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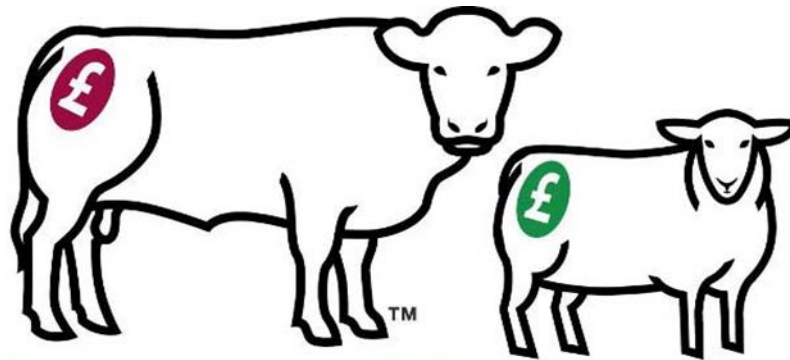
Chris Lloyd
EBLEX
Industry Development Manager

International Sheepmeat Forum
4th October 2013

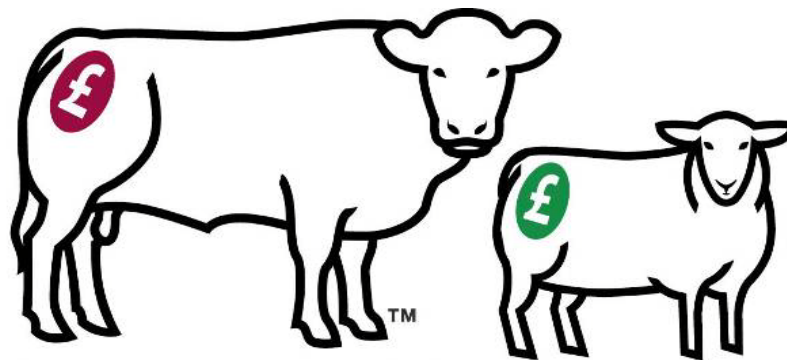


Background

- 50,000 beef and lamb producers in England
- EBLEX KT delivered under the BRP brand
- Currently directly engage with 28,000 producers



**Better Returns
Programme**



Better Returns Programme

Breeding

Selection

Fertility
and
Health

Feeding
and
Forage

Systems
and
Costings

Themes

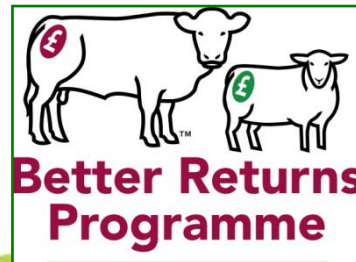
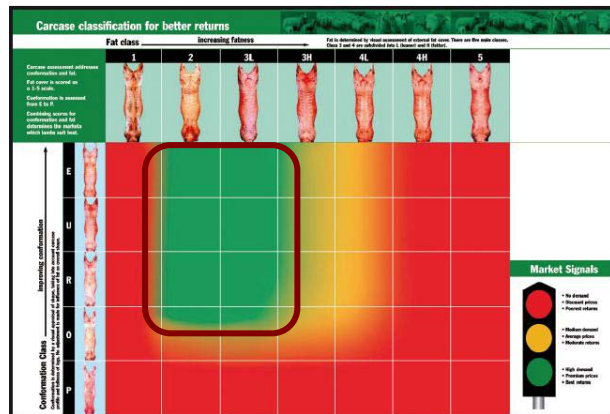
EBLEX KT FLOW



Practical challenge

Gather expert opinion

R&D / Data

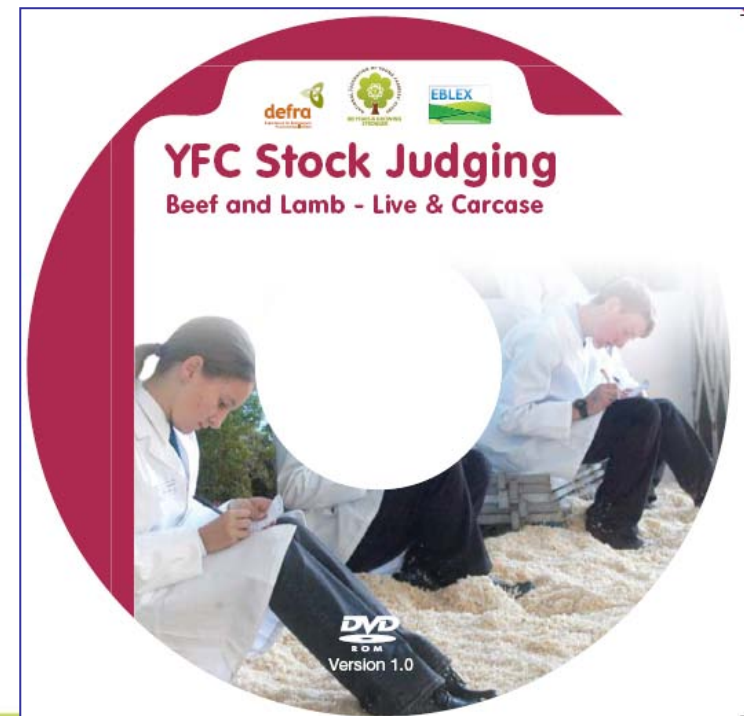
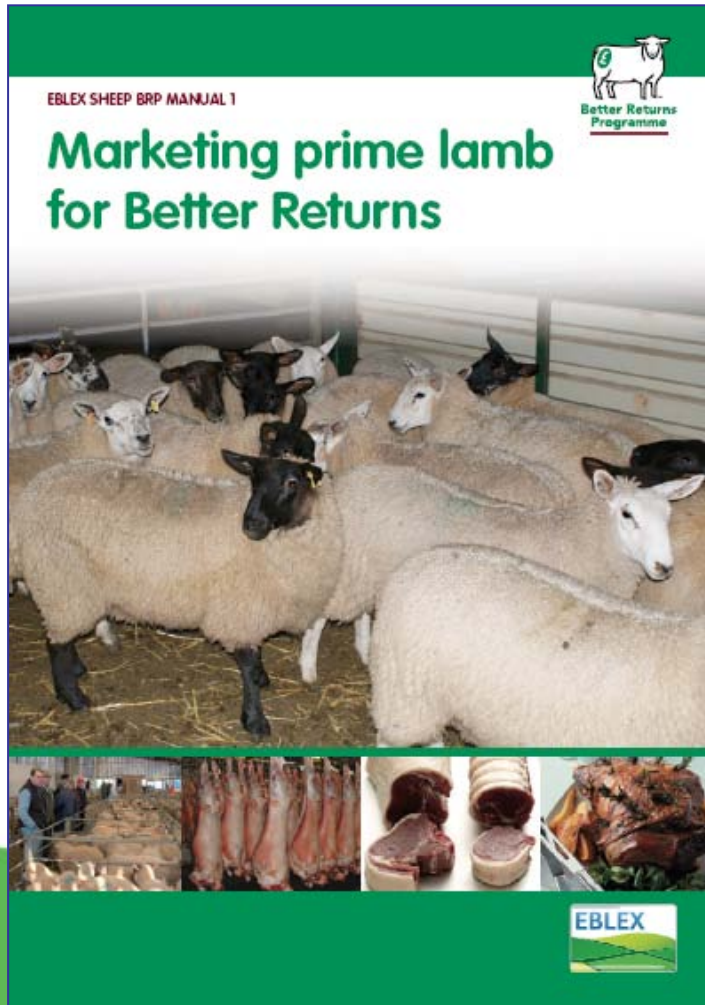


Demonstrations, manuals,
tools, mailings, media



Brainstorm

Delivering the selection message





**Live to
Dead Days**



Better breeding, better selection, better returns...

Better Returns
Programme

National Lamb Selection Competition

Leader

National Lamb
Selection
Competition

Ask for your entry form

Look for the BRF symbol at trade shows and events or at 01793 511111

**Selection
competition**

Enter the Estimated
Classification and
Carcase

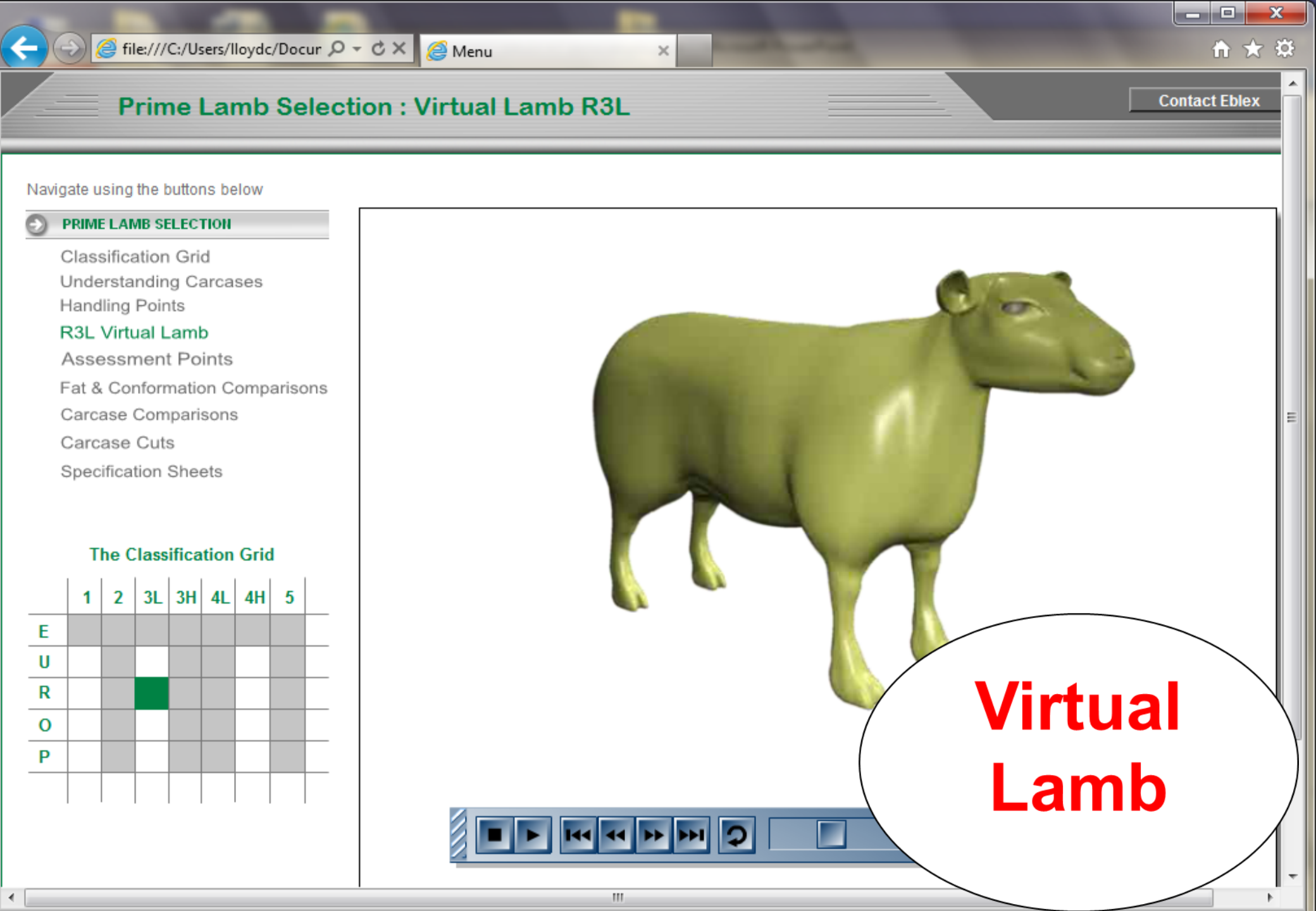
Lambs Supplied By
Dorset Wiltshire
Hornby Sheep
Worcester
Tel: 01905 511111



**Lamb
Cool Wall**



**Rubber
Loin
Model**



Prime Lamb Selection : Virtual Lamb R3L

Contact Eblex

Navigate using the buttons below

PRIME LAMB SELECTION

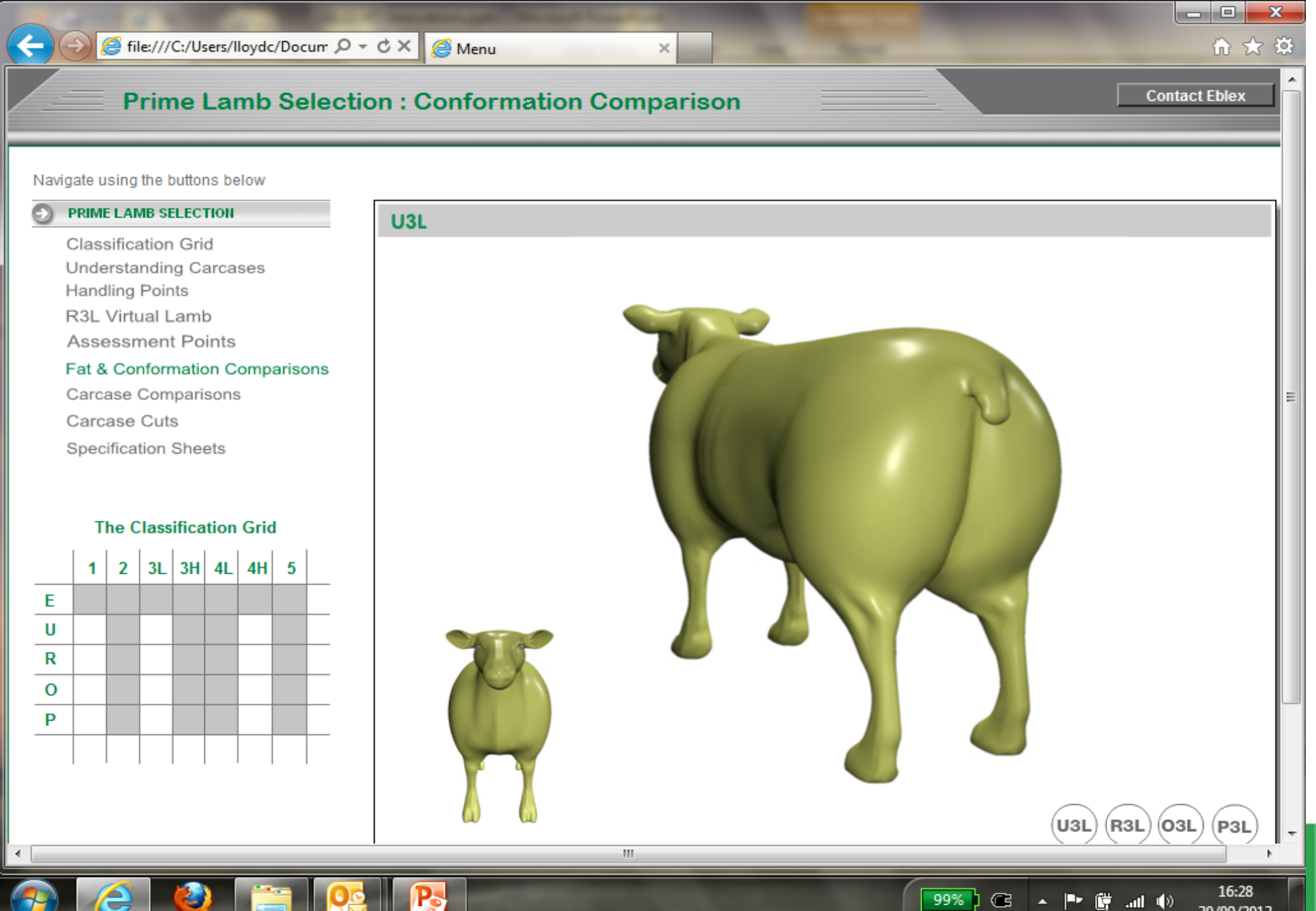
- Classification Grid
- Understanding Carcases
- Handling Points
- R3L Virtual Lamb**
- Assessment Points
- Fat & Conformation Comparisons
- Carcase Comparisons
- Carcase Cuts
- Specification Sheets

The Classification Grid

	1	2	3L	3H	4L	4H	5
E							
U							
R							
O							
P							



**Virtual
Lamb**



Prime Lamb Selection : Conformation Comparison

Contact Eblex

Navigate using the buttons below

PRIME LAMB SELECTION

- Classification Grid
- Understanding Carcasses
- Handling Points
- R3L Virtual Lamb
- Assessment Points
- Fat & Conformation Comparisons
- Carcase Comparisons
- Carcase Cuts
- Specification Sheets

The Classification Grid

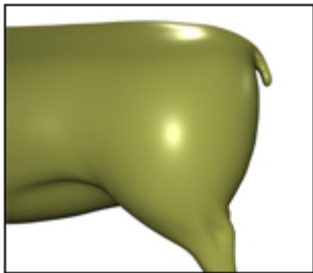
	1	2	3L	3H	4L	4H	5
E							
U							
R							
O							
P							

U3L

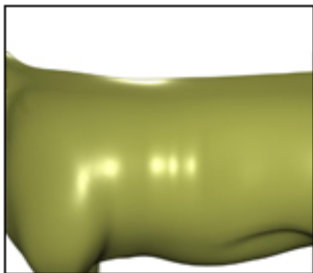


U3L R3L O3L P3L

Fat Points



DOCK



RIBS



BREAST

Conformation Points



LEG

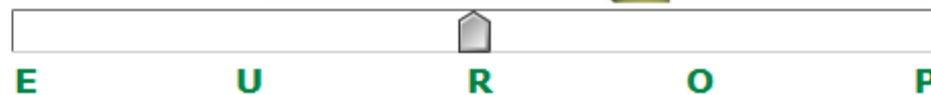
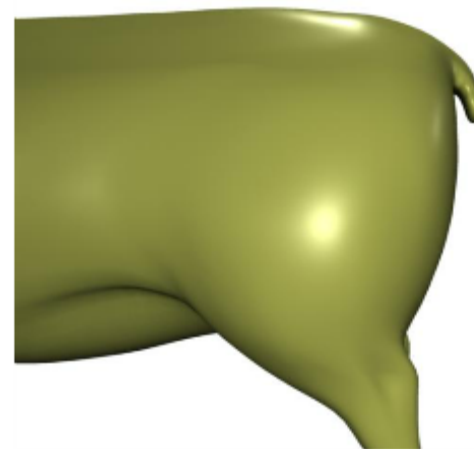


LOIN



SHOULDER

CONFORMATION
Leg - R



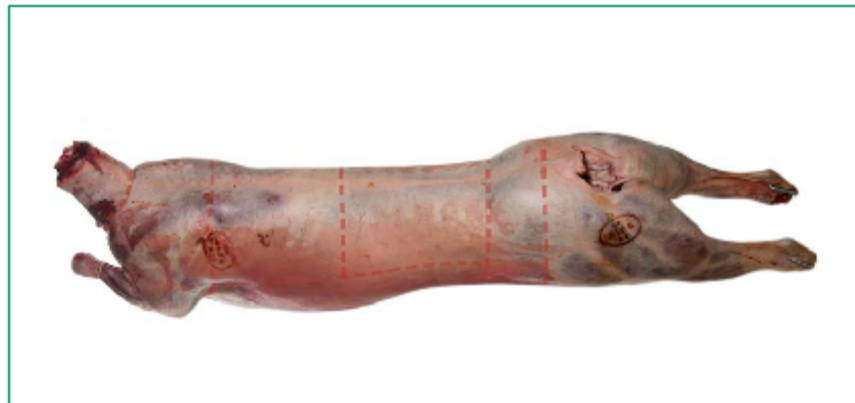
vbal.eblex.org.uk/login.aspx
Passaord: sheepmeatforum

Prime Lamb Selection : Carcase Cuts

Contact Eblex

To view the Prime Lamb carcase cuts for a specific market, please choose one of the options below.

Prime Lamb Carcase - FARMER



Click [HERE](#) to view the carcase cuts for the Farmer

Prime Lamb Carcase MEAT TRADE



Click [HERE](#) to view the carcase cuts for the Meat Trade

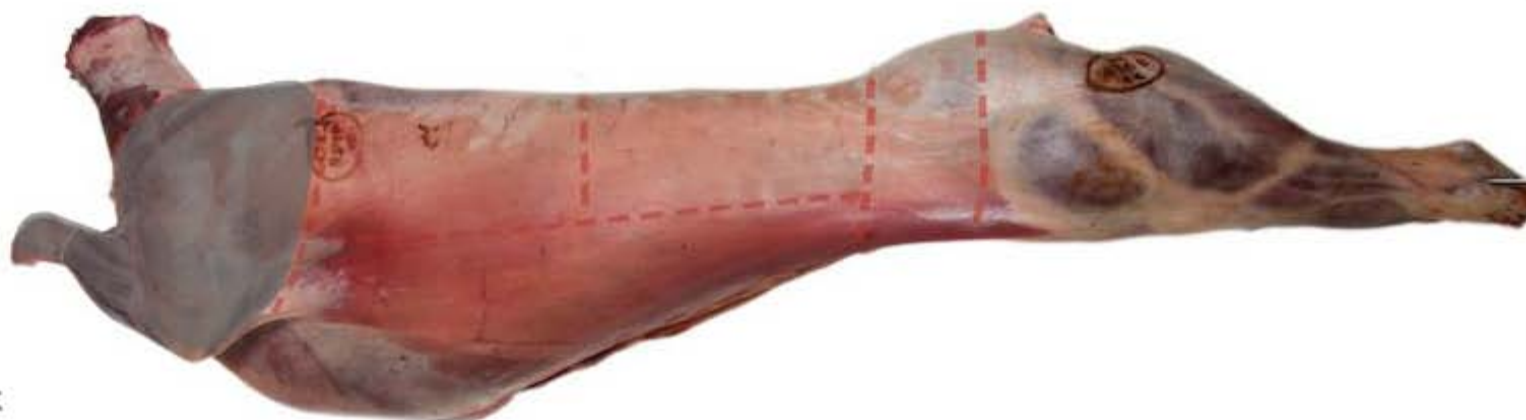
Shoulder



Click to view Subjoints

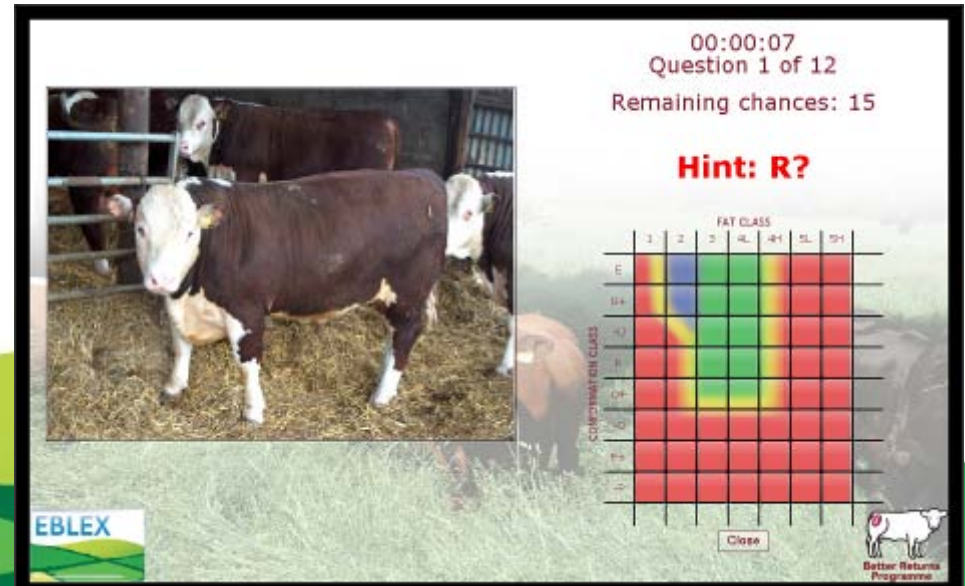
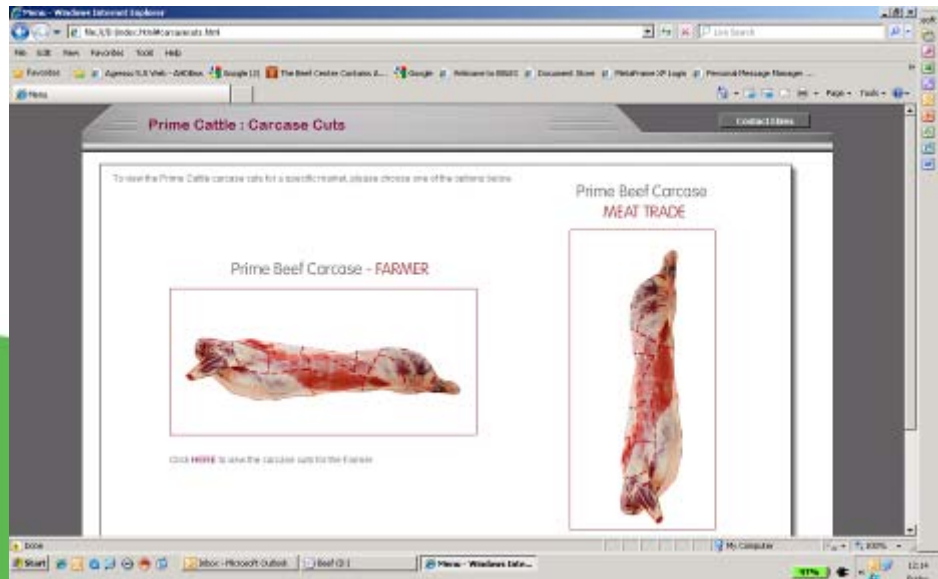
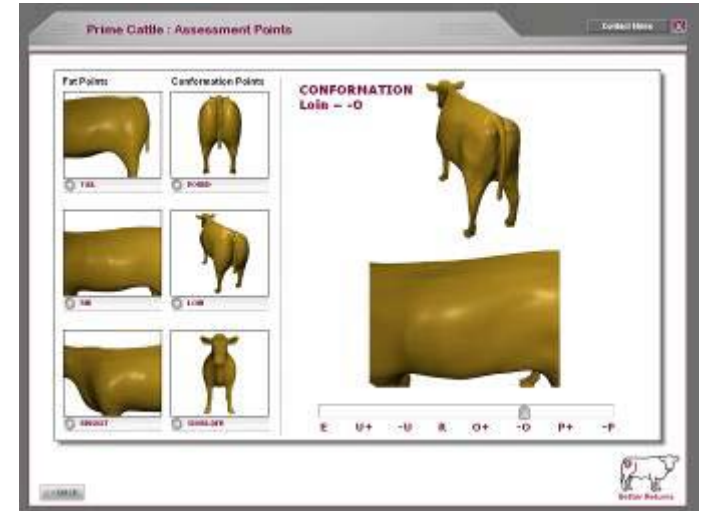
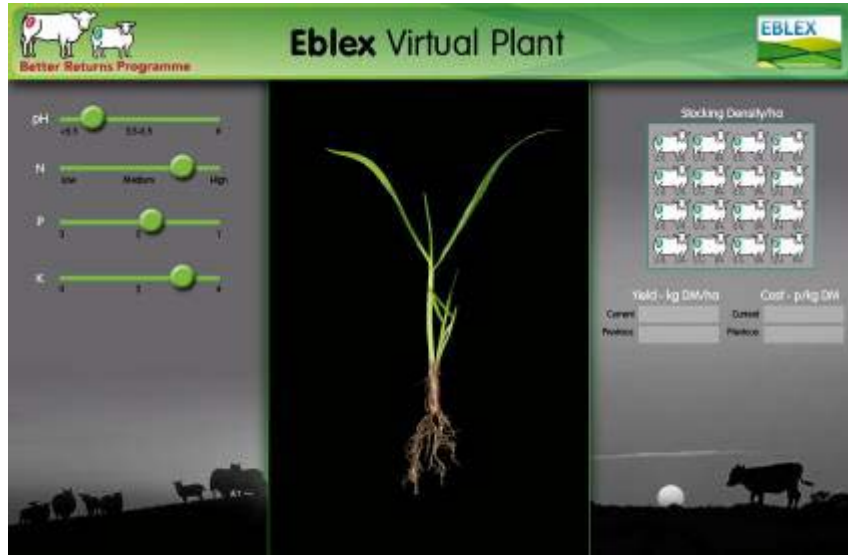


Neck
Shoulder ←
Breast
Loin
Chump
Leg
Best End of Neck



vbal.eblex.org.uk/login.aspx
Passaord: sheepmeatforum

Other BRP Stuff.....



Condition Scoring of Ewes



Condition is scored by feeling the spine and around the ribs. The condition is scored on the 1 to 5 scale using the following table. The table is used to record the condition of the ewe. The table is used to record the condition of the ewe.

How to Condition Score

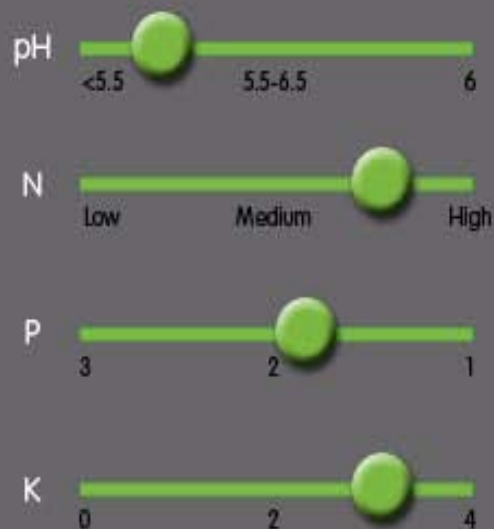
Condition is scored by feeling the spine and around the ribs. The condition is scored on the 1 to 5 scale using the following table. The table is used to record the condition of the ewe. The table is used to record the condition of the ewe.

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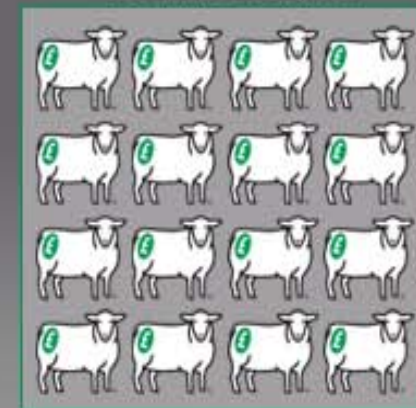


Better Returns Programme

Eblex Virtual Plant



Stocking Density/ha



Yield - kg DM/ha

Current

Previous

Cost - p/kg DM

Current

Previous

**On-Line
Virtual
Plant**



**Painted
Cow**

Muck Matts



Handling Model

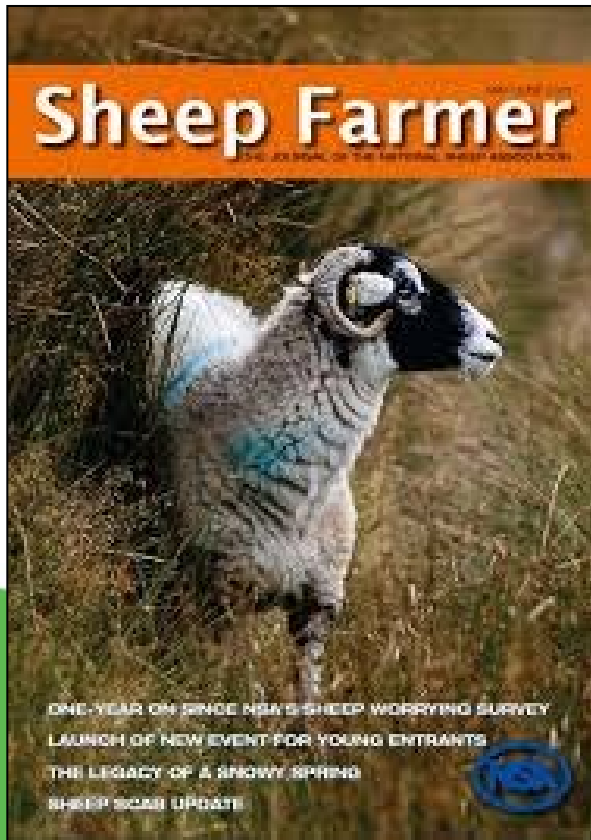
Who is our
audience ...?

Innovators

Early Adopters

Followers

Laggards



Farmers Guardian



Breeding Bulletin

THE NEWSLETTER **Focus on... Grassland Management**

In this issue

- Interpreting EBVs
- Sheep award winners
- EBLEX news

Available from BRP:
Recorded Flock Directory
Contact details of all English recorded flocks.

Choosing bulls to breed for Better Returns
Practical manual on sire selection.

Bull and cow MOT posters
Top tips for getting bulls and cows ready for mating.

EBLEX

Pep up your grass for improved performance

What's the potential?

The Government has highlighted the importance of grassland in the UK's food production system. It is a key component of the food chain, providing a source of protein and energy for livestock. Grassland also plays a vital role in the environment, providing a habitat for wildlife and a source of carbon sequestration.

Grassland potential

10-11
Sheep yield (kg/ha)

13-14
Cattle yield (kg/ha)

15-16
Sheep yield (kg/ha)

17-18
Cattle yield (kg/ha)

19-20
Sheep yield (kg/ha)

21-22
Cattle yield (kg/ha)

23-24
Sheep yield (kg/ha)

25-26
Cattle yield (kg/ha)

27-28
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29-30
Cattle yield (kg/ha)

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Cattle yield (kg/ha)

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Sheep yield (kg/ha)

41-42
Cattle yield (kg/ha)

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Sheep yield (kg/ha)

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Cattle yield (kg/ha)

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Sheep yield (kg/ha)

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Cattle yield (kg/ha)

291-292
Sheep yield (kg/ha)

293-294
Cattle yield (kg/ha)

295-296
Sheep yield (kg/ha)

297-298
Cattle yield (kg/ha)

299-300
Sheep yield (kg/ha)

301-302
Cattle yield (kg/ha)

303-304
Sheep yield (kg/ha)

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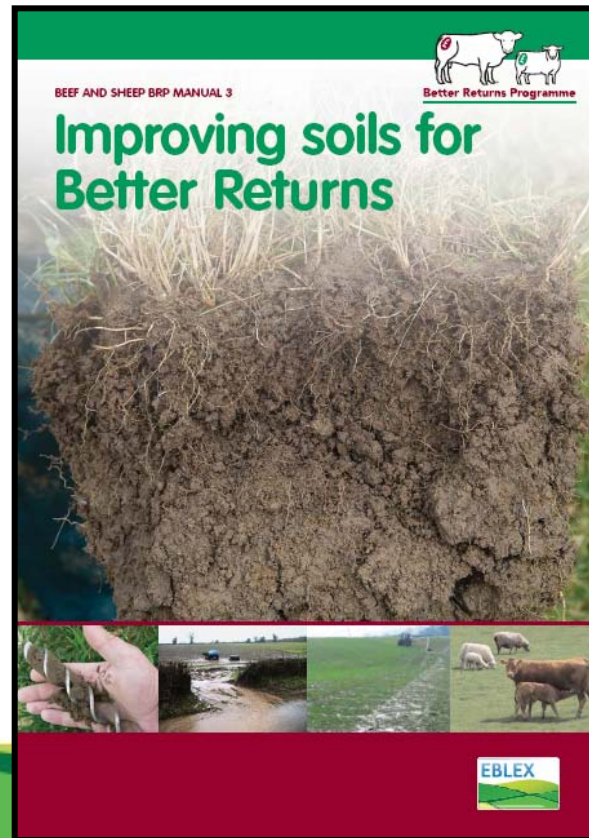
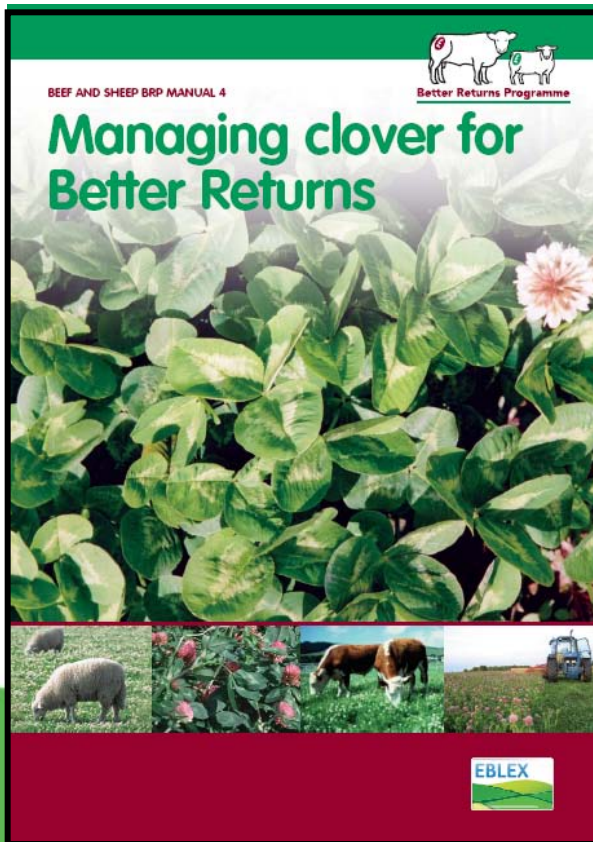
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Followers – BRP Manuals

- 15 minute introduction to topic
- 30 plus booklets



**Technical
Manuals**

Early Adopters – BRP+



Improved design and management
of woodchip pads for sustainable
out-wintering of livestock



Compiled by Project Consortium Partners.

With particular thanks to Jessica Buzs (RGS), David Chadwick (Rothamsted),
Lynda Davies (HCC), Ken Smith (ADAS) and Mary Vickers (EBLEX).

Key messages

- + Seek specialist, professional advice at an early stage of pad design.
- + A gently sloping, south-facing site is ideal, away from public view, with easy access to off-pad yard area or grass paddocks.
- + Only 5–10% of the nitrogen (N) and phosphate (P) excreted is contained in the effluent draining from the pad. Most nutrients remain within the surface layers of woodchip.
- + Research has shown that much of the rainfall/excreta is absorbed by the woodchip.
- + Wellfare. Best compromise is a 30cm base layer of coarse chip, with a 20cm surface layer of fine chip.
- + Active management of pads is essential – particularly in difficult weather conditions such as freezing or very dry conditions followed by heavy rain.
- + Heavily soiled woodchip is best removed and replaced with clean chip. Use of cultivators to alleviate heavy surface soiling is generally not successful.
- + Direct application of dirty woodchip to grassland makes best use of the available N and P. Fine chip becomes a valuable mulch for the grass.

Information provided by the ADAS Beef and Sheep Group
Compiled by Dr Elyn Rees and Kate Phillips.

Key messages

- + Lambing ewe lambs can improve the financial viability of a sheep system.
- + Up to 55% of English lowland flock replacement females could give birth at one year of age.
- + Ewe lambs have lower fertility than mature ewes, but higher lifetime production if managed well.
- + Ewe lamb liveweight at mating should be 60% of mature bodyweight.
- + Select ewe lambs for lambing from well-grown twins.
- + Mate and manage ewe lambs separately from mature ewes.
- + Ideally ewe lambs should produce and rear one lamb.
- + Pregnancy scan to identify non-pregnant animals and litter size.
- + During early and mid-pregnancy, ewe lambs need 20% more feed than mature ewes to sustain continuing body growth.
- + Lambing ewe lambs is generally more successful when they are housed.
- + Ewe lambs may be more prone to udder injury and mastitis.
- + Lactating ewe lambs require 20% more feed than mature ewes. Their lambs should be creep fed and weaned nine to 14 weeks of age.
- + Ewe lambs have a higher margin to £500/ha than mature ewes.

Keywords:

Lambing ewe lambs, lambing shearings, reducing GHG emissions in sheep flocks

BRP+ Online

Shearing also increased the percentage of ewe lambs (91%) that survived to 30 days. This benefit in fecundity may be due to increased embryo survival, advancing milk heat stress.

Desirable litter size

It is usually desirable for ewe lambs to rear one lamb and multiple births are best avoided. This is especially the case where ewe lambs give birth later than the rest of the flock, as there are no newly borned mature ewes with single lambs available for suckling on so.

This means that ewe lambs, especially relatively heavy animals born early in the season, should not be overfed in the run up to, and during, mating.

Choice of ram

Mating ewe lambs to rams of breeds with a smaller mature size should reduce the incidence of difficult births. However, the table below illustrates that breeds that are traditionally seen as having smaller birth weights can have weights similar to those of larger breeds in the run up to, and during, mating.

However, whatever the choice of ram, it is important to have some knowledge of the likelihood of lambing difficulties. Lambing records for lambs sired by the ram in previous seasons may be helpful.

EBRs for birth weights and lambing ease are available for Texel rams, and will be available for all breeds from 2017 onwards.

Breed	Ram lambs		Ewe lambs	
	Single	Twin	Single	Twin
Belted	4.6	3.7	4.3	3.5
Charolais	5.9	5.0	5.6	4.2
Wentworth Down	5.2	4.5	4.7	4.2
NCC Felt	5.0	4.8	5.2	4.5
NCC Felt	5.6	3.5	5.9	5.0
Saundersdown	4.2	3.3	5.1	4.4
Suella	6.3	4.8	4.1	4.8
Texel	5.4	3.3	4.8	4.3
Wiltshire Horn	4.3	4.6	4.8	4.3
Wiltshire Horn	5.0	4.6	4.8	4.3

Note:

Differences between breeds reported here reflect both genetic and environmental differences. Some breeds will be lambing earlier and feed more than others. Differences observed between purebred lambs may be smaller when rams of these breeds are used on the same type of commercial ewe.

Innovators



The Challenges

- Delivering a meaningful programme which suits all producers, learning styles and range of ability / knowledge

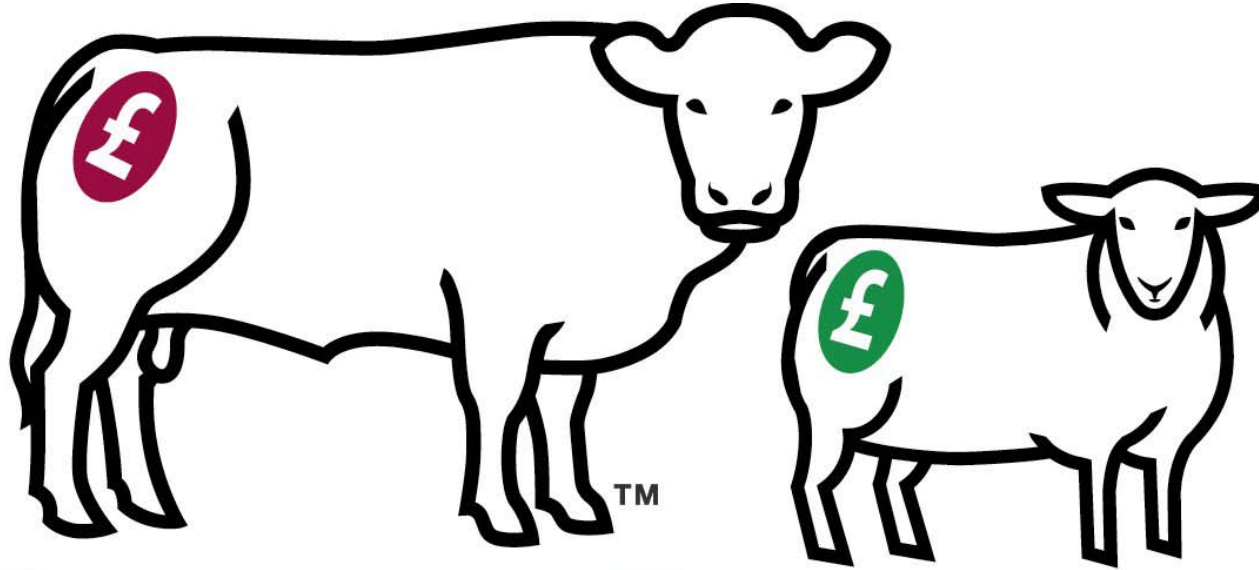
And keep everyone happy

- *Measuring the uptake and demonstrating a return on investment.*





THANK YOU



Better Returns Programme
