

Sheep Recording and Management System

# **Quick Start Guide**

Version 8.5

Documentation and Software by **farmdata**, a Division of Landmark Systems Ltd.

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# This booklet is designed to help you get started. It should be used in conjunction with the following manuals.

Related Documents: Sheepdata Manual

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# The Information Required Before You Start

#### Classifications of Animals

Two classifications of animals are catered for by the system.

- Flock records: These are animals that do not need to be individually recorded. These may be slaughter lambs or, where individual animal records are not required, the breeding flock.
- 2 **Animal** records: These are animals which are individually numbered and recorded.

# An Animal should not be entered in both of the above sections. This will lead to double counting.

It is worth taking some time to think through grouping of animals on the farm before setting up the system. This will affect ease of operation later, so that health treatments, movements and services can be entered for a group of animals, rather than individually.

It may be that for smaller flocks, one group and location for all animals may work perfectly well. You can start this way and add more later as you gain experience of the system.

If there are obvious groups such Commercial and Pedigree sheep or distinct flocks within the business this may be the way to start. Internal Locations such as Hirsels may also be an option. Management Groups may be used to split in other ways.

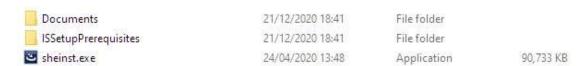
You may even want each field and shed detailed as separate management groups, in order to trace exactly where an animal is currently located or has been previously located.

Remember, however, that an animal can only be in one location or management group at a time.

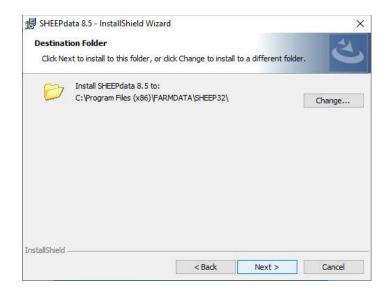
# Loading the Software

The system has to be loaded onto a computer running Windows 7, 8, 8.1 or 10. Windows 3.1, 3.11, Windows 95, 98, Millennium and XP will not run this program.

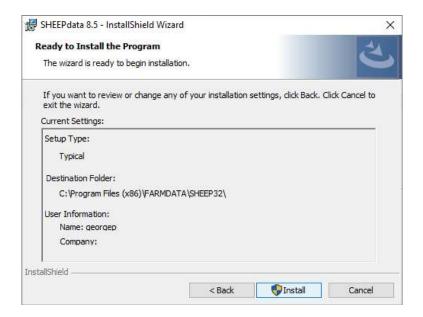
The software can be delivered on a DVD, USB Device or Web Download. All the above will contain the same install file. This is named sheinst.exe. Double click to open.



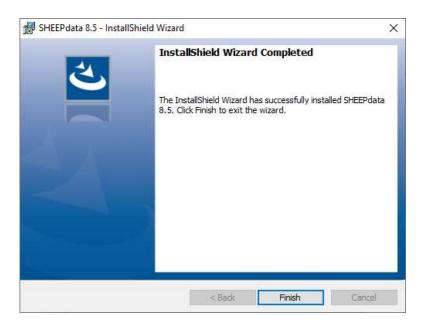
The program will now be installed. Accept the Licence Agreement.



On the way through you will be asked to select a location for the installation. The default is provided, you may change it if necessary.



#### Click Install to proceed.



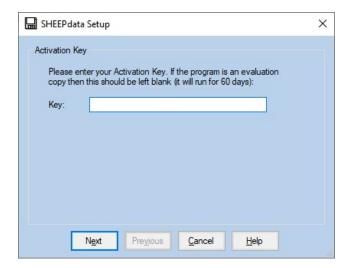


When finished you should now have a Sheepdata Icon on your desktop.

# Starting the System

Once you have the system loaded onto the computer you can go ahead and start to use it. Use the Sheepdata Icon on the desktop or Go to **Start, Farmdata and Sheepdata** 

#### On first start you will be asked for an Activation Key



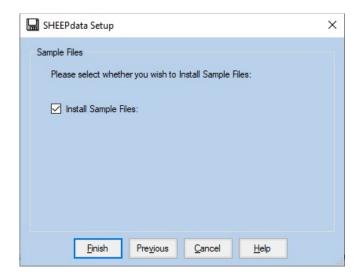
If the program has been purchased you will have received an Activation Key, enter it here. If it is a trial version, please leave blank and click Next. The system will run for the trial period and then close. If an Activation Key is then entered the program will reactivate with data as it was before the shutdown.

You will then get a screen showing you which directory the data files will be stored in. C:\FARMDATA\SHEEP32\ is the suggested directory. If this is not acceptable, click **Change** and select your preferred directory.



Click OK proceed. You will be asked if you wish to install sample files. This is example data which can be installed for demonstration purposes. It will give you an idea of how the

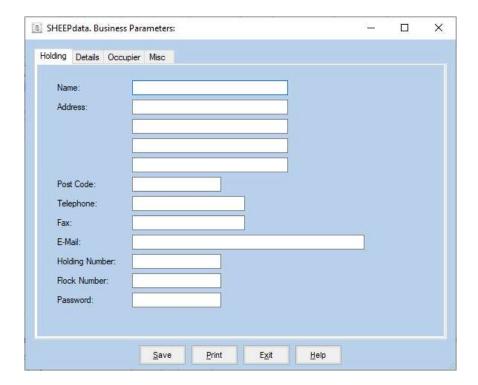
system operates without having to enter any data of your own. This data can be removed later if you wish.



If you do not install sample files you will be asked if you wish to create a new business. If you have installed sample files and later wish to create a new business for your own data go to File and New Business.

If you install sample data you will then go into the program. If you don't you will go into the routine to set up a business.

Fill in your business details and Save.



## Setting up the System Structure

The first sections that have to be set up are all in the Maintenance Routines Option. All the options are described in Chapter 1 of the main manual.

Business parameters were set in the start-up screen but can be edited at any time. The sections that are initially important are Breeds, Locations, Management Groups and Lambing codes, which can be found in Code Lists.



Many of the sections below can be updated during the entry of data. The Add Button at the end of each drop down list adds codes as you go along. It is however advisable to set up your basic list before you start creating animal records.

**Breed codes** has a list setup on delivery. This should be checked to see if any which you may need are not listed. The list should include all the cross breeds you will need. You may delete those you do not require. Where breeds are not important, for example where several cross breeds are in the flock it may be easiest to have a simple Crossbreed code set up.

**Locations** at least one Internal Location has to be entered. Some careful thought should be given to this first.

Internal Locations are the groups in which the animals are kept on the farm. You may have one global group or many separate groups for fields, pens etc. Keep it simple to begin with, you can always add more if they are required later.

External Locations are where you buy and sell animals. Some of your sheep may be old but remember to put in their purchased locations as well to get their records correct. Other

external locations you may require are summer grazings or even show locations if movements have to be recorded to them.

**Management Groups** If this is enabled in the Business Parameters, Miscellaneous section then these can be set up as required.

Lambing codes has a list setup on delivery as shown below. It may not be as you wish and can be edited.

1	Normal
2	Assisted
3	Vet Assisted
4	Caesarean
5	Prolapse

**Health, Units** and **Drugs Lists** may be created before Health treatments are entered but can be created as you go.

Cull codes may be setup before you sell or cull any animals but can be entered as you go.

Business Parameters should be set us as required.

Once you have the basic structure in Maintenance routines you can then start to enter animals into the system.

Lists of the codes and animals can then be taken from the Reporting options.

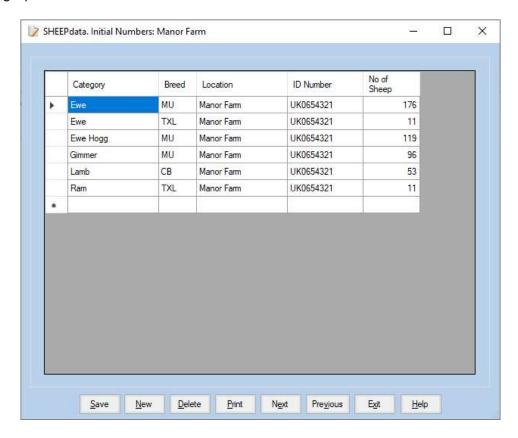
# **Entering Animals**

You have to pick a point in time to start the System. You can then enter all the animals in the business at that time and take the occurrences forward from there.

### **Flock Entry**

This can be used as the initial entry point for your animals. We suggest you do a flock check to get the number of animals in each class at your chosen starting date.

We suggest you keep it simple at this point. The total number within each Category, Breed, Location, and ID should be entered. At this stage we are looking for broad totals within each category and not detailed records.



We now have options on how to proceed.

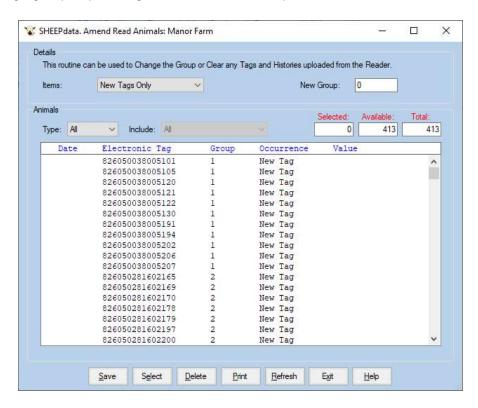
- 1. We can simply leave everything in the flock section and use the batch system to maintain overall records.
- 2. We can create individual animal records from this initial entry for all the animals.
- 3. We can have a mix of Flock and Individual entries. Perhaps breeding stock individually recorded and the slaughter lambs in the flock.

### **Individually Recorded Animals**

We strongly recommend that you use an EID reader to do complete read of all the animals in your flock. It is also possible to import ear numbers from a spreadsheet, Farmdata can help with this.

Once imported from a reader or file the numbers can be viewed in the Amend Read Animals option of the Electronic Identification section.

If possible, you should read the animals in groups so that you can identify which section they should be put into. For example, Rams in one group, Ewe Hoggs in another and if possible, Ewes into age groups. If it is not possible to group the ewes you may be able to identify age groups by the tag runs used in different years.

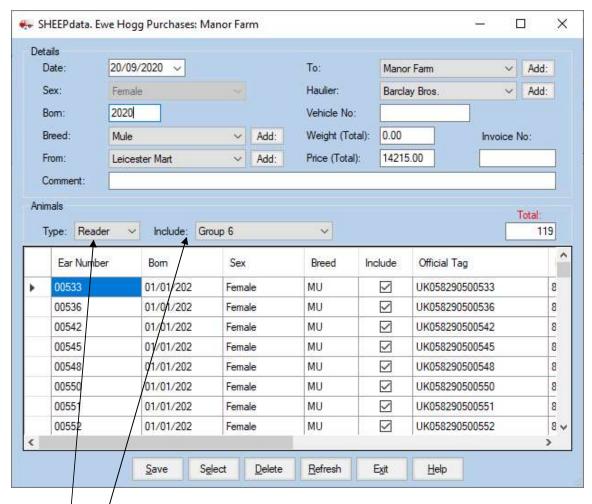


These can be allocated from the reader download or imported onto the system in two ways.

- In **Animal Occurrences** (Ewe, Lamb or Ram sections) through the **Purchase Routines.** Best where purchase dates and places can be identified for batches.
- In the **Flock section** under initial number and use the **Individual Tagging** option in flock occurrences to transfer them into the Animal section. Best for home bred animals, or where purchases cannot be easily identified.

#### **Purchase Entry**

In the Home section, Purchase option.



Set the details of the purchase of this batch of animals in the top section.

Select Type of Reader. This will list all the tags downloaded from the reader.

In the Include option select the required group of tags from the reader.

Tick the include box for the animals in this purchase or click Select to include all.

Click Save and the animals will be created.

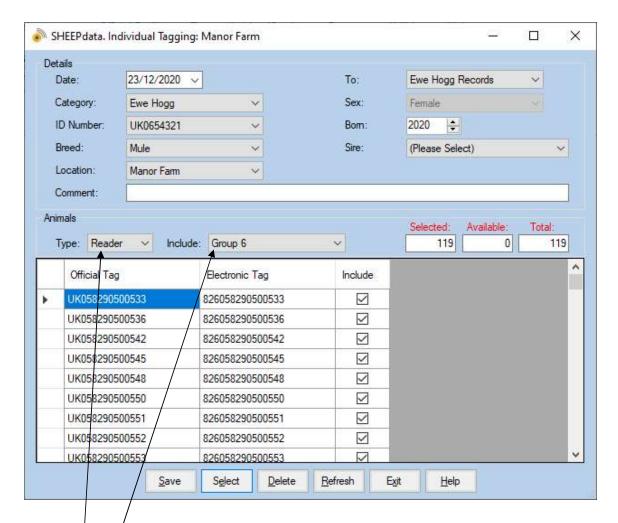
Work through each group and purchase batch to allocate.

If you are entering Homebred animals in this way set the Date as 01/01 of the year of Born and the From as Please Select. These will then appear as born on the farm.

### **Individual Tagging Entry**

In the Flock section, Individual Tagging option.

This removes the animals from the Flock section and creates the individuals in the Animal section.



Set the details  $\phi$ f the transfer of this batch of animals in the top section.

Select Type as Reader. This will list all the tags downloaded from the reader.

In the Include option select the required group of tags from the reader.

Tick the include box for the animals in the transfer or click Select to include all.

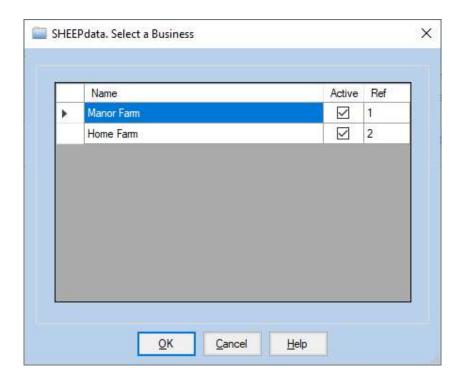
Click Save and the animals will be created.

Work through each group and transfer batch to allocate individuals.

#### **New Businesses**

If you have separate Flocks which you wish to keep as individual businesses on the system you have to click on **File** and **New Business.** This will take you back to the initial start-up screen. You then follow the same routine for each new business.

Next time you start the program you will be given the business option screen to pick from as shown below. If you wish to swap between businesses whilst working in the program, click **File** and **Change Business**. Alternatively click the Open folder icon at the top of the screen.



Use the main manual for further explanation when required.

Routine occurrences can now be entered through the appropriate Occurrence Routines.

One of the first routines might be to enter allocation to groups or service details for ewes if this information was not entered earlier.

Don't forget to do your Backups!!!