



Mid-term Seminar

Sustainable Sheep Production (SusSheP)

Partners

UL & Sheep Ireland & Teagasc, **IR**;
INRA, **FR**; NSG & NMBU, **NO**;
SRUC & MSG, **UK**



SHEEP



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https://www.sheep.ie/wp/?page_id=2387

Problem addressed in the project

To increase the **sustainability** and **profitability** of European Sheep Production

Objectives

- Provide **new genetic tools** to increase ewe longevity
- Quantify **labour input** and **carbon hoofprint** in contrasting sheep systems
- Characterise **ewe breed differences in cervical function** so as to develop cervical artificial insemination

Interim research findings

- Main reasons for involuntary culling
 - **Tooth loss** in the UK
 - **Mastitis** in Ireland and Norway
- Implementing **high genetic gain** tends to increase labour but greatly **reduces carbon hoofprint**.
- Size or **gross morphology of the cervix** does not explain ewe breed differences in sperm transport

Future research and activities

- **Longevity** in national maternal breeding indexes
- **Labour** and **carbon** hoofprint of prolific breeds
- Complete **life cycle assessment** of key systems
- Global characterisation of **cervical mucus**

Funding



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