

## **2015/16 LambPlus Regional Meetings and Sign-Up Information**

Dear Breeder,

Sheep Ireland would like to invite you to one of five regional meetings taking place around the country throughout November (See dates, venues and times in the table below). These meetings will be a chance for all pedigree ram breeders (LambPlus and Non-LambPlus) to come along and discuss the Irish sheep breed improvement programme and to see what the LambPlus service has to offer.

Meeting Date	Meeting Location	Venue	Time of meeting
Wed 11/11/15	Mallow	Hibernian Hotel	7:30
Thur 12/11/15	Kilkenny	New Park Hotel	7:30
Mon 16/11/15	Ballybofey	Jacksons Hotel	7:30
Tue 17/11/15	Navan	Newgrange Hotel	7:30
Wed 18/11/15	Tuam	Ard Ri House Hotel	7:30

### **The list of regional meetings being held by Sheep Ireland in advance of the 2016 sign up deadline**

A strong attendance is critical at these meetings. The current sheep breed improvement is by no means the 'finished article', but we can only make progress through active engagement with the countries pedigree ram breeders. Last year saw a significant increase in the number of LambPlus breeders again and this was certainly helped by the STAP scheme. Overall the feedback to date has been very positive from both pedigree and commercial farmers and will endeavour to continue this trend in the coming year.

Due to the expansion of the service a deadline for joining the LambPlus service for 2015 has been set for **DECEMBER 1<sup>st</sup>**, any breeders wishing to sign-up after this deadline will unfortunately have to wait until the following year

A number of changes will be implemented to the LambPlus service in 2016 as direct result of both farmer and breeder feedback and these will be presented at each regional meeting.

Sheep Ireland will also be demonstrating new website screens on each evening. The new screens are aimed at being more user friendly, therefore helping to increase the quantity and quality of data recorded. In 2016 the option to record performance data by paper is being removed for new LambPlus breeders. All new LambPlus breeders will be required to record their data online through [www.sheep.ie](http://www.sheep.ie) at a cost of €50. Current members of LambPlus recording by paper can continue to do so at a cost of €200 (similar to 2015) This increased cost is due to the increased workload and costs incurred by Sheep Ireland for paper recording breeders.

## Data Quality Index - DQI

Sheep Ireland has introduced a data quality index (DQI) for each flock in 2015. This gives each breeder a score based on completeness, quality and timeliness of their data recording and then scored on a scale of 0 to 100, with 100 being the top score possible. Breeders can find their current DQI score on their LambPlus login screens. For 2016 there will be a minimum flock DQI threshold - below which EuroStar evaluations will not be published for that flock. The flock DQI will also be one of the entry criteria for the LambPlus ram sale. The DQI has been put in place in to highlight and reward the flocks that are recording the required information for LambPlus.

If you wish to sign up to the LambPlus service for 2016 please fill out the form attached with your contact details, this should be completed and returned to Sheep Ireland (see address below) before **December 1<sup>st</sup>**. Existing breeders should complete all parts of this form to allow us to update our database where required. Please supply email addresses where possible.

**All Sheep** in the flock should have an NSIS (tag number) recorded with Sheep Ireland by the LambPlus signup deadline. **THIS IS A CRITICAL REQUIREMENT.**

## Benefits of Joining the LambPlus Scheme

**Euro-Star evaluations** – These evaluations provide breeders and farmers additional information relating to the genetic potential of the animal when making breeding decisions.

**Reports** – There will be a number of reports available to help present the flocks performance

**Ram Search** – members of LambPlus will be included on the Online Sheep Ireland Ram Search. This had over 38,000 hits last year and is proving to be a great tool to assist breeders promote their rams

**Sales** - Each year there are a number of sales around the country run by various groups and societies that are restricted solely to LambPlus recorded flocks, these sales are growing in popularity each year and can be an additional outlet for ram sales

**Meeting Breed Society requirements** – By recording your flock through the LambPlus Scheme, breeders of Texel, Belclare, Galway and Mayo Connemara sheep will also be fulfilling their society requirements for birth notifying lambs to the relevant breed society.

Regards,

Kevin McDermott  
Sheep Ireland

## LambPlus Sign Up Form 2016

IT IS CRITICAL THAT ALL FIELDS ARE COMPLETED IN FULL BELOW

Flock owners name:			
Address:			
Flock Designator: (Found at the top of all your sheep dispatch dockets)			
Flock/Herd Number:			
Mobile Number:			
Home Number:			
Breed(s) of sheep in the flock:	Texel		
Flock(s) prefix: (per breed)	EUE		
Flock(s) Name: (per breed)	Hilltop		
Are you a current member of this society	Yes		
Email address: (please create an email account if you do not already have one)			

**Important: The closing date for joining the LambPlus service for the 2016 season is December 1<sup>st</sup>. Any application received after this date will not be considered under any circumstances.**

### PLEASE READ THIS PARAGRAPH CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING BELOW

To whom it may concern, I ..... (Insert your name here), agree that data from other organisations (for my flock) may be forwarded to Sheep Ireland. I understand that all such information will be stored in the national sheep database and will be used for the purpose of advancing the interests of Irish sheep farmers and the sheep industry. I also understand that my flock details (Your name, address, telephone number(s), email address, flock pedigree and Euro-Star evaluations) will be included on the public Sheep Ireland online Ram Search facility and in Sheep Ireland publications which will help Irish ram buyers to locate performance recorded breeding stock. **I also acknowledge that Euro-Star evaluations will only be provided for my sheep when I have met the minimum performance recording criteria as set out by Sheep Ireland annually.** In event of me failing to meet the minimum recording criteria set out by Sheep Ireland and not getting Euro-Star evaluations for my sheep, **I acknowledge that my LambPlus subscription fee will NOT be refunded.**

I hereby apply for the provision of the LambPlus service and I agree to the Terms and Conditions (as on www.sheep.ie) of the service:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## PAYMENT DETAILS

It's €50 to per year to partake in the LambPlus performance recording program. This will allow breeders to login to their personal Sheep Ireland account on [www.sheep.ie](http://www.sheep.ie) which will enable farmers to record their flock performance data online. Sheep Ireland will not accept cash payments. Please make cheque payments to *Sheep Database Ltd*.

Method of Payment	LambPlus Service fee (inc Vat)
Direct Debit	
Cheque	

Note: Your IBAN and BIC numbers required below are available on your bank current account statement.

## DIRECT DEBIT MANDATE (SEPA)

By signing this mandate form, you authorise (A) Sheep Database Ltd to send instructions to your bank to debit your account and (B) your bank to debit your account in accordance with the instructions from Sheep Database Ltd. As part of your rights, you are entitled to a refund from your bank under the terms and conditions of your agreement with your bank. A refund must be claimed within 8 weeks starting from the date on which your account was debited. Your rights are explained in a statement that you can obtain from your bank.

**Please complete all fields marked \***

Then please return this mandate form to: **Sheep Database Ltd, Highfield House, Bandon, Co. Cork**

Creditor	Sheep Database Ltd
Creditor Address	Highfield House, Bandon, Co. Cork
Creditor identifier	I E 3 0 S D D 3 0 7 1 7 6
Unique Mandate Reference	
	<small>Unique Mandate Reference (UMR) – to be completed by Sheep Database Ltd</small>
Type of payment	Recurrent payment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or One-off payment <input type="checkbox"/>
Name of Account Holder *	
Address of Account Holder *	
Account number – IBAN *	
Bank identifier code – BIC *	
Account Holder Signature *	
Date of Signature *	

## Flock Inventory Sheet

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### Flock Inventory Sheet

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