

# Sheep Handling Conveyor

## Need:

- Detection common parasites/manage external parasites/and treatment
- Dosing/vaccinating sheep

## Aim:

Restrain sheep while enabling the operator to administer vaccines, drenches etc. with minimal physical strain

## Description:

The sheep conveyor moves and restrains sheep along a race at a speed pre-determined by the operator. The sheep are held upright and cannot move forward or backward in the conveyor. This allows the farmer to stay in one position on either side of the conveyor and administer treatments without moving. The conveyor speed can be adjusted and the sheep can be moved forward, held in one position, reversed or held on their back as required.

## How to Implement:

The sheep need to be loaded/walked onto the conveyor as it is moving, some sheep will walk on themselves but others may need to be physically pushed forward. The farmer can pre-determine and adjust the speed of the conveyor, and position themselves as the sheep to move towards them.



*This tech works well when I need to dose or vaccinate large groups of ewes/lambs. It is also less physical strain than catching and holding ewes/lambs.*

*Irish farmer*



## Country:

Ireland



## Production System (dairy or/and meat sheep/goat):

All systems

## Category of Animal (ewe, goat, replacement, lamb, kid):

Ewes, replacements, rams and lambs

## Attachment/links:

<https://smadplatform.net/work/sheep-conveyor/>



### Expected Benefits:

- Time saving
- Reduced physical strain on farmer
- Can complete multiple treatments at once

### Costs and Challenges

- Some sheep may need to be pushed onto the conveyor
- Not suitable for heavily pregnant ewes
- Unable to carry out body condition scoring while animals are in the conveyor
- Large initial investment, thus requiring a large flock size to justify the cost.
- Can be difficult to get animals into the conveyor therefore requires an additional person working or effective sheepdog which defeats the purpose of labour saving.

- Set up costs ~ > 15,000 Euro, so large flock size is needed to justify investment
- Ease of use? Scale 1 (Complicated) – 10 (Simple)



- Value for money (for this type of benchmark farm)? No
- Recommend this tool/technology for use on other types of farm? Maybe



**It would take 11 years for a peak adoption of 3%.**

