

Cotted Wool – Not a soft topic

"Conventional scouring, opening and topmaking can cope with small amounts of soft cott, but it is the medium to heavy cott which can cause considerable damage and delays in scouring."

Phil Cranney Wool Manager
- Fletcher International Exports

Following the January issue of BOARDtalk, AWEX has continued to seek the input of Wool Buyers and Processors on particular wool preparation issues. This issue focuses on the preparation of cotted wool and its impact on the early stages of processing in the wool supply chain.

Itochu Wool Ltd

As a regular user of cotted wool we believe that the level of care maintained by the Woolclasser should be the same as that taken when preparing main fleece lines. As with all cast lines normal skirting procedures should occur.

While we realise, in some instances, the quantity of cotted wool will determine how it is put into classed lines, it is important for the Woolclasser to realise how we, as Wool Exporters and Wool Processors, view such wool when it is appraised.

The degree of cottiness is paramount to how this wool can be processed. Hard cotts are very difficult to open up during the early stage of processing and cause a high level of fibre damage and wastage. The mixing of soft and hard cotts within the one line will leave the Exporter no

alternative but to price the wool to the "lowest common denominator", that being hard cotts. Lines prepared with clear distinction enable the Wool Buyer to price aggressively with confidence, knowing no 'surprises' are likely to be present in the wool they wish to purchase.

Chris Kelly - Southern Region Manager

Lempriere

Classing of cotted wool from our point of view should be kept very simple as it is the inferior end of any clip. Soft cotted wool, or wool that can be pulled apart by hand easily, needs to be the main focus when preparing cotted wool. Any cotted wool that cannot be pulled apart, ie doormats (hard cotts) should be kept separate. Soft cotted wool can be handled through the current methods of woolcombing but hard cotted wool causes problems in the scouring and carding processes.

Wesley McNaughton

Fletcher International Exports

Poor preparation of cotted wool can result in major machinery breakdowns

and lost time in the early stages of wool processing.

As a Topmaker, Fletcher International Exports cannot afford to be delayed with blockages at the scour caused by cotted wool. The cotted wool becomes stuck on the spike lattice before entering the double drum opener. This causes downtime for the scouring operation which conservatively amounts to \$1300 per bale of cotted wool, which isn't correctly identified before processing.

Conventional scouring, opening and topmaking can cope with small amounts of soft cott, but it is the medium to heavy cott which can cause considerable damage and delays in scouring.

Spotting this medium to heavy cotted wool proves very difficult for the Topmaker. Despite having well trained operators, it is not possible to inspect every section of the bale and, therefore, identify the offending piece of wool before it is too late.

Woolclassers, however, can easily separate this cotted wool from the main lines before it becomes a problem for the scourer. Following the AWEX Code of Practice will allow the problem to be identified early and will assist in reducing the ever burgeoning costs of the early stage Processor.

Phil Cranney, Wool Manager

What the Code of Practice says...

The bale descriptions for

cotted wool are detailed in the Code of Practice (see page 34). The preparation of cast lines, ie cotts, should only be made when necessary and should conform to the principle of uniformity (see page 6) within the line of wool being prepared.

"Lines prepared with clear distinction enable the Wool Buyer to price aggressively with confidence knowing no 'surprises' are likely to be present in the wool they wish to purchase."

Chris Kelly, Southern Region
Manager
- Itochu Wool Ltd

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AWEX another innovation

Fibre risk declarations from July

Article supplied by Ross McEwan, Project Leader, FAWO

With exotic wool contamination in Merino wool a growing problem, a voluntary vendor declaration will be introduced in July for the calculation of a Merino Dark and/or Medullated Fibre Risk (DMFR) rating.

The DMFR scheme was approved by the International Wool Textile Organisation (IWTO) at its meeting in Dubrovnik in November 2003. The approval has paved the way for the DMFR rating to be recorded on AWTA test certificates and in sale catalogues from 1 July 2004.

Demand for development of the DMFR rating has grown in Australia as exotic sheep breed numbers increased and were joined to Merino ewes over the past few years.

There were also concerns about dark fibre contamination from traditional problems such as stains and natural pigmentation occurring in Australian Merinos.

Basically the introduction of the DMFR rating scheme means Australian Merino woolgrowers now have the option to advertise their fleece and piece wool as being free of dark and/or medullated fibres and buyers and processors will now have a quantified

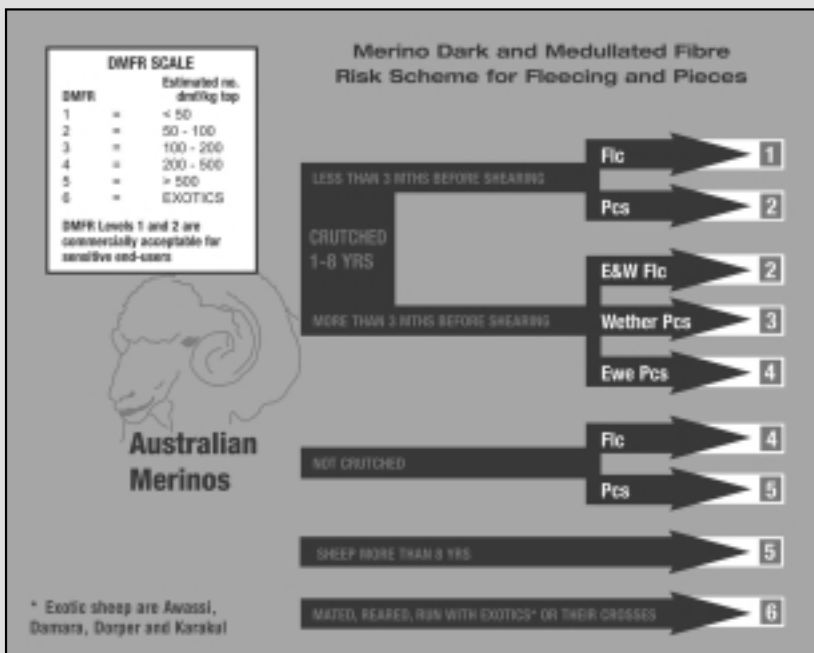
estimate of the dark and medullated fibre risk.

Peter Morgan, Executive Director from the Melbourne based Australian Wool Industries Secretariat, said from 1 July new forms would be included on the classer specification or on a supplementary form supplied by a woolgrowers' selected wool broker or agent.

Australian Wool Innovation Limited is funding the Federation of Australian Wool Organisations (FAWO) to manage the roll-out of the extension program.

The program includes meetings with woolgrowers in key regional centres in each state, meetings with the staff of all wool brokers and private treaty merchants, and with buyers, processors and other key industry contacts such as state woolgrower associations and state departments of agriculture. The grower meetings will be advertised in the rural media. Overseas processors and traders will also be brought up to date through presentations to IWTO.

For more information, call FAWO Project Leader, Ross McEwan on 0419 105 269 or contact your broker.



The 14th Annual Woolclasser's Forum

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McCrae Street Bendigo, Victoria

Program

- On Farm Fibre Measurement**
- Gary Macfarlane for Australian Wool Innovation
- Bioclip Update**
- Anthony Shepherd Field Manager, Bioclip
- "The Merryville Type" Book**
- Wally Merriman Principal, Merryville stud
- Sheep Brands in Wool**
- Leon Baronet Managing Director, Charguers Wool
- Dark and Medullated Fibre Risk**
- Ross McEwan Project Leader, FAWO

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email jfield@britafe.vic.edu.au

Or

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 - Clip Inspections - Contamination Reports
 - Around the Regions



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WOOLCLASSER RE-REGISTRATION 2004-2006 – ANOTHER SUCCESS!

Blair Brice, AWEX

AWEX has recently come to the conclusion of yet another successful re-registration of Woolclassers for the 2004-2006 period. The re-registration period commenced on the 17th October 2003 and extended until 31st March 2004. Over this period AWEX has received close to 24,000 registrations over the three Woolclasser categories of Australian Woolclasser (AW), Owner Classer (OC), and Classer Associate (CA).

Woolclassers have demonstrated their enthusiasm to re-register this period with nearly 75% of Woolclassers having re-registered by the end of December 2003. This continued on through January 2004 to have over 90% of Woolclassers re-registered by the end of that month.

All registrations that have been received before the 16th April, should have received by now their Stamp, Stencil, Code Of Practice (COP), and ID Card (AW's only); CA's should have received a copy of the COP. If this has not occurred for a Registered Woolclasser, please contact AWEX on (02) 9428-6140.

AWEX will still accept late registrations from Woolclassers that have not

re-registered from the 2001-2003 registration period. These applications must include the late fee of \$16.50 in order to be accepted and processed to avoid any further delay. Applications can still be complete on-line through AWEX's web site at www.awex.com.au using a credit card for payment, otherwise please post completed registration forms with correct payment to AWEX.

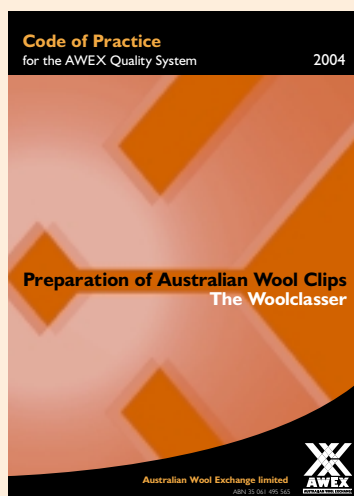
Woolclassers are reminded to update their contact details with AWEX whenever any changes occur, to ensure AWEX can contact you and continue the supply of relevant information to assist Classers in preparing wool.

Woolclassers are also encouraged to visit the new WOOLSEARCH web site, www.woolsearch.com.au to enable Woolclassers to find employment opportunities and allow anyone seeking to employ a Woolclasser to find one within a close proximity to them. The site also supplies additional information for Classers, including additional copies of the Woolclasser Checklist, back copies of BOARDtalk, and a full version of the latest COP.

Should any Woolclassers have any questions about their registration, or issues of wool preparation, please feel free to contact AWEX on (02) 9428-6140.

2004 Code of Practice update

Preparation of Non-Fleece Wool



The Woolclasser shall ensure that each fleece is correctly skirted by being present in the shed while shearing is in progress. Poor skirted practice can be costly to the Producer.

1. The aim of skirted is to leave the fleece lines as even as possible for all characteristics.

Skirting shall remove:

- fribs and short edges;
- all stains and dags;
- shanks and jowls; and
- skin pieces.

Also, remove during skirting the following items, if they are present :

- clumpy vegetable matter (e.g. burr-on-burr and heavy seed) if the remainder of the fleece is relatively free;
- cotted portions of the fleece;
- coloured edges;
- hairy breech wool, kemp and shanks;
- crows-nest or water-stained necks;
- very dusty, wasty and tender backs;
- fleeces and/or portions of fleeces where necessary e.g. tender, coloured, dermatitis, fly blown; and
- all wool containing sheep marking substances, i.e. branding fluid, sprays.

It is important to remember that all lines will have an end purpose and must be prepared with care. (See Sections 7 – 11 of the 2004 COP).

2. Do not mix different skirting faults (eg. cotts with skin pieces, etc.). Keep each fault separate.

3. The skirtings shall be put immediately into the appropriate bin. Stained skirtings should be kept separate from clean skirtings.

4. Skirtings are usually sorted based on length. For merino wool, combing length (>50mm) skirtings must be kept separate from carding length (<50mm) skirtings.

5. Wool skirted from fleeces containing pigmented or medullated fibres must NOT be placed with skirtings from white wool. These skirtings must be marked with a "Y" or "P" suffix, e.g. PCS Y or PCS P.

6. Crutchings – Where appropriate keep combing length crutchings (>50mm) separate from carding length crutchings, fribs and stain.

On-Farm Fibre Measurement (OFFM) gains momentum

Article Supplied by
Cheryl Pope,
OFFM Co-ordinator

Delivery contracts have been finalised for the Quality Assurance (QA) and extension and adoption components of Australian Wool Innovation's On-Farm Fibre Measurement (OFFM) program.

With the emphasis being on simplicity and the provision of independent assessment, the QA program will mean that woolgrowers will be able to choose with confidence from a number of accredited OFFM service providers.

AWEX, with a team lead by Lindsay Spencer, has won the tender for the delivery of AWT's OFFM QA program, which will consist of the following components:

- Operator accreditation;
- Proficiency testing;
- An OFFM-QA procedures manual;
- Training and communication; and
- New OFFM equipment validation.

AWEX will be contacting OFFM Operators during June to explain the project, its components and required commitment.

The national delivery of the extension and adoption program will be coordinated by South West TAFE. The Warrnambool-based education facility will be conducting training tailored to the needs of wool brokers and service providers, OFFM operators and the program's largest audience, specialist woolgrowers.

The extension program will focus on the benefits available from OFFM. These benefits stem from the following areas:

- Selection of the most profitable sheep;
- Breeding progeny that will increase

the profitability of the next generation;

- Potential improved marketing of wool and sheep through objective measurement; and
- Improving wool quality through superior flock management.

The program will provide simple and practical ways of implementing OFFM. It will provide details on the issues to consider prior to implementing an OFFM program on-farm, including: costs, on-farm infrastructure, logistics, which sheep to measure, sheep identification and the potential use of the OFFM results for now and in the

future.

Participants will be encouraged to share individual on-farm experiences to ensure the program is sharply relevant.

Regional workshops for Woolgrowers will begin in July 2004 and will be publicised through the rural press, grower groups and the OFFM website www.woloffm.com.au.

Woolclassers or Woolgrowers looking for further information on understanding how OFFM might impact on the long and short term profitability of their enterprise and for all workshop dates and locations should phone 1800 045 633.

WOOL PACKS – The Role of AWEX

On average over 2.5 million wool packs are imported into Australia, with approximately 250,000 repaired wool packs also re-entering the wool supply chain each year. Wool packs are a necessary component of the wool industry that is seldom considered, always expected to perform, and can often be found being used for a variety of purposes other than for wool.

New Wool Packs

Wool packs imported into Australia must have an AWEX Test Certificate on every batch. No wool packs to be used with greasy wool can enter the country without this certification.

This certification denotes several important features about the packs, most importantly that they are fit for purpose within the Australian Wool Industry. This is ensured through the AWEX Wool Pack Quality Management Program, which registers and accredits various organisations to participate in supplying wool packs for use with greasy wool within Australia.

The AWEX Wool Pack Quality Management Program requires that wool packs are manufactured to a specific standard, and tested using specific Test Methods in order to be certified as compliant for use within Australia. Under the Program, wool pack producers must be accredited as meeting these standards and are

audited annually to ensure their compliance. There are six wool pack producers in the world that are accredited and registered with AWEX, and hence able to supply wool packs to the Australian Wool Industry.

Every container of wool packs (approx. 12,000 packs) is tested before being exported to Australia by an independent test laboratory that is also accredited and registered with AWEX. A random sample is taken from the entire contents of the container batch for testing, one of the packs is sent to AWEX as a reference pack for that batch. The test laboratories are also audited annually to ensure their compliance and ability to apply the specific Test Methods to ensure the packs comply with the Standard.

Wool packs can only be imported by AWEX registered importers, to ensure that wool packs entering the country are compliant and that they are not being imported under misleading uses, i.e. other than for use with greasy wool, and then re-supplied back into the greasy wool market. These organisations generally act as wholesalers of the wool packs which are then distributed to the various retail outlets wool producers normally purchase them through.

Repaired Wool Packs

Wool packs that have previously been

used once within Australia can be repaired and re-used again under the AWEX Standard for Repaired Packs. This ensures that packs for repair meet a specific selection criterion, and are repaired to ensure the standard of the pack is maintained and that it is fit to be reused. Due to the second-hand nature of the packs, some may not or appear or perform as well as a new pack, but these instances are very rare. All repaired wool packs that meet the AWEX Standard will have a new AWEX Bale Label attached to signify they have been repaired by an AWEX Registered Repairer. The repairers regularly send sample packs to AWEX to ensure their compliance with the Standard.

The quality of wool packs was recently highlighted in Australian Wool Innovation's - Wool Contamination Survey. This reported on a world wide basis that contamination from wool packs used in Australia had decreased by 96%. Of the vast number of packs repaired or imported into Australia, under the AWEX Wool Pack Quality Management Program, AWEX receives very few complaints about wool pack quality.

Should you have any queries about wool packs it is recommended that you visit the Industry Services section of the AWEX website www.awex.com.au or contact AWEX on (02) 9428-6140.



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WOOLSEARCH continues to grow

John Williams, AWEX

Following the launch of the WOOLSEARCH website, a unique Internet based service for Woolclassers, Shearers Wool Handlers and Wool Growers in October 2003, there has been significant growth in the number of visitors to the website as well as an increase in the number of Australian Woolclassers being listed on the Internet based directory. There are currently 6,500 Australian Woolclassers who have chosen to be listed on WOOLSEARCH, with all Woolclassers listed on the directory being registered for the 2004 – 2006 period.

There has been a steady increase in the number of visitors to WOOLSEARCH in recent months. March was the most active month to date with a 77% increase in the number of visits that WOOLSEARCH has received compared to visits in December 2003. The increase in the number of visits to WOOLSEARCH coincided with the release of a series of advertisements (similar to the following advertisement) that have been placed in the 'positions vacant' section of major weekly rural newspapers in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia. WOOLSEARCH has also been included in a nation wide series of Internet feature sections included in Rural Press publications in each State.

Woolclassers who are looking for a cost effective method of promoting their services, should consider the use of a personalised WOOLSEARCH mini-website. For an introductory offer, WOOLSEARCH mini-websites are being

offered to all Woolclassers, Shearers and Wool Handlers for the special price of only \$110 (incl. GST). A mini-website gives you the opportunity to detail your areas of expertise, experience, availability and other personalised information that is linked to your contact details. Woolclassers, who have a mini-website, have their contact details and the link to their site appear at the top of searches returned for their region. Your WOOLSEARCH mini-website is fully designed and maintained on your behalf, leaving you free to focus on your professional activities.

The WOOLSEARCH directory lists the same contact details for each Woolclasser as those retained on the AWEX Woolclasser Register. To ensure that you can be contacted by potential clients you are encouraged to keep these contact details up to date. If you recently moved or need to update your contact details you can do this using WOOLSEARCH, the contact details section on the last page of BOARDtalk or by contacting AWEX Industry Services.

Woolclassers who are looking for a cost effective method of promoting their services, should consider the use of a personalised WOOLSEARCH mini-website

For more information on WOOLSEARCH, visit the website at www.woolsearch.com.au, email woolsearch@awex.com.au, or call AWEX Industry Services on (02) 9428 6140.



• Looking for a Woolclasser, Shearer or Wool Handler in your area?
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Harvesting power of ideas

Finding a better way to harvest wool is a notion that has long obsessed woolgrowers.

Project Manager, Stephen Harvey, of Manutech, Victoria, says the Wool Harvesting Technology Search Project was commissioned by Australian Wool Innovation Limited (AWI) in October last year to look for productivity and occupational health and safety (OH&S) improvements in wool harvesting.

"We wanted to talk to everyone and anyone who had a worthwhile idea regarding wool harvesting," he said.

"While we talked to the engineers and the scientists, we really wanted to talk to the tinkerer shearers and farmers, those people who work with sheep and wool all the time."

In his travels, Mr Harvey has already met scores of woolgrowers driven by the desire to find a better way of doing things around the woolshed.

"These people think about it, they worry about it, they wake up in the middle of the night, go out to the workshop and they change it, and these ideas are often borne out of the pressure of having to handle big numbers of sheep on a regular basis," he said.

"These are the sort of people we hope to get to with this project."

Mr Harvey is particularly keen to find what's "out there" regarding a dead man's switch for handpieces, improvements to the "catch and drag" path, and productive systems that ensure sheep are shorn in an upright posture.

Above all, he says the new ideas need to be more productive than existing systems. He sees no value in reinventing the wheel.

So far, Mr Harvey has met with 81 individuals and groups, and has located some very innovative technologies that show great promise.

The results of this search will be reflected in a comprehensive harvesting strategy that has been approved by the AWI Board and which will be released to industry in the near future.

For more information, call AWI tollfree on 1800 070 099, visit the AWI website at www.wool.com.au, or get in touch with AWI's Logistics and Fibre Specifications Manager, George Waldthausen on (02) 9299 5155.

WOOLCLASSERS AND SHEEP BRANDS

– What Else Is Happening ?

Blair Brice, AWEX

AWEX has gone beyond raising the awareness of only Woolclassers about the necessity under the Code of Practice (COP) to remove sheep marking substances into a BRANDS line through various articles within BOARDtalk.

AWEX has contacted all major State based Farmer Organisations to explain the Sale Audits AWEX are conducting, how these are being conducted, and the reason for the necessity for removal of

the contaminated wool by the Woolclasser.

In conjunction with this we have started discussions with the manufacturers of these products to have an information statement placed on the container explaining the necessity for the removal of all evidence of the product from wool that is to be sold through AWEX as classed wool. AWEX does not have the jurisdiction to stop these products from being used, or to dictate their use by wool producers; it only has the authority to ensure that any

wool sold through AWEX as Classed wool meets the requirements of the COP.

AWEX has also been interviewed on ABC radio regarding this issue, along with the issue being raised in several rural publications.

Should any Woolclassers or wool producers have any questions related to this issue and the requirements of the COP, please feel free to contact AWEX on (02) 9428 6140.

Summary of Clip Inspections/ Sale Audits for 2003/2004 Season to 14 April 2004

Total Number of Clip Inspection/Sale Audit notices issued for 2003/2004 Season to 14 April 2004: 2,792

Summary

	2002/2003	2003/2004*
Contamination Reports	3%	2%
Clip Inspections	11%	10%
Sale Audits	31%	54%
Catalogue Audits	55%	34%
Total	100%	100%

Detailed information for each Inspection type appears below.

Contamination Reports

	2002/2003	2003/2004*
AWTA Reports	49%	90%
Mill Reports	32%	-
AWEX Inspectors	19%	10%
Total	100%	100%

Clip Inspections

	2002/2003	2003/2004*
Mixed Length	34%	25%
Mixed Breeds	22%	24%
Incompatible Types	17%	19%
Mixed Fibre Diameter	14%	16%
Stain in Fleece	11%	16%
Pigmented Wool	2%	-
Total	100%	100%

Sale Audits

	2002/2003	2003/2004*
Sheep Brands in Fleece	69%	82%
Invalid Owner Classer Brand	22%	5%
Invalid Woolclasser ID	4%	2%
Sheep Brands in Non-Fleece	2%	4%
Lines of Brands - not identified	2%	3%
Pigmented Wool in White	1%	4%
Total	100%	100%

Catalogue Audits

	2002/2003	2003/2004*
Invalid Woolclasser ID - EDI	68%	60%
Invalid Catalogue Symbols	32%	40%
Total	100%	100%

*2003/2004 Season to 14 April 2004

Clip Inspections - Contamination Reports

AWTA Reports

Jointly AWTA and AWEX operate a contamination screening and identification program. All wool tested goes through the Vegetable Matter (VM) test, which allows foreign matter contamination to be identified in the sample. Where contamination is identified through this process the seller is notified and often the bales must be stripped down to find the contamination. In all cases the Woolclasser will be asked to explain how the contamination got into the bale.

Mill Reports

All early stage processors (scourers and top makers) have available AWEX mill report forms. These allow the processor to notify AWEX of any wool

preparation fault. This includes misdescribed bales, poor preparation, contamination, etc. As with all other reports, AWEX follows up directly with the Woolclasser. On occasions, the processors have made claims against the seller for compensation or replacement wool based on the identified problem.

AWEX Inspectors

AWEX staff inspect all lots offered at auction. Where this inspection finds contamination, or it is identified by buyers, the matter is referred to the Registrar. A clip inspection notice will be sent to the Woolclasser asking for an explanation. At all times the aim is to minimise the risk of contamination occurring in the future.

Around the Regions

Northern Region

Auction Offering Volumes

Auction offering volumes for season 2003/2004 to end of February show a near 23% reduction in bales when compared to season 2002/2003. This compares to a 30% bales reduction at the December comparison.

In December, it was noted that a brand offering analysis showed that many clips offered by December 02 had not yet been offered by December 03. This may partly explain why volume comparisons have slightly recovered.

There still remains an estimated 700,000 bales nationally in store unsold as at end of February 04.

Auction offering comparisons for Northern Region for season 2003/2004 to week 35 N06 compared to same period season 2002/2003 are:

Lots 128,125 ie 31,608 or 19.8% less than 02/03

Bales 548,041 ie 160,693 or 22.7% less than 02/03

Average lot size 4.28 bales per lot or 3.6% less than 02/03

Wool Selling Program 2004/2005

Next season in Northern Region the three-week July recess will commence on 19 July after two Sydney sales. This is one week later than last season and will be staggered with the Southern Region recess.

Likewise the three-week Christmas recess will commence on 20 December, one week later than last season. This will also be staggered with the Southern Region recess.

In 2005 there will be a Northern Region sale in the first week of the Easter recess. These changes mean there will be an effective increase of three selling weeks available nationally.

Sale Naming Convention

From 2004/2005 season the introduction of a new sale naming convention will see sales identified by the sale week in which they occur throughout the year and not the sequence number for each specific sale centre.

Christopher Miley, Northern Regional Manager

Southern Region

Exotic fibre Identification in Bulk Class Bales

Bulk Classing Houses have reported receiving bales containing exotic fibres that have not been identified with a "Y" or "P" suffix. Even though the bales will be rehandled, it is extremely important that the presence of exotic fibres is identified on the bales. Failure to do so may cause the contamination of other lines of wool, resulting in the segregation of affected lots and a significant reduction in values.

In addition, Black wool must not be blended or placed in the same bale with exotic fibres as the two types are incompatible.

Clip Faults

Clip preparation data collected for the season to date reveals some key areas of concern that Woolclassers need to be aware of. The figures below are a summary of main faults detected.

Incompatible types	(33%)
Mixed length	(24%)
Mixed breeds	(19%)
Mixed Quality	(15%)
Stain in Fleece	(9.0%)

Incompatible types generally refers to wrongly described bales, but is not confined to this description. To eliminate this problem Woolclassers need to ensure that pressing is well supervised to ensure correct descriptions are applied. The description also refers to poor or inadequate skirting, which has been increasing. The Code still requires that, "Skirting shall remove fribs and short edges, all stain and dags, shanks and jowls and skin pieces". Woolclassers need to ensure that the Code is observed.

Mixed Length appears as either overgrown wool blended with normal growth wool or combing wool mixed with carding wool. The classer needs to ensure that lengths are kept as uniform as possible. Mixed breeds is usually Downs wool mixed with crossbred. The two are incompatible and it is never acceptable to mix them. Mixed quality is evident principally in crossbreds where the visual range is often extreme. The Code clearly describes the allowable tolerances. If a classer knows a line does not or cannot meet the Code's requirements then the stencil should not be applied to that lot; this can apply to any line of a clip.

Any lot with a fault confirmed will either be withdrawn from sale or be offered with the fault identified. In either case the Woolclasser will be required to explain the reason/s for departing from the Code.

Southern Region Top Prices and IPP Certification

The two top prices for the season to date both went to the brand KADINIA/BRIM. One line measuring 13.1 microns achieved 28,000c/kg greasy and another line measuring 13.2 achieved 24,000 c/kg greasy. These prices are also the top national prices, season to date, sold through the AWEX Auction System.

The region has also certified four lots as IPP for the current season. The brands certified were:

- MACQUARIE HILLS /JJ,
- GLEN STUART, TREFUSIS and
- EAC in a dia / KELVIN GROVE.

David Williams, Technical Controller

Western Region

Positive Clip Preparation Standard Comment

Some observers of BOARDtalk over the last year or so have said that all they seem to hear about are 'all the negatives' associated with general preparation standards, and we realise this message can at times become quite frustrating and counter productive to say the least.

As one AWEX Broker Member's wool consultant recently commented, "Woolclassers in my region have asked if AWEX could possibly provide some positive feedback about overall clip preparation standards."

So, in an attempt to put some balance into the message conveyed by BOARDtalk and to set the record straight, it certainly should be noted that AWEX clip inspection/appraisal audit staff do observe many very well prepared clips which pass through the AWEX Auction System. In general terms, preparation standards appear to be improving as Woolclassers work closely with Wool Producers and Brokers to meet the various requirements of the deregulated market environment, and continue to maintain the industry agreed standards stipulated in the Code of Practice for the Preparation of Australian Wool Clips.

When taking a closer look at the statistics for lots that have been offered in Fremantle until the end March 2004, we see that while 67,920 lots or 480,825 bales have been offered with only a very small percentage (0.48%) or 327 lots being questioned by AWEX staff. Of these lots offered, 248 were identified as having an associated clip preparation fault, while the remaining 79 lots had problems such as lotting errors or the test result queried.

David Aslett, Western Regional Manager

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AWEX's electronic selling system is harnessing technology to provide you with an efficient, alternative marketing option.

To discuss your wool marketing options, including Eclipse™, contact your local wool broker.



Gordon Wool School Old Students Association – GWSOSA - Reunion

Past students of the Gordon Wool School are invited to the Annual Reunion Dinner at the new venue Sladen House, Pakington Street, Geelong, Victoria on Saturday June 12th 2004. Geelong play the Kangaroos at home the next day, so come and make a weekend of it.

For further details or information call the Secretary Campbell Brumby on 0419 889 757

From the Registrar

Registration for the new registration period is now complete with 94% of active Woolclassers re-registering. All those Woolclassers who registered should have received their new ID set (stamp and stencil), as well as a copy of the 2004 Code of Practice. If you need to check on your registration, please contact the Registrar on (02) 9428 6140.

Privacy Legislation

Like all businesses that collect information about people, AWEX is required to comply with the current privacy legislation. This means we are only able to give out personal information about registered Woolclassers to the specific Woolclasser or other persons legally able to request the information. This is clearly stated in the Woolclassers Rules for Registration and AWEX takes this responsibility seriously.

To assist AWEX comply with this legal requirement, the Woolclasser registration form you completed asked for several pieces of important information – your first name, middle initial and date of birth. These allow us to clearly identify you and ensure that we keep your information confidential. If you have not provided AWEX with this

information, please complete the change of details form on the back page of BOARDtalk and send it to AWEX, so we can update your details. In future when you call AWEX, we may ask you to confirm some of these details before we provide the information you are looking for or discuss clip inspection issues with you.

Clip Inspections/Sale Audits

With registrations for the new registration period now complete, AWEX clip inspections and sale audits, which monitor clip preparation standards, are fully operational. These include a wide range of areas with a focus on the three key areas of wool preparation:

- Uniform lines
- Freedom from contamination
- Correct identification

If you receive a clip inspection/sale audit letter from AWEX, please remember that the aim of these letters is NOT to penalise the Woolclasser involved but to continuously improve the standard of wool preparation in Australia and increase the industry's awareness of the need for quality assurance

in the shearing shed.

For figures on the type of clip preparation faults occurring across Australia, see the tables on page 3.

Woolclasser's Checklist

The 2004 Code of Practice for Woolclassers included a Woolclasser's Checklist. The aim of the checklist is to help the Woolclasser prepare for their tasks in the shearing shed. It is recommended that the Woolclasser complete this checklist for every clip they class. This checklist asks questions on all the key points that will confront the Woolclasser as they attempt to meet the classing and preparation standards required.

The checklist also helps the Woolclasser to communicate the right messages to the wool grower, shed hands and shearers, so that everybody is working together to achieve the common goal. It is a good idea for the Woolclasser to keep the completed checklists as a record of their work.

The 2004 Code of Practice included several copies of the checklist to get the Woolclasser started. The checklist can be photocopied, if more copies are required by the Woolclasser or for the wool grower or your shearing contractor.

Northern Region Yennora Wool Centre
Dennistoun Avenue, Guildford NSW 2161
Phone: (02) 9632 6166 Fax: (02) 9632 6333
Email: northernregion@awex.com.au

Southern Region Victoria Wool Centre
691 Geelong Road, Brooklyn VIC 3012
Phone: (03) 9318 0277 Fax: (03) 9314 5392
Email: southernregion@awex.com.au

Western Region Western Wool Centre
Gate 3, Sh Store, Suddow Rd, Spearwood WA 6163
Phone: (08) 9434 6999 Fax: (08) 9434 6988
Email: westernregion@awex.com.au

ARN 35 061 495 565
PO Box 873
Lane Cove NSW 1595
Telephone (02) 9428 6140
Facsimile (02) 9420 9633
woolclasser@awex.com.au

Change of address details –
Please fill in below and post or fax this coupon to AWEX Head Office or email us

or email woolclasser@awex.com.au with your stencil number and address details.

Telephone: _____

Mobile: _____

Email address: _____

Woolclasser ID Number: _____

Facsimile: _____

Date of Birth: _____

For Owner Classers

Registered Bale Brands	
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