

7 October 2009

AWEX OPENS WOOLCLASSER RE-REGISTER 2010-12

The Australian Wool Exchange (AWEX) is encouraging more than 20,000 woolclassers across Australia to re-register during the 2010-2012 Woolclasser Re-registration drive starting this Friday 9 October.

Every three years, AWEX invites all current woolclassers to re-register as part of the AWEX wool quality program. Woolclasser re-registration provides AWEX and the wool industry with the opportunity to ensure all woolclassers are provided with the latest wool industry information.

“It is vital that woolclassers are kept up-to-date on all issues, such as the recent changes to wool test certificates,” explained Mr Mark Grave, CEO of AWEX. “Many woolclassers and woolgrowers won’t be fully aware of some of the significant and recent changes that have been made to the definitions of IWTO test certificates.”

Woolclassers have a direct impact on the preparation of Australian wool and the prices received by woolgrowers. With a recent AWEX study confirming wool lots classed by a registered woolclasser can achieve up to 47 cents more per clean kilogram than those classed by an un-registered classer¹, the financial benefits to a woolgrower of using a qualified and registered woolclasser are obvious.

“The tri-annual woolclasser re-registration ensures woolclassers are kept up-to-date with these implications as well as being briefed on all new developments in the wool industry,” said Mr Grave.

In 2010-12 a new category of woolclasser is being introduced: Masterclasser. The ‘Masterclasser’ concept was originally developed as a result of the ‘Boardtalk to the Bush’ - a seminar series created by AWEX in 2007 to provide extension and education to Australian woolclassers.

Through these seminars, it became evident that as industry expectations of experienced woolclassers continued to increase, so too did their need for education and support in areas covering broader management skills.

“Experienced woolclassers are faced with many challenging issues including being a mediator and an educator as well as the shed manager,” said Mr Grave. “The new Masterclasser course focuses on upskilling and supporting this experienced group of woolclassers, particularly in these non-wool related areas.”

¹ AWEX Analysis on the Effect of Changes to IWTO Wool Preparation Categories (April 2009)

Australian Wool Exchange Limited

PO Box 649 Lane Cove NSW 1595 www.awex.com.au info@awex.com.au | t. (+61 2) 9428 6100
Ground Floor 318 Burns Bay Rd Lane Cove NSW 2066 abn. 35 061 495 565 | f. (+61 2) 9420 9633



The new AWEX 'Masterclasser' qualification recognises the considerable woolclassing experience and skills these people have and is already well accepted within the Australian wool industry. Entry into the Masterclasser course is by invitation only and there are four intakes throughout the year.

Woolclassers re-registering with AWEX this year will receive the new AWEX Sheep Breeds Compendium along with their stencil, stamp and the updated 2010 - 2012 Woolclassers Code of Practice. Woolclassers who are currently unregistered but interested in re-registration should contact AWEX to discuss what they need to do to re-gain their registration.

"When you consider the bigger picture, the reputation and marketability of Australian wool, registered woolclassers play a vital role in providing a quality product and giving buyers confidence," said Mr Grave.

"There are significant benefits to becoming a registered woolclasser and we anticipate strong participation by woolclassers in this year's re-registration drive."

AWEX invites all woolclassers considering re-registration to contact AWEX at their earliest convenience. The cost of woolclasser registration for the 2010-2012 period is \$175.00 (+GST) for an AW (Professional) and MC (Masterclasser) and \$140.00 (+ GST) for an OC (Owner Classer).

The AWEX woolclasser re-registration drive officially starts on 9 October and finishes 31 December 2009. For further information, please contact AWEX on 02 9428 6100.

COPY ENDS

For more information please contact:

Mark Grave, CEO

Telephone: (02) 9428 6100

Facsimile: (02) 9420 9633

Email: mgrave@awex.com.au

www.awex.com.au