

3rd March 2010

NWD Review - Complete

The AWEX Board at their meeting on Thursday 18th February 2010 accepted a number of recommendations from ISAC following its third review of the NWD.

NWD V3.0, for release in March 2010, will undergo some formatting changes to assist with ease of completion and improve the adoption rate of the declaration. In addition, small changes to the definitions have been made to ensure there is no ambiguity.

With respect to the definition of mulesing; the AWEX Board has accepted that it is in the best interests of the Australian wool industry if a single definition from a recognised and qualified reference group is adopted. To this end, the definition developed by Animal Health Australia will be adopted and incorporated into the NWD V3.0.

“It is important that the Australian wool industry has a unified position, which will in turn send a clear signal to our customers and give them confidence in the information provided” said Mark Grave, AWEX CEO. “The AWEX Board has agreed that the structure and membership of the AHA Sheep Welfare Standards and Guidelines Writing Group provides the expertise to consider and address this issue.”

In addition, a proposal to introduce an On-Farm Audit Program (OFAP) to support the NWD was considered and accepted in principle by the AWEX Board. In approving the recommendations, the Board agreed that the funding an OFAP is an industry issue that must be resolved before the program commences. Since the introduction of the NWD 18 months ago, AWEX has been conducting random desk top audits to achieve a greater understanding by Growers and Brokers of issues encountered when completing the NWD and to provide Buyers with confidence that the NWD program has support and provides credible information.

The issue of funding the audit programs will be discussed with Members and industry over the coming months.

Brief details of both the review of the NWD and the On-Farm Audit Program are provided on Page 2. The NWD V3.0 is presented on Page 3.

If you would like to find any further information regarding either of these two issues, please contact Mark Grave, t. 02 9428 6100 or e. mgrave@awex.com.au

or Dr Kerry Hansford, t. 03 9318 0277 or e: khansford@awex.com.au

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

Definitions:

The accepted changes to the NWD are as follows:

1. Mulesing:
“The removal of skin from the breech and/or tail of a sheep using mulesing shears.”
2. Ceased Mulesing:
“Any sheep born on this property in the last 12 months must not be mulesed at the time of this shearing and there must be no intention to mules in the future. “
3. Pain Relief:
“A “Yes” must only be applied to the actual mobs of sheep that were mulesed using a recognised Pain Relief product.”

The separate identification of clips or intradermal technology will be considered at the next review of the NWD at the end of 2010 following commercial availability and/or significant adoption of the technology.

Other Considerations:

The identification of pain relief (PR) will continue to be recognised at the mob level only and not a whole of property level. The review recognised that there was some confusion over this identification and a quality scheme that is based on the use of pain relief. It was noted that the quality scheme and declaration of the pain relief product itself were separate issues.

The Record of Chemical Use has changed from a mob level declaration to a whole of property level.

The ABN reference has been removed. It was felt that the PIC and other details such as Property Brand and/or Nearest Town were adequate to identify the farm source.

AWEX will also consult with industry to consolidate the use of AWEX NWD by industry and ensure that Buyers and Processors have confidence in the information supplied. AWEX has also committed to provide greater education and extension to assist with improving the uptake of the NWD. AWEX will be looking to work closely with Brokers to assist them in their communication with Wool Growers.

NWD On-Farm Audit Program:

The AWEX Board also considered a recommendation from ISAC to introduce an independent On-Farm Audit Program to provide greater levels of integrity to the NWD. The introduction of an On-Farm Audit Program (OFAP) is aimed at providing confidence to our customers of the validity of the NWD.

The recommendations included a random audit program to achieve 99% confidence limits which are considered necessary for the NWD to be considered credible. AWEX is mindful that any program must be efficient and cost-effective.

Update: 2971

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

