

News Release
9 August

*For immediate use*

**RamCompare ramps up: On-farm event to highlight merits of data recording**

An event for commercial farmers looking to improve efficiency and reduce the cost of lamb production will take place later this summer at RamCompare’s Scotland farm with the support of Scotland’s red meat levy board, Quality Meat Scotland (QMS).

Innovative livestock enterprise, Saughland Farm, Midlothian, will host the RamCompare event which will involve a series of workshops covering everything from ram health to lamb grading, as well as disseminating some of the knowledge from the UK’s national progeny test, having completed its sixth year.

The joint levy-funded research project demonstrates how commercial producers can use specific estimated breeding values (EBVs) to identify rams with high genetic potential and prove their worth when assessing financial impact. Findings have revealed that differences in progeny values (worth £4–6/lamb) provide farmers with the opportunity, through careful ram selection, to enhance flock profitability by £1200–1500/ram over their working lifetime.

Highlighting the value of the project and upcoming on-farm event, Bruce McConachie, Head of Industry Development at QMS said:

“RamCompare has been an incredibly valuable data-collection project to date, and now it’s about translating that into financial terms. Previously a Monitor Farm, Saughland is an excellent example of a business adopting performance recording and productive sheep systems to improve their stock’s performance and output. I would highly encourage coming along to the event as Owen shares his knowledge and learnings thus far.”

Owen Gray, Saughland’s livestock manager commented: “Almost all our decisions are made from facts and figures, not guess work.

“We hope we are able to demonstrate the benefits of recording to wider agricultural communities, using data from Saughland’s commercial ewe flock and feeding it into RamCompare.”

More information and tickets to the event taking place on 15th September can be found at <https://www.qmscotland.co.uk/ramcompare>. For details and results from the RamCompare project, visit <https://ahdb.org.uk/ramcompare-phase-iii>.

**ENDS**

**Notes to editors:**

This press release was issued by Jane Craigie Marketing on behalf of Quality Meat Scotland. For additional press information, please contact Rose on 07493 876646 or rose@janecraigie.com.

QMS is the public body responsible for promoting the PGI labelled Scotch Beef and Scotch Lamb brands in the UK and abroad and also promoting Scottish pork products under the Specially Selected Pork logo.

Please note that the use of the word Scotch in the Scotch Beef PGI and Scotch Lamb PGI brands is correct and should not be substituted for an alternative such as Scots or Scottish. The history of the use of the word Scotch in this way, traces back to the 18th century.

QMS also helps the Scottish red meat sector improve its sustainability, efficiency and profitability and maximise its contribution to Scotland's economy.

The quality assurance schemes run by QMS cover more than 90% of livestock farmed for red meat in Scotland. They offer consumers in the UK and overseas the legal guarantee that the meat they buy has come from animals that have spent their whole lives being raised to some of the world’s strictest welfare standards.

Scotland’s beef, lamb and pork producers make an important contribution to the country’s economic, social and environmental sustainability, contributing over £2 billion to the annual GDP of Scotland and supporting around 50,000 jobs (many in fragile rural areas) in the farming, agricultural supply and processing sectors.

For more information visit www.qmscotland.co.uk or follow QMS on Facebook or Twitter.