

This guidance aims to explain how the ISBOBI flockbook works, what information is recorded and what is admissible so that members can plan their breeding programs.

The ISBOBI does not offer any veterinary advice on how you keep your sheep or your breeding program.

Every year each member is asked to fill in a registration form recording the lambs born into their flock that they would like to register. There is no need to register sheep you've bought or anything previously registered. Registration lasts the lifetime of the sheep even if it changes ownership. When you buy your sheep, they will come with a name in two parts. The first part is the flock it was born into (the breeder's Flock Prefix), and the second part is the given name for that sheep, for example 'Dewsnaps Cecelia'. This name is not changed throughout the sheep's life, even if it resides in a different flock.

Similarly, the sheep's ear tags will display the UK flock number of its original breeder, plus the sheep's own unique identification number, and a sheep will keep the same tag numbers for life.

If a sheep is missing one or both ear tags and can be uniquely identified as an individual, you should order a replica ear tag. This replica tag will show the exact number the original ear tags had. You can order these from your ear tag supplier even if they are not for your UK flock number.

Any sheep that cannot be uniquely identified will require replacement ear tags. These are red and will contain your UK flock number. Unfortunately, any sheep on red ear tags is effectively no longer in the flockbook as it cannot be uniquely identified.

When it comes to breeding season, your record keeping is paramount. Although we don't usually ask for additional in-depth information, if your data is poor or does not seem to add up, we may ask you for more information. Ensure you record when each ram is put in with each group of ewes and when that ram is removed. Also, don't forget to record which ewes are in which breeding group. It's also worth recording any rams who escape for any length of time and what ewes they may have mated with and when.

When it gets around to lambing time, the ISBOBI Society strongly recommends that each breeder records the following data, as a minimum.

- The date and time of lambing.
- The number of lambs born to each ewe.
- Whether a lamb is a single, twin or triplet etc.
- Lamb sex.
- Lamb colour and any distinguishing marks or features (white patches or blazes, horned or polled etc.)

Other things to consider recording are:

- Weight of lambs
- Any assistance required
- Comments

The ISBOBI pedigree register is only for **100% Icelandic sheep**. Any lamb that a breeder wishes to have registered into our flock book will need both parents to already be present in the ISBOBI flockbook. Sheep registered undergo no inspection or assessment. Each sheep will carry their breeders flock name for life so breeders only sell or use sheep that will maintain their reputation and a healthy flock. We do not have a specific breed standard as the breed characteristics and uses are too diverse to specify. Any member wanting to import any 100% Icelandic sheep or genetics from another country, need to register the imported sheep/donor of genetics with ISBOBI before any offspring can be registered. This is all subject to the records and rules of that country's Icelandic pedigree register, not the qualities of the individual stock being imported.

We are also planning to begin logging breeding methods. Currently, most breeding is naturally by a ram mating with ewes in natural oestrous. There are numerous other methods of breeding available, and ISBOBI Society cannot advise on what is best for your flock.

Any methods that require a professional intervention, such as laparoscopic AI, embryo transfer etc., will require paperwork/evidence from the practitioner. This must contain the ear tag numbers of the sheep and the straw or embryo details to log which sheep got what and when and how. This is to ensure that the breeder and ISBOBI Society know that the pedigree of the resulting lambs to be registered is correct.

There are always differences of opinion between breeders on which methods they like or don't like. It is not the ISBOBI Society's place to allow or disallow some methods over others, our concern is with accurately recording pedigrees.

The ISBOBI Society will be logging methods in the flock book, starting with the registrations for lambs born in 2023 and thereafter. This is so breeders and buyers of pedigree stock can avoid buying sheep conceived and born resulting from any techniques that they find undesirable.