

7<sup>th</sup> March 2011

## 2010 NWD REVIEW: OUTCOMES

The AWEX Board has accepted a number of recommendations from the Industry Services Advisory Committee (ISAC) following its fourth review of the NWD.

The NWD Review is an open review where all aspects of the NWD including structure, definitions and extension are considered. The NWD review also takes into account any and all implications for the NWD - Integrity Program which commenced in September 2010.

AWEX received 15 written submissions from within and outside Australia. A foremost appeal from the submissions was for changes to be kept to a minimum since the completion of the NWD is improving with the consistent approach. However, changes to make the NWD form easier for the grower to complete and the broker to interpret were given high priority.

**The AWEX Board approved the immediate release of NWD Version 4.0, March 2011 as per ISAC's recommendations listed below:**

1. A combined Classer's Specification and NWD be developed to help align the declared mob information with the lines of wool produced at shearing. This documentation will be available in both portrait and landscape orientations to fit with individual broker's preferences.  
A separate page NWD is still available for brokers who do not wish to change their Classer's Specification.
2. A change to the wording of the Ceased Mulesing property question. The revised wording (see dot point below) highlights the definition of Ceased Mulesing and removes ambiguities for those who have never mulesed.
  - "Does this property qualify for **Ceased Mulesing** Status? Yes or No".
3. There were no changes to the Definitions related to mulesing, as follows:
  - Mulesing: the continued use of the definition of Mulesing as determined by the draft Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Sheep received unanimous support.
  - Ceased Mulesing: no change to its definition. Its inclusion as a category was supported as ISAC and the Board were advised that there are buyers who can use it to fill orders for specific consignments. However, its inclusion will continue to be reviewed for relevance.
  - Pain Relief: no change to its definition. It was recommended that the PR category be kept as there is a lot of support from growers who are using PR to demonstrate their animal welfare practices. The supporting NWD-IP statistics also indicated that the adoption rate of the NWD was in part due to the declaration of PR.

- That PR continues as a mob level declaration (rather than property level). This is because although mob level does create data entry issues for brokers, if there was a sudden increase in amount of PR wool, this could raise queries/concerns amongst the industry.
  - That the use of Clips not be included in the NWD. This recommendation was made on the basis that the sale of clips is extremely low and is considered statistically insignificant; and therefore, does not warrant inclusion.
  - That the use of Intradermal technology (“Skintraction”) is not included in the NWD at this time on the basis that it is not; as yet, commercialised.
4. For the purpose of continuity, no changes were recommended to the Age, Breed and Sex Codes.
  5. The Background to the NWD is essentially unchanged; however, additional emphasis was placed on the declaration being subject to random audit or inspection as part of the NWD-Integrity Program.
  6. Following the approval of a combined Classer’s Specification and NWD, Guidelines to the completion of NWD were developed as follows:
    - In the Mob Number column of the Classer’s Specification, the Woolclasser MUST list ALL Mob Numbers used to make up each line of wool. This applies to both fleece and oddment lines.
  7. The hierarchy of Mulesing Status was updated to NM, CM, PR and ND. This change was made on the basis that some companies are happy to buy CM as well as NM wool to fulfill their orders. Therefore, placing CM wool higher in the hierarchy than wool from sheep mulesed with PR will provide buyers with more purchasing options.
  8. The Education/Extension Program for the NWD and NWD-IP is conducted as follows:
    - Develop a set of Frequently Asked Questions for distribution to industry
    - Publish the new combined Classer’s Spec/NWD
    - Following completion of review, undertake a series of presentations to Brokers, private treaty, buyers etc.
    - Included in this series will be presentations in each region, including wool industry events, State Farming Organisations and to Industry organisations.
    - Present and discuss the NWD-IP program (including the review of the NWD) with staff of individual Private Treaty or Wool Broking companies
    - Develop a “testimonial” document or flyer for Mulesing Declarations using the commercial (sale/processing/retail) input.

**Note:** A separate Member’s Update will be distributed that illustrates the available formats for NWD V4.0, March 2011 (or go to [www.awex.com.au](http://www.awex.com.au)).

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