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Invitation to submit a written quotation for a report to identify the potential for EID abattoir reporting for lambs from Scottish abattoirs.

Background

Quality Meat Scotland (QMS) is Scotland's red meat development body. A Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB) since 1st April 2008, QMS has a remit to shape a sustainable and prospering Scottish red meat industry.

Sheep farmers supplying lambs on a deadweight basis receive a kill sheet detailing the basis for payment (weight and grade), and health issues/carcase condemnations. For most suppliers, that information is currently provided on a batch basis.

Whilst batch level information is useful to producers, one of the key benefits of using Electronic Identification (EID) is that data on individuals can easily be recorded and collated in an electronic format. This information could potentially be used to improve production efficiency and genetic gain.

QMS has been approached by farmers requesting EID abattoir feedback on an individual basis to guide their flock breeding and management decisions and enable them to respond effectively to market signals.

In addition, the Scottish Sheep Sector Review (Scottish Government, 2016) has made 24 recommendations for the Scottish sheepmeat supply chain. Recommendation 14 is that 'An integrated central database building on the use of sheep EID should be constructed that allows producers access to improved feedback of a prime lamb's carcass weight, grade and health status as well as abattoir downgrades'.

EID based abattoir feedback has the potential to improve the flow of supply chain information. The degree of benefit will depend on the level of EID use on farm. Linking data back to both sire and dam will have maximum benefit in terms of genetic improvement. However, the numbers of farmers collecting that level of data is currently small, and likely to be at breeder level.

Objectives

The project aims to identify the potential for EID abattoir reporting for lambs from Scottish abattoirs. It will need to consider the following;

- What is the current level of demand for EID reported abattoir data in the industry and how is it used?
- Are there examples of effective EID reported abattoir data in Scotland or abroad and how has this been achieved?
- What are the barriers to abattoir reporting being EID linked?
- What are the potential benefits from increased use of EID reporting for lambs for the whole supply chain?
- How would EID reporting increase the use of EID for management purposes on farm?
- What is the potential financial benefit to the industry? How is this weighted between processors, farmers and retailers?
- What would it cost the industry to implement an effective EID reporting system? How could this be funded?
- What else needs to be in place to maximise the potential benefit of EID abattoir feedback? How could data be handled to allow across industry benchmarking?
- Could EID be used to improve, or widen current FSS health reporting?

Requirements

The successful contractor will be expected to draw together relevant data and information and canvas opinion across the whole lamb supply chain in Scotland on the issues outlined in the 'Objectives'.

The successful contractor will provide a report that brings together the findings.

The report will:

- Review the current situation in Scotland across the lamb supply chain
- Provide details of examples of effective EID feedback systems (including costs)
- Identify the barriers to increased uptake of EID feedback from all links in the supply chain
- Highlight the potential benefits across the whole supply chain (including financial)
- Summarise the potential for EID abattoir reporting for lambs from Scottish abattoirs

Key Requirements

The successful contractor must detail how they propose to carry out the work, including all relevant methods, and must demonstrate their ability to fully meet the requirements in this document within the timescales detailed. They (including all staff involved) must have, and provide evidence in their quotation of:

Essential technical knowledge, skills and experience, to include:

- Experience of capturing appropriate information and views from relevant stakeholders
- Track record of collating data and information into clear and analytical reports
- Knowledge and understanding of the whole lamb supply chain from producers through to processors and retailers
- A good understanding of the Scottish sheep sector across the whole supply chain

Contractor's Responsibilities

The successful contractor will have responsibility for:

- Using appropriate methods for capturing views and information from all relevant sources including stakeholders across the supply chain
- Collation and analysis of those views and information
- Interpreting the data and information captured to identify the potential for EID abattoir reporting for lambs from Scottish abattoirs

QMS Responsibilities

QMS will have responsibility for;

- Support and consultation throughout project

Project Timetable

Invitation to tender sent: 20 July 2017

Tender return date: 20 August 2017

Contract issued by: 1 September 2017

Project end date: Report completed by 30 January 2018

Quotation

A fully costed quotation to deliver the above should be included in the tender and should not exceed £15,000. Written quotations in pounds Sterling and excluding VAT must be received by QMS no later than 5pm on 20 August 2017.

QMS Contacts:

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Appendix

Further Information

A 2013 report commissioned by QMS suggests approximately 10% of farmers use EID to capture flock management data (SAC Consulting, SAOS and SMAS, 2013:p.27). This supports the SAOS (2011) ScotEID Project Co-ordinator's Phase II Report which suggests that just under 10% of farmers use EID for management purposes. The report also suggests that approximately 20% of farmers plan to use EID for management purposes in the future, but cite a 'lack of reliable data from marts and (particularly) abattoirs' as one concern about the value in using EID. This suggests that if abattoirs were to provide EID feedback, more farmers may adopt EID for management purposes.

References

Iain Riddell and Kev Bevan, SAC Consulting, Hamish Walls, SAOS & Jerome Finlayson, SMAS (2013) Adding Value to the Scottish Sheep Sector: Farm Stock Scotland Pilot Study
SAOS (2011) Electronic Identification in the Scottish Sheep Flock Project Co-ordinator's Report
Industry-led EID Research Pilot: Phase II 2009-2011, Andrew Moxey, SAOS