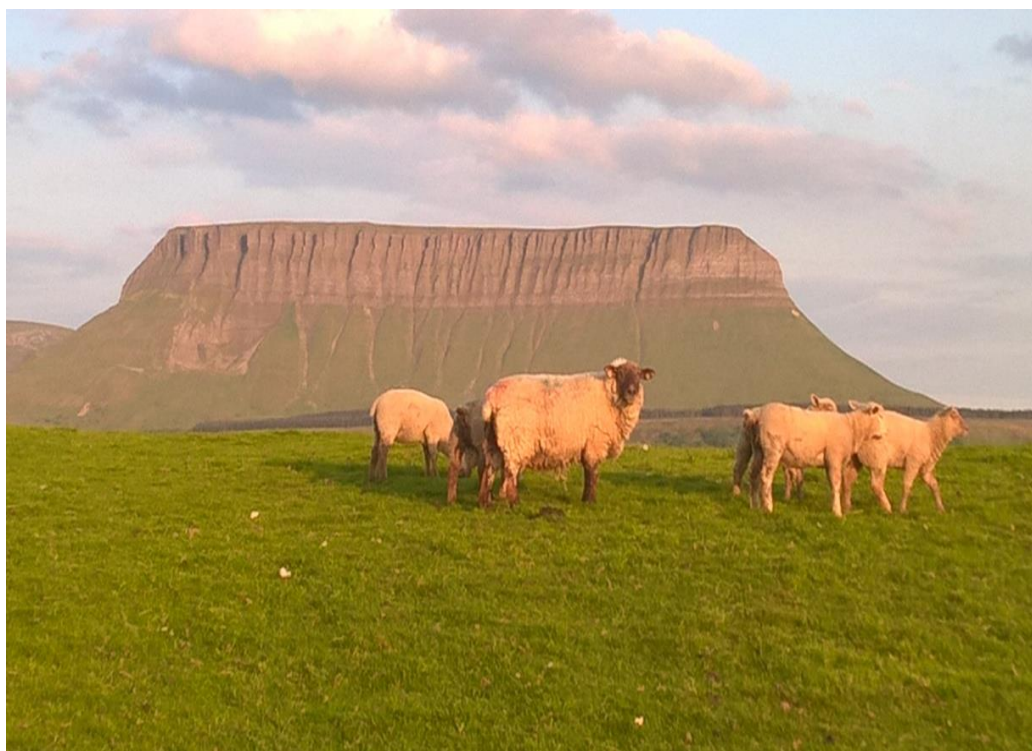


SHEEP WELFARE SCHEME

2017

Terms and Conditions



IMPORTANT

- Please read and familiarise yourself fully with these Terms and Conditions.
- You must pick one action from Category A and one from Category B appropriate to your flock type.
- You must tick the box next to the two chosen actions.
- Actions undertaken are in respect of all animals in your flock to which the actions apply.
- Actions must be completed in full for the duration of the scheme.
- All actions must be recorded in the Scheme Action Record Book.
- All invoices, receipts and supporting documents must be retained.
- Applications must be returned to the Portlaoise Office by 31st January 2017 - using the pre-addressed envelope supplied with the Scheme Application Form only.

ALSO

- Please ensure you submit your completed Sheep Census Return by 31st January 2017 - using the pre-addressed envelope supplied with the Census Form only.

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1. Introduction

The Sheep Welfare Scheme 2017 is being introduced to contribute to the continued development in animal and health welfare in the sheep sector and will require farmers to go beyond the relevant mandatory standards to enhance the standards of animal welfare in the Irish Sheep flock.

This new scheme is designed in keeping with Article 33 of Regulation (EC) No 1305/2013 in particular and with the range of European Regulations underpinning the provision of support for Rural Development.

This scheme will provide targeted support to those areas of animal welfare identified as making a meaningful positive contribution to sheep welfare, having regard to the systems of production in Ireland and the environment in which Irish sheep production is carried out.

2. Implementation of the Scheme

The Sheep Welfare Scheme 2017 is administered by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM). The Department will ensure compliance on the part of applicants by way of compliance inspections and administrative Control checks.

3. Obligations of Scheme Applicants / Participants

It will be the responsibility of the applicants / participants to familiarise themselves fully with the Scheme Terms and Conditions, their obligations under same and the consequences for any compliance failures or breaches of the Scheme.

Each scheme participant is obliged to –

- Comply with the Terms and Conditions of the scheme and fully complete their two chosen actions.
- Submit an accurately completed annual Sheep Census return to the Department for 2016 and for each year of the Scheme, within the set deadlines.
- Maintain the requisite number of breeding ewes in line with most recent census return – in particular, where an applicant is approved into the scheme on the basis of a particular reference number of breeding ewes, this number of ewes must be retained and made available for inspection where required.
- Maintain a Scheme Action Record Book, which will be provided to all applicants by the Department, to record and demonstrate the completion of the two actions chosen for the scheme.
- Retain all receipts, documentation and other evidence to prove compliance with scheme actions for the duration of participation in the scheme plus one year.
- The Scheme Action Record Book must be made available on request for inspection and /or administrative checks by the Department.

- All applicants must co-operate fully with Department staff, or its Agents, in relation to any inspection or any request for documentation.
- All applicants must comply with Cross Compliance requirements, as set down in relevant EU legislation (Directives and Regulations), and the standards for Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition (GAEC), in the areas of environment, climate change and good agricultural condition of land; public, animal and plant health and animal welfare. *Articles 91 – 94 of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 refer.*
- All applicants accept that all the information supplied on the application form and any supporting documentation may be used by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine or made available to any other Department or body or Local Authority for the purpose of audits, evaluation purposes, Cross Compliance controls, controls relating to the legislation underpinning Cross Compliance and all Rural Development measures, and, as appropriate, in accordance with the requirements under the Freedom of Information Act.
- It must be noted that an application will not be accepted or approval may be withdrawn if, in the opinion of the Minister or his officials, it is established that an applicant artificially created the conditions required to obtain aid with a view to obtaining an advantage contrary to the objectives of the Scheme.
- The obtaining of aid or the attempt to obtain aid under the Scheme by fraudulent means by the applicant or others acting alone or together may, in addition to any scheme penalty, render such persons liable to prosecution.

4. Actions and Options Available

The new Sheep Welfare Scheme will contribute to improved sheep welfare by introducing targeted intervention actions in the areas of –

- **Lameness Control**
- **Mineral Supplementation Ewes Post Mating**
- **Meal Feeding Lambs Post Weaning**
- **Parasite Control (Faecal Egg Count)**
- **Management of Pregnant Ewes (Scanning)**
- **Flystrike Control**
- **Mineral Supplementation Lambs Pre Weaning**

All animals in your flock to which an action applies must be treated accordingly.

The scheme will target active sheep farmers with breeding ewes. An active farmer is defined in Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013.

The scheme actions are applicable to flocks of breeding ewes and are separated into **Lowland** and **Hill** flock actions.

The decision as to which category an applicant belongs to will be based on the type of stock (Lowland or Hill) held, or where there is a mix, the ratio stock type held and as reported in the Annual Sheep Census 2015 –

- Applicants with greater than 50% lowland ewes must choose from the options for Lowland flocks
- Applicants with greater than 50% hill type ewes must choose from the options for Hill flocks.
- The Application Form which has issued has designated individual flocks as Hill or Lowland based on Sheep Census records. Applicants who deem that they have been incorrectly designated should notify the Department promptly regarding their position.

Applicants must choose **one action from Category A** and **one action from Category B** as detailed in the Table below, appropriate to their Flock Type (Lowland or Hill) by ticking the appropriate boxes beside each option in the application form.

It should be noted that the two actions chosen at this point must be adhered to by the applicant for the full duration of the scheme - which is currently proposed at 4 years, renewable annually. It is therefore not possible to changes actions once chosen.

The various action Categories and choices are as follows -

Lowland Flock	Hill Flock
<u>Category A</u>	<u>Category A</u>
Lameness Control	Mineral Supplementation Ewes Post Mating
Mineral Supplementation Ewes Post Mating	Meal Feeding Lambs Post Weaning*
<u>Category B</u>	<u>Category B</u>
Parasite Control (Faecal Egg Count)	Parasite Control (Faecal Egg Count)
Scanning	Scanning
Flystrike Control	Mineral Supplementation Lambs Pre Weaning*

* Hill flocks may not choose both Mineral supplementation of lambs and Meal feeding of lambs post weaning.

So the choices available to either Lowland Farm or Hill Farms are –

- **Lowland Flocks**

1) Lameness Control Regime **OR** Mineral Supplementation post mating for ewes.

PLUS

2) Parasite Control (Faecal Egg Count) **OR** Scanning **OR** Flystrike Control.

- **Hill Flocks**

1) Mineral supplementation of ewes post mating **OR** Meal Feeding of lambs Post weaning.*

PLUS

2) Parasite Control (Faecal Egg Count) **OR** Scanning **OR** Mineral Supplementation of lambs pre weaning*.

* Hill flocks may not choose both Meal feeding of lambs post weaning and Mineral Supplementation of Lambs pre weaning.

5. Eligibility criteria

In order to be eligible for the Scheme, applicants must

- 1) Have an active DAFM Herd Number, or have applied for same before the closing date of the scheme, and keep breeding ewes.
- 2) Submit a BPS application for each year of scheme participation, and comply with the requirement to be an active farmer as per Article 9 of EU Regulation 1307/2013.
- 3) Have submitted Sheep Census returns to the Department in respect of 2014 and 2015 by 31st October 2016.

Where applicants have failed to submit either or both the 2014 and 2015 census returns, in line with above, they can advise the Department accordingly and the circumstances of cases will be considered and dealt with on an individual basis. It should be noted that Cross Compliance penalties may apply in such circumstances.

- 4) Have submitted a correctly completed return to the Department in respect of the 2016 Sheep Census by **31st January 2017** and continue to submit a Sheep Census return within the specified timeframe for each year during the lifetime of the scheme (exception for new entrants in year of entry).

Note: Applicants who have been found guilty of an offence under the Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013 for animal cruelty and welfare offences will be excluded from the scheme.

6. New Entrants

There is provision for new entrants into the scheme.

A new entrant to this scheme is defined as an applicant who has applied for a new herd number from 1st January 2016 and before the closing date of the scheme in 2017 or an applicant with an existing herd number who has not held or traded in sheep for a two year period up to 31st October preceding the scheme year.

In any subsequent scheme years the new applicant must apply for a new herd number prior to 31st December of the preceding year.

7. Eligible Breeding Ewe Numbers

The eligible number of breeding ewes will be the average number of breeding ewes declared on the 2014 and 2015 Sheep Census returns. Applicants must also declare breeding ewes on the 2016 Sheep Census return.

This number will form a Reference Number for payment for the duration of the Scheme and will not increase, except where required in line with GLAS obligations, as outlined below. However, if the number of breeding ewes returned on the 2016 or later Sheep Census, Inspection Report or Administrative Control Report, during the Scheme is lower than the Reference Number then the new lower number will become the Reference Number for payment. It must be noted that where such circumstances occur and a higher number of breeding ewes is returned on the census in a subsequent year then the Reference Number will increase accordingly but not beyond the original Reference Number.

Where applicants are also GLAS participants and are required to increase their number of breeding ewes in line with GLAS obligations under Commonage Management Plans (CMP) in order to comply with their individual minimum requirement, the increased number returned on the Sheep Census return each year will become the Reference Number - until the defined number on the CMP is reached or the deadline for reaching same is passed.

In the case of new entrants the reference number will be based on the number of breeding ewes returned on their most recent census. Where entry is between the Census process and the closing date of the scheme the reference number will be calculated on a case by case basis.

In all cases, where an applicant is approved into the scheme on the basis of a particular reference number of breeding ewes, this number of ewes must be retained and made available for inspection where required for that scheme year.

8. How to Apply for the Scheme

Application for the Sheep Welfare Scheme 2017 is made by completing the relevant application form and returning it, using the pre-addressed envelope supplied, to the address provided before the specified closing date of **31st January 2017**.

The Department will supply partially pre-filled forms to all registered sheep flock owners with breeding ewes to facilitate the application process. These application forms will be suitable for the designated flock type (Lowland or Hill) of the potential applicant. It will be

necessary for the applicant to check all information supplied and to amend same if it is found to be inaccurate or incorrect. Only the partially pre-filled application forms issued by the Department will be accepted in the application process as the specific herd number to which each form issued is bar-coded to facilitate the management of the scheme.

Depending on the sheep farming practice on the holding, the applicant should complete the application form advising of the two actions they choose, making sure they have chosen one from Category A and one from Category B in their Flock Type (Lowland or Hill) by ticking the appropriate boxes beside each action.

The Department will issue a form for each year of the scheme to facilitate the Declaration of Scheme Compliance, Notification of the Continuation in the scheme or Opt-out of the scheme by approved participants.

- Applicants must, on an annual basis, on a document issued by the Department, make a Declaration of Scheme Compliance confirming their ongoing compliance with the scheme actions undertaken.
- It is proposed that this Scheme will run over 4 years until 2020. Scheme participants will be required to advise the Department that they intend continuing in the scheme for the following year and give an undertaking in relation to same. It will be necessary to return this form by the specified date in order to continue in the scheme.
- Applicants/participants can opt-out or withdraw from the scheme by advising the Department accordingly. Should an applicant opt-out of the scheme in any year subsequent to year one it will not be possible to rejoin the scheme.

Applicants/participants cannot opt-out of the scheme in a given year if they have been notified of a pending inspection and/or an administrative control.

9. Scheme Forms and Action Record Book

The Department will supply potential applicants with a partly completed Application Form which will show their pre-determined flock type and relevant choices of actions.

Applicants will also be supplied with a Scheme Action Record book which is to be used by participants to record all compliance actions and proofs of same. This Scheme Action Record Book will be used to record compliance with actions undertaken and will have to be maintained throughout the applicant's participation in the scheme. It is essential that the Action Record Book and associated documents are retained and updated to reflect the completion of actions undertaken by applicants under this Scheme.

A new Scheme Action Records Book will be supplied to participants for each year of the scheme – subject to notification of their continuing in the scheme.

The Department will supplement compliance inspections with Administrative Control checks whereby a percentage of farmers will be required to submit their Action Record Books and associated documentation to the Department upon request at various times in the Scheme year. These records will be examined as a means of checking compliance with actions. It is a

requirement of the Scheme that applicants must fully comply with such requests to submit information to the Department.

Failure to produce or forward the Scheme Action Record Book when requested will be seen as a breach of the scheme obligations and will result in no payments for the relevant scheme year and a 20% administrative penalty based on the overall amount which would have been payable in the scheme year will be imposed.

10. Late Applications

The closing date for the Sheep Welfare Scheme 2017 is **31st January 2017**. The Department will not, except in cases of force majeure, accept applications submitted after this date.

In the event that a query arises as to the receipt by the Department of an application for the scheme, which was submitted by post, you will be required to produce proof of postage in the form of a Registered Post receipt or a SwiftPost receipt. Certificates of postage will not be accepted as proof of postage.

11. Force Majeure

Force Majeure is defined in Article 2 of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 -

- For the purposes of the financing, management and monitoring of the CAP, "force majeure" and "exceptional circumstances" may, in particular, be recognised in the following cases:
 - (a) the death of the beneficiary;
 - (b) long-term professional incapacity of beneficiary;
 - (c) a severe natural disaster gravely affecting the holding;
 - (d) the accidental destruction of livestock buildings on the holding;
 - (e) an epizootic or a plant disease affecting part or all of the beneficiary's livestock or crops respectively;
 - (f) expropriation of all or a large part of the holding if that expropriation could not have been anticipated on the day of lodging the application.

12. Partnerships and the Sheep Welfare Scheme 2017

Applicants registered under Farm Partnership Registration are required to submit one application for the Sheep Welfare Scheme 2017 using the Farm Partnership Number.

Applicants will be bound by the reference number for eligible ewes applicable to their holding.

The Partnership should submit a single Declaration of Scheme Compliance to cover the whole partnership and, subject to compliance, a single payment will issue to the partnership as appropriate.

13. Scheme Actions

All animals in your flock to which an action applies must be treated accordingly.

A description of each possible action under the Scheme is outlined below.

- **Lameness Control**

Under this option scheme participants must carry out a minimum of 5 lameness examinations per year, and complete the relevant section for Lameness Control in the Scheme Action Record Book. Scheme participants must then treat all identified incidences having firstly identified the cause(s) of lameness to prevent animals becoming sick/injured as a result of lameness.

The following are the times that assessments shall be carried out:

- At least once between mating & lambing
- May/June
- July/Aug
- Prior to mating (Aug –Sept/Oct)
- And at one other time which the flockowner may choose depending on the requirements of his flock.

- **Mineral Feedingstuff Supplementation (Ewes)**

Under this action scheme participants must supplement all ewes (including hoggets out to the ram) with mineral feedingstuffs post mating. Ewes must be supplemented with suitable minerals feedingstuffs for 60 days post mating.

Supplementation may take the form of bagged mineral feedingstuffs (dry minerals), mineral blocks, drenches and liquid minerals, injectables or boluses. Where compound feedingstuffs are being fed at this time, a mineral feedingstuff may be included in the ration by the feed mill at the time of manufacture. Otherwise, dry mineral feedingstuffs (bagged minerals) may be dusted on the silage or fed with feed materials ('straights'). Where boluses are used these can be administered 7-10 days pre mating to allow for rumen breakdown of the bolus.

Receipts and invoices of all mineral feedingstuffs and/or compound rations containing the mineral feedingstuffs purchased must be retained and made available for inspection and/or administrative check.

All mineral feedingstuffs must be sourced from feed business operators licenced by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine. Mineral feedingstuffs must be administered in accordance with the appropriate instructions.

- **Flystrike Control**

Under this action participants must incorporate a flystrike programme for the prevention of flies during the months of flystrike risk. They must incorporate mechanical means for the prevention of flies in addition to any chemical control used recording the times of intervention and the number of sheep with dags removed.

Faecal material can build up around a sheep's hindquarter for a number of reasons, and can result in increased risk of fly strike and negatively impact on sheep welfare.

Sheep must be assembled at least once in the period June to September and dags should be removed from any affected sheep

- Mineral Feedingstuff Supplementation (Concentrate feeding to lambs post weaning)
Lambs must be supplemented with compound feedingstuffs containing appropriate mineral and vitamins for 4 weeks post weaning

Participants may feed purchased compound feed containing minerals or supplement feed materials ('straights') with a suitable mineral feedingstuff.

Receipts and invoices of all compound feedingstuffs and/or mineral feedingstuffs purchased must be retained and made available for inspection and/or administrative check

Participants will be required to retain dispatch documents for any lambs sold to verify lambs were fed for 4 weeks post weaning and record date of weaning.

Where groups of lambs are weaned on different dates record the different weaning dates for each group.

The level of supplementation must be at an adequate rate to provide the required level of nutrition. Participants should supplement in accordance with manufacturers label recommendations.

- Mineral Feedingstuff Supplementation (Lambs pre weaning)
Under this action participants must supplement lambs with a mineral feedingstuff during the grazing season pre weaning which will assist in addressing mineral deficiencies in lambs on hill flocks.

Supplementation may take the form of injectables, boluses, drenches or liquid minerals.

Records of all mineral feedingstuffs purchased must be retained and made available for inspection

All mineral feedingstuffs must be sourced from feed business operators licenced by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine. Minerals must be administered in accordance with the appropriate instructions.

- Parasite Control (Faecal Egg Count)
Under this action scheme participants with lowland flocks must carry out a minimum of 2 Faecal Egg Counts per annum on lambs to establish the worm burden in order to make an informed decision in relation to a dosing regime which will ensure treatment

of internal parasites is carried out on a targeted basis. Please see **Annex I** of these terms and conditions for the full procedure for this action.

Under this action participants with hill flocks must carry out 1 Faecal Egg Count on lambs for the presence of worms within 4 weeks post weaning. Please see **Annex I** of these terms and conditions for the full procedure for this action.

- Management of pregnant ewes (Scanning)

Ewes must be scanned approximately between 70 and 100 days post ram turnout.

Scanning results must be recorded and the receipt and copy of scanning results from the scanner must be retained and made available for inspection or Administrative Control check.

Ewes shall be grouped and managed post scanning in accordance with litter size.

Records of scanning results and treatments of ewes must be recorded in the scheme Action Record book and retained for inspection / administrative check.

14. Payments, Reductions and Penalties

Payments made under the scheme are based on costs involved in undertaking the eligible actions underlying the scheme.

It is proposed that the Scheme will run for 4 years and an annual payment will be made to each applicant subject to the satisfactory completion of Inspections and Administrative Control checks. Payment will be based on the reference number for breeding ewes as outlined.

Should the scheme be over-subscribed a linear cut will apply to payments.

Payment will be per breeding eligible ewe and payment for full scheme compliance will be €10 per ewe.

- Where an action is not fully completed in line with the scheme conditions it will be not be eligible for payment.
- Where only Action A has been completed payment will be €3. This is based on the exclusion of the payment for Action B for the non-compliance of action B plus a 50% penalty on Action A.
- Where only Action B has been completed payment will be €2 per ewe This is based on the exclusion of the payment for action A for the non-compliance of that action plus a 50% penalty on Action B.
- Where neither Action A nor Action B have been completed no payment will be made and an administrative penalty of 20% based on the overall amount which would have been payable on the two actions in the scheme year will be imposed.

- Failure to produce the Scheme Action Record Book on request will result in no payments for the scheme year and an administrative penalty of 20% based on the overall amount which would have been payable in the scheme year will be imposed.
- Failure to correctly complete or maintain the Scheme Action Record book will result in a 50% reduction for each scheme action incorrectly recorded. Where no records are maintained an administrative penalty of 20% based on the overall amount payable in the scheme year will be imposed.
- Where a scheme participant opts-out of the scheme in any year subsequent to year 1 there will be no clawback of payments made in preceding scheme year or years.
- Intentional and serious breaches of the Scheme conditions may result in non-payment for the year in question, administrative penalties of 20% on the overall amount payable and termination of participation for future scheme years.
- Failure to maintain the requisite number of breeding ewes in line with most recent census return will result in a reduction of the scheme reference number to the number determined and a pro rata reduction on the remaining payment due.
- Where it is established that conditions were artificially or fraudulently created by the scheme participant, or someone on their behalf, to draw down payment under the scheme the scheme participant will be excluded from the scheme, all monies paid under the scheme for the relevant scheme years shall be reimbursed and administrative penalties of 20% will be imposed..
- The penalties set out are the minimum sanctions that will be applied. In all cases the Department reserves the right to review files to establish whether or not a breach of the Scheme conditions has occurred which may lead to a sanction or the termination of scheme participation and reimbursement of all payments made.
- Monetary penalties will include interest payable at the rate provided for under Statutory Instrument Number 13 of 2006. Interest will be calculated for the period elapsing between the notification of the repayment obligation to the farmer, and either repayment or deduction.
- Penalty amounts may be deducted from future payments due to the beneficiary under other EU-financed or co-financed Schemes.
- Where monetary penalties are not paid or recovered within the period requested, the Department may take whatever action is deemed necessary for their recovery.

NOTE: The approval or payment of aid under the Scheme does not imply the acceptance by the Minister of any responsibility as regards the obligations undertaken by the participant.

15. Right of Entry

The Minister reserves the right to carry out inspections at reasonable times of any land, premises, plant, equipment, livestock and records of applicants/participants.

In submitting an application under the Sheep Welfare Scheme 2017, applicants agree to permit officials or agents of the Department to carry out on-farm inspections, with or without prior notice at any reasonable time(s) and without prejudice to public liability.

Every on-the-spot inspection will be the subject of an interim notice of compliance and the applicant or his/her representative if present will be given an opportunity to sign the interim notice of compliance indicating his/her presence at the inspection and to add his/her observations if he/she so wishes. Signing this document does not imply that the applicant or his/her agent accepts the inspection findings.

16. Inspections and Administrative Controls

- In submitting an application for the Sheep Welfare Scheme 2017, applicants agree to permit officials or agents of the Department to carry out on-farm Inspections, with or without prior notice and where notified at any reasonable time(s). When notified of an on-farm Inspection, the applicant should arrange to be present for the Inspection or have a representative nominated in his/ her place to assist the inspecting officer.
- To facilitate checks and on-farm Inspections, applicants shall fully co-operate with Department staff, and reply fully to all queries providing any documentary evidence that may be requested in relation to their application. Failure to do so may lead to loss of aid. If an on-farm Inspection cannot be carried out through the fault or action of the applicant or his/her representative, the application shall be rejected resulting in no payment, unless the Department determines an instance of force majeure.
- Scheme applicants will be subject to a minimum level of Inspection to ensure compliance with scheme conditions.
- Scheme applicants will also be subject to a minimum level of Administrative Control checks to ensure compliance with scheme conditions.
- Inspections and Administrative Controls will verify compliance with the terms and conditions through checks on data recording of treatments and actions undertaken by scheme applicants. Inspections will take place throughout the year.
- Inspections will generally be notified up to a maximum of 48 hours in advance.
- Ewes must be penned for Inspection.
- Inspections and Administrative Controls will verify compliance by examination of applicants' animal remedies, feed and mineral supplement records and where applicable flock register and dispatch dockets to ensure animal treatments and other requirements are in accordance with the scheme.

- Information verified at Inspection and Administrative Controls should be recorded in a Scheme Action Record book e.g. showing dates meal feeding commence/end, mineral supplementation and must be available on request by the inspector.
- Inspections will verify all receipts/invoices and other evidence for meal/mineral supplement purchases appropriate for the flock size around time of weaning.
- Completed Scheme Action Record books shall be returned to the Departments on request within the specified timeline for administrative checks .

17. Cross Compliance

Penalties for breaches of the Cross Compliance requirements and the standards for Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition of land will apply to payments under the Sheep Welfare Scheme 2017.

Sheep farmers are subject to the full suite of Cross Compliance requirements (SMRs) including but not limited to :

- Council Directive 96/22/EC of 29 April 1996 concerning the prohibition on the use in stockfarming of certain substances having a hormonal or thyrostatic action and beta-agonists, and repealing Directives 81/602/EEC, 88/146/EEC and 88/299/EEC (OJ L 125, 23.5.1996, p. 3)
- No. 178/2002 of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and Laying down procedures in matters of food safety - OJ L 031 of 10/02/2002.
- Council Regulation (EC) No 21/2004 of 17 December 2003 establishing a system for the identification and registration of ovine and caprine animals and amending Regulation (EC) No 1782/2003 and Directives 92/102/EEC and 64/432/EEC (OJ L 5, 9.1.2004, p. 8)
- Council Directive 98/58/EC of 20 July 1998 concerning the protection of animals kept for farming purposes(OJ L 221, 8.8.1998, p. 23)

18. Appeals

This scheme comes under the remit of the Agricultural Appeals Office. In all relevant cases applicants will be advised of their rights in this regard.

19. Information and Data Protection

In accordance with the provisions of Council Regulation (EC) No 1306/2013, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine may be required to publish on a website, details of the names, addresses and amounts received by beneficiaries of funds deriving from the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). The rights of data subjects and how they may be exercised, in this respect, are laid down in the Data Protection Acts, 1988 and 2003.

The data therein may be processed by auditing and investigating bodies of the Communities and the Member States for the purposes of safeguarding the Community's financial interests. The data therein cannot be used for direct marketing or other purposes and this will be made clear on the website.

You should also be aware that all the information supplied on your application form and in any supporting documentation shall be made available to any other Department or Agency or Local Authority for the purpose of audits, cross-compliance controls and all Rural Development measures, and, as appropriate, in accordance with the requirements under the Freedom of Information Act.

Data submitted and provided to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine as part of this scheme may also be shared with third parties solely for statistical purpose or the purpose of research in the areas of sheep production. Any data shared will be anonymous. Such sharing will be solely for the purposes of improving or assisting in research involving animal health and welfare traits or for breeding improvement purposes.

Annex I

Procedure for Faecal Egg Count (FEC) for Sheep Welfare Scheme

This task must be carried out **between 1st June 2017 and 30th September 2017** for lowland flocks or in the **first 4 weeks post weaning** in Hill Flocks.

This task is for **Lambs only**, not ewes.

All faecal samples collected must be fresh.

Stage 1 – Collection of faecal samples

Collection of faecal samples:

1. Farmer must contact approved laboratory to request the sampling pack (empty sample containers, submission form, ziplock bags) and also to arrange a payment procedure.
2. The list of approved laboratories and veterinary practices can be found on the the Departments website: *Department website - Farming Sectors - Sheep and Goats - AWSS*.
3. Place 15 to 20 **lambs** in a clean pen. Leave them undisturbed for a couple of hours or until such time that a number of faecal deposits have been observed.
4. Using gloves, collect faecal samples from at least 10 different fresh faecal deposits and place them in 10 separate containers. (You must collect at least a ‘heaped teaspoonful’ of faeces).
5. Place all filled containers of faeces in the plastic zip lock bag provided.
6. Post samples with the submission form on the day of sampling, or the following day at the latest. If samples are collected at the weekend store them in a cool place preferably in a fridge not used for domestic purposes (DO NOT FREEZE or PLACE IN DIRECT SUNLIGHT) and post on Monday.
7. Lambs should be dosed on the basis of the results of the FEC result.

Results:

These results will be reported to you directly and to DAFM.

Interpretation of results:

You should discuss your FEC results with your agricultural adviser/veterinary surgeon when drawing up an appropriate worm control programme.

The following guidelines may be useful when discussing the results of your FEC result.

FEC (eggs per gram)

Low	Medium	High
0-250	250- 750	>750

Anthelmintic Administration

- Dose in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations.
- Check calibration of dosing gun / syringe prior to dosing lambs.
- Check expiry date of drug.
- Shake bottle/container with anthelmintic well prior to use.
- Weigh what you consider to be the three heaviest lambs in the grazing group to be dosed.
- Dose all lambs at rates according to the weight of the heaviest lamb in the group.
- Record the name of the product you used and which anthelmintic class it belongs to.