



Development of a Validated Lameness Control Plan for Sheep Flocks

Jessica Gaudy and Laura Green
 Contact: J.Gaudy@warwick.ac.uk
 University of Warwick, School of Life Sciences, Coventry, UK

Background and Objective

- FAWC (2011) proposed that the UK flock should target reducing the prevalence of lameness to 2% by 2021.
- Correct diagnosis of the cause of lameness, together with correct treatment, can reduce levels to <2% (Wassink et al., 2010).
- We propose the development and testing of a lameness control plan (LCP) that can be adapted to suit various management systems.

Plan Design

- Farms will have plans created to suit their individual circumstances that includes a variety of High, Medium, and Low Impact recommendations:
 - **High Impact** - There is strong research evidence to support the effectiveness of this task at reducing lameness in sheep
 - **Medium Impact** - Either there is some research evidence to support the effectiveness of this task at reducing lameness in sheep OR this task may not be necessary or effective in all farm situations
 - **Low Impact**: Either there is very little research evidence to support the effectiveness of this task at reducing lameness in sheep OR the results of said research are inconclusive
- Recommendations focus on key areas of appropriate diagnosis, prompt treatment, and effective prevention

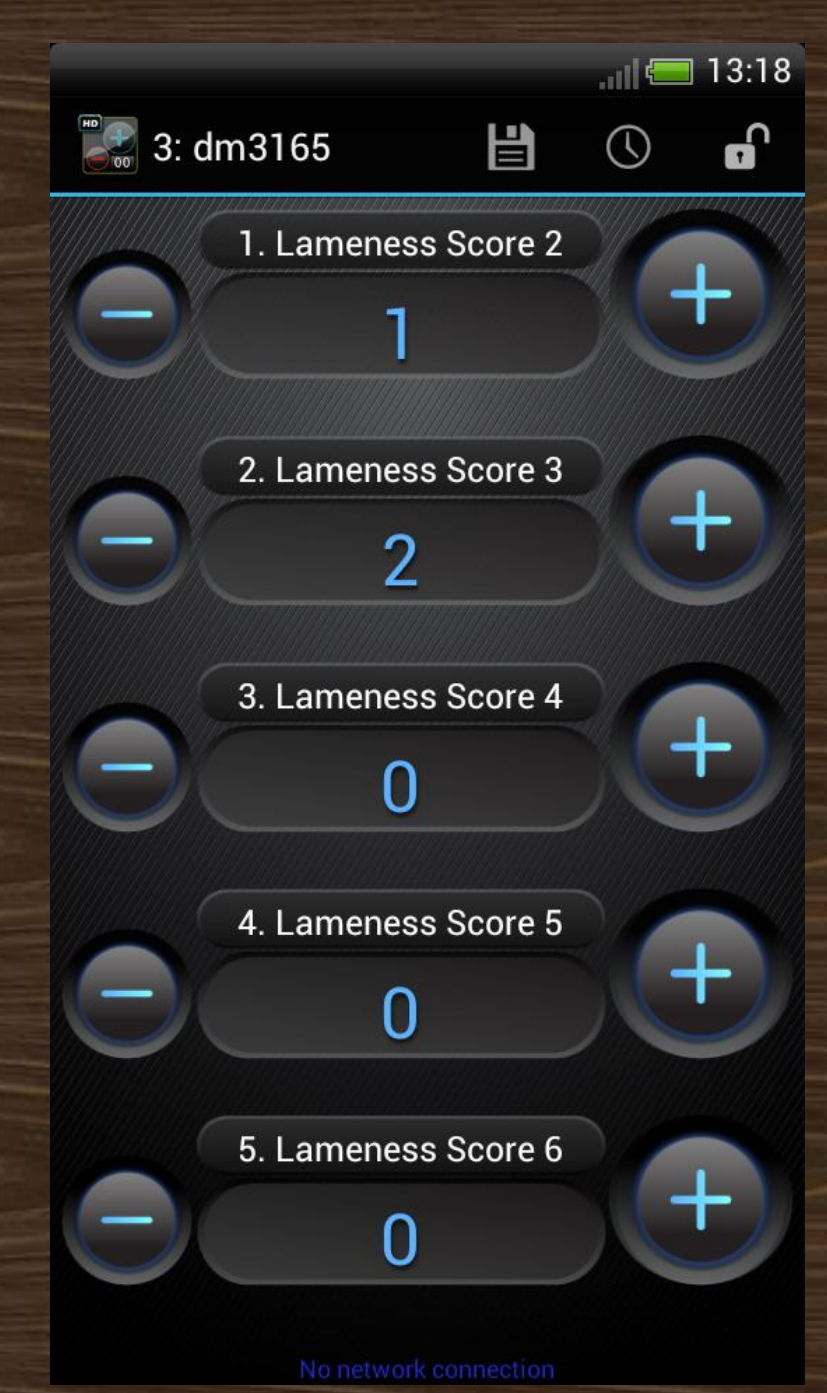
Plan Implementation and Continuous Assessment

Initial Assessment

- Collect data on current management practices, other farming enterprises, and any other work obligations.
- Flock locomotion scoring

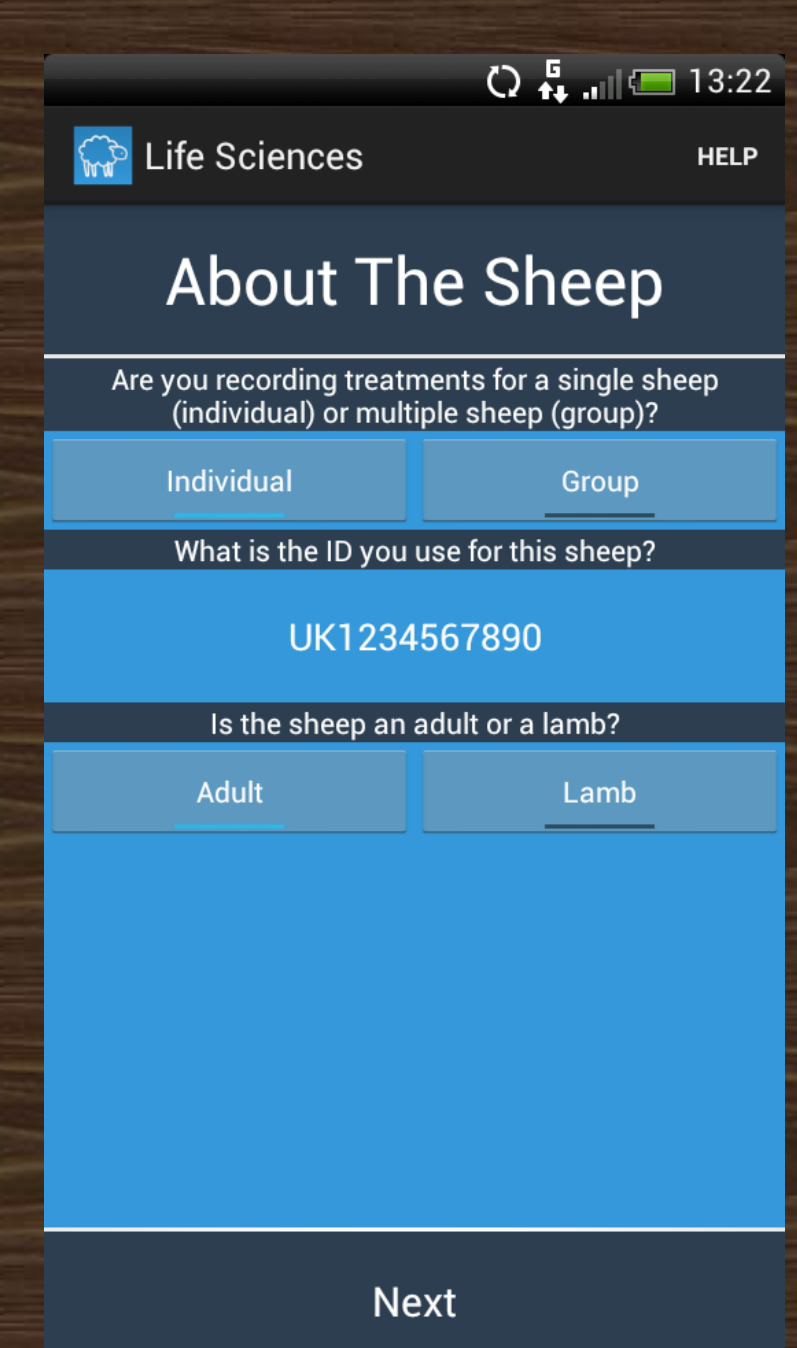
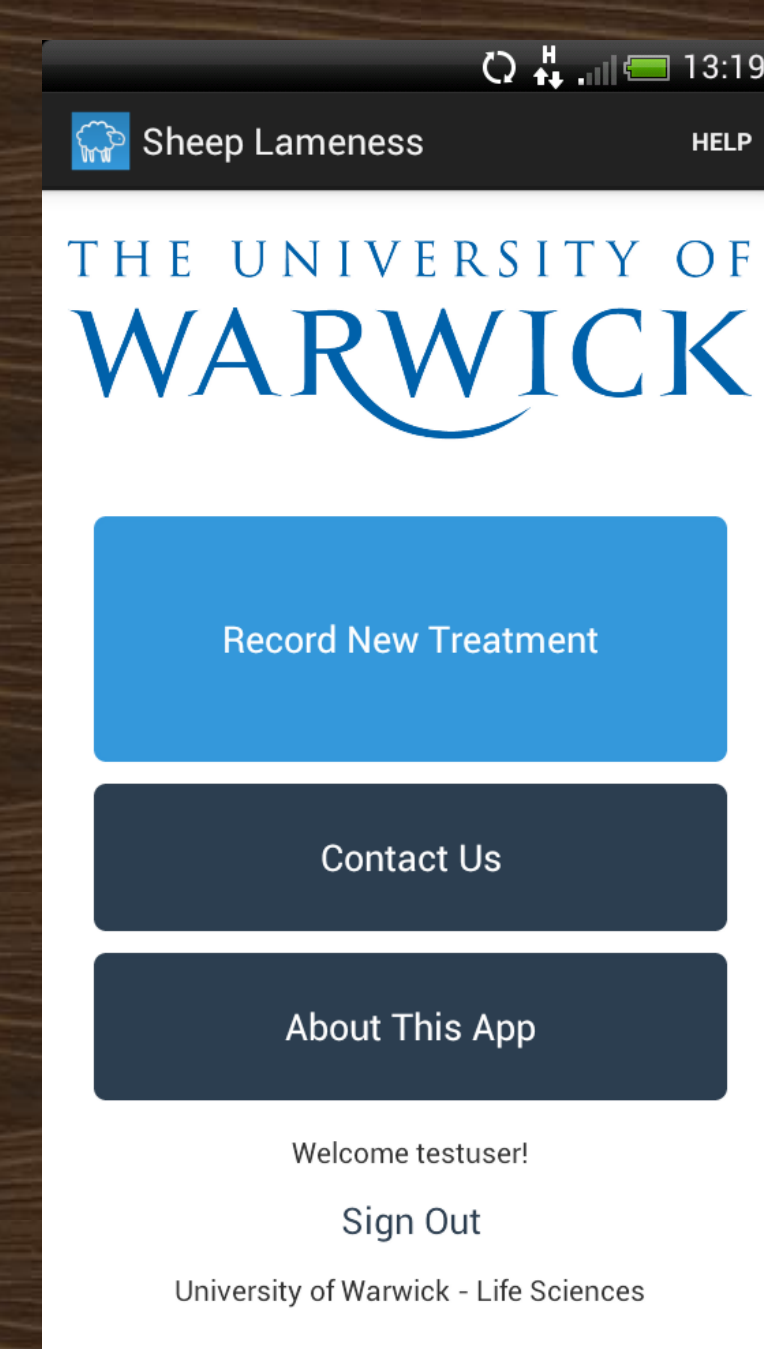


Lamb with a locomotion score of at least 3, recorded via app above



Plan Delivery

- Build LCP to implement new recommendations or adjust current practices
- Deliver to farmer
- Discuss best practices
- Ask farmer to keep and submit records of any treatment or prevention measures carried out



Specific app designed for treatment recording and data submission

