenry showed that soya bean inclusion, as the main protein source, increases lamb birth weight and weaning weight. The additional weight at weaning is equivalent to feeding 6kg of concentrate per lamb prior to weaning. The other main ingredients should be cereals (maize meal, barley), fibre (beet pulp, citrus pulp, soyahulls) and protein (rape seed, maize distillers) sources.

## TIME OF SHEARING

In mid-season lambing flocks, shearing ewes at housing (December) increases lamb birth and weaning weight by 0.6kg

and 1.9kg respectively. This reduces lamb age at drafting by two weeks relative to shearing in summer. Shearing in the autumn prior to joining has no impact on ewe fertility or litter size, but improves lamb birth weight by approximately 0.30kg compared with winter shearing.

### **CREEP FEEDING PERFORMANCE**

Studies at Athenry have shown that while offering concentrate (creep feeding) to lambs prior to weaning increased weaning weight by 2.9kg, 80% of this response could be obtained by better grassland management. While concentrate feeding reduced age at slaughter, unless a large proportion of the lambs are drafted prior to June then date at drafting had little impact on price received per kg lamb carcase but increased feed costs.

### **MINERAL SUPPLEMENTATION**

Sixty-nine percent of Irish sheep farmers supplement their flocks with minerals and vitamins. Most farmers who supplement do so in the absence of veterinary advice and laboratory results of blood, tissue or herbage. The main reasons for supplementing are to improve lamb performance and ewe fertility. Drenching is the favoured method for lambs, while buckets are preferred for ewes.

Research at Athenry showed that supplementing lambs with cobalt post-weaning increased carcase weight by 1.5kg and reduced age at slaughter. A subsequent study with ewes showed that supplementing with cobalt (either by drench every two weeks from seven weeks prior to joining to six weeks prior to lambing or bolus at seven weeks prior to joining) had no positive effect on ewe performance, litter size, number of lambs reared per ewe joined or lamb performance.

### **LAMB MORTALITY**

Lamb mortality impacts on flock profit-

ability. Lamb mortality can only be reduced by identifying the preventable and non-preventable ultimate causes of mortality. A recent study at Athenry has shown that 52% of neonatal mortality occurs prior to or at birth. The main causes of neonatal mortality are infection (38%) and dystocia (19%) and these causes of mortality are potentially preventable.

### **AGE AT FIRST LAMBING**

The cost of replacement ewes at joining at approximately 18 months of age is equivalent to 25% of the value of lamb carcase output that they produce during their lifetime. Results from a long-term study show that by using prolific ewe replacements, and breeding them as ewe lambs, an extra two lambs per ewe joined are reared by four years of age, thus increasing flock profitability by €26/ewe per year. Neither ewe genotype nor age at first lambing impacted on lamb drafting pattern or ewe culling rate.

### **SHEEPNET**

SheepNet is a new EU-funded project involving the six main EU sheep producing countries (Ireland, France, United Kingdom, Romania, Spain and Italy) and Turkey. SheepNet aims to increase sheep productivity by focusing on efficient reproduction, efficient gestation and reduced lamb mortality which are primarily factors affecting productivity. SheepNet is establishing durable exchange of existing scientific and practical knowledge, technologies and best practices which improve sheep productivity among farmers, advisers, consultants, researchers and other stakeholders. SheepNet has identified the needs of sheep producers in each country, developed a suite of 55 solutions and over 90 tips and tricks to implement them. More information is available on [www.sheepnet.network](http://www.sheepnet.network).

# Agricultural sustainability

**TIM T HYDE, ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST, TEAGASC, BALLINASLOE, CO GALWAY**

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**E**nvironmental sustainability has become a major issue for all farmers. This is particularly true for Irish farmers where our aim is not just to comply with environmental regulations, but to produce food in a sustainable manner. The benefits of this are multi-fold. Firstly, we reduce the impact of agriculture on the environment and deliver clean water, low emissions of greenhouse gasses and ammonia, high-quality and well-managed habitats that preserve biodiversity and soils which protected will support future generations. Secondly, a reputation for producing sustainable food products allows our food exports to be marketed in premium markets and achieve higher prices for producers.

In the agricultural sustainability village, we deal with some of the key environmental and sustainability challenges facing farmers and highlight some of the projects which will contribute to how we can improve environmental outcomes.

## ENHANCING WILDLIFE ON THE FARM

There is scope on all farms to improve land management for biodiversity. This may involve ensuring appropriate hedgerow management, targeting new habitats to non-productive areas, or improving the management of watercourses and buffers and managing existing habitats. Even the most intensively run farms have a lot of capacity to deliver improved habitats.



## AGRICULTURAL SUSTAINABILITY SUPPORT AND ADVISORY PROGRAMME

Teagasc is about to launch the agricultural sustainability support and advisory programme. This programme will mainly focus on 190 areas for action where water quality is at risk of not meeting required standards. Teagasc will work with the dairy processors, the Local Authority Water Support and Advisory Team (LAWSAT) to assist farmers to reduce the impact of their activities on water quality and to restore waterbodies to a good status.

Understanding the linkages between farm (farmyard and land) and watercourses (lakes, rivers and streams) is essential to improving water quality. Separating clean water, ensuring slurry and effluent tanks are fully sealed, ensuring yard drains are working effectively and having sufficient storage are all key to minimising risks from the farmyard. It is also important to know the status of your local watercourse. Quality is judged mainly by the 'life in the river' also known as the ecological status.

## NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT

Almost 90% of farms are below optimum soil fertility. Over a period it is possible to build fertility and this is one of the most profitable investments you could make. Follow a number of steps.



Where pH is low, apply lime and this will improve output and increase the effectiveness of other nutrients. Use slurry and manures to best effect and balance requirements using appropriate chemical fertilisers.

Slurry is a valuable source of nutrients on farm and it is important that the nutrients are recycled effectively and not lost to the environment. When planning your slurry applications it is vital to consider the following questions:

☞ **Where to spread** – On low P and K index silage ground. Avoid waterlogged ground and run-off risk areas.

☞ **When to spread** – During cloudy, cool moist evenings and in spring rather than summer.

☞ **How to spread** – Use low-emissions injection, trailing shoe or dribble bar spreaders.

Understanding your soil fertility is the key to fertiliser and nutrient planning. NMP Online provides a clear picture of the soil fertility of your farm and should be the starting point for your annual fertiliser programme.

### **NITRATES ACTION PLAN**

The update of the Nitrates Action Plan has brought in a number of new measures. The focus of the changes is to enable farmers to farm efficiently while improving protections of the environment. The key measures include:

☞ Changes to soil sampling rules.

☞ Water protection measures including exclusion of bovines from watercourses, setting back water troughs and the prevention of runoff from farm roadways.

☞ Slurry management measures for derogation farms.

### **THE AGRICULTURAL CATCHMENTS PROGRAMME**

The Agricultural Catchments Programme has been operating for nearly 10

years and has provided a huge amount of evidence on best management practice for farms. One of the key findings is that not all catchments are the same in terms of nutrient losses and that management to reduce losses must be tailored accordingly. Some of the key recommendations include the implementation of effective nutrient management, effective farmyard and roadway management and the effective management of buffer zones and critical source zones.

### **RESTRICTING ANIMAL ACCESS TO WATERCOURSES- IT HELPS WATER QUALITY**

Studies suggest that unrestricted cattle access to watercourses can result in deteriorating water quality. Restricting access has multiple benefits including reducing sediment input, reducing pathogens (eg E coli), enhancing biodiversity (ecology) and improving water quality.

### **MCPA AND OTHER PESTICIDES**

MCPA has been found in drinking water and it is imperative that the utmost precautions be taken when using pesticides – particularly MCPA. These include:

☞ Maintain at least a 5m buffer zone.

☞ Triple rinse containers (put foil lids in cans).

☞ MCPA cannot be used in weedlickers.

☞ Do not fill sprayers from watercourses.

☞ Consider weed wiping, spot spraying or non-chemical control methods.

### **PEARL MUSSEL PROJECT**

The Pearl Mussel Project is a locally led, innovative, results-based scheme. It provides farmers in eight catchments the opportunity to be rewarded for delivering environmental benefits.

Farmers implement a series of measures aimed at achieving high water quality status which will allow the fresh water pearl mussel to survive and reproduce.

# The Teagasc food science programme

**MARK FENELON, TEAGASC FOOD RESEARCH CENTRE, MOOREPARK, FERMOY, CO CORK.**

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**T**he Food Programme is conducted and delivered from two substantial research locations – in Dublin (Ashtown) and Cork (Moorepark). It focuses on a wide range of agri-food topics. Research, development and innovation initiatives supporting meat and dairy processing, cereals/bakery and marine food sectors are the core activities within the food programme, delivered across five departments:

- ☛ Food biosciences.
- ☛ Food chemistry and technology.
- ☛ Food safety.
- ☛ Food quality and sensory science.
- ☛ Food industry development.

The food programme is closely linked to the animal and grassland research and innovation programme (at the Teagasc Grange, Athenry and Moorepark locations). All departments work closely with each other and with the Teagasc technology transfer office to implement the Teagasc food technology and knowledge transfer strategy.

The Teagasc food research programme will have a series of meat-focused (and other) displays on view at Sheep 2018 Farm to Fork. Members of the public will have an opportunity to discuss first-hand the various research activities taking place in the Teagasc food research programme. The Teagasc stands will be well worth viewing, and in addition the

interactive APC Adventures inflatable will also be on site. Details of the stands are outlined below.

## **SHEEP FLAVOUR WHEEL**

The flavour wheel will illustrate the various different flavour sensations which can be perceived in sheepmeat. This is a set of words which can be used to describe the flavour of a product, from first bite through to swallowing. For example, words used to describe the flavour notes in sheepmeat can include: meaty, sheepmeat, fatty, bloody, lamb, liver, sweet, sour, buttery, grassy, cabbage, browned / caramel, animal etc.

## **FOOD MATCHING**

For this demonstration we will be describing the science behind why certain foods go well together, eg why does rosemary taste so good with lamb, while apple is the sauce of choice for pork etc? Generally, food combinations often work really well when they share some similar flavour components.

## **EATING QUALITY OF SHEEPMEAT**

The 3D quality of meat, visible through CT imaging, can be viewed on a large screen. Additionally, the application of near-infrared spectroscopy (NIRS) to sheepmeat will be demonstrated. This stand will also include information on the 3D printing of food, and will cover the topic of the recycling of the fifth quarter; the processes involved in the conversion of meat co-products into



The Teagasc food research programme will have a series of meat-focused (and other) displays on view at Sheep 2018.

usable functional ingredients for either food or medical use.

### **MEAT TECHNOLOGY IRELAND**

Meat Technology Ireland (MTI) is an Enterprise Ireland, industry-led initiative that is building a strategic research and innovation base in beef and sheep meat processing in Ireland. The Centre acts as a one-stop shop for meat processing research and technology, serving as a hub to co-ordinate all beef and sheep meat processing research needs. Meat Technology Ireland staff will be on hand to discuss the research activities taking place within the centre.

### **APC MICROBIOME IRELAND**

APC Microbiome Ireland (<http://apc.ucc.ie>) presents Alimentary Adventures – a 10-metre-long inflatable gut to explore and investigate the hidden world of our digestive system.

This inflatable tunnel mimics the human digestive system and is a fun and educational way to learn about digestion and the factors that affect it. Research staff and students studying

at the institute will be there to guide visitors through the inflatable, engage them in the magic of food digestion and introduce them to microbes that assist in the digestive process and are important for our health. University College Cork, Teagasc and CIT are partners in APC Microbiome Ireland, a Science Foundation Ireland-funded Centre.

### **NEW SME PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT**

A stand displaying food products developed in conjunction with Teagasc, through the new product development for SMEs platform will be available to view. A key requirement for successful food businesses is the capacity to produce high-quality and safe food products.

Teagasc is committed to assisting the food sector by providing access to applied research knowledge, product development facilities and training programmes.

Teagasc's team of highly skilled food technologists, microbiologists, chemists, trainers and consultants can work alongside food companies to develop new and innovative products and provide technical solutions to in-company problems.

# Collaborative farming: Where it can fit in for Irish sheep farmers

**THOMAS CURRAN, COLLABORATIVE FARMING SPECIALIST, RURAL ECONOMY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, TEAGASC, MOOREPARK**

## REGISTERED FARM PARTNERSHIPS – FAMILY SITUATIONS

A registered farm partnership is a central step as part of any succession plan. The structure enables farmers to formally involve their successor in the farm business and, in doing so, facilitate the gradual transfer of responsibility and decisionmaking on the farm.

Succession farm partnerships are a new structure since 2017, where an annual income tax credit of €5,000 is available for up to five years. To avail of this credit, the partnership must complete a business plan and complete a separate succession agreement in relation to the transfer.

## REGISTERED FARM PARTNERSHIP – NON-FAMILY

A partnership with other farmer(s) offers a superior work-life balance to operating alone through more labour availability. In some situations, it can alleviate the need to rely on hired-in labour.

While the farm will be still busy, especially at peak times, the fact that there is at least two labour units making an income off the farm and available to carry out the work on the farm on a daily basis provides a superior work-life balance.

A partnership can and must provide an opportunity for increased scale, as

## PARTNERSHIP

- ⇒ A registered family partnership is an integral part of succession planning of the family farm.
- ⇒ Partnership provides a sustainable business model for farmers to amalgamate farming businesses
- ⇒ A business model where young trained farmers can establish a career in farming.

## CONTRACT REARING

- ⇒ An opportunity for expansion and labour efficiency for the farmer.
- ⇒ A complimentary or alternative enterprise to drystock for retiring farmers and drystock farmers.
- ⇒ Land Leasing / CGT Restructuring Relief
- ⇒ Leasing gives security of tenure to the lessee and access to income tax benefits to the landowner
- ⇒ Restructuring relief is a financial aid measure to help make fragmented farms become more viable through consolidation of the holdings.

the farm will have to sustain two family incomes. Working in partnership means there is often a better and broader range of knowledge and skills. This facilitates better and more informed decision making.

The key challenge for any farmer considering partnership or any collaborative arrangement is to develop and nurture a strong working relationship with other people in the agreement.

This must be built on values such as trust, respect, understanding and, above all, excellent communication.

### CONTRACT REARING

Contract rearing is a business structure where a dairy farmer pays an agreed monthly fee to another farmer to rear the dairy replacement heifers. In setting up the agreement, it is vital to discuss and agree all the practical issues around the management of the heifers.

These include: a payment structure; a start and end date; the number of animals; a schedule of weighing; veterinary inputs and breeding management, among others.

The enterprise can be carried out in tandem with an existing sheep enterprise on the farm. An outfarm or specific area of the farm could be devoted to contract rearing.

Essentially, the rearing period can be broken down into five stages: calf rearing; first grazing season; first winter; second grazing season and second winter.

The rearing periods need to be borne in mind when planning a rate of payment. The benefits to the rearer in contract rearing are regular cashflow, no money tied up in stock, easy stock to manage, increased output per hectare and increased farm profit.

### LONG-TERM LAND LEASING

Long-term leasing is where a farmer or landowner leases or partially leases out land on a long-term basis. Leasing is an attractive option to established farmers, as they can better justify any required investment in the land in order to get a financial return.

### BENEFITS TO LESSOR

The key benefit to the lessor is that the



**Table 1:** Tax incentives for long-term land leasing

Term of lease (years)	Max tax-free income/year
5-7 years	€18,000
7-10years	€22,500
10-15 years	€30,000
>15 years	€40,000

income received from a long-term land lease and the value of any basic payment entitlement is tax-free income, subject to the limits set out in Table 1.

### BENEFITS TO LESSEE

The key benefit to the lessee is that the long-term lease provides security of tenure for long-term planning of the farm business. The extended term of lease allowable under the new provisions mean that the lessee can look at investment in the land in a new light.

### CAPITAL GAINS TAX – RESTRUCTURING RELIEF

Capital Gains Tax (CGT) relief aims to encourage farmers with fragmented farms to consolidate their holdings. The relief is only available on the sale and purchase of qualifying lands that meet the key criteria of the scheme. This relief should be given serious consideration by farmers in parts of the country where farm fragmentation is an issue.

### CONCLUSION

Collaborative farming has wide-ranging benefits for the farmers who get involved. The key to long-term success is mutual benefits to all members. The challenge for most farmers in Ireland is a change of mindset and the establishment of a strong working relationship with their fellow collaborating farmers.

# Combining farming and forestry in the one field

**NOEL KENNEDY, TEAGASC, FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, ATHENRY, CO GALWAY**

**A**groforestry is a land-use management system in which trees or shrubs are grown around or among crops or pastureland. It combines agricultural and forestry technologies to create more diverse, productive, profitable, healthy and sustainable land-use systems.

## FORESTRY PROGRAMME 2014-2020

The planting of agroforestry is supported under the Forestry Programme 2014-2020.

Farmers planting agroforestry will receive an establishment grant and annual premiums. Grant and premium rates have recently been increased.

## AGROFORESTRY ESTABLISHMENT GRANTS AND ANNUAL PREMIUMS

Establishment grant	€6,220/ha
Annual premium <10ha	€645/ha/year
>10ha	€660/ha/year

(annual premium paid for five years)

## OBJECTIVES FOR MORE DIVERSE, PRODUCTIVE, PROFITABLE, HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE LAND-USE SYSTEMS

- Increase the economic output per land unit.
- Increase biodiversity.
- Produce high-quality hardwood timber.
- Protect water quality by reducing surface water runoff.
- Protect river banks against erosion.
- Enhance the quality and diversity of landscapes.

## TREE SPECIES

Acceptable species include oak, sycamore and cherry, including 15% fruit and nut trees. Other species can also be considered on a site-by-site basis. Large plants (90cm to 120cm) should be used. Initial stocking rate should be between 400 and 1,000 trees per hectare equally spaced out (eg 5m x 5m or 7m x 3.5m). The minimum plot size is 0.5ha with a tree-to-tree width of 20m.

## FENCING AND ALLOWABLE AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Each tree should be protected by two sturdy posts and a minimum 1.5m tree shelter.

Grazing by sheep or young domestic stock is permitted during spring and summer for the first six to eight years.

Once trees are of a sufficient size, tree shelters can then be replaced with plastic mesh and larger stock can be introduced.

Silage and hay production is also permitted. It is important that appropriate machinery is used when cutting silage and/or hay so as to ensure that the trees are not inadvertently damaged.

## HOW DO I APPLY FOR AN AGROFORESTRY GRANT?

All afforestation pre-planting grant applications must be submitted through a registered forester. A list of registered foresters is available from your local Teagasc forestry development officer, the Teagasc forestry website or from the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Johnstown Castle, Co Wexford. Phone: 1890 200509 or 053 9163400.

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<sup>1</sup> Anon (2014). DAFM/AFBI All-island Animal Disease Surveillance Report 2013

\*Heptavac P Plus is indicated for the active immunisation of sheep to reduce mortality and clinical signs of clostridial diseases such as lamb dysentery, pulpy kidney, struck, tetanus, braxy, blackleg and black disease, and to reduce mortality and clinical signs of pneumonic and systemic pasteurellosis in sheep.