

RESILIENCE OF THE HILL FLOCK



MONITORING FLOCK PERFORMANCE

7TH FEBRUARY 2017



Measuring Flock Efficiency



- Lambing %
 - The typical “benchmark”
 - Is the comparison fair?
 - No account taken for:
 - Different farm types, farming system or labour resource.
 - e.g. hill flock vs lowland flock

Lambing %

- Lambing percentage dependant on:
 - How many ewes get in lamb
 - Scanning %
 - Lamb survival



Measuring Flock Efficiency



- Ewe efficiency technical aspects to consider:
 - Lambing %
 - Lamb weight at weaning/sale/transfer
 - Ewe weight at tugging
- Can help to identify issues to improve flock performance
 - Black loss cause?

The Calculations

- Keep the system simple
- Use information you already have
- Act on the information provided
- Keep a diary
- Involve experts where required
 - Vet, consultant, etc.

Example Calculations

	2015
Number of Flock Number (Breeding Ewes)	407
Number of Ewes put to Tup	386
% Barren	9.3%
Scanning % / Number of Lambs	104% (401)
Marking % / Number of Lambs	62% (240)
Weaning % / Number of Lambs	57% (218)
Number of lambs sold/retained / % of lambs known at marking	91% (91%)
Black loss from Scanning to Weaning % / Number	46% (183)
Black loss from Marking to Weaning % / Number	9% (22)

Digging Deeper

	Bottom Third	Average	Top Third
Ewes per ram	41	38	39
Ewe mortality %	10.7	6.7	4.6
Ewe replacement rate %	25.8	23.6	23.9
Lambs born dead or alive per 100 ewes	99	113	128
Lamb mortality (inc. born dead) %	23	15	12
Lambs reared per 100 ewes	76	98	116
Average weight of lambs – kg	32.4	34.1	34.9
Weight of lamb produced per ewe – kg	24.4	33.3	40.5
Purchased concentrates – kg/ewe	17	21	26
Home-grown concentrates – kg/ewe	0	0	0
Lambs sold finished per 100 ewes	7	17	31
Value per lamb – £/head	46.20	61.08	65.32
Lambs sold/transferred store per 100 ewes	43	46	32
Value per lamb – £/head	42.45	43.25	44.69
Lambs sold/transferred for breeding per 100 ewes	26	35	48
Value per lamb – £/head	56.77	70.28	79.05
CO _{2e} kg/net lwt kg produced	23.3	17.4	15.2

The Way Forward?



- Condition score of the ewes
- Flock nutrition
 - Grazing quality
 - Wintering options
- Health planning
- Record keeping
- Monitoring performance of your flock!

Thank You

