

16 April 2025

National Graduate Wool Classers Recognised at Sydney Royal Easter Show

The future of Australian wool classing was on display this week as the nation's top graduate Wool Classers were recognised at the 2025 AWEX/TAFE NSW National Graduate Wool Classer Competition, held on Monday 14 April at the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

Now in its 13th year, the competition brings together the most promising new talent from wool classing Training organisations across the country, showcasing their skills, professionalism, and readiness to kick start their careers in the industry.

This year's overall winner, taking out the coveted "Golden Stencil", was Victoria Lang of Ross, Tasmania. A graduate of TasTAFE, Victoria was trained by respected wool classing educator Evelyn Archer.

Taking out second place and the "Silver Stencil" was Sarah Fessey from Molong, New South Wales, trained by Kim Jenkins of TAFE NSW Bathurst. Sarah also earned the DAS Campbell Prize as the top-performing graduate from NSW and Queensland - a particularly special achievement in the 50th year of this long-standing award.

Rounding out the top three, Aleisha Rintoule of Gymbowen, Victoria, securing the "Bronze Stencil", having been trained by Moera Hammonds, Lucy Hammonds and Brian Kearney of SCAA Shearing Woolhandler Training Incorporated (VIC).

This year's competition welcomed the top 2024 graduates from South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and New South Wales. The calibre of contestants was outstanding, with all participants demonstrating excellent technical ability and professionalism - a credit to their trainers and RTOs

In an exciting development for 2025, the competition introduced a new practical task highlighting the growing importance of digital tools in wool traceability and industry readiness. For the first time, competitors were required to complete WoolClip documentation and simulate the scanning of eBales, interpreting both written and verbal details as part of a commercial wool classing scenario.

AWEX Wool Classer Registrar Fiona Raleigh said the addition of WoolClip and eBale reflected the need to prepare graduates for the digital future of the Australian wool industry.

"It's vital our new classers are not only highly skilled in wool handling and preparation but also equipped to manage digital traceability requirements, which are fast becoming industry standard," she said.

The National Graduate Wool Classer Competition continues to play a key role in celebrating excellence in wool classing, lifting the profile of the profession, and promoting wool classing as a valuable and rewarding career pathway within the wool industry.

AWEX gratefully acknowledges the support of TAFE NSW, the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW, and the many trainers, mentors and industry partners who make the competition possible each year.



Victoria Lang, National Graduate Wool Classer Competition 2025 Winner.



National Graduate Wool Classer Competition 2025 Winners. From left to right: Second: Sarah Fessey, First: Victoria Lang, Third: Aleisha Rintoule.

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For more information about the National Graduate Wool Classer Competition, contact:

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