

ePCS Spring 2020

I hope you enjoy this Spring edition the ePCS Wool Classer Bulletin. Please feel free to share this information with the Wool Harvesting team. Stay safe.

Regards Fiona Raleigh, Wool Classer Registrar.

Missed the July issue? Catch up at <http://www.awex.com.au/media/1975/epcs-edition-1-july-2020.pdf>

July issue features:

- Pressing and completing the bale label
- 1970 Roll of Honour
- Bale numbering within a financial year.
- Preparing lambs wool and more.

Important! NWD Mulesing Status codes have changed

From July 2020 the NWD Mulesing Status codes have changed.

Property Declaration

The property declaration of Ceased Mulesing (CM) is now determined by the answers to **two** questions.

1. Have lambs been mulesed on the property in the last 12 months? (Yes/No), and
2. Have any mulesed (or AA) ewes or wethers been purchased? (Yes/No)

Mob Mulesing Status Declaration

The Mob Mulesing Status code of PR (Pain Relief) has been replaced with **AA** (Analgesic/Anaesthetic)

Definition **AA** - all sheep in this mob were treated at mulesing with pre or post *Analgesic* and /or *Anaesthetic*.

Mob Mulesing Status codes **NM** and **M** are unchanged.

New versions of the NWD reflect this change.

Ask the Broker for the latest version or download from : <http://www.awex.com.au/media/1942/nwd-version-80-march-2020-separate.pdf>

Destination Mark

The warehouse is an important customer of the wool classer in the wool supply chain.

A warehouse may often handle farm bales for numerous wool selling agencies. For the ease of identification in store, where supplied or instructed, the Wool Selling Agents destination/store mark or stencil should be applied to the bale in the bottom left-hand corner of the bale face. p.107, 110 COP.



Destination Mark here

What's on the web?

Find useful resources on the AWEX web page

- Bale description chart
- Bulk class sheets
- Pre-shearing check list
- Wool Classer specification sheets.
- AWEX ID chart V3.34

<http://www.awex.com.au/wool-classer/code-of-practice-downloads-and-prints/>

Sweep the Crutch

Sweeping the crutch area during shearing has long been the benchmark of good wool handling.

However, every practice must have a purpose.

What role does sweeping the crutch area serve in wool preparation?

Quality wool preparation systems involve removing faults in a timely manner before larger portions of wool can be contaminated. The crutch area in ewes is a key risk area for urine stain.

The wool classer should assess urine stain risk by:

1. Inspecting the mob for visual presence of urine stain,
2. identify If the mob has been crutched and,
3. determining crutching/ shearing Interval.

A *urine stain risk ewe mob* is determined by:

- The presence of visual urine stain or,
- Crutching was more than 3 months prior to shearing or,
- Mob is uncrutched.



Urine stain from uncrutched ewes



The role of sweeping the crutch area in a *urine stain risk ewe mob* is to isolate and separate the urine stain wool on the board as it is being removed by the shearer and therefore lowering the risk of the fleece being contaminated.

What wool is being collected on the board by sweeping the crutch area?

Wool collected from the crutch area during the shearing process is either:

1. Affected by urine stain (ewe mobs only), or
2. Short regrown wool from where sheep have been previously crutched (ewes and wethers).

Staff may also collect the shank during this process (See next page)



Remember to remind staff that ewes and wethers have different preparation requirements for urine stain.

NOTE: Frib and coloured wool is not urine stain

What line should this wool be allocated to?

Urine stain wool will be allocated to a line made for urine stain only. **No** other wool type or fault is to be included.

Short clean regrown crutch wool under 50mm is Locks. (May be included with table locks).



Clean regrown wool from the crutch area



Board locks consisting of clean wool regrown since crutching. 1



If staff are allocated the duty of sweeping during shearing, then there must be a clear preparation outcome.

In low risk mobs, staff resources are best allocated to skirting.

No Shanks!

Shanks contain medullated fibre and are often cotted or matted or contain high Vegetable matter. Cotted and matted shanks will not easily break-down during processing and medullated fibre can appear in high concentration in the finished product.

Shanks that are heavy and matted must be placed in a separate line and **must not** be included with Urine Stain wool.

Urine Stain and Medullated fibres are not compatible processing types due to different dyeing requirements. (See page 35 in your COP for more detail)

Wool handling staff must identify the shank correctly. Often Non-conforming sale lots (Mixed Length) arise where shanks are removed on the board and full-length leg wool is not correctly separated.

Pictures show shed lines depicting valuable combing length wool collected with the shank. Unfortunately, this wool was also included in a line that was described as Stain. The mob had been crutched and no urine stain wool was present.

This represents a loss to the grower and a sale lot that does not meet processor requirements.



- Only remove cotted matted shanks. No combing length wool should be removed.
- Do not place shanks in a line made for or described as Stain

Pen Affected wool

In the 2019-21 COP there has been a change in terminology from *Pen Stain* to *Pen Affected*.

Pen Affected is fleece or parts of fleece, recently contaminated by dung and/or urine from yards, transportation or holding pens. This line does not include dark urine stain.

With an improvement in the season and rain fall across most regions of Australia there may be an increased incidence of Pen Affected wool. Prepare Pen Affected mobs using standard classing principles-

- Fleeces must be skirted
- Fleeces or parts of fleece are separated from unaffected wool.
- Line Comments on the Specification must show lines made for Pen Affected. DO NOT use the term Stain to describe Pen affected fleece lines.
- Wool must be dried before pressing
- If all clip or mob is affected, then class to the bulk of the clip.
- Describe fleece lines as AA (Breed Code). e.g. AAM
- The showfloor sample will be appraised using standard comments of DPN (Deep Pen) and SPN (Shallow Pen) to indicate presence and intensity of pen affected wool.

Wool Classing training in South Australia

SCAA Shearer Woolhandler Training Inc (SWTI) are offering wool classing courses to be delivered in SA. This includes both Owner Classer qualifications (CERT III in Woolclip Preparation) and the Professional Wool Classer qualification (Certificate IV Wool Classing)

The Owner Classer course will be delivered in the regions as per demand. As a start the locations will be Cleve, Jamestown, Karoonda, Naracoorte, and Kangaroo Island. The Cert IV will be delivered in Adelaide and Naracoorte.

For details and registrations people can phone the SWTI Wool Hotline on 1300 747 984 and the office will take detail or visit:

<https://www.shearerwoolhandler.com.au/>

WoolClip Training and Support

Training is recommended as an easy way to get started in WoolClip and is available 7 days a week and after hours.

To book a training session, or need support, please call 02 9428 6170 or send an email to: woolclip@awex.com.au

Important Safety Notice: Correct Loading

There have been some recent serious incidents arising from incorrect load patterns by transport carriers.



Photo 1. Incorrect loading of wool bales – the first two tiers were strapped lengthways rather than base out, across the truck. This arrangement resulted in an unstable load.

Shown below is the correct loading pattern.

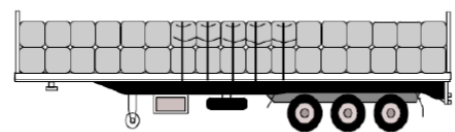


Fig 1. The first two tiers must be arranged base out and strapped independently of subsequent tiers.

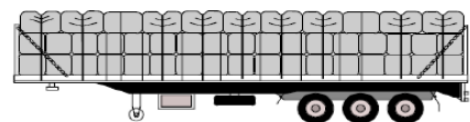


Fig 2. The third tier is arranged lengthways and strapped independently

Volatile wool market affects auction volumes.

Prior to the COVID-19 epidemic the AWEX Eastern Market Indicator had made an all-time high of 2116 cents. That was in August 2018, after which the market weakened, falling 770 cents (-36%) over 12-months. At that stage prices seemed to stabilise with values generally trading sideways for six months, giving hope that confidence was building and prices would begin to climb again.

Then COVID-19 hit. Initially there was little affect, any noticeable impact on the market was towards the end of February 2020 when the market began to falter. This was, coincidentally, at the same time as a ransomware attack on wool-industry IT infrastructure. Auctions were paused for one week as a result of the attack and forced two weeks of sales in one week.

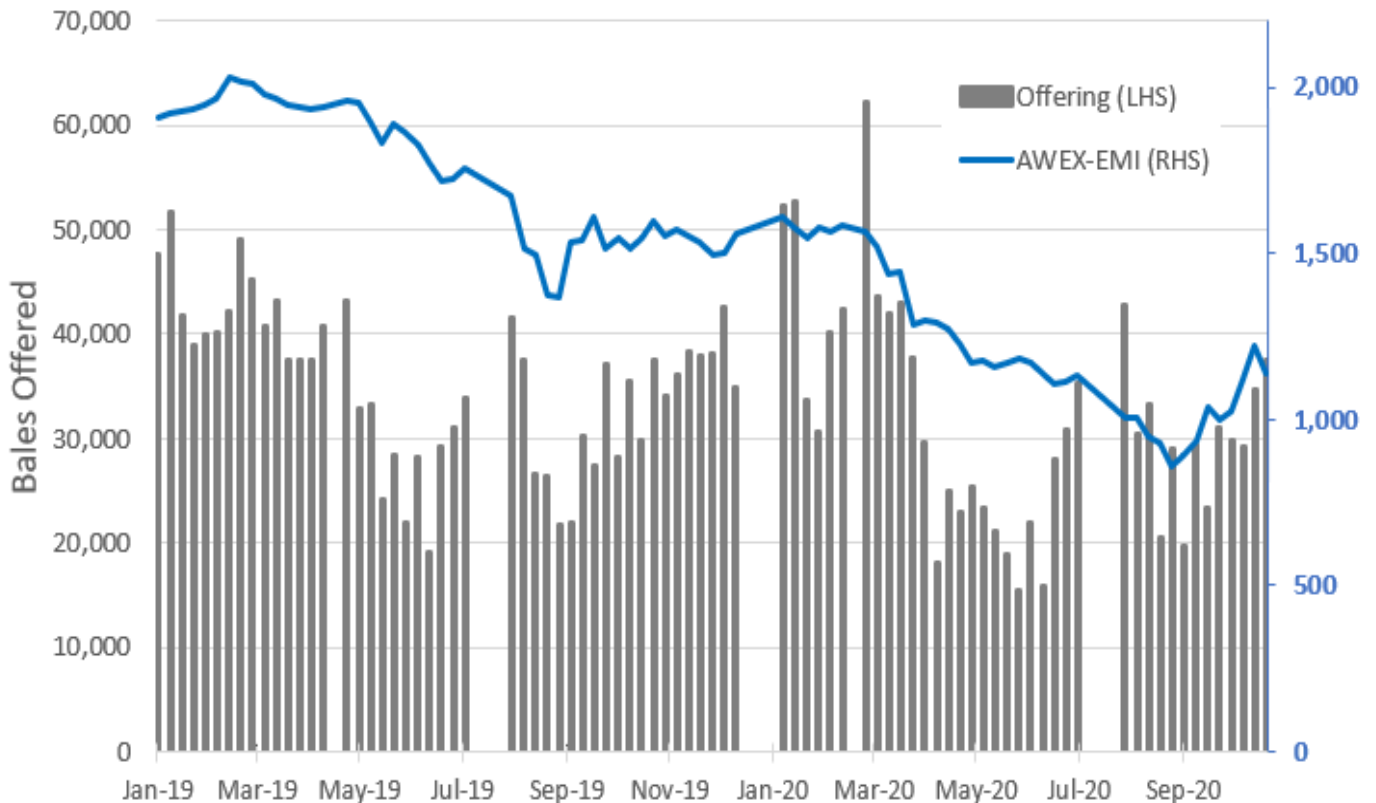
The spike in volume can be clearly see in the chart below, when 62,166 bales were offered at auction, the largest sale in 12 years.

Prices steadily deteriorated from that point with the losses accelerating in late March when it fell 155 cents in one week. Growers resolve was tested at this stage and auction volumes began to evaporate in what is normally a quiet period.

Auction catalogues during April-to-June were more than 20% lower when compared to the previous season as the market continued to slide, bottoming out at the beginning of September.

An improving Chinese domestic economy helped to lift demand and sent the market on a six-week rally which included the second largest one-day rise in history for the AWEX-EMI of +123c (+11%).

More recently prices have given some ground back, but the market is well ahead of the low point, and volumes have returned to a more typical level.



AWEX Premium and Discount Report - Now includes information on price and mulesing status.

Micron		18	19	20
Mulesing Status (National)	M	0	0	0
	NM	+42	+40	+30
	CM	+35	0	+1
	AA	+2	0	0

Table 1. 28 /10/2020 report extract.

Report Faulty Packs

All packs must carry a label on the side seam that identifies the manufacturer (or brand) and the production batch number. If there is a problem with packs purchased, then a grower should record these details (or simply tear the label off) and send it to AWEX with details of the problem. Problem packs should be returned to the place of purchase. A photo with the issue and the label can also be sent via SMS or email. AWEX is then able to resolve the problem with the manufacturer.



Report faulty packs to AWEX

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Thank You to the 1100 wool classers who completed the AWEX Wool Classer survey. Your contribution and comments are important for the planning of the 2022-24 registration period.