

Bale Pressing – Getting it Right

Non-Conforming Bale Descriptions

On Farm Inspection Issues

Pain Relief Authentication

The NEW NWD (Version 4.0)

Auction Action

What is Co-Efficient of Variation

OUTCOMES from the 2010 REVIEW of the NWD

AWEX, through the Industry Services Advisory Committee (ISAC), has completed its third annual review of the National Wool Declaration (NWD). The review is an open process where submissions from industry are welcome on all aspects of the NWD including structure, definitions and extension as well as any implications for the NWD-Integrity Program.

AWEX received 15 written submissions to the review from within and outside Australia. The most common request from the submissions was for changes to be kept to a minimum to improve the uptake and understanding of the NWD and to help the broker interpret the completed form.

The AWEX Board approved the following recommendations received from ISAC, with NWD Version 4.0, March 2011 available for immediate adoption (see www.awex.com.au):

1. Combined Classer's Speci and NWD: To help align the declared mob information with the lines of wool produced at shearing, a combined Classer's Specification and NWD was developed. This documentation is available in both portrait and landscape orientations to fit with individual broker's preferences.

A single page NWD is still available for brokers who do not wish to change their Classer's Specification (or for use with old Shearing Stationery).

2. Ceased Mulesing question: Revised wording was devised to highlight the definition of Ceased Mulesing and to remove uncertainty for those who have never mulesed. The new wording is: "Does this property qualify for Ceased Mulesing Status? Yes or No".

3. NWD Mulesing Definitions: No changes were made to the definitions, based on the discussions detailed below:

- **Mulesing:** The continued use of the definition of Mulesing as documented in the draft Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Sheep received unanimous support. The definition of mulesing is: Removal of skin from the breech and/or tail of a sheep using mulesing shears.

- **Ceased Mulesing (CM):** The inclusion of CM as a category was supported as there are buyers who can use CM to fill orders for specific consignments. However, its inclusion in the NWD will continue to be reviewed for relevance.

- **Pain Relief (PR):** The PR category was retained as there is support from growers who are using PR to demonstrate their animal welfare practices. The NWD-IP statistics also indicated that the adoption rate of the NWD was in part due to the declaration of PR.

PR continues as a mob level declaration (rather than property level).

4. Clips: A separate category for clips was not included on the basis of available information indicating that the sale and use of clips is low and therefore is not considered commercially significant.

5. Intradermal technology ("Skintraction"): The inclusion of a separate category for intradermals was not considered at this meeting as it is not, as yet, commercialised. Wool from an entire mob of sheep on which intradermals were trialled may be declared as NM.

6. Age, Breed and Sex Code: For reasons of continuity, no changes were made.

7. Background to the NWD: This is essentially unchanged; however, additional emphasis was given to the declaration being subject to random audit or inspection as part of the NWD-Integrity Program.

8. Guidelines to the Completion of NWD: The combined Classer's Specification and NWD requires the Woolclasser to list, in the Mob Number column of the Speci, ALL Mob Numbers used to make up EACH and EVERY line of wool. This applies to both fleece and oddment lines. This will form a critical link with the Mob Numbers listed in the NWD. (see Page 3 in this edition of BOARDtalk).

9. Hierarchy of Mulesing Status: For properties with mobs of differing mulesing status, the status was reordered 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 fulfil their orders. Therefore, placing CM wool higher in the hierarchy than wool from sheep mulesed with PR will provide buyers with more purchasing options.

For more information contact:

Mark Grave, p. 02 9428 6100 or e. mgrave@awex.com.au

Kerry Hansford, p. 03 9318 0277 or e. khansford@awex.com.au

REVIEW OF WOOL PACK STANDARDS

The wool industry in NSW has recently been put on notice regarding the problem of over-width loads. The Road Rules state that a legal load is one that does not exceed 2.5 metres in width. This road rule has been in place for many years and it is apparent that some loads of wool have exceeded that limit; and as a consequence, traffic infringement notices have been given to drivers. Previous exemptions for wool have been rescinded. As Road Rules are set to become standard across Australia in 2013, this issue is important to all Australian states, not just NSW.

The Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) of NSW held a workshop in Dubbo on 1st and 2nd February 2011 and a meeting in Sydney on 9th March 2011 where their representatives met with the transport industry, police and the wool industry to discuss this issue and ways that together a resolution might be found. Based on this co-operative approach, a 6 month exemption on traffic infringement notices

has been provided allowing the industry time for the issue to be addressed. As over width loads of wool has been a problem that has lingered since the early 1990s, it is essential the industry use this opportunity wisely.

It is worth noting that while it seems like a simple issue, it is actually very complex with variables that include, but are not limited to: the woolpack itself, type of press, how it is pressed, wool type, breed of sheep, environmental conditions, as well as time spent on trucks and in store.

In consideration of the above AWEX, through its Industry Services Advisory Committee, is undertaking a methodical review of not only the woolpack standard but other related factors. The aim is to quantify the contributing factors and determine if the issue may be addressed through the standard. The first step is to gather data in relation to the dimensions of woolpacks received into the store and dump, with subsequent trials

conducted to evaluate modified packs that may rectify the problem.

In addition, AWEX will also focus on the development of educational and extension material (e.g. posters) in relation to the recommended dimensions of woolpacks as well as the best practice for pressing a bale (see article on Page 2).

AWEX is seeking support from interested wool brokers, warehouses, transport operators and dumps to assist in gathering data and/or participate in trials. To discuss the review or the trials, companies and individuals should contact AWEX; either:

Mark Grave p. 02 9428 6100, e. mgrave@awex.com.au

Kerry Hansford p. 03 9318 0277, e. khansford@awex.com.au



Use Woolsearch.com.au to find qualified Woolclassers, Shearers and Shed Hands.

- It's free to search and get contact information
- Download Wool Preparation Standards
- Thousands of listings
- Work wanted section
- Easy to use, Search by postcode or town
- Local or interstate



www.woolcheque.com.au

- FREE Online pricing tool
- Relevant, up to date wool market information
- Simple charts and graphs
- Independently assess prices and trends
- It's quick and easy



we know wool

AWEX WOOL SERVICES

Ground Floor,
318 Burns Bay Road
Lane Cove NSW 2066
PO Box 649
Lane Cove NSW 1595
Telephone (02) 9428 6100
Facsimile (02) 9420 9633
info@awex.com.au

AWEX is a national organisation of brokers, growers, exporters, processors and private treaty merchants which, in the best interests of the wool industry, provides: Industry standards (wool packs, wool preparation), Clip inspection services, the National Wool Declaration-Integrity Program, Woolclasser registration, Independent market reports, Wool description and appraisal, Wool sale rostering and Wool administration.



BALE PRESSING; GETTING IT RIGHT!

Bale pressing and the marking of the bale are two of the most important jobs in the shearing shed. Both activities are critical for the efficient and effective movement of wool through the supply chain. Poor bale pressing, or poor and illegible bale marking, adds cost to the movement of wool, particularly for wool warehouses, shipping companies and wool processors.

It is vital that shearing staff understand the importance of good pressing and bale marking as well as the consequences if these jobs are not completed properly. Woolclassers must give clear instruction to shed staff on the correct way to press and mark a bale of wool.

Pre-operational check:

1. Ensure the area around wool press is clean, sweep area if necessary.
2. Check that all pressing equipment and materials are available:
 - ✓ AWEX approved wool packs
 - ✓ Bale fasteners
 - ✓ Bale hook
 - ✓ Bale trolley
 - ✓ Branding stencils
 - ✓ Bale branding brush and ink / Permanent felt tip pen
 - ✓ Shed wool book and biro
 - ✓ Newspaper (for bulk class bales)
3. Undertake an Occupational Health and Safety check of the wool press. Check for oil leaks, frayed electrical leads and other potential hazards.
4. Familiarise yourself with the operation of the wool press. Turn it on and test the operation without a pack in the press.
5. Where necessary, check the calibration of scales on the wool press. As a guide, compare the previous season's bale weights in the wool book against details provided in the broker's documentation when the bales were weighed and tested. (Remember the gross weight of a bale is the net weight recorded at the warehouse plus the weight of the grab sample removed from the bale).
6. **The maximum gross weight is 204 kg. The minimum gross weight is 110 kg, except for bales of fleece wool less than 18.6 µm, which have a minimum gross weight of 90 kg – see Code of Practice, pg. 85.**
7. If not already marked, measure from the bottom of the inside of the wool press up 1.25 metres and place a height line mark on the side upright of the wool press indicating 1.25 metres, the maximum bale length (see photo).



Pressing a bale:

1. Turn the press on and without a wool pack in the press, zero the scales.
2. Write the Farm Brand on the bale label before putting the pack in the press.
3. Fit a wool pack into the press, ensuring the flap with the label is located to allow final closing of the bale; this is usually the back of the press. Correctly position the pack, draw it up so the sewn seam is level with the top of the chamber and the entire flap is outside, this will assist to press a bale within the maximum length of 1.25 m – see Code of Practice, pg. 86.
4. Secure the pack in position.
5. Identify wool to be pressed, record the wool description, bin code (if applicable) and bale number in the shed wool book.

6. Using safe work practices, fill the press with wool and press it; repeat until the desired bale weight (usually 190 - 195 kg) is achieved. Where possible, ensure that the first fleeces placed in the press fill the corners of each pack.
7. Once weight is achieved, level out the wool on top of the bale drawing it out to both sides leaving the centre slightly hollowed. Re-press again and this will result in a flat layer of wool on top of the bale allowing easier closure of the flaps.
8. Record the weight of the bale in the shed wool book.
9. Draw the 2 side flaps in. Position 4 bale fasteners evenly across one of the flaps ensuring the 2 outside fasteners are close to the edge of the flap. Push the bottom flap under as you draw the fasteners on the top flap firmly to secure the first 2 flaps. (If using a bale hook, always ensure the bale hook is facing away from your arm when in use.) The 2 outside fasteners should be secured close to the edge of the underside flap.
10. The last 2 top flaps should be closed using 5 fasteners with the bale label flap being the last one closed. Place 2 fasteners at each edge of the flap, one on each side of the label, and one in the centre of the label. Using a similar closing technique to that of the first 2 flaps, close the flaps firmly using the bale hook facing away from your arm whilst ensuring no wool is protruding out through the corners of the bale (see photo).



Hint: To prevent the bale label seam from ripping, firmly close the 2 fasteners either side of the label first and then draw the centre fastener level with these and secure. Secure the final 2 top flap edge fasteners close to outside edge of the underflap, do not fasten the flaps onto the sides of the bale.

11. Write all details on the bale label before it leaves the press (see "Marking a Bale").
12. Engage press to release the pins.
13. Use a bale trolley to move the bale from the press to the wool storage area.

Marking a Bale:

1. Using bale marking equipment provided e.g. Farm Brand/Description/Number stencils, mark the bale details on the head of the bale, alternatively:
 - Using a thick black felt tip pen clearly fill in the bale details on the label – property brand, bale description, bin code (if applicable), bale number and classer's stamp.
 - Ensure that the writing is large, within the label and is clearly visible and readable. Small writing is difficult to read in the warehouse and on the core line. Maximise the space available on the bale label to ensure ease of reading.
2. Remove the bale from the press. Brand the face of the bale neatly and clearly using approved bale branding equipment and stencils, details include property brand, contents description, bale number, classer's stencil, brokers stencil and other as required e.g. QA scheme. Avoid saturating with ink and smudging the brands – take pride in your work.
3. Use approved AWEX branding codes (see Code of Practice, pg. 41).

For further information, refer to the AWEX 'Code of Practice' for the 'Preparation of Australian Wool Clips', Section 18; Pressing.

For further information contact:
Peter Sudholz, e. psudholz@awex.com.au

"NON CONFORMING" BALE DESCRIPTIONS

Registered Woolclassers are required to prepare and describe wool according to the standards in the Woolclasser Code of Practice. And it follows that AWEX auditors are obliged to assess all wool to standards defined in this Code.

In recent sales there have been a number of occurrences of misleading bale descriptions. When auditing these lots, the AWEX auditors will apply "Non Conforming" status to misleading bale descriptions that could seriously affect the performance of a consignment; for example, result in its contamination or poor processing performance.

The bale description is not just for the use of the woolclasser, wool broker and wool grower, it is used through the wool supply chain including wool processors. The bale description indicates the type of wool purchased and wool processors use this when inspecting their purchases, particularly when high risk lots have been identified.

"Non-Conformance" will result in a change to the Wool Preparation Category (from P to D) reported on the Test Certificate. This potentially reduces the competition and the price received for the lot as some buyers cannot bid on "Non Conforming" lots (under instruction from their company or the processor) or the price is reduced due to the higher risk of the wool being poorly prepared. This process is necessary to minimise any damage to the reputation of Australian wool that could result from misleading bale description(s).

As a follow up, AWEX contacts the Woolclasser requesting an explanation of why a particular "Non Conforming" description was used.

The following table provides examples where the description of a lot has been designated "Non Conforming" status by the AWEX Auditors. The second column provides the correct description as per the Code of Practice.

"NON CONFORMING" DESCRIPTIONS	CORRECT "CODE OF PRACTICE" DESCRIPTION
The line of wool is clearly a line of Bellies but is described as PCS	[Breed] BLS, e.g. M BLS or SAMM BLS
Heavy Stain (S2, S3) described as PCS or CRT	STN [Breed] PCS or CRT, e.g. STN M PCS or STN MX CRT
Bellies and Pieces are combined together to form a line and is described as PCS.	For Adult and Weaner wool, the Code of Practice clearly states that Pieces and Bellies must NOT be lotted together#
(Shedding Breed) Risk lots described as AAAM, PCS M etc	[Breed] [Wool Cat] R, e.g. AAA M R, FX LPCS R
Skin Pieces described as PCS	SKN [Breed] PCS, e.g. SKN M PCS

#Lambs Pieces and Bellies can be combined and should be described as [Breed] PCS, e.g. M LPCS or CX LPCS.

For more information contact:

David Williams, Brooklyn VIC, p. 03 9318 0277, e. dwilliams@awex.com.au

David Aslett, Bibra Lake WA, p. 08 9434 6999, e. daslett@awex.com.au

Robert McKeown, Yennora NSW, p. 02 9632 6166, e. rmckeown@awex.com.au

AWEX and Bendigo TAFE invite you to the 21st Annual Woolclassers Forum

To be held 7.00pm Wednesday 20th July 2011 at
MacGillvray Hall, Bendigo TAFE City Campus,
136 McCrae St, Bendigo
(Supper provided at conclusion)

PROGRAM

"No Finer Feeling" – **Rob Langtry, AWI**

TRADEtalk – **Wool Exporter Panel: Q & A**

Woolclasser Software – **David Cother, AWEX**

Woolpack Trials – **Kerry Hansford, AWEX**

Preparation Issues, Small Lines & Lot Size
– **David Cother, AWEX**

Industry Issues, NWD & China-Australia Working Group
– **Mark Grave, AWEX**

RSVP by Friday 15th July 2011

(provide name, phone contact and number attending)

p. 03 9318 0277, f. 03 9314 5392 or
e. kwheeler@awex.com.au

ON FARM INSPECTION ISSUES

Since September 2010, AWEX On Farm Inspectors working for AWEX's National Wool Declaration Integrity Program (NWD-IP) have conducted 225 inspections on properties that have declared either Non Mulesed (NM) or Ceased Mulesing (CM). This is despite access to some properties being affected by unusual rain events, particularly on the east coast.

The inspections were conducted across a wide variety of wool production environments in every Australian State; in the Eastern states as far north as Augathella, Queensland and as far south as Colebrook, Tasmania. In Western Australia, the inspectors travelled from Geraldton to Albany. Of course, the States in between: New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia were also covered. As the NWD-IP continues, the spread of properties across Australia that have been inspected will increase.

The feedback from woolgrowers about the inspections has been positive as all Inspectors are trained professionals and also have empathy with woolgrowers and experience in wool production.

By and large, the inspections have confirmed the declarations made by owner/managers on the NWD. However, there have been cases where the outcomes of the inspections have not agreed with the declarations made by growers. In these cases, the woolgrowers have either been surprised or unsuspecting of the status of their sheep. So what circumstances have been identified?

- *The woolgrower mis-read the NWD and answered "No" to the Mob Mulesed question, when the mob was actually mulesed.* If the mob is mulesed, the answer to the question Mob Mulesed (Y/N) is Yes.
- *The declaration that a mob was non mulesed was completed by another person (e.g. classer, broker, relative), and signed off by the woolgrower, despite the mob actually being mulesed.* The Owner/Manager should ensure the NWD is completed correctly as he/she knows the management history of the mob(s) of sheep. At the very least, the woolgrower should double check any documents completed by another person before signing off on them.
- *The woolgrower purchased sheep and declared the mob as non mulesed; however, it actually contained mulesed sheep or they were all mulesed.* This has occurred for Merino flocks as well as Crossbreds. Make sure you are fully confident in your purchase of non mulesed sheep and do not rely on the opinions of vendors, brokers or classers. And if you have Ceased Mulesing (CM) on the property, any "bought on" mulesed sheep must be declared as mulesed, with CM appearing in the sale catalogue and on the test certificate.
- *The woolgrower is a trader with all sheep bought onto the property and no mulesing taking place, thus allowing the property status to be Ceased Mulesing.* The bought on sheep are declared on the NWD as Non Mulesed, despite a large proportion or all of them being mulesed. For any mob containing mulesed sheep, the answer to the question Mob Mulesed (Y/N) is Yes. (The entire mob must be non mulesed to answer the question Mob Mulesed (Y/N) as No). Where CM is declared by a sheep trader, the sale catalogue and test certificate would report the mobs as CM (if the mob was declared as Mulesed), or NM (if the mob was declared as Not Mulesed).
- *The woolgrower thought that it was OK to take some skin off wrinkly lambs at tail docking.* Removal of any skin (for even a small number of sheep in a mob) is deemed to be mulesing and therefore, for a mob containing sheep that have had any amount of wrinkle removed from the breech and/or tail region, the answer to the question Mob Mulesed (Y/N) is Yes.
- *The woolgrower thought that a small number of older mulesed sheep are "allowed" in a non mulesed mob.* To clarify, prior to shearing every effort must be made to draft off all mulesed sheep from non mulesed sheep. The intention is that a non mulesed mob is just that, non mulesed. Only at an Inspection may the issue of Compliance take into consideration that strays have got in with the mob post-shearing. Strays must be able to be easily differentiated from the declared mob (e.g. by ear-tags or ear-marks).
- *The woolgrower removed wrinkle during tail docking using a hot gas knife, believing that this "process" is outside the definition of mulesing (i.e. removal of skin from the breech and/or tail of a sheep using mulesing shears).* This method of removal of skin from the tail and/or breech area of sheep falls outside the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Sheep (under development 2010) with the removal of skin using a hot knife not condoned or approved by the Sheep Writing Group of Animal Health Australia. Therefore, these sheep should be declared as mulesed unless the "method" has Animal Health Australia approval.

PAIN RELIEF AUTHENTICATION UPDATE

Another component of the NWD-IP is authentication of the use of Pain Relief (PR). On a random basis, properties are selected from those declaring the use of Pain Relief at Mulesing. A letter is sent to the Owner/Manager requesting evidence of the purchase of the Pain Relief product. The evidence may take the form of an invoice from a vet, mulesing contractor, or neighbour/friend who has supplied the product.

To make this process easier, AWEX accepts evidence of an invoice from the most recent purchase of Pain Relief, regardless of the mobs listed on the NWD.

One hundred PR authentications are conducted annually. For the 2010/11, 100 letters were posted, with 88 growers providing the evidence as requested, 9 letters awaiting a response, and 3 declarations found to be incorrect. Similar to the on farm inspections, there have been errors in the completion of the NWD.

In these cases, either the Owner/Manager has mis-read the NWD and answered Yes to the question was Pain Relief used (Y/N), when it was actually not used, or the NWD was incorrectly completed by another person, with the woolgrower signing off on it.

REMINDER: for all NWD declarations, the onus is on the owner/manager to be aware of the mulesing status of all declared mobs of sheep (regardless of information received from other sources).

For more information contact:

Mark Grave, p. 02 9428 6100 e. mgrave@awex.com.au

Kerry Hansford, p. 03 9318 0277 e. khansford@awex.com.au

The NEW NWD (Version 4.0) and the WOOLCLASSER

As discussed in "Outcomes from the 2010 Review of the NWD" (see page 1), the National Wool Declaration has been incorporated into the Classer's Speci. This significant change was made to help link the declared mob information (Mulesing Status and Dark and Medullated Fibre Risk) with the lines of wool classed out at shearing.

In terms of entering the data from the Classer's Specification and NWD, at the wool store, brokers will now rely on "Mob Numbers" to calculate the Mulesing Status and Dark and Medullated Fibre Risk for each line of wool.

As a result, it is extremely important that Woolclassers list all the mobs that are used to build lines of wool. This includes oddment lines as well as fleece lines.

For more information contact:

Kerry Hansford, p. 03 9318 0277 or e. khansford@awex.com.au

Mark Grave, p. 02 9428 6100 or e. mgrave@awex.com.au

The screenshots show the 'Woolclasser's Specification' and 'National Wool Declaration' forms. The NWD form includes fields for Mulesing Status, Dark and Medullated Fibre Risk, and Record of Chemical Use. The wool classing table below it shows columns for Mob No., Mob Breaker/Bale Ranges, Age Code, Breed Code, Sex Code, Contact with Shedding Breeds, Mob Crutched, Crutched within 3 mths prior to Shearing, Mob Mulesed, Was Pain Relief Used, Wool Growth, and Wool Length. A red arrow points to the 'Mob Numbers' column in the table, indicating that these numbers are used to calculate the Mulesing Status and Dark and Medullated Fibre Risk for each line of wool.

Woolclasser polo shirts



100% Merino Wool
Colour Navy Blue

Available now for all registered Woolclassers.
\$48.00 each
(includes postage & gst)

One polo shirt \$48.00 or two polo shirts for \$91.00
(Prices include gst and postage)

Sizes*	S	M	L	XL	XXL
Chest	95cm	100cm	105cm	110cm	115cm
Qty.					

*Sizing is full chest measurement in centimetres

Woolclasser Name: _____
 Stencil Number: _____
 Delivery Address: _____
 State: _____ Postcode: _____
 Credit card: Visa or Mastercard
 Card Holder Name: _____
 Card Number: _____ Expiry Date: ____/____/____
 Signature: _____
 Total: \$ _____

AUCTION ACTION

Since the last report of early December 2010, the Australian wool market has leapt ahead by 413 cents (or 41%) when measured by the AWEX Eastern Market Indicator (AWEX-EMI). A record level for this indicator was reached in mid-March and it continues to rise daily. At the time of going to print it was at 1431 cents per kg clean. The previous record level was 1332 cents set in 1988, noting of course that the wool types used to determine the Indicator have altered since that time.

These increases have come about on top of a historically high level for the Australian Dollar, which is currently trading at 1.058 US Dollars. Technically, the price of wool in Australia should decrease when the Australian Dollar is high, and increase when the dollar is low compared to the USD; however in this market, this has not been the case.

The 18 micron indicator has risen 488 cents in this calendar year alone, while the 23 micron indicator added 412 cents in the same period. The lift in the market has happened despite a continued supply of wool, something the trade expected to drop away quite substantially following Christmas. Offered quantities have hovered between 43,500 and 55,000 bales per week for most of the past 4 months, diminishing to 25,000 to 28,000 bales in the past month.

Price increases began with the superfine market taking a strong rise on the back of added support from Italian buyers along with continued interest from the Chinese. As the superfine selection has diminished in the past month, the market volatility has transferred to medium and strong Merino wools.

Pieces and bellies have followed in the footsteps of the fleece wool with particular attention paid to long, sound wool of less than 3% VM. The abundance of cot, jowls and colour over the past months has created a large discount on skirtings carrying these three faults. Classers please note: there is currently a discount of around 300 cents on lots containing cots or jowls. Wherever possible, attempt to separate ALL cots and jowls into ONE LINE and make sure your top pieces lines are cot and jowl free. This of course holds true for fleece lines as well.

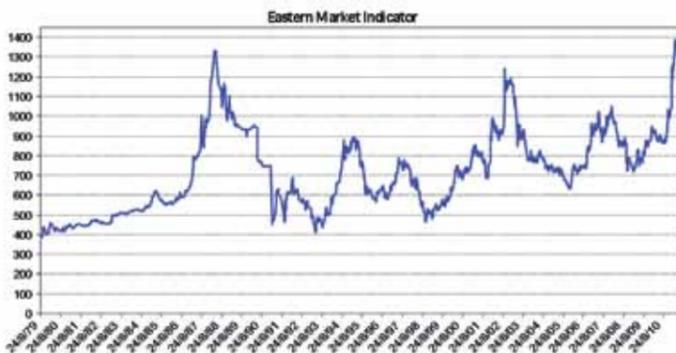
Crossbreds have added around 195 cents per kg clean to their prices since the last BOARDtalk Newsletter, which is a similar increase in percentage terms to Merino wool. Like the Merino sector, the abundance of cot and colour has placed particular focus upon the better prepared lots. Price discounts of up to 100 cents are evident for sale lots containing cots and/or heavy colour.

The prices of oddments have increased in line with the rest of the market, showing a depth to the current market that has not been evident for many years.

For more information contact:

Phil Jeffries, p. 03 9318 0277 or e. pjefries@awex.com.au

Lionel Plunkett, p. 02 9428 6136 or e. lplunkett@awex.com.au



MULESING STATISTICS

The National Wool Declaration (NWD) commenced in August 2008. A total of 74,492 bales of Australian wool have been declared as Non Mulesed at auction for the period July (2010) to May (2011). This represents a 43.1% increase over the same period in the previous year. To view the Australian Mulesing Statistics in more detail, go to <http://www.awex.com.au/market-information/mulesing-status.html>

For more information contact:

David Cother, p. (02) 9428 6100 or e. dcother@awex.com.au

WHAT IS COEFFICIENT OF VARIATION?

Wool metrology is the science of objectively measuring wool characteristics. Three important statistical calculations used in wool metrology are Mean (or average), Standard Deviation and Coefficient of Variation. These terms are often used in relation to fibre diameter and staple length measurements, with the last two terms used to describe the variation compared to the Mean (average) of the measured results.

Test certificates provide all of this information, which is valuable to an Exporter/Processor and is equally of value to a wool grower and woolclasser. As each wool fibre within a fleece or classed line is unique, many of the test results in the sale catalogue are the result of taking multiple measurements; for example, the (mean) Staple Length of a farm lot is the average result of measuring the length of between 40 and 60 individual staples taken from the grab sample. The Mean Fibre Diameter is the average micron result of taking many individual Fibre Diameter measurements on snippets cut from the core sample of the farm lot.

The auction catalogue publishes the variability (range) around the mean (reported as Co-efficient of Variation) for both Fibre Diameter and Staple Length:

1. Coefficient of Variation of Mean Fibre Diameter (CvD): is a measure of the variation in Fibre Diameter. The higher the CvD, the more variable the Fibre Diameter is in that fleece sample. Conversely, the lower the CvD value, the sample is more uniform for Mean Fibre Diameter. CvD is expressed as a percentage.

The profile of CvD is summarised in Table 1. Staple Strength is a largely a function of variation in fibre diameter along the length of a staple, with the CvD changing as the Staple Strength changes. A very tender (window) line of wool generally has a higher CvD, as shown in the Merino Fleece row for "tender" fleece compared to the sound wool.

Other trends from this table show: weaners tend to be more variable than Adult Fleece as are Pieces, Crutchings and Locks. For both Merino and Crossbred, bellies are an exception having a lower average CvD than the respective fleece values.

TABLE 1: CvD profile by Wool Category: April 2010-March 2011, Clip Wool offered at Auction

Breed	Wool Category	Lowest CvD	5% of lots are lower than	Average CvD	5% of lots are higher than	Highest CvD
Merino	Adult Fleece (sound)	15.0%	17.9%	20.1%	22.4%	28.0%
	Adult Fleece (tender)	16.0%	18.8%	21.1%	23.7%	28.7%
	Weaners	15.2%	18.4%	20.9%	23.5%	29.7%
	Lambs	17.1%	19.9%	22.2%	25.1%	31.8%
	Pieces	16.9%	19.5%	21.6%	24.0%	31.3%
	Bellies	16.3%	18.0%	19.9%	22.4%	30.2%
	Locks	18.1%	21.4%	24.0%	26.7%	32.2%
Crossbred	Crutchings	17.4%	21.5%	24.2%	26.9%	31.1%
	Fleece	17.2%	20.7%	23.1%	26.1%	34.6%
	Weaners	17.4%	22.2%	24.9%	27.3%	36.6%
	Pieces	19.0%	22.6%	24.9%	27.7%	34.4%
	Bellies	18.2%	19.9%	22.1%	25.4%	31.2%
	Lambs	18.8%	22.3%	25.1%	28.0%	33.5%
	Locks	22.2%	24.6%	27.0%	29.9%	33.6%
Crutchings	19.3%	24.1%	27.4%	31.0%	33.7%	

2. CvSL: Coefficient of Variation of Staple Length is a measure of the variation in the measured Staple Length. The higher the CvSL, the more variable the length in the measured sample. Conversely the lower the CvSL value, the more uniform for Staple Length. CvSL is expressed as a percentage.

The profile of CvSL is summarised in Table 2. It shows that Pieces and Bellies are more variable than Fleece. Weaner wool is more variable than Adult Fleece. And across all wool types, Crossbred wool is more variable in length than Merino wool.

TABLE 2: CvSL profile by Wool Category: April 2010-March 2011, Clip Wool offered at Auction

Breed	Wool Category	Lowest CvD	5% of lots are lower than	Average CvD	5% of lots are higher than	Highest CvD
Merino	Adult Fleece	6.0%	10.0%	14.3%	19.0%	48.0%
	Weaners	7.0%	11.0%	15.3%	21.0%	46.0%
	Pieces	10.0%	15.0%	20.3%	26.0%	47.0%
	Bellies	10.0%	14.0%	19.2%	25.0%	38.0%
Crossbred	Adult Fleece	7.0%	10.0%	15.2%	21.0%	39.0%
	Weaners	9.0%	12.0%	16.7%	23.0%	35.0%
	Pieces	10.0%	16.0%	21.0%	28.0%	38.0%
	Bellies	15.0%	16.0%	20.3%	26.0%	34.0%

Can a woolclasser influence CvD?

Yes and No. The variation of Fibre Diameter is mostly pre-determined by the mob. Wool classed from a mob that meets the mob concept (see Code of Practice), or has been subject to on-farm testing, is likely to be more uniform (i.e. a lower CvD) than a mob that does not adhere to the mob concept. Woolclassers can influence CvD by adhering to the basic classing principles of removing the 4th visual quality count in fleece lines, classing out very tender fleeces and cast lines and ensuring that breeds are not mixed.

Can a woolclasser influence CvSL?

Yes and No. Woolclassers should adhere to the woolclassing length principle detailed in the Code of Practice. Wool that is abnormally short (or long) when classing under the mob concept should be removed. Cast lines are expected to be more variable as are Pieces lines. Where a Woolclasser is classing wool that does not meet the mob concept, then lengths of each (fleece) line should be kept as uniform.

For more information contact:

David Cother, p. 02 9428 6100 or e. dcother@awex.com.au

CHANGE OF DETAILS?

If you have moved or changed contact details, please advise AWEX Head Office by:

Ph: (02) 9428 6100 Fax: (02) 9420 9633 or Email: woolclasser@awex.com.au.

Make sure you provide your **full name** and **stencil number** as well as your Postal Address, Phone, Mobile and Fax Numbers and Email Address.