21 April 2021

Traceability Grants Announced

AWEX Receives Grant to further Wool Industry Traceability

The Australian Government has announced the outcomes of the 2nd Round of the Traceability Grants program. The Hon David Littleproud MP, Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management made the announcement as part of the Government's commitment to advancing traceability in agriculture.

The Government is investing more than $7 million over 4 years in projects to enhance Australia's reputation for producing high-quality food and fibre. (see the attached announcement).

AWEX has been successful in its application to further advance the work already underway with AWEX's eBale project, aimed at benefitting information flow, logistics efficiencies, provenance, biosecurity, animal welfare & sustainability along the wool supply chain.

AWEX's eBale project has been conducted with the direct involvement of pack manufacturers, RFID tag supplier, growers, classers, warehouses, brokers, exporters & overseas processors.

eBale utilises RFID & QR Code technology giving each wool bale a unique number. This data is captured in-shed using AWEX's WoolClip software (App & web) that is able to produce an electronic Wool Classer's Specification, so data describing a wool clip's preparation can be transmitted from classer, grower to broker, reducing errors & improving efficiency. The combination of eBale and WoolClip creates a conduit between the wool shed and the grower's selling agent of choice.

AWEX has registered a GS1 compliant number series for Australian wool which is used in the matching RFID and QR Codes applied to each enabled wool pack. In addition, AWEX registers and validates wool pack manufacturers/importers, wool classers and industry members to strengthen wool's provenance and integrity story.

AWEX has been working towards an industry solution for farm to mill traceability. The benefits include: improved on-farm data collection, better information flow from farm to mill, potential logistics automation & management benefits resulting in less errors in shipments/deliveries & provenance. Efficiencies in supply chain traceability, including the rapid identification of wool bales, e.g. in the event of an exotic animal disease outbreak or lost bales, will be enhanced.

To complete e-Bale & WoolClip, the project activities will focus on the gaps related to the full testing of a traceability system prior to industry approval & potential commercialisation.

AWEX will work closely with industry stakeholders to create greater awareness of the tremendous opportunity presented in receiving this grant and garner support for the project.

AWEX appreciates the confirmation received for this project from the Government, and we look forward to supporting excellence in and traceability of Australia's wool.

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To find out more about eBale, WoolClip or how you can be involved in this project contact:

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M i n i s t e r   f o r   A g r i c u l t u r e ,   D r o u g h t   a n d
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M E D I A   R E L E A S E

Wednesday, 7 April 2021

Traceability projects give Aussie exporters edge

- **Fourteen new projects to enhance food and fibre traceability announced**
- **Enhanced supply chain traceability supports farmers, exporters and consumers**
- **Technology used will include block chain, DNA tracing and QR codes**

The Australian Government is investing more than $7 million in projects to enhance our already stellar reputation for producing high-quality food and fibre.

The first round of projects, around $4 million of this amount, have already started to deliver outcomes.

Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management David Littleproud said the remaining $3 million for round two of the Traceability Grants Program continues to reward ideas that elevate Australia's high standards of reliability and provenance.

"Traceability in agriculture, fisheries and forestry allows consumers to feel secure in the knowledge that the products they are buying have been farmed and harvested and processed to the highest possible standards," Minister Littleproud said.

"This benefits not only Australian consumers, but also our trading partners who can be further assured of the safety, quality and sustainability of the goods we produce and deliver.

"We know that consumers in Australia and internationally want greater transparency and real time advice about the origin and safety of food in the modern digital marketplace

"Whether it's through developing block-chain technology to guarantee food safety, an app to track kangaroo meat harvesting, or a DNA database to combat illegal logging, these round two projects will give Aussie exporters the competitive edge.

"Advanced systems support rapid tracing in the event of suspected food safety or biosecurity incidents.

"QR codes and other mechanisms also help detect fraud and misleading statements about the products such as information on country of origin and nutrition.

"Traceability will support our farmers and other primary producers in opening up market access opportunities and growing exports of their premium produce.

"The Australian Government's investment in traceability is a demonstration of our commitment in support of industry's ambitious goal of $100 billon in farmgate value by 2030."

For more details on the 14 successful round two projects visit the Traceability Grants Program website here.

Fast Facts:

- **The Traceability Grants Program supports industry projects that will enhance our agricultural supply chain traceability systems, including developing and trialing technologies that digitise information flow.**
- **The program also aims to provide an advantage for our exporters and to increase opportunities to export Australian commodities.**
- **The program is part of the Australian Government's Modernising Agricultural Trade agenda to support the target of a $100 billion agricultural sector by 2030.**
- **The Australian Government is investing $7 million from 2019-20 through to the end of 2022-23 in projects under the Traceability Grants.**

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