

10 August 2021

SustainaWOOL grows internationally

AWEX and Cape Wools SA sign an historic co-operation agreement

The SustainaWOOL Integrity Scheme, operated by the Australian Wool Exchange (AWEX) on behalf of the Australian wool industry, and the Sustainable Cape Wools Standard (SCWS), operated by Cape Wools SA on behalf of the South African wool industry, have joined forces in an innovative collaboration to ensure greater integrity and traceability of sustainably certified sources along the entire wool value chain.

AWEX and Cape Wools SA are now co-operating to certify non-mulesed Merino wool originating from SustainaWOOL Green and Gold growers and South African growers compliant with the SCWS. The AWEX and Cape Wools SA schemes are the respective national schemes and share many similarities, providing wool growers in both countries the opportunity to be recognised for achievement of sustainable wool production practices.

This collaboration will streamline certification for downstream supply chain partners and benefit participating wool growers in both countries, by eliminating the need to separately verify the certified sustainable content of Australian and South African wool in the same processing lot.

Globally, sustainability and traceability are increasingly important issues, as consumers become more socially and environmentally aware. This is reflecting in increased demand for traceability and sustainability certification across the global wool textile industry, with a growing number of national and international schemes in the marketplace.

By having mutual recognition between SustainaWOOL Green and Gold and the SCWS, the schemes will be creating a more efficient and cost-effective certification for their mutual processing partners, paving the way for joint certification between the standards.

It is important to note that the two standards will maintain their independence. However, we are confident that this will be the first of many collaborative opportunities to create more efficient and robust systems for our industry partners and increase the availability and access to sustainably sourced wool.

To find out more about this collaboration, contact:

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MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday, 10th August 2021

AWEX and Cape Wools SA signs historic co-operation agreement

Globally, sustainability and traceability are becoming increasingly important issues, as consumers become more socially and environmentally aware.

With this in mind, Cape Wools SA (CWSA) and Australian Wool Exchange (AWEX) have joined forces in an innovative collaboration, to ensure greater integrity and traceability of sustainably certified sources along the entire wool value chain.

As sustainability standard owners, we have become increasingly aware of the challenges our processing partners face in identifying sustainably-assured wool in consignments with lots from multiple grower countries. CWSA and AWEX will co-operate to identify non-mulesed Merino wool originating from SustainaWOOL Green and Gold certified growers and South African growers compliant with the Sustainable Cape Wool Standard (SCWS).

By having mutual recognition between the SCWS and SustainaWOOL Green and Gold, we will be creating a more efficient and cost-effective certification process for our processing partners, paving the way for joint certification between the standards.

By eliminating the need for role-players to independently verify the certified sustainable content of South African and Australian wool in their processing lots, it will add value to the users and enhance transparency sought by downstream users in the value chain.

It is important to note that the two standards will maintain their independence, but we believe that this will be the first of many collaborative opportunities to create more efficient systems for our industry partners and ultimately increase the availability and access to sustainably sourced wool.

It is our conviction that sustainability paves the way for a bright future for the agricultural, fashion and textile industries. As key industry role-players, both globally and within our respective countries, we have a responsibility to continuously and relentlessly address inefficiencies and develop new methods that will aid us in bringing greater traceability and transparency to the value chain.

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