

NE AgriTech Project - Evaluation on new Technology

Technology assessed: **Lamb ClipFitter (updated May 2025)**

Used on male lambs for castration, at 2-3 days old, prior to being turned out of the shed. This method was last used by the business in 2023, since this time the clips have been further developed with biodegradable clips available and a different mechanism to the clip.

Criteria	Score (1-5)	Reason for assessment
Ease of Use	4	Not as easy to use as rubber rings. However, with practice, the technique becomes easier. Key is to restrain the lamb well and be confident as clip is applied. Clips are very simple to load in the applicator, and applicator is easy to use.
Reliability	5	Castrated all tup lambs. On next handling for clostridial vaccination, all scrotums had fallen off with no wound site, very clean.
Value – what are the benefits?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lambs not aware when fitted – no pain at time Allowed pairs to be turned out as soon as clip was applied, with no pain witnessed in male lambs Clip is biodegradable Very good for animal welfare
Any drawbacks?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More expensive compared to the rubber ring Takes slightly longer to apply compared to the rubber ring (~20seconds/lamb more) Once you have the technique it is far easier to apply
Effectiveness – delivered what anticipated?	5	All lambs are castrated, in what appears to be a pain free manner.
Value for money?	4	Cost circa 30p per clip, however there will be savings in performance of the lamb, from it not being checked with castration pain.
Overall Assessment	4	It definitely works for castrating the lambs, and looks pain free. However it is slower compared to the traditional rubber ring and more expensive.