

Texel Sheep Society, SRUC and ABP

Lamb production summary 2018-2019

1. Pre-mating

- Pure-bred Lleyn ewes will be selected for the project, mated to Texel sires (natural and AI)

2. Bio-security requirements for producers

- All rams provided under the project will be sourced from high health status flocks who are MV accredited and whose breeders have signed a health declaration stating to the best of their knowledge the animals supplied are free from any obvious clinical disease.

3. Mating

- Single-sire mating groups for one cycle
- Records will be kept of which ewes were inseminated with semen from which ram
- Chaser rams will be put in with the project ewes 10d after AI

4. Lambing

- All lambs will be double- and tissue-tagged
- Lambing records: DoB | Ewe ID | Lamb ID | Litter size | Sex | Born dead/alive | Cause of death | Birth wt | Lambing difficulty | Post-lambing problems | Fosters

5. Lambing to weaning

- Lambs managed as similarly as possible, grazing groups recorded, and weighed at 8 weeks

6. Weaning

- Weaned at an average of ~18 weeks (confirmed nearer the time, depending on growth rates and grass availability).
- Lambs will be weighed at weaning

7. Post-weaning to slaughter

- Male and female lambs grazed in one group, no supplementary feeding if possible
- All suitable project lambs will be slaughtered at target weight and condition
- The producer is responsible for delivering, at their cost, lambs to the collection centre

8. Producer payments

- Payment for lambs produced will be made direct by ABP to the producer in the usual way
- An additional payment of £5 per project-sired lamb will be made by the project
- Producers will be able to keep the rams supplied to their farms for their own use following the successful completion of the project on the condition that they are kept for breeding slaughter lambs only

** the project will meet specific costs associated with additional work required. These will be agreed in advance, but are likely to include AI, tags, labour at certain times, lamb birth weight scales, etc.*