Belclare Sheep Society
Website: www.belclaresheep.org
Effective Control of Immature & Mature Fluke

Controls Tapeworms, Lungworms *(Hoose)*, Stomach Worms in cattle & sheep including *Nematodirus* in Sheep

Controls *immature* and *Mature* Liver Fluke

*No known Resistance*

*Low Volume*: Only 9ml per 60kg

*Available from Animal Health Outlets Nationwide*

*Tel: 049 5553203*
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Chairmans Address

As we enter the breeds 35th anniversary It is with great honour and privilege that I welcome you to the 5th edition of our breed yearbook. I am composing my address with the benefit of hindsight and foresight!! We’re coming off the back of a fantastic spring and the outlook for weather and farming prospects are bright!

Our breed is very fortunate to have very strong and forward thinking society. The continued positive feedback from customers on the breed feeds directly back into the lifeblood of the society and greatly assists this society go from strength to strength. Belclare has long been regarded by many as one of the best maternal breeds the country has to offer, I would argue, Belclare are THE BEST. I would also like our breed to be regarded as one which offers an excellent terminal choice for the commercial flock. Year on year I am informed from breed customers on the huge satisfaction present on kill out rates and grades.

To the commercial flock Belclare sheep offer exactly what is required – more lambs per ewe, excellent mothering ability, vigorous lambs at birth, easy lambing and superb growth rate with very good feed conversion ratio and all with little or no maintenance required.

As we enter the summer showing and sales become the integral part of the year, I urge all Belclare breeders and commercial farmers to attend these events. These can be a great opportunity to show case and view what the Belclare breed has to offer.

2017 sees the society envisaging holding open days with a view to further informing and showing commercial farmers what the breed has to offer, and possibly showing some farmers what they are missing out on by not using Belclare genetics!!!

As chairman I rely on the help and assistance of many many people. With this valued assistance the Belclare breed proudly plays a major role in the national sheep flock. I would like to name but a few, our sponsors, mart staff, show organisers and staff, society and committee members amongst many others.

Finally I hope each and every one of you enjoy this publication and that it is both enjoyable and informative to read. Should you require any further information about the breed please feel free to contact either myself or Michael Neenan (secretary)

And remember by using a Belclare ram you can enjoy all the benefits of having a closed flock, ie possessing excellent replacement maternal females altogether while enjoying fantastic kill out percentages.

I look forward to meeting you throughout 2017 at some sheep event!

Declan Miley
Chairman
Large selection of pedigree male and female lambs from prize winning stock.

More then 120 Belclare Pedigree ewe flock.

**Stock rams used:**
- 13118191 Sourced from Athenry Research Centre 2013

Member of Sheep Ireland Lamb Plus Programme.

Eunan and Mark Bannon
Phone: 086 8560183 or 044 9340163
Web: www.slanemorehill.com
Early lactation nutrition of the ewe crucial to maximising flock performance

Dr. Frank Campion, Teagasc, AGRIC, Athenry, Co. Galway.

Introduction

During lactation the ewes’ energy and protein requirements peak approximately four weeks post-partum, at which point they will be at their highest point of the entire production cycle (Table 1). This increase in nutrient demand is brought about by the onset of milk production immediately post-lambing which is essential as lamb growth during early lactation is almost completely dependent on the nutrients obtained from the ewes’ milk. During early lactation the lamb is extremely efficient and can convert one kilogram (kg) of milk dry matter (DM) to one kg of body weight gain. Ewe milk has a DM content of approximately 20%, meaning to support one kg of lamb live weight gain the ewe must produce five kg of milk. Optimising milk production during this time is therefore crucially important. There are a number of factors that will influence the ewe’s ability to produce milk including her age, genetic make-up and litter size but also pre-lambing nutrition, nutrient availability and ewe BCS.

Table 1. ME and MP requirements of an 80kg, twin bearing ewe at lambing and the first two months of lactation (Adapted from AFRC, 1993).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ewe Liveweight (kg)</th>
<th>Ewe Liveweight Change (g/d)</th>
<th>Lambing</th>
<th>Month of Lactation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ME (MJ/d)</td>
<td>MP (g/d)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>20.2</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-50</td>
<td>32.3</td>
<td>303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-100</td>
<td>30.5</td>
<td>297</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Importance of Ewe BCS at Lambing

Energy and protein provided from consumed feed alone is generally not sufficient to entirely meet these early lactation nutrient requirements as intake, which peaks at approximately seven weeks after lambing, for a twin
bearing ewe lags behind milk production, which peaks three weeks after lambing. Therefore body reserve mobilisation is an essential component of the early lactation energy supply of the ewe. Ewes in the correct BCS at lambing (3.0-3.5) can be allowed to lose at least 0.5 units of body condition between lambing and weaning. However, ewes that are too thin at lambing will not have this reserve to draw on, and consequently milk production and lamb growth rates will suffer. Additionally over fat ewes will also negatively impact performance. Research has shown that ewes with excessive body reserves at lambing have a reduced intake potential during lactation leading to both excessive body reserve mobilisation (and potentially associated ill health) or reduced lamb performance.

This increase in requirements and mobilisation of body reserves places a high physiological stress on the ewe, which is often combined with a change in diet type and environment as ewes are turned out to grass. Grazed or conserved grass is a major feed source in all Irish sheep production systems and accounts for up to 95% of flock energy requirements in Irish lamb production systems (O’Donovan et al., 2011). In pasture based production systems lambing date is planned to coincide with the onset of grass growth, with the aim of maximising the contribution of grazed grass to the nutrient requirement of the lactating ewe. Time of year and supply of grass will typically dictate if ewes are supplemented with concentrates after lambing.

**Grazed Grass Only vs Concentrate Supplementation**

Good quality perennial ryegrass based swards should provide approximately 12.2-12.4 MJ ME /kg DM. The energy content of well managed good quality grass should be approximately 12.2-12.4 MJ ME /kg DM and compares quite favourably with barley (13.2 MJ ME /kg DM) on a cost per MJ ME basis. It costs 8 cents to produce one kg of utilisable grass DM, depending on inputs, farm type etc. Concentrate mixes for lactating ewes are often up to four times more expensive than this on a DM basis. Where sufficient quantities of high quality grazed grass are available to lactating ewes in correct BCS at lambing (3.0) then grass alone will sustain the performance of the flock.

In a recent study carried out in University College Dublin ewes were kept indoors after lambing and offered zero-grazed grass ad-lib for the first 7 weeks post-lambing in order to measure numerous performance characteristics of the lactating ewe including grass intake. The aim of this study was to establish the effect of concentrate supplementation on the grass intake ability of the lactating ewe and how it affected flock performance. The results showed that where ewes are offered sufficient quantities of high quality grazed grass supplementing with concentrate feeds will reduce grass dry matter intake as opposed to increasing the total dry matter intake of the lactating ewe. In the same study ewe milk production was unaffected by concentrate sup-
plementation during the first six weeks of lactation. However, as shown in Table 2 ewes receiving grass only will mobilise more BCS during lactation and potentially have a lower BCS at weaning, highlighting the importance of having lambing BCS correct.

Table 2. Ewe BCS from lambing to weaning (14 weeks post-partum) from ewes receiving ad-lib zero-grazed grass only or ewes receiving ad-lib zero-grazed grass & 500 grams of concentrate supplementation (Adapted from Campion, 2016).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment</th>
<th>Grass Only</th>
<th>Grass + Concentrate Supplementation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lambing</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3 of lactation</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 7 of lactation</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weaning</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Feeding concentrates, where there is adequate grass, is therefore reducing the quantity of grazed grass in the diet rather than improving the overall DM intake of the ewe. This puts in focus the benefits of grassland management on sheep farms and highlights the importance of closing off paddocks in time in order to have sufficient grass for lactating ewes and their lambs the following spring. However, where grass supplies are low, grass quality is poor or ewe BCS is below target at lambing then concentrate supplementation may be necessary in order to maintain flock performance. Poor weather, which will reduce grass utilisation and dry matter intake, may also force the need for concentrate supplementation on a short term basis during lactation.

**Planning for Spring Grass**

Matching grass supply and demand (Figure 1.) won’t be possible for all sheep farming systems but where possible lambing date should be planned to coincide with the onset of grass growth. This is with the aim of maximising the contribution of grazed grass to the nutrient requirement of the lactating ewe and reducing feed costs. Spring grass growth will vary across the country and from year to year so it is important that each farm is considered separately but the key principles will remain the same for most farms. Planning for grass supply at lambing needs to begin from mating time to ensure paddocks are closed up in rotation to allow for ~120 days rest from closing the paddock to first grazing after lambing. Application of nitrogen pre-lambing when soil temperatures (>6 °C) and ground conditions allow is vital as time during
lambing will be better spent in the lambing shed than attending to fertilizer application. Early application of fertiliser also ensures that nitrogen is available to the grass once growth begins and there is a time lag between growth and fertilizer availability.

**Figure 1.** Grass supply and demand curve for a flock lambing at a time to match grass supply and a flock lambing too early to match grass supply (Campion, 2016)

![Grass Supply and Demand Curve](image)

**References**


Harissa Flavoured Lamb Burgers with Tzatziki

This is a superb summer dish that is great on the barbeque. The tzatziki adds a lovely fresh flavour to the burgers. A winner with the kids as well.

Serves 4
Cooking time: 20 minutes

Ingredients
• 400g lean lamb mince
• 1 tablespoon harissa paste, plus extra, for topping
• 1 garlic clove, peeled and crushed
• Juice of ½ a lemon
• 20g fresh mint leaves, chopped
• Salt and freshly ground black pepper
• 1 tablesp. oil

Tzatziki
• 150g Greek-style natural yogurt
• 2 garlic cloves, peeled and crushed
• ¾ cucumber, seeded and finely diced
• Juice of ½ a lemon
• 20g fresh mint leaves, chopped

To Serve
• 4 bread rolls, cut in half and lightly toasted
• Salad leaves

To make the tzatziki
Mix together the yogurt, garlic, cucumber, lemon juice and chopped mint. Season to taste.

Method
To make the burgers: Place the mince, harissa paste, garlic, half the lemon juice, half the mint leaves, salt and pepper in a bowl and mix well to combine. With damp hands shape the mixture into 4 burgers.

Heat the oil in a large frying pan over a medium heat and cook the burgers for 4–5 minutes on each side or until cooked to your liking. You can also cook the burgers on the barbecue.

Put some salad leaves on the bottom half of each roll, place a burger on top of the leaves. Spoon over some tzatziki and top with a little extra harissa paste.

Serving Suggestions
Serve with baby new potatoes or crispy potato wedges
Coolkellure Pedigree Belclare Flock

“Because you can have quantity and quality”

Established 2004  |  Lamb Plus Recorded  |  Flock Code MG
(Formerly Dungaill Flock)

Flock Achievements
- Champion Belclare Ram Lambs & top price at premier sale in 2005 & 2008
- Reserve Champion Ram Lambs at premier sale in 2008 & 2010
- Champion & Reserve Champion Clonmel show 2009
- 1st Prize senior ewe at All Ireland Champ - Sheep 2010
- Seven of the last eight premier sale champions have been sired by rams bred in our flock or have been out of ewes sired by rams bred in our flock.

Sires Used
- TF-12-1503; reserve champion at 2012 premier sale. A great carcase sheep with super indices.
- JR-15-8517; purchased for €960 at the 2015 premier sale where he stood 5th in the show. A great carcase sheep who is breeding stylish well conformed lambs.
- WD-15-1396; a double 5 star ram purchased privately in late 2015.

Note: We will have a large selection of pedigree ewes scanned in-lamb to 5 star rams for sale again this autumn

Enquiries & Visitors always welcome
Michael Gottstein
Coolkellure House, Coolkellure, Dunmanway, Co. Cork
tel.: 087-2399755
Belclare is best in Ballacolla

Harry and Joe Lalor run a 300-strong ewe flock in Ballacolla, Co Laois. Around ten years ago they realised that they weren’t maximising profits from there flock, citing lack of prolificacy as their main problem, and set out to change it. Instead of what had been their usual policy of using a wide range of breeds and buying whatever replacement hoggets were on offer at the mart on the days they happened to attend, they made the decision to travel west to purchase Mayo Mules. These were selected for their scope and their ability to lamb down at twelve months old which was the direction the Lalors were wanting to go, in order to increase profits. After only a couple of years of breeding from the mules the scanning rate of the flock had increased considerably, but there was still room to improve it. A number of different breeds of rams were considered for use to improve the flock again and to breed the ideal replacement ewes. “We decided to use Belclare rams as we felt they would be an excellent cross with the mules. The Belclares conformation, prolificacy, and mothering ability would complement that of the mules” says Harry.

Harry and Joe ear notch all multiple born Belclare cross ewe lambs so as they can be incorporated into the breeding flock. These ewe lambs are lambed down as yearlings proving to be excellent mothers with plenty of milk. The incorporation of Belclares into their flock has also helped the Lalors receive a premium price for surplus ewe lambs that they don’t retain for their breeding ewe flock, having regular customers who have seen the benefits of the Belclare ewe in their own flocks.

“So far the Belclare breed has been a fantastic addition and has improved the litter size of the flock. This has most importantly improved our profits”.

![Image of sheep in a field](image-url)
Cahergal Pedigree Belclares

All Ireland Champion Older Ram 2015
and Overall Reserve Champion

Large selection of Pedigree rams for sale each year.
Lambplus Recorded

Enquires always welcome.

Sonny Jennings
Cahergal, Tuam, Co. Galway
087-2198193

Flock: BC

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BELCLARES

Est. 2011

Top quality Rams for sale every year

Visitors and enquiries always welcome.

Contact details:
Barry Cunningham, Togher, Tuam,
Co. Galway.
087-7792129
A wet and windy day did nothing to dampen the spirits of the Belclare breeders at Athlone show.

Kicking off proceedings was the hogget ram and upwards class. Securing the first red rosette and a place in the championship line up was a homebred ram from the Rathkenty Flock of Richard and John Lalor. The Lalor’s also secured the second prize in this class with Liam and Eoin Dunne providing the third placed ram.

The Lalor’s secured a quick double when taking the ram lamb class with Rathkenty Beethoven. This early January born ram, who is a maternal brother to the 2015 Premier Sale reserve champion, will no doubt also be offered at the Premier Sale. Declan and Joe Miley took the second and third place prizes to start off their run of luck.

The Miley’s came to the fore in the next class, taking the first and third prizes in the hogget ewe and upwards class, with Liam and Eoin Dunne providing the second place. The final class of the day also went the way of the Miley’s Knockcroghery Flock with the Lalor brothers providing the second and third placed ewe lambs.

Judge TJ Gormley had one remaining task when all the first prize winners entered the ring for the championship. It was the hogget ewe and upwards class winner who was tapped forward as Supreme Champion with Rathkenty Beethoven selected as the Reserve Champion.
Declan and Josh Miley with their winning ewe lamb

Champion (Hogget ewe) and reserve champion (Ram lamb)
Belclare All Ireland Heads West.

Mullingar Show provided the setting for the 2016 Bimeda Belclare Sheep Society’s All Ireland finals. A fine display of Belclares were produced on the day, with 51 high quality sheep taking part making Judge Liam Coen’s job very difficult. Claiming top spot in the Hogget Ewe class was Declan and Joe Miley, with a homebred ewe that was winning first prize for the third weekend in a row. This ewe later went on to be awarded the All Ireland Supreme Champion Belclare for 2016 which provided the Miley’s with their second all-Ireland title in as many weeks following their success in the Charollais equivalent in Clonmel. The Miley’s Knockcroghery flock also took top honours in the other two female classes, the Aged Ewe and Ewe Lamb.

Reserve Champion on the day was awarded to the Aged Ram winner. This 2014 born homebred from Richard and John Lalor’s Rathkenty flock, was also winning for the third weekend in a row having been Supreme Champion in Clonmel the previous week. The biggest class of the day, the ram lamb class, provided the Lalor brothers with their second winner of the day when Judge Liam Coen tapped forward Rathkenty Beethoven, a maternal brother to the 2015 Premier Sale Reserve Champion, as All Ireland ram lamb champion.

Co Galway breeder Barry Cunningham secured his first all-Ireland winner, when his shearling ram saw off some stiff competition to claim top honours in his class.

L-R: Liam Coen (Judge), Declan Miley, Richard Lalor, Morgan Lane (Bimeda)
Results:

**Aged Ram:**
1. Richard and John Lalor
2. Sonny Jennings
3. Richard and John Lalor

**Shearling Ram:**
1. Barry Cunningham
2. Liam Delaney
3. Eunan Bannon

**Ram Lamb:**
1. Richard and John Lalor
2. Declan and Joe Miley
3. Liam Delaney

**Aged Ewe:**
1. Declan and Joe Miley
2. Richard and John Lalor
3. Liam Delaney

**Shearling Ewe:**
1. Declan and Joe Miley
2. Barry Cunningham
3. Liam Delaney

**Ewe Lamb:**
1. Declan and Joe Miley
2. Larry Barrett
3. Richard and John Lalor
Allsure®

Maintain your flock’s optimum levels of the essential trace elements

☑ Cuts concentrate use and reduces production costs
☑ Makes better use of home grown forage
☑ Lasts for approximately 6 months

UTILISES UNIQUE LEACHING BOLUS TECHNOLOGY

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Iodine 660mg
Selenium 100mg

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or (NI) Neill Acheson +44 (0)7795 434 986

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Knockcroghery Pedigree Flock

“The Home of Champions”
Flock Code: MY

2016 Achievements

- Overall Champion at National Championships
- 1st prize Aged Ewe National Championships
- 1st and 2nd prize Hogget Ewes at National Championships
- 1st prize Ewe Lamb National Championships
- 2nd prize Ram Lamb National Championships
- 2nd prized Lamb at Premier Sale
- Overall Champion at Tullamore Show
- Female Of The Year
- Breed Champion Athlone Show
- Breed Champion and Reserve Champion Moate Show
- Interbreed Champion Moate Show
- Champion Roscommon Sale

Premier Sale


Tullamore Show

- Overall champion on 10 occasions
- Reserve champion on 8 occasions
- Won Female of the year on 9 occasions

Stock Always for sale,
Enquiries welcome

Declan and Joe Miley,
Ballyglass, Knockcroghery. Co Roscommon
Tel.: 086 8620013
Email: knockcrogherypedigrees@gmail.com

Overall all Ireland Champion 2016 and Overall Breed Champion Tullamore Show 2016, and Interbreed Champion Sheep Moate Show 2016 and Female of the Year 2016.

Also breeders of pedigree Charollais Sheep and Limousin Cattle
Sunday August 14th saw the Annual National Livestock show take place at Tullamore, where plenty of high quality Belclare’s were on display, at what is likely the final show of the season for many of the breeders.

Supreme Champion on the day went to a cracking hogget ewe from Declan and Joe Mileys Knockcroghery Flock. This win ensured that she remains unbeaten this season, having also taken top honours at Athlone and Clonmel shows as well as the All-Ireland Championships in Mullingar. This ewe has seen off older opposition as well as her own age group this season and with more improvement likely she should prove very hard to beat again next season.

Reserve Champion on the day went to another All-Ireland Champion in the form of Richard and John Lalor’s aged ram. This ram led home a clean sweep in the aged ram class for the Lalor brothers, to again remain unbeaten for the season. The Supreme and Reserve Champion have battled out three championships this season with the Mileys Knockcroghery ewe taking the advantage with her Tullamore win to make it 2-1 in her favour. The Lalor’s Rathkenty flock
was strongly represented in the second class of the day, the shearling ram class, and they proved successful with victory on the day went to Rathkenty Alabama, a March 2015 homebred ram. It is understood that this ram will be retained as a stock ram for the Rathkenty Flock.

Declan and Joe Miley took home the red rosette for the other two female classes, the aged ewe class and the ewe lamb class, both with All-Ireland first prize winners. This capped a great show season for the Miley’s with their Knockcroghery flock only once not producing the winner of the female classes at all the shows they took part at this year.

The ram lamb class also went the way of the Mileys Knockcroghery Flock when their Knockcroghery Barney proved too strong for the opposition. This well grown early January ram, was following in his father’s footsteps who had taken this class two years ago and went on to be All-Ireland Shearling Champion in 2015.
We All Have A Part To Play In Delivering On Quality Assurance and Sustainability

We live in an era where consumers are more discerning about the food they eat; they have a desire to eat healthy, nutritious and wholesome foods. Similarly their purchasing decisions are based around issues of provenance, quality, food safety, animal welfare and sustainability.

Whilst it can be argued that our relationship with food is purely functional and value for money will always be the key driver, consumers will never compromise on seeking the reassurance that their food has been produced to the highest standards of food safety and traceability.

As food producers we all have a responsibility to provide consumers with safe, wholesome foods.

**Quality Assurance**
The Bord Bia Quality Mark assures the consumer that the food has been produced to Bord Bia’s highest quality standards and that farmers, processors and packing houses have been independently audited. Also by purchasing food with the Bord Bia Quality Mark, you know where the food has been produced, processed and packed.

**Sustainable Beef & Lamb Assurance Scheme (SBLAS)**
The increasing focus and importance of demonstrating environmental sustainability in Irish food production is now reflected in the new Sustainable Beef and Lamb Assurance Scheme (SBLAS) which was launched by Bord Bia earlier this month. The new scheme sets out the agreed standards for the production and certification of Irish beef and lamb.

The scheme was designed in collaboration with the sector stakeholders to meet the demands of global food buyers for verifiable proof of Ireland’s sustainability claims. The scheme is accredited to the International Standard for Product Certification ISO 17065 by the Irish National Accreditation Board (INAB).

The SBLAS will be introduced in the coming weeks and will replace the existing beef and lamb quality assurance schemes on a phased basis over the next 18 months.

92% of Irish consumers are aware of the Bord Bia Quality mark. Over 2/3 are willing to pay a premium for a Quality Assured product.

*Source: REDC Research*
A number of new measures to include the introduction of a close-out period and a helpdesk facility will make the scheme more user-friendly while audit feedback will assist in delivering lower production costs at farm level. By incorporating sustainability into the new scheme we have simplified our message to international customers, giving us an edge on our competitors with a single, independently certified standard that covers the quality and sustainability of our beef and lamb.

**New Measures in SBLAS Sustainability**
The environmental, social and economic principles of sustainability are embedded in the requirements of the new scheme which also draws on the data provided on-farm in recent years to establish the carbon footprint of enterprises under the Origin Green programme.

**Close Out Model:**
The new Sustainable Beef and Lamb Assurance Scheme will operate in a very different manner to the existing beef and lamb scheme. For the first time members will have the opportunity to address any issue identified during the audit and remain certified for a period of time until the issues are addressed. The time allowed to address any issue is one month. The Close-out model will allow farmers retain certification where they are certified at the time the audit is conducted. New applicants or re-entrants to the scheme will not be certified until all issues have been addressed and accepted by the Bord Bia Certification Committee.

- If there are no non-compliances identified during the farm visit, then the audit file will be reviewed and it is most likely that certification will be awarded.

*Figure 1: Schematic for post audit certification decisions.*
If non-compliances are identified during the farm visit, the issues will be discussed at the end of the audit and the farmer can state what action they will take to address the issue. The farmer will have one month to complete this action and submit evidence to Bord Bia, (the Bord Bia Helpdesk can assist with this).

Where non-compliances are addressed before the deadline date the audit file will be reviewed and it is most likely that certification will be awarded.

If the non-compliances are not addressed before the deadline date then the farm will automatically fail the audit.

Introduction of the Bord Bia Helpdesk

A new facility is to be introduced with the launch of the Sustainable Beef and Lamb Assurance Scheme. This is the Bord Bia Helpdesk. The Helpdesk will have a number of functions including;

Answering farmer queries pre-audit.

Assisting farmers with completion of the Sustainability Survey pre-audit.

Contacting farmers post audit where non-compliances have been raised at audit.

Maintaining contact with farmers throughout the one month close-out period to offer advice and assistance to complete Close-out.

Assessing Close-out evidence forwarded by farmers and following up where necessary.

Processing of Close-out evidence forwarded by farmers.

Throughout the Close-out period the Bord Bia Helpdesk will maintain contact with members/applicants (that have chosen to receive contact at the end of their audit) to provide assistance with return of close-out evidence demonstrating the non-compliance has been addressed.
Plant Protection Products
The new scheme will also incorporate standards for use of pesticides on-farm which is already a requirement of the EU Sustainable Use Directive and is aimed at ensuring responsible use of pesticides in the environment.

Industry Benefits
The new Sustainable Beef & Lamb Assurance Scheme will benefit the marketing of meat in several ways including demonstrating the commitment of Irish beef and lamb farms to “green” farming practices. Beef and lamb sourced from sustainable farms will gain access to markets that demand certification and help create a preference for Irish beef and lamb among valuable customers with stated sustainability targets.
The P in Heptavac® P plus stands for Pasteurella* which kills lambs every summer.

Only Heptavac® P plus protects against Pasteurella and Clostridia* - among the most common causes of death in sheep.¹

Protect your lambs this summer with Heptavac® P plus

Vaccinate lambs from 3 weeks of age.

Use Medicines Responsibly.
For further information, please consult the product SPC, your veterinary practitioner or MSD Animal Health,
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Tel: +353(0)1 2970220 E-Mail: vet-support.ie@merck.com Web: www.msd-animal-health.ie
Legal Category: R.O.I. LM and NI POM-VPS

*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.
Leg of Lamb Roasted with Mustard and Rosemary

Serve with roast potatoes and some simple steamed vegetables and you will have a great meal for family and friends

Serves 10
Cooking time: 85 minutes

Ingredients
- 1 leg of lamb, 2½ kg, well trimmed

Topping
- 2 tablesp. good quality mustard
- 2 tablesp. soy sauce
- 1 clove garlic, crushed
- 1 teasp. rosemary leaves, chopped
- 2-3cm piece of ginger, peeled and grated
- 1 tablesp. olive oil

To Cook
Preheat the oven to 220°C (430°F) Gas Mark 7.

Place the lamb in a roasting tin. Mix the mustard, soy sauce, garlic, rosemary and ginger together and then gradually stir in the olive oil to make a paste. Spread this mixture over the lamb.

Put in the oven and roast for 20 minutes, then reduce the heat to 180°C (350°F) Gas Mark 4 and continue to roast for another 50 minutes. The lamb will be cooked medium at this stage. Remove from the oven, wrap the lamb loosely in foil and allow to rest for 15 minutes before carving.

Serving Suggestions
Roast potatoes and red onions roasted alongside the lamb – peel and quarter potatoes and some red onions and mix with a little olive oil, bay leaves and seasoning. Roast for the last 50 minutes in the roasting tin with the lamb.

Steamed vegetables
Left over lamb delicious in a sandwich or wrap for next day lunch.

Nutritional Analysis per Serving
Protein: 66g
Carbohydrates: 36g
Fat: 36g
Iron: 22g
Energy: 567kcal
MOATLAND FLOCK
Of Pedigree Belclare
Lamb plus Recorded

Breed the best, to the best, and you’ll get the best.

Established 2012 from some of the top flocks in the country. Crossbred and Pedigree Stock for sale.

Contact: Roy Butler,
Moatland, Streete Village, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath

Tel: 087 2030333
Clonmel show played host to the second Belclare show of the year, and breeders in attendance were rewarded with a glorious sunny day and competitive classes.

Clonmel breeders Richard and John Lalor started the day in style by taking the first and second prize in the first class of the day, the hogget ram and upwards class. The Lalor’s had provided the reserve champion at this show for the last two years and went one better with their homebred winner when he was awarded the Supreme Belclare Champion of the show.

The hogget ewe and upwards class was up next and it was a hogget ewe from the Knockcroghery flock of Declan and Joe Miley’s that took the red rosette in the process seeing off older opposition. This ewe was later selected as Reserve Champion.

The ram lamb class provided the biggest class of the day and it was Liam Delaney’s turn to receive the red rosette. This well grown ram will no doubt be offered for sale at one of the societies sales during the year.

Finally came the turn of the ewe lambs, with first place going to Michael Gottstein, Co. Cork. Larry Barrett took second place while the Mileys took third place.
Rathkenty Reign Supreme at Belclare Premier Sale.

Tuesday August 3rd saw Kilkenny Mart host the annual Belclare Premier Sale, where trade proved strong despite the current sheep market.

Richard and John Lalor had a day to remember with their Rathkenty Flock, when supplying both the Supreme and Reserve Champion on the day. After much deliberation judge Richard Moore awarded the Supreme Championship to their ram lamb Rathkenty Beethoven an early January lamb sired by Rathkenty Achilles. This lamb, a brother to last year’s Premier Sale Reserve Champion, had already been crowned All-Ireland Belclare Champion Ram lamb at Mullingar Show as well as taking top honours at Athlone Show this show season and once again saw off stiff competition to take the top honours. He caught the eye of many breeders and after opening at a bid of €1,000 was knocked down to long established Belclare breeder Sonny Jennings for €1,300 to join his Cahergal Flock. In the Hogget ram class the Lalor brothers supplied the first three prize winners. The red rosette was awarded to their February 2015 born Rathkenty Anthony, a full brother to the 2014 Belclare ewe lamb All-Ireland Champion. This well grown ram went on to win the Overall Reserve Champion of the show and heads north to Co. Donegal after selling for...
a record hogget ram price of €1,220. Hogget rams proved to be highly sought after once again with the Rathkenty Flock receiving €730, €580 and €560 for the rest of their pen of hogget rams and the Kilmeany Flock selling Kilmeany Abba for €500 resulting in an increase in the average prize for hogget rams for the second consecutive year.

Roscommon breeders Declan and Joe Miley who have won the Supreme Championship on no fewer than eight occasions provided the second placed ram lamb Knockcroghery Best, a son of their 2015 Premier Sale Supreme Champion Knockcroghery Ace. This ram had many of the same attributes of his father and attracted plenty of attention in the sales ring before being knocked down to a final bid of €1,250. The Mileys also sold Knockcroghery Benjamin, a triplet son of Kilmeany Ashton and out of the Knockcroghery Flock’s top ewe MY122391, for €900.

Top price on the day went to Liam and Eoin Dunne’s third prize winning ram lamb Tubber Benhur, a triplet born lamb that sold for €1,320.

The first lamb to sell for a four figure sum was John Renehan’s Violet Hill Barth, an early January twin born lamb sired by his homebred stock ram JR137445 and out of a homebred ewe. This well grown lamb sold for €1,100 and heads to join the flock of Co. Roscommon pedigree breeders Nigel and Larry O’Rourke.

Well known Cork breeder Michael Gottstein produced his usual pen of quality lambs and was rewarded with a top price of €860 for his Coolkellure Blayze,
a single born lamb who had four stars for replacement index and five stars for terminal index and was sold to Liam and Eoin Dunne. Three lots later Mr Gottstein was on the other side of the sales ring when parting with €800 for Coolgarragh Bruce, from the flock of Liam Delaney.

Overall Belclare breeders left Kilkenny very happy with the trade for the day in what is a particularly tough time for sheep farmers with the recent drop in the lamb market. Average on the day was €655 for hogget rams and €592 for ram lambs. Prices reflected that commercial focus was on quality rather than Indexes. Quality rams sold extremely well regardless of the Indexes.

*John Lalor with Rathkenty Anthony (Reserve Champion)*
Declan Miley with Knockcroghery Best (2nd placed ram lamb, sold for €1,250)

First and second prize winning ram lambs
Sires Used:


**RL-14-2327:** All-Ireland Champion Belclare Ram. An outstanding homebred ram, with an excellent carcase. He went through the 2016 show season unbeaten. (Picture 3)

**LB-14-1476:** A five star ram, purchased at Kilkenny 2015, where he had been Champion Belclare Hogget Ram. RL-14-2327 was the only ram to beat him in the 2016 season.

**Rathkenty Alabama:** 2016 National Shearling Champion. A homebred five star ram.

**Rathkenty Beethoven:** 2016 All-Ireland Champion ram lamb and Premier Sale Supreme Champion. Exceptional ram, maternal brother to 2015 Premier Sale Reserve Champion. (Picture 2)

**Rathkenty Bundaberg:** Another homebred ram whose dam is an All-Ireland Champion. Tremendous length and conformation.
Pedigrees

Also Breeders of Pedigree Texel Sheep and Hereford Cattle

Rathkenty Texels and Belclares

2016 Flock Achievements:

• Premier Sale: Supreme and Reserve Champion. (Picture 1)
• Supreme Champion Clonmel Show
• Reserve Champion All-Ireland Championships
• Reserve Champion National Championships
• Reserve Champion Athlone Show
• Top priced Hogget Ram Premier Sale (New Record)

Enquiries & Visitors always welcome.

Richard and John Lalor
Rathkenty, Lisronagh,
Clonmel, Co. Tipperary

Tel.: 085-147 6892 or 086 122 3478
Email: jrlalor@yahoo.co.uk
Sheep Fertility Boluses

ZINCOSEL™

A single bolus pre-tupping to boost sheep fertility & protect unborn lambs

Benefit from:
- Placental transfer of trace elements to unborn lamb
- Improved hoof health
- Improved immune function
- Improved fertility
- Prevention of White Muscle Disease (selenium)

Zinc, Cobalt, Selenium

For more information speak to your supplier or call Bimeda on 1850 51 52 53
Sheep farmers will be only too aware that there are many factors involved in ensuring that our flocks are disease free, productive, and profitable. Issues such as the weather and market conditions are outside of our control. However there are many factors such as management, disease control and nutrition that are within our control.

A key area where nutrition, management and disease control meet is the area of trace element and routes of supplementation. Ireland is uniquely placed to produce quality lamb off grass in a sustainable and low cost way. However, due to our underlying rock and soil types, much of Ireland experiences trace element issues which cause disease, lack of thrive and sub-fertility. There are many options for farmers to treat these issues, but farmers need to understand the problems in order to understand the best solutions.

Cobalt Deficiency:

Cobalt's most important role is to be a part of vitamin B12, which is manufactured by micro-organisms in the rumen and is critical for energy uptake from the diet. Cobalt deficiency occurs where there are low soil cobalt concentrations which are complicated by parasitic diarrhoea.

Signs of cobalt deficiency are observed in weaned lambs at pasture during late summer/autumn.

Farmers will often note that lambs do not kick on after weaning, appear slow, have reduced appetite, poor quality wool, poor body condition and below expected weight gains. Cobalt-deficient sheep may fail to respond well to vaccinations and may be more susceptible to clostridial diseases (e.g. pulpy kidney) and pasteurellosis.

As prevention, continuous supplementation with cobalt containing products is necessary as the body had no ability to store cobalt.

Copper Deficiencies and Molybdenum Toxicity

Copper deficiency and molybdenum excess (called thiomolybdate toxicity) cause severe issues on Irish farms. Ireland has some of the highest rates of molybdenum in Europe, which has the effect of mimicking copper deficiency symptoms in our flocks, and this high level of molybdenum is exacerbated by high levels of iron and sulphur on pastures and in the water supply.
Signs of thiomolybdate toxicities (also known as TMT) in sheep includes, poor wool quality, poor thrive and poor fertility. Prevention of copper deficiency and thiomolybdate toxicity (TMT) in sheep is much more important than treatment because irreversible changes have often taken place and full compensatory growth may not result after supplementation. Therefore emphasis must be placed upon preventive measures.

**What is needed to prevent these high levels of molybdenum iron and sulphur is;**

a) A rumen-available copper source that is available to prevent the thiomolybdate from being absorbed into the blood.

b) A continuous copper source; as the molybdenum is being constantly ingested from the pasture in high molybdenum areas.

These two requirements are very difficult to achieve. For example all compressed boluses contain copper oxide which does not release copper into the rumen, and is therefore not suitable at preventing thiomolybdate absorption.

We must also be vigilant against copper accumulation and toxicity in sheep, which sheep are prone to. There is considerable breed variation with respect to copper absorption in sheep. Texels for example appear to be very prone to toxicity. Copper administration before or during housing is also regarded as high risk.

Veterinary advice is essential before copper supplementation to sheep.

**Zinc Deficiency**

Many farmers have noted good responses to zinc supplementation in deficient flocks in terms of hoof health, fertility and overall health.

**Zinc deficiency causes:**

- Subfertility and delayed sexual maturity
- Lowering of the immune status
- Significantly reduced growth rate
- Increased incidence of lameness problems

**Iodine and selenium deficiencies** also cause ill-health and poor productivity and while often not as obvious in sheep as in cattle, a regular supply of these trace elements in deficient flocks is necessary for targets to be reached.
So in sheep what is needed are continuous high quality supplies of trace elements to ensure deficiencies of trace elements do not impact on sheep health and farmer profitability. Bimeda has a range of unique soluble glass sheep boluses designed to ensure that these needs are met as they provide continuous trace element release in the rumen including rumen available copper.

**The Bimeda range includes:**

**Cosecure sheep bolus** provides rumen available copper, cobalt and selenium continuously over 8 months

**Cosecure lamb bolus** provides rumen available copper, cobalt and selenium continuously over 6 months for lambs

**Coseicure Sheep boluses:** provides rumen available copper, Iodine, cobalt and selenium continuously over 6 months

**Zincosel sheep and lamb boluses** which deliver zinc, cobalt and selenium, and are suitable in breeds which are susceptible to copper toxicity.

Bimeda boluses will help where trace element problems are contributing to fertility, lameness, lack of thrive & lack of weight gain problems. The boluses in these cases will give rise to healthier more productive flocks and are a great asset in modern lamb production. Bolusing with Bimeda boluses will also contribute to the healthy development of the unborn lambs, when used at tupping through the placental transfer of trace elements, meaning that the farmer gets the optimum number of healthy lambs on the ground next spring.

As the boluses are made of a soluble glass, they need to be brought to room temperature before being given to animals. Taking the boluses out of their packaging and placing them in a pocket close to your body shortly before use, will bring the boluses to the required temperature.

We have many delighted users of Bimeda sheep boluses. One such farmer is Kilkenny sheep farmer and sheep dog trial specialist, Ned O’Keefe from Mullinavat.

Ned uses Coseicure lamb boluses on his lambs and their weight gains are substantially higher than when using other poorer quality alternative boluses. He also used sheep boluses pre-tupping, and while his sheep: lamb ratio has never been better, it is the healthiness of the lambs that is the biggest benefit for him.
Ned commented “I have never had such hardy lambs in the spring. The sheep all lambed very healthy and I lost no lambs to disease or weakness this spring. Their growth rates from birth have been fantastic. I put this down to the Bimeda CoseIcure boluses and I encourage all famers with trace element issues to use bimeda soluble glass boluses as part of their flock health plan to optimise health, fertility, growth rates and profitability.”

For more information on the Bimeda Cosecure range of CoseIcure soluble glass boluses, contact your vet, or call Bimeda on 1850 52 52 53.

The dedicated website cosecureboluses.com also contains information on the product range, as well as information on trace element toxicities and deficiencies.

Padraig Hyland MVB,
Bimeda Technical Services Manager
Established 1995  Flock Code WD

TUBBER FLOCK

• Prize winning flock
• Large Flock – 50 ewes
• Current record holder for highest priced lambs ever sold at the premier sale 2004 where we sold a lamb for €2,100
• Very well located in the centre of Ireland
• Participant in Sheep Ireland, lamb Plus breed improvement programme
• Male & Females always for sale

Enquiries & Visitors Welcome
Liam and Eoin Dunne, Gurteen, Tubber, Moate, Co. Offaly
Mob: 086-8552730 • Tel: 090-6481521
Sheep genetic improvement – where are we in 2017

Genetic improvement and Indexes for many is a hard sell. Unfortunately it is not a quick fix and will not deliver huge short term benefits. Genetic improvement must be viewed as a medium to long term strategy to improve things and to lay the foundation for a better future – it is the pension fund of the sheep industry. Sheep Ireland is the organisation charged with the task of helping the industry to achieve a more profitable industry through better genetics. Sheep Ireland is no trailblazer, just an organisation attempting to copy the success of other organisations in different species. Genetic improvement has been proven to deliver beyond all doubt in other species. It can and will work for sheep farmers, provided the right foundations are put in place. Sheep Ireland has been in operation since 2009 and has made a lot of progress in terms of laying these foundations.

What is happening in Sheep Ireland?

**LambPlus** – The performance recording programme for pedigree sheep breeders and commercial sheep farmers. Just over 700 flocks are involved in LambPlus for 2017. LambPlus has a suite of new web screens for pedigree breeders to record flock data and to view performance reports. It also offers facilities such as an inbreeding checker, sales catalogue generator, pedigree cert generation facility and more.

**Central Progeny Test** – The CPT is the only such programme of its kind in the northern hemisphere and tests various sheep bloodlines on a Terminal and Maternal basis. Daughters from all rams tested are retained in the programme to assess their maternal traits. Some daughters of rams used in the first CPT season in 2010 are still producing lambs and data across our CPT flocks today. This maternal data is central to the Sheep Ireland programme.

**RamPlus** – Operated on a pilot basis in 2016. RamPlus is similar to a sire reference scheme and offers ram breeders an opportunity to become genetically linked to other performance recording flocks. The number of unlinked flocks involved in LambPlus is still too high. These unlinked flocks are essentially receiving a within flock evaluation. As with previous years, letters will be sent to all unlinked flocks in 2017 informing flocks of their options to get linked. The Sheep Ireland board will be making a decision on how to handle the publishing of evaluations for unlinked flocks in advance of 2017 mating season. This decision may include not publishing €uroStars for such flocks in 2018. The breeding season of 2017 will be critical for all breeders to ensure they ‘share’ the same ram/ semen with another linked flock – this will ensure a flock becomes linked.
OVIGEN – A research project which aims to establish genomic evaluations for Irish ram breeders and commercial sheep farmers. Genomics has the potential to fast track genetic progress by delivering higher accuracy%. Sheep Ireland has established a system whereby participants involved in this research project can genotype sheep in their flocks in 2017. At this point in time, almost 1,300 Irish Belclare sheep have been genotyped free of charge under this research project. The next phase of OVIGEN is now up and running and offers Irish Belclare breeders the opportunity to genotype sheep at a highly subsidised rate in 2017.

Ultrasound scanning service for muscle and fat depth measurement – Each year all LambPlus members have the opportunity to Ultrasound scan lambs in their flock. This helps to increase the accuracy% of breeder’s genetic evaluations.

LambPlus sale – All LambPlus members have the option of attending this annual sale which takes place on the 4th Saturday of August each year. Breeders can only enter high index animals which meet a minimum accuracy% criteria.

A Belclare sired CPT ewe on the farm of Andrew Moloney in 2017. This ewe has just produced her 3rd crop of lambs and this data is helping to build the accuracy% of Belclare bloodlines each year.
Only breeders which achieve a flock Data Quality Index of greater than 60% will be allowed entry to this sale in 2017.

**Are Irish Belclares making genetic progress?**

The answer is yes. Currently the average genetic indexes of Irish Belclare sheep are increasing. On the Terminal Index the increases are steady and annual progress is being made. On the Replacement Index the trend is significant from 2009 to 2017. In order to maximise genetic progress it is important that high index sires are promoted across the breed society. A team of different sires (bloodlines) should be used in order to protect against movement in an individual animal’s genetic index. Where possible the highest accuracy% bloodlines should be used.

*Terminal and Replacement index genetic trends for Irish Belclares since 2009*

Sheep Ireland will continue to work with the Irish Belclare society across all the various initiatives within the national genetic improvement programme, helping to maximise the genetic gain being made for the benefit of Irish sheep farmers. Central to this effort will be the promotion and use of high index, high accuracy% sires. Merging this criteria with physical characteristics which are the foundation of each sheep breed will be key.

*Eamon Wall*
Sheep Ireland
Membership Application Form

Name: ...........................................................................................................................................

Address: ........................................................................................................................................

...........................................................................................................................................

...........................................................................................................................................

Tel: ................................................................. Mobile: ..............................................................

Email: ...........................................................................................................................................

I ........................................................................................................................................ (insert name) wish to apply for membership to the Belclare Sheep Society. I agree to be bound by the terms and conditions of the society and agree to pay €127.00 joining fee. I understand that I need to possess at least three pure bred registered Belclare Ewes to become a member of the Belclare sheep society

Signed ................................................................. Date: ..............................................................

Pedigree identifiers of Belclare ewes currently in flock (min 3)

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Post Completed application form with membership fees to:
Mr. Michael Neenan, Dromakee, Kilflynn, Tralee, Co. Kerry. Tel: 087-2777721.
The cheque / postal order for €128 (joining fee plus one share in society) must be made out to the Belclare Sheep Society.
History of the Belclare Sheep

This year will see the 35th anniversary of the Belclare sheep in Ireland. While there had been some talk of the Belclare in the late 1970s and early 80s, it wasn’t until 1982 that the first Belclare rams became available for sale.

The Belclare sheep was first developed by Dr. J.P. Hanrahan a scientist in sheep breeding who had spent time in Australia and saw the necessity to raise the lamb numbers of the national sheep flock where at the time stood at around 125%. A number of trials were carried out on different breeds of sheep that were known to produce triplets, before a trial was carried out that involved Finnish Landrace rams on Galway ewes. Lleyn sheep were next introduced to the Finnish Landrace - Galway cross, which formed the nucleus of the Belclare sheep breed. After considerable interest had been expressed by farmers nationwide into the Belclare breed, An Forus Taluntais (Now known as Teagasc) in Belclare, where the breed had been developed and gained their name from, decided to host a sale whereby 85 pedigree rams would be sold, all at fixed prices.

Buyers came from 20 counties, with Wicklow, Carlow, Wexford and Kilkenny sheep breeders accounting for 45 of the sales. The Institute also made a select pool of rams available to farmers in Co. Galway for use on synchronised ewes. The farmers involved included 16 members of the Galway Sheep Breed Society and 13 commercial farmers. Following the success of the 1982 sale, a further ram sale was held each autumn from 1983 to 1985. By the conclusion of the 1983 sale, rams had been purchased by farmers from 24 of the 26 counties. A number of these purchasers of the early Belclare rams realised the demand there was for Belclare rams and expressed an interest in acquiring pedigree Belclare ewes to supply this demand, thus leading to the formation of the Belclare Sheep Society.

The first Belclare Society comprised of: President - Dr. J.P. Hanrahan, Chairman Mr PJ O'Dea, Secretaries – Mr Pat O'Dea and Mr Joe Teasdale, Committee – Mr Niall Connolly, Mr Pat Carey and Mr Tom Sice. Initially these farmers contributed their rams to the set of rams that were sold by the Institute each autumn before the development of their own sale. The first sale of Belclare rams by the Belclare Sheep Society was held in 1985 in Kilkenny, where the Belclare Premier Sale has remained ever since.

The first Belclare sheep were called Belclare improvers and had a large amount of Finnish Landrace blood. While the objective of developing a breed that had a high litter size was achieved, these early Belclares lacked substance and
conformation, and farmers were struggling to finish lambs of a grass based diet. To rectify this problem the Belclare ewes were crossed with Texel rams to produce what was termed the Belclare Mark II from which today's Belclare sheep have originated.

The Belclare sheep that are found on farms today are very different to their ancestors that started the breed almost 40 years ago. Infusions of Texel blood, coupled with rigorous selection and culling by dedicated Belclare breeders resulted in the sheep that are seen on farms nowadays. This has allowed the Belclare not only to command the premier position as a maternal sire but also allows it to compete with terminal sire breeds as a breed that is able to sire rapidly growing fleshy lambs, which farmers have found are capable of being finished off grass just as quickly as the terminal breeds.

Michael Neenan
Dromakee
Kilflynn, Tralee
Co. Kerry
087-2777721

Kilflynn Pedigree Belclare Flock
Established 2006
Lamb Plus Recorded
Hogget and ram lambs for sale at home
Enquiries & Visitors Welcome
**Breed Characteristics**

The Belclare is a relatively new breed developed to raise the prolificacy of the Irish sheep population. The breed was formed by bringing together into one population, flocks (developed by Teagasc) with proven ability for producing a high litter size under intensive sheep production conditions.

**Belclare Sheep Characteristics**

They are polled, white in colour with a good fleece, very sound feet and minimum mastitis problems. Ewes are docile, have excellent mothering ability with a minimum of lambing difficulty and are capable of rearing three lambs if given adequate feed during lactation. Daughters of your own ewe flock, sired by a Belclare ram are capable of increasing lambing rates by up to 30%. For lowland flocks the national average is 1.28 lambs weaned per ewe joined with rams. Research shows the only real way of substantially increasing income from sheep farming is by increasing the number of lambs sold per ewe joined.

*Farmers Journal* reports and articles consistently show that flocks, scanning 1.8 to 2.0 and upwards have Belclare crosses.

Lamb carcase quality is excellent; they have had many competition successes, including Supreme Champion R.D.S. Belclare cross lambs obtain bonus payments in the factories, and are sought after by butchers at heavier weights as they do not become overfat.
**Worm – Scrapie resistance**

Belclare sheep are amongst the group, showing considerable resistance to worms and scrapie.

**REPS – Extensification – Nitrates Directive**

Belclare prolificacy helps overcome stocking density restrictions as the increased number of lambs reared does not increase the livestock units counted. They are also ideal for the early weaning system as the Belclare cross ewe is capable of rearing the extra lambs to that stage.

**Breed Improvements**

The breed have since the mid 1990’s have had an across the breed improvement programme. This means that every registered sheep in the breed has been performance recorded which again differentiates the Belclare sheep from all other breeds. Today all registered Belclare sheep are fully recorded with Sheep Ireland.

“To my mind the growth rates, sales pattern and carcass quality of these lambs indicate that prolific Belclare cross ewes can produce quality as well as quantity. Think about it when planning your breeding programme”. Tom Egan, Teagasc specialist.

“At Present, sheep are a profitable enterprise excluding premia. The same cannot be said for beef, tillage and even dairy milk price is heavily supported”. Pat Clarke, Teagasc specialist.
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<td>Barry Cunningham</td>
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<td>Liam Delaney</td>
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<td>Hannah Kate &amp; Tom Finn</td>
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<td>Christina Hannon</td>
<td>Anenefield, Hollymount, Co. Mayo</td>
<td>087-2300403</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charles J Hughes</td>
<td>Lawhill, Westport, Co. Mayo</td>
<td>086-3897646</td>
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<tr>
<td>Padraig Hyland</td>
<td>Ballybriskane, Kilmaine, Co. Mayo</td>
<td>087-2432834</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sony Jennings</td>
<td>Cahergal, Tuam, Co. Galway</td>
<td>087-2198913</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tim Keady</td>
<td>Oltore House, Caherlistrane, Co. Galway</td>
<td>086-8414063</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Kelly</td>
<td>Chester Hse, Clonmannon, Ashford, Co. Wicklow</td>
<td>087-2480695</td>
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<tr>
<td>Killian Kiernan</td>
<td>Ballymanus, Castlepollard, Co. Westmeath</td>
<td>086-1620273</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard &amp; John Lalor</td>
<td>Rathkenty, Lisronagh, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary</td>
<td>085-1476892/086-1223478</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liam &amp; JJ McDermott</td>
<td>Three House, Bredagh Glen, Moville, Co. Donegal</td>
<td>087-2397000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conor McDonough</td>
<td>Milltown, Carndonagh, Co. Donegal</td>
<td>086-1256303</td>
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WE WISH BELCLARE BREEDERS CONTINUED SUCCESS IN 2017

CORMAC TAGGING LTD. ARE NOW PROUD TO BE THE NO 1 ELECTRONIC TAG SUPPLIER FOR PEDIGREE SHEEP.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daniel McKenna</td>
<td>Pallas, Beaufort, Killarney, Co. Kerry</td>
<td>086-6094915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christopher McLaughlin</td>
<td>Beltra, Isle of Doagh, Clonmany, Co. Donegal</td>
<td>086-0598243</td>
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<tr>
<td>John McTigue</td>
<td>Ballynulty, Cloghans Hill, Tuam, Co. Galway</td>
<td>087-9135865</td>
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<td>Declan &amp; Joe Miley</td>
<td>Ballyglass, Knockcroghery, Co. Roscommon</td>
<td>086-8620013</td>
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<td>Cluntagh Hse, 68 Ballytrim Rd, Crossgar, Downpatrick, BT 30 9</td>
<td>+447909695014</td>
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<td>087-2777721</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.J &amp; Mary Jo O’Dea</td>
<td>Esker, Athenry, Co. Galway</td>
<td>091-848037</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paraic O’Dea</td>
<td>Ard Grianan, Esker, Athenry, Co. Galway</td>
<td>085-7745928</td>
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<td>Nigel &amp; Larry O’Rourke</td>
<td>Carrigeen, Knockcroghery, Co. Roscommon</td>
<td>086-2026223</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lisa O’ Sullivan</td>
<td>Killrowan Farm, Ardacknockeen, Killorgtin, Co. Kerry</td>
<td>087-2122773</td>
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<tr>
<td>John &amp; Sophie Reilly</td>
<td>Coolboyogue, Cavan, Co. Cavan</td>
<td>086-8189274</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Renehan</td>
<td>Violet Hill, Johnstown, Co. Kilkenny</td>
<td>056-8831292</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom Sice</td>
<td>Boyhill, Athenry, Co. Galway</td>
<td>091-844162</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Somers</td>
<td>Bolaney, Hollyfort, Gorey, Co. Wexford</td>
<td>087-9254100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paul Smyth</td>
<td>Aharny, Tullamore, Co. Offaly</td>
<td>087-6781673</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edmond Stanton</td>
<td>Knocklass, Ladys Bridge, Castlemartyr, Co. Cork</td>
<td>086-2260423</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teagasc</td>
<td>C/O Henry Walsh, Mellows Campus, Athenry, Co. Galway</td>
<td>087-7690677</td>
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CORMAC TAGGING LTD. ARE NOW THE NO 1 TAG SUPPLIER FOR THE PEDIGREE TEXEL BREEDERS.
**List of Belclare Sales in 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kilkenny Premier Sale</td>
<td>8th August</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tullamore (Sheep Ireland Sale)</td>
<td>26th Aug</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tullow</td>
<td>5th September</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blessington (Multi-breed)</td>
<td>23rd Sept</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kilkenny (Multi-breed)</td>
<td>25th September</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rosscommon</td>
<td>30th September</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Society Contact Details**

Enquiries: Mr. Michael Neenan,  
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