

# Animal Breeding and Genetics: Sheep genetics and genomics

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*PDST Animal Breeding and Genetics Webinar  
Wednesday May 5th*



# Ram sales card

Data Quality Index



Lot: 202	Owner: [REDACTED] (DQI: 99%); [REDACTED]							
Breeder: [REDACTED]								
<p><b>Animal</b></p> <p>IE044561203423F PXI2003423 <b>Foundry Dakota</b></p> <p>DOB: 03-Feb-2020 Texel Male Twin Parentage DNA Verified</p>	<p><b>Ancestry</b></p> <p>Greenhill Yemen Boy HUI16069 GS Murphys PXE14013 GD</p> <p><b>Foundry Conrad</b> PXI1903204</p> <p><b>Murphys</b> PXE15016 GS Foundry Volvo PXI14078 GD Murphys PXE11012</p>	<p><b>EuroStars</b> 18/08/2020</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td><b>Replacement (€2.69)</b></td> <td><b>Terminal (€1.65)</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Acc 66% Rank Top 3%</td> <td>Acc 66% Rank Top 6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>★★★★★</td> <td>★★★★★</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Lamb Survivability</b> (0.41%)</p> <p>Poor 0% ————— Top 19% V 100% Acc 64.7%</p> <p><b>Days to Slaughter</b> -11.1 days</p> <p>0% ————— Top 4% V 100% Acc 75.9%</p> <p><b>No. of Lambs Born</b> (€0.97)</p> <p>0% ————— Top 3% V 100% Acc 69%</p> <p><b>Daughters Milk</b> (€1.25)</p> <p>0% ————— Top 8% V 100% Acc 71%</p>	<b>Replacement (€2.69)</b>	<b>Terminal (€1.65)</b>	Acc 66% Rank Top 3%	Acc 66% Rank Top 6%	★★★★★	★★★★★
<b>Replacement (€2.69)</b>	<b>Terminal (€1.65)</b>							
Acc 66% Rank Top 3%	Acc 66% Rank Top 6%							
★★★★★	★★★★★							
<p><b>Comment:</b> Scrapie Genotype-Arr/Arr</p>								





# Irish breeding indexes

## Replacement index



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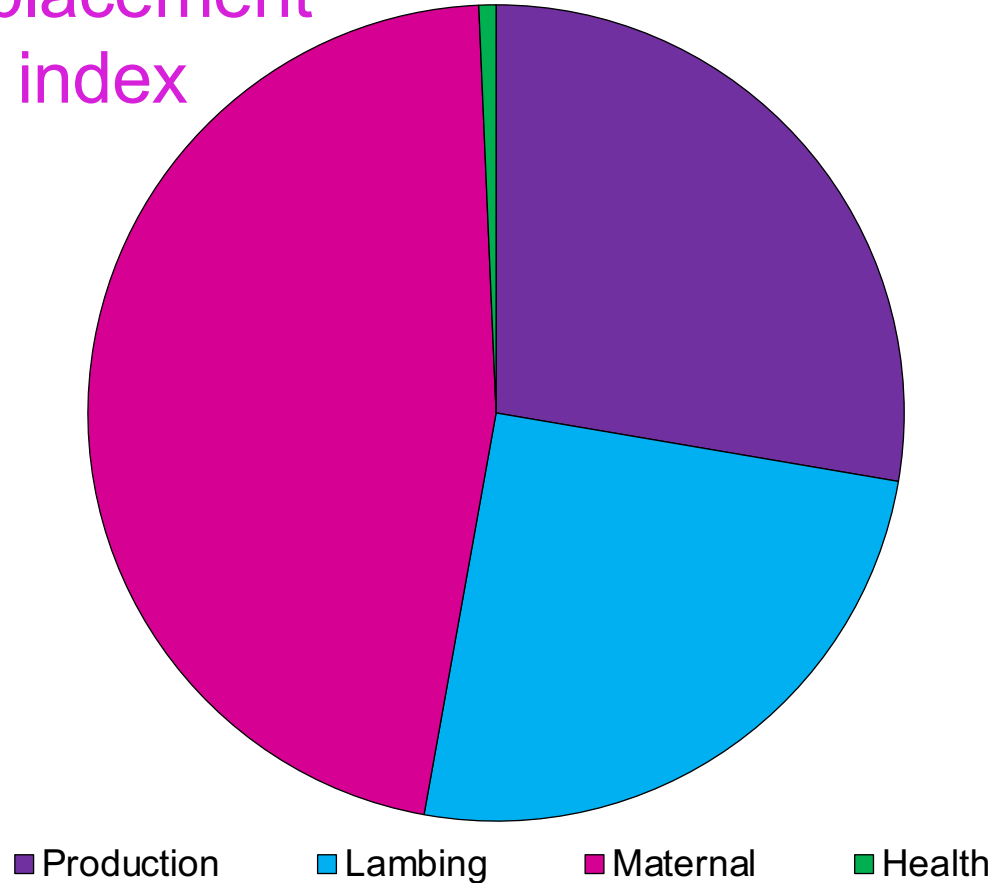
## Terminal index



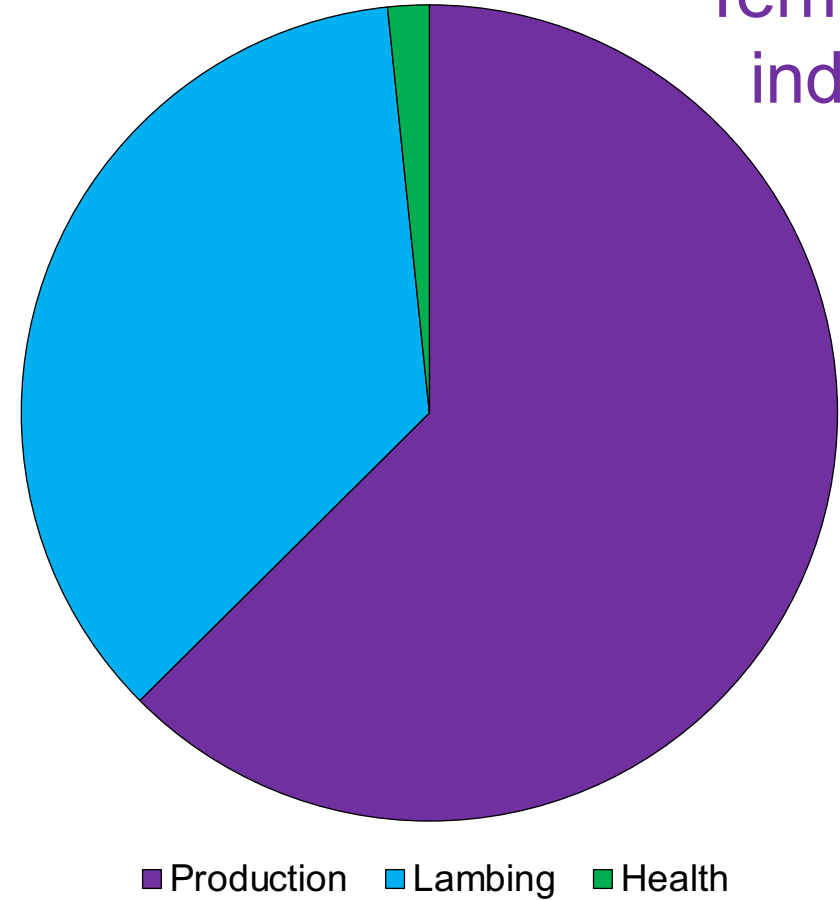
# Irish breeding indexes



## Replacement index



## Terminal index





# Investigating novel traits

Novel  
trait



Breeding  
goal

1. Socially or economically important ✓
2. Exhibit genetic variation ✓
3. Easily measureable on a large scale ✓

# Ewe mothering ability

Scored based on the attentive behaviour of the ewe towards her lambs



1

Very poor

No interest in lambs

2

Poor

3

Average

Moderately attentive but not protective

4

Good

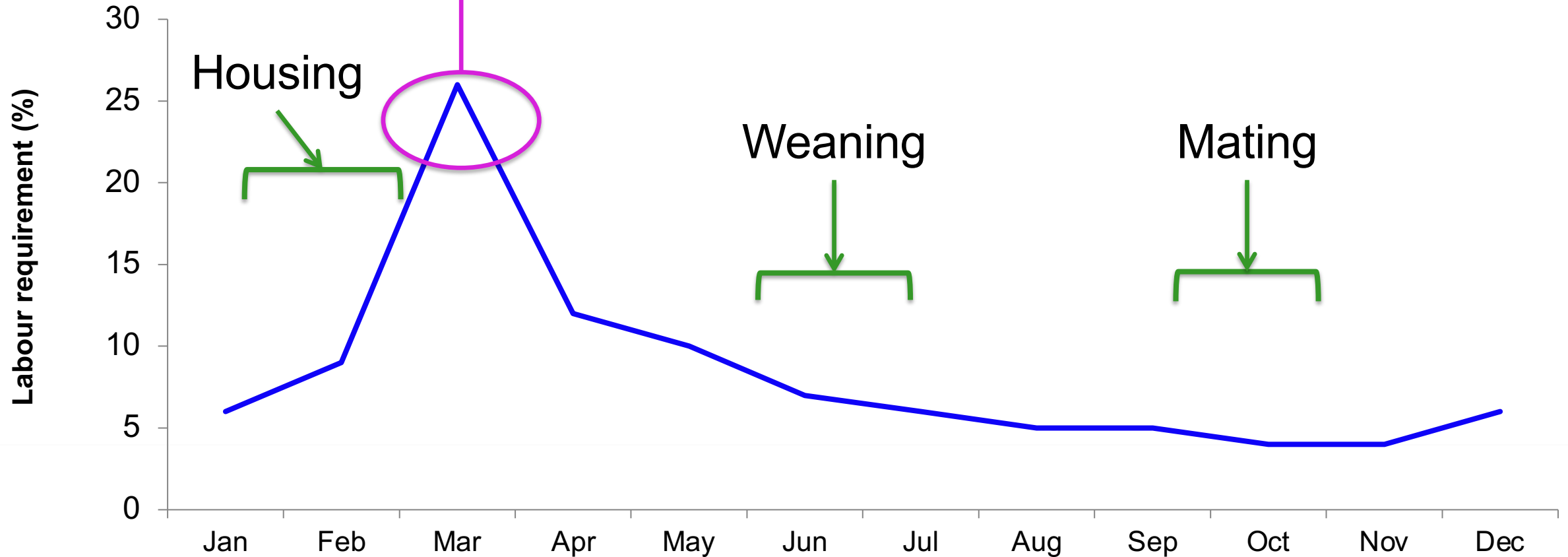
5

Very good

Very attentive & protective



# Labour requirement





# What is heritability?

...the amount of variation seen in the trait that is due to the genetics of the animal ...

## Example – birthweight

Heritability based on animal's own genetics



**Direct heritability**

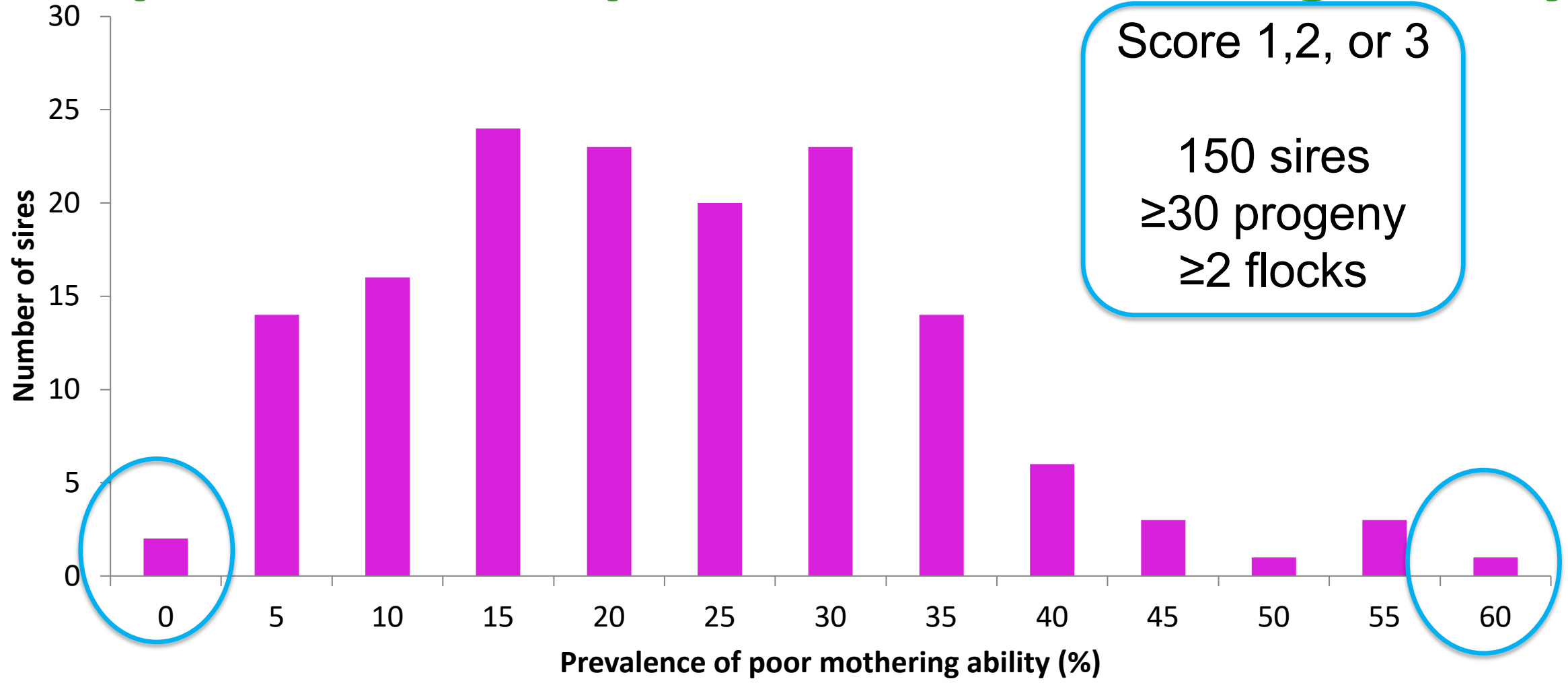


Heritability based on the dam's genetics

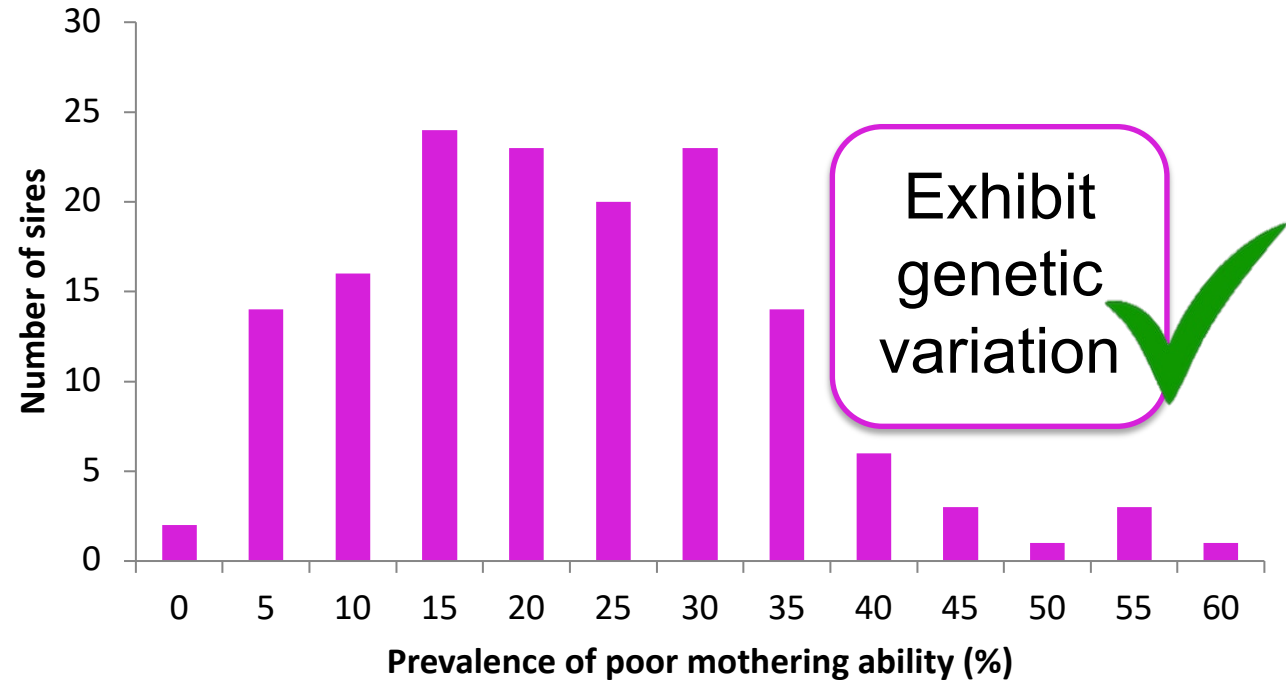
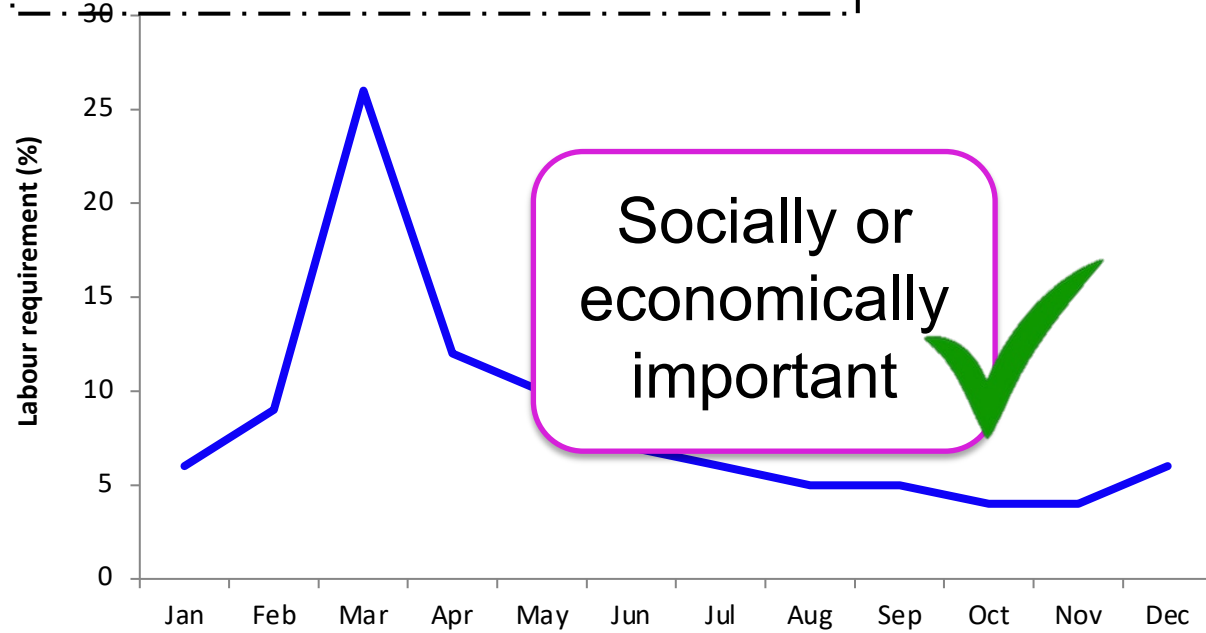


**Maternal heritability**

# Sire prevalence – poor ewe mothering ability



# Breeding goal



Data

→ Mothering ability → 21,826

Easily  
measureable  
on a large  
scale



# DNA



4 different nucleotides

- A – Adenine
- C – Cytosine
- G – Guanine
- T – Thymine



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## DNA evidence proves Welsh farmer stole neighbour's cow

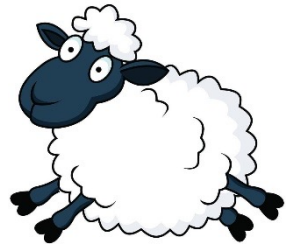
Updated / Wednesday, 5 Feb 2020 15:54



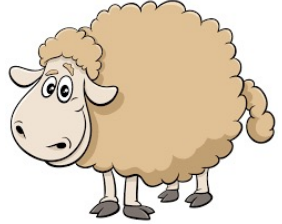
PC Gareth Jones, the officer who took charge of the case, said his force was "proud" of its achievement

# What is a SNP?

99.9% of our DNA is identical – most of the differences are in the form of *SNPs*



...ACGTACGTCAATGACTTTTACGTAT...



...ACGTACGACAATGACTTTTACGTAT...

Single Nucleotide Polymorphism

Change

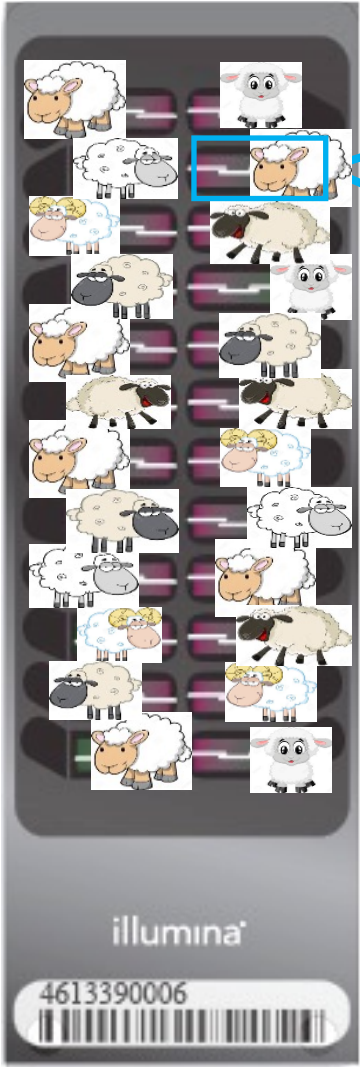
# Genotyping process





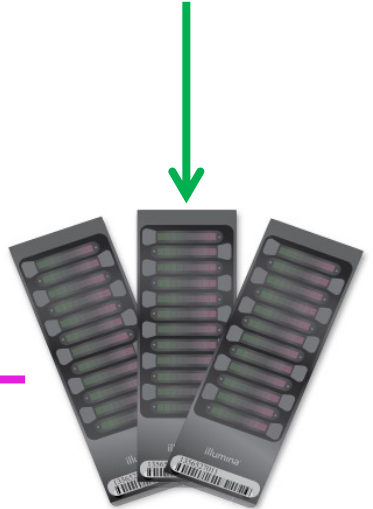
LO:4.1 d

# Genotyping process



LO:4.1 d

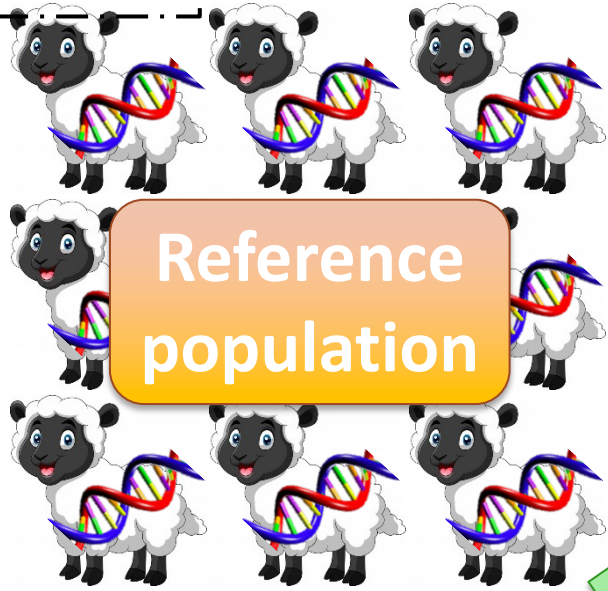
# Genotyping process



Decision support tools



# Genomic selection



Reference population



Association between SNPs and phenotypes

SNP	Weight	Lameness
1	+5	-0.6
2	-1.3	+0.9
3	-4.7	+0.2
4	+20	-0.4
5	+12.3	-0.6
⋮		
n	-32	+1.1

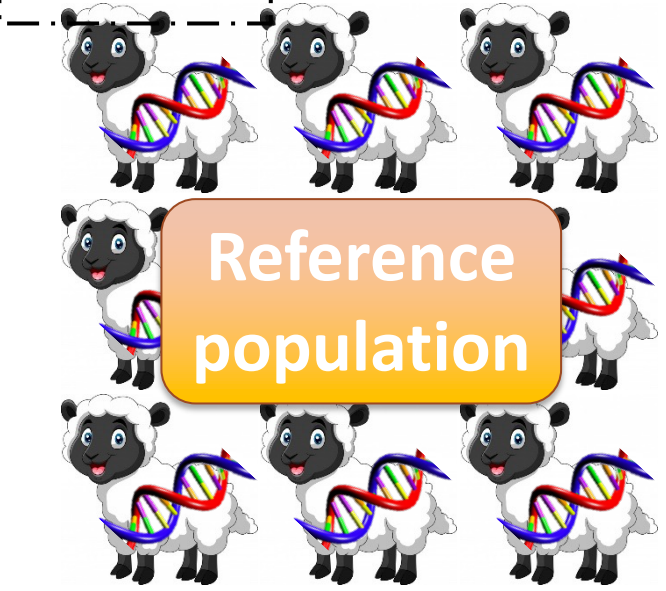


Prediction equations



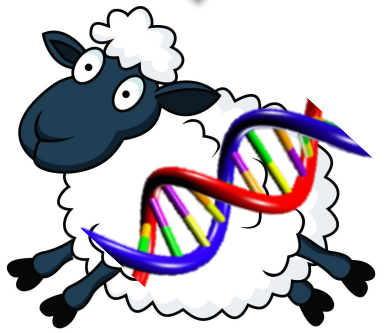
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# Genomic selection



Reference population

Genomic relationship



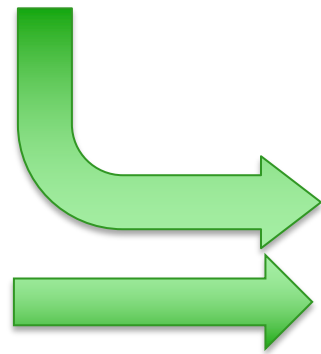
Prediction equations

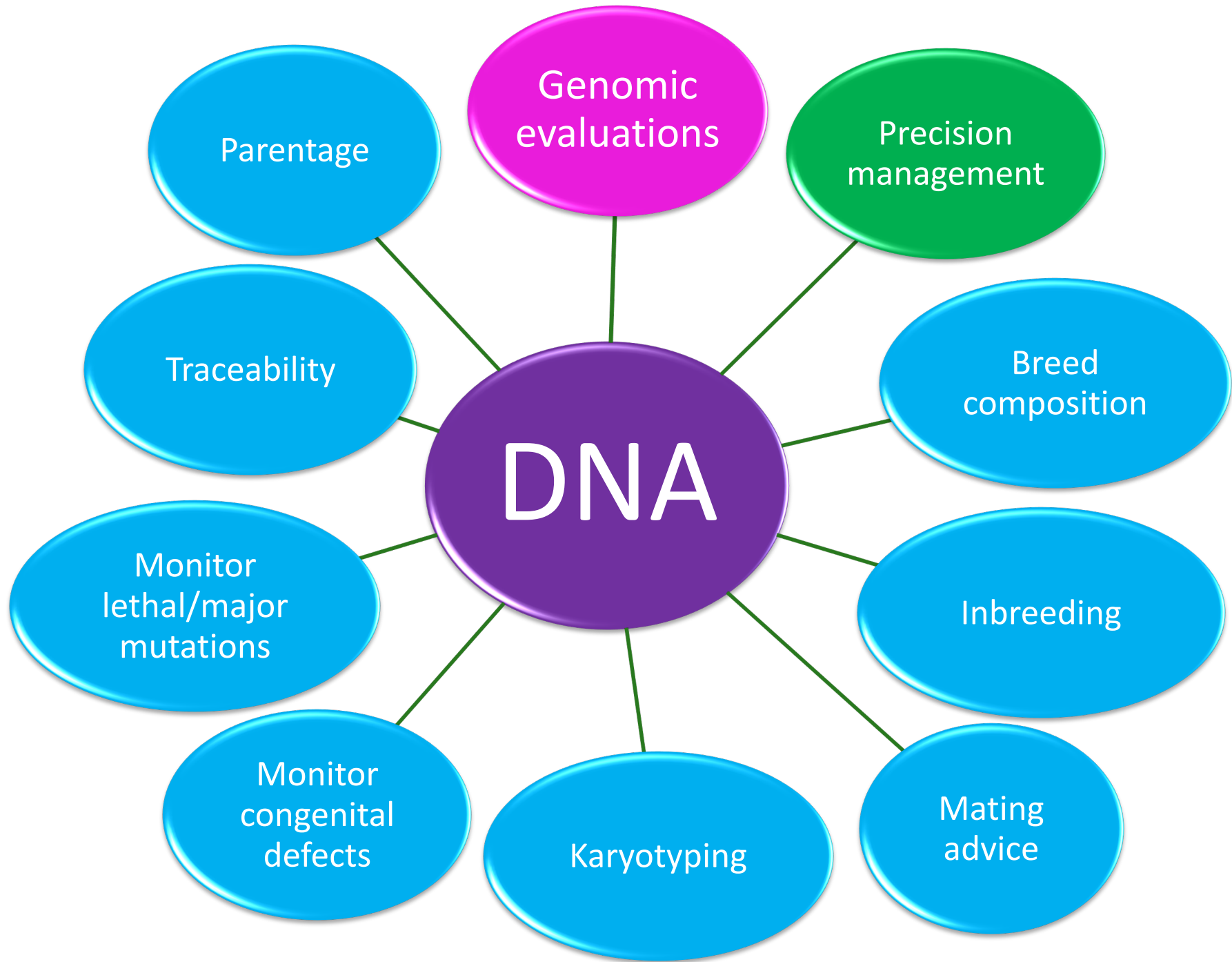


Pedigree

Direct genomic value (DGV)

Genomic estimated breeding value (GEBV)





LO: 4.1 d

# Summary

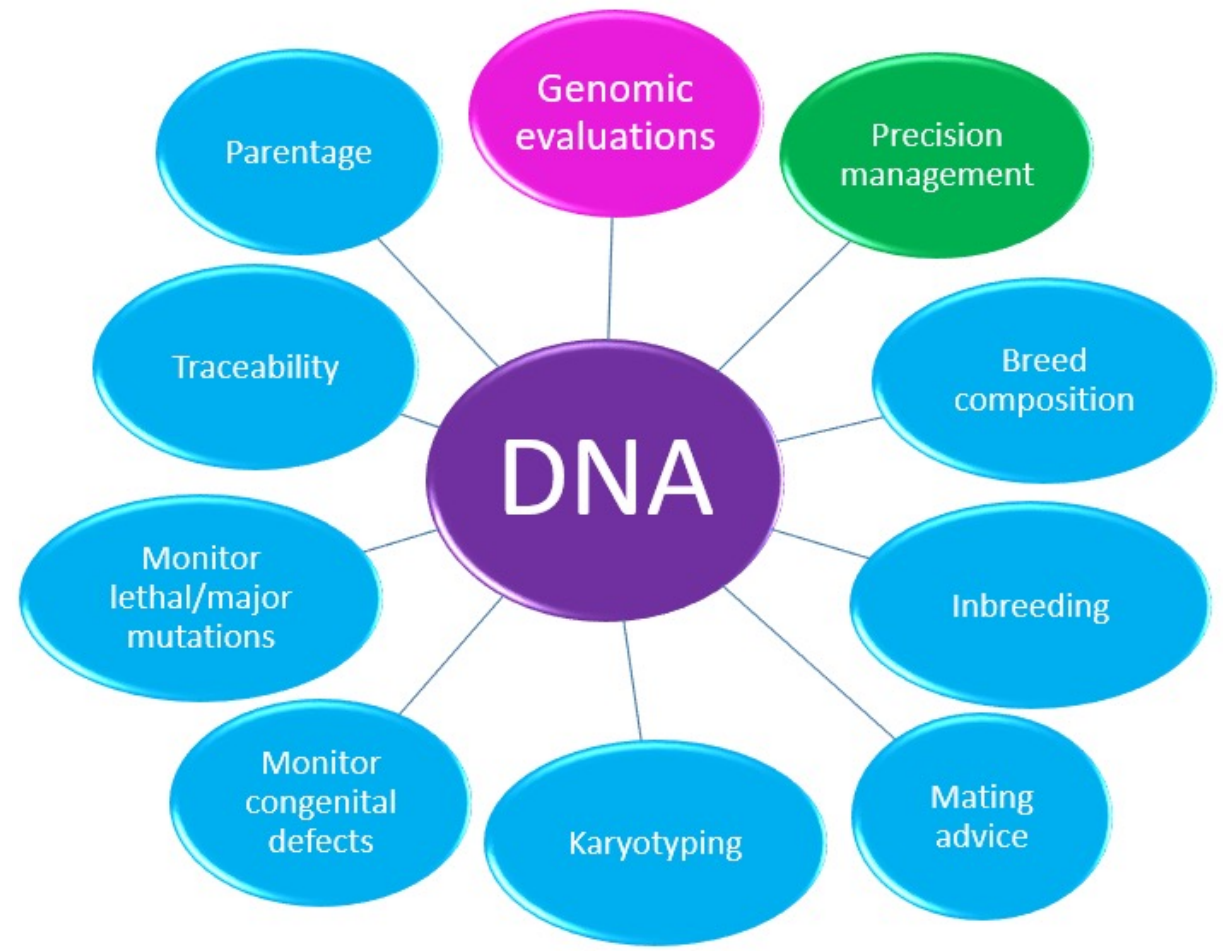
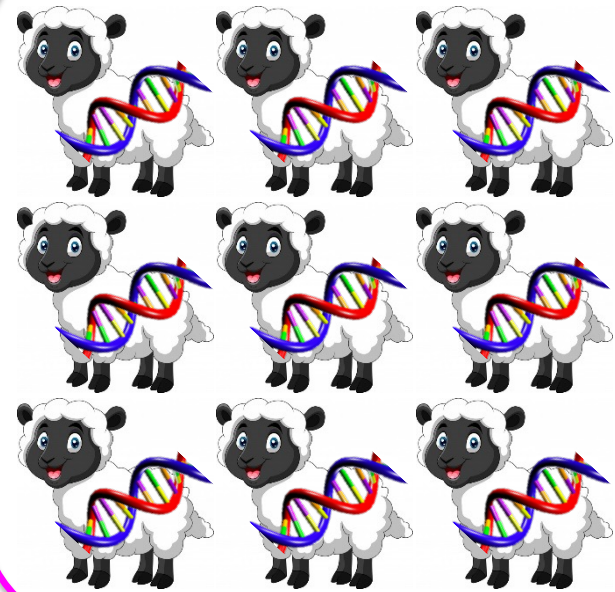
Novel trait



Breeding goal

- 1. Socially or economically important ✓
- 2. Exhibit genetic variation ✓
- 3. Easily measurable on a large scale ✓

## Reference population







# Role of grass breeding and evaluation to increase the sustainability of pasture-based systems



12th May 2021

9:30 - 10:30 AM



**Michael O'Donovan**  
Head of Research Department



**Tomas Tubritt**  
Research Technologist



**Patrick Conaghan**  
Research Officer



**Stephen Byrne**  
Research Officer

