

Australian Woolclassing Journal | September 2007

BOARDtalk



Australian Wool Clip Preparation The Woolclassers' Code of Practice in China **Zhangjiagang**

AWEX's David Williams, Southern Region, demonstrates skirting while Mark Grave, AWEX CEO, explains what is taking place

With over 65% of Australian wool exported to China, it is important that the end users have a basic understanding of Australian wool clip preparation and the standards prescribed in the Woolclassers Code of Practice.

Woolclassers may recall two open letters written to the Australian Wool Industry by the Chinese Wool Textile Organisation expressing concern over the quality of Australian wool.

To address some of these concerns the Australian Wool Exchange was involved in a two day industry training event in Zhangjiagang, China. Australian Wool Innovation and the Australian Wool Testing Authority were co-presenters. The objective of the training event was to:

- improve Chinese knowledge of Australian Wool Quality systems, and
- improve communication between Australian Wool Industry bodies and Chinese wool processors.

Over 200 participants attended representing 58 companies. Participants had the opportunity to review 107 representative grab samples from Australian sale lots. These samples included typical examples of fine, medium and broad wool clips. Also displayed were lots that were identified as failing wool clip preparation standards as described in the Australian Woolclassers Code of Practice. In addition to the samples, AWEX demonstrated the principles of fleece skirting, this provided attendees with a hands-on opportunity to give some understanding of the work which is undertaken by woolhandlers and woolclassers.

Topics presented included:

- an Introduction to Australian Wool,
- the Woolgrower's and Woolclasser's Role,
- the Woolclassers Code of Practice,
- the Role of the Wool Broker,
- the Role of AWEX, AWEX-ID and Clip Inspections/Classing Standards,
- Dark and Medullated Fibre Risk,
- AWTA Objective Measurement and Certification,
- Pre-sale Information,
- the Sale Catalogue,
- the Role of the Wool Buyer,

The training session emphasised (and in turn confirmed) the importance of the three basic principles underpinning the Australian Woolclassers Code of Practice (COP):

- To prepare uniform, predictable, low risk lines of wool (that meet the needs of wool processors and therefore attract maximum competition at sale time),
- To present a product correctly packaged and free of contamination, and
- To accurately document and describe each bale.

The skirting demonstration was conducted on six unskirted Merino fleece, complete with bellies, which came from Hurnell Pastoral, Beveridge, Victoria. The attendees were amazed at the sheer size and quality of the fleeces but importantly they gained some level of understanding of the role of the Woolclasser and the different aspects of wool that a Woolclassers' must be aware of.

Attendees received a copy of the Chinese version of the AWEX Woolclassers' Code of Practice. The COP is recognised as the Australian standard for wool preparation.

Many questions were asked by those in attendance about the different qualities of wool, how wool is prepared and the training required to be a Woolclasser. The samples provided a range of types, different coloured dusts, lengths and micron to display the diversity of wool grown in Australia.

Everybody recognised the Woolclasser's stencil and now they understand how this relates to the standard of preparation.

For more information
David Williams, Victorian Wool Centre, Brooklyn,
ph. 03 9318 0277



Some of nearly 200 attendees at the two-day workshop



AWEX Clip Inspection – How Does It Work?

The Australian Wool Exchange undertakes the important function of clip preparation inspection and auditing. This function, conducted by fully-trained, experienced auditors in all selling centres, identifies sale lots classed by a registered woolclasser that do not conform to the Code of Practice (COP), The Preparation of Australian Wool Clips.

Neither the Woolclasser Registrar nor the auditors see a Woolclasser's specification prior to auditing or the lot being sold. The selling agent (or wool broker) uses the Classer's Specification to lot the clip for sale and then transmits its catalogue as data to AWEX – this includes the stencil number. Following inspection of the lot, up to 24 hours prior to it being sold; AWEX advises the selling agent of any clip preparation issues. Clip preparation issues identified by AWEX are categorised into three scales ranging from 1 (relatively minor feedback issue) to 3 (major non conforming lot).

The broker will then inspect the lot and liaise with AWEX auditors on the nature of the clip preparation issue. The broker may appeal the issue.

Approximately one hour prior to sale AWEX will issue a daily report

to all buyers detailing the results of all clip inspections raised and their outcome. Early the following week, AWEX will issue a Clip Inspection Report to the stencil holder. In most cases, a Response Form is required to be completed by the Woolclasser. This Form is an opportunity for the Woolclasser to record their recollection of events that led to the particular clip preparation issue. In some cases it will detect an incorrect allocation of stencil to the wool. It also allows AWEX to gather all the facts to determine whether (a) further investigation is required or (b) the issue can be closed. Where a response is requested the (Response) form should be completed and returned promptly by the due date.

If you have any questions related to Clip Inspection Reports, your Response or any other Woolclassing issues, please contact the Woolclasser Registrar on 02 9428 6144.

Clip Inspection Audits for 2006/07

Nationally, the ten top clip inspection audits for the 2006/07 season were (total lots):

1	Frib/Sweat Evident (U1)	3,468
2	Heavy Stain not in Description	2,114
3	Odd Brands Sighted (R1/R2)	2,073
4	Declared: Not prepared to COP	847
5	Over or Underweight Bale(s)	742
6	Unclear Bale Description	740
7	Declared: Unskirted Fleece	652
8	Black Fibre XB LMS (not Declared)	545
9	Mixed Breeds	464
10	Poorly Skirted (U2)	462

Other notable inspections include:

1	Mixed Length: Short in	420
2	Pigmented Fibre (Y) not in Description	378
3	Medullated Fibre (P) not in Description	336
4	Mixed Quality: Crossbred	312
5	Stain in Fleece (S1, S2 or S3)	295
6	Mixed Quality: Merino	268
7	Mixed Length: Comb/Card	261
8	Mixed Length: Long/OG in	109
9	Contamination: Non-wool or Pack	45
10	Black/Non-white Fibre (Merino)	45

Total lots with Clip Preparation inspection code: 16,483 or 3.44% of total auction offering.

What is Organic Farming?

'Organic agriculture' is defined worldwide as 'farming without the addition of artificial chemicals'. An artificial chemical is a substance that has been manufactured or processed chemically.

Organic systems are essentially biological systems, both above and below the soil. Pest, disease and weed control must encourage and maintain natural biological processes. Management strategies based on understanding of biological cycles are the main tools used in place of synthetic inputs such as herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, drenches, superphosphate and urea.

Organic farming is also sometimes referred to as "natural", "biological", or "ecological". Biodynamics, for example, is a special form of organic farming developed in 1924 by Austrian, Rudolf Steiner. Its distinguishing feature is the use of nine special preparations (numbered BD500 to BD508) made from mineral, plant or animal manure extracts.

In the context of agriculture, organic refers to whole-farm management with the farm being treated as a living organism. Organic farms tend to aim for optimal production rather than yield maximisation. They seek to operate as closed systems, using renewable resources wherever possible. In terms of management, they can be more complex, but they are generally less dependent on external, or off-farm, inputs. Best environmental management practice, such as irrigation scheduling, is encouraged.

In Australia, wool that has been produced in accordance with the National Standard for Organic and Biodynamic Produce may achieve certification through a recognised organic certifying body. Important Note: It is important to remember that the "organic certification" is for the production system in which the wool is grown and processed, and

is not a guarantee of the fibre's characteristics.

From a practical point of view, for the maintenance of organic certification some of the requirements could include things such as: sheep are fed organic grain if required; old dip sites be quarantined to manage the potential chemical residue risk; and fences must be good enough to keep neighbours' stock out. There are a number of allowable inputs for the control of internal and external parasites in sheep that are approved for use in a certified organic livestock enterprise. In terms of fertiliser: green manure crops, compost and rock phosphate are all acceptable but superphosphate is not; because superphosphate is rock phosphate with a manufactured chemical, sulphuric acid, added.

Like any other enterprise choice, there is a need for wool producers to consider the pros and cons before making a decision. RIRDC has recently released a comprehensive guide called "Going Organic: Organic Livestock Production - a conversion package for organic livestock production in the rangelands of Western New South Wales". Copies are available at <http://www.rirc.gov.au>

Note, organic production systems have an ethical component ensuring that products are produced according to recognised animal welfare standards.

Information provided by Scott Seaman, Manager - Organics and Food Industry Development, NSW Department of Primary Industries ph. 02 6330 1209.

NEW! Test Certification to Reflect Clip Preparation standard

We wish to alert woolclassers to a series of changes to the test certificate definitions that have been approved by the International Wool Textile Organisation (IWTO). In general terms, from January 1, 2008 the test certificate type will reflect whether the line of wool meets the industry agreed clip preparation standards. Where a line of wool does not meet the minimum standards (AWEX Scale 3) it shall be assigned to a different certificate type.

This is a significant issue for woolclassers as the preparation status of the wool will now follow documentation through the pipeline to the end user. These changes will apply to woolclassing standards on-farm and in Classing Houses.

Full details will be circulated in the next edition of BOARDtalk. For more details please contact David Cother 02 9428 6100.

Registration Review Committee

The Registration Review Committee (RRC) reviews the performance of Woolclassers that [repeatedly] breach the Code of Practice or the Woolclasser Rules of Registration. At its meeting on the 20th August 2007 the RRC considered the performance of 11 Woolclassers in addition to the 15 currently under Corrective Action requirements.

JUST A REMINDER...

- REMINDER:** It's your stencil; no one else should use it!
- REMINDER:** Use the Breed Code in all bale descriptions.
- REMINDER:** Only prepare to the 2007 - 2009 Code of Practice.
- REMINDER:** MSAMM = all SAMM wool, MDOHNE = all DOHNE wool.
- REMINDER:** 1m of baling twine can destroy 30km of wooltop.
- REMINDER:** Ring AWEX for woolclassing advice on 02 9428 6144.

Woolclasser Activity Report Season 2006 - 07

The Woolclasser Activity Report provides a list of all wool that has been offered under your Stencil Number in the auction system between 1st July 2006 and 30th June 2007. The information supplied in this report has been transmitted to AWEX by the selling agents.

The main components of the Woolclasser Activity Report are:

Your Details

The personal information for each registered Woolclasser currently held by AWEX. If details are missing or incorrect, please contact AWEX as soon as possible on 02 9428 6140.

A list of Registered Farm Brands will be printed on reports for Owner Classers.

Your Auction Activity Details

A complete list of classed lots offered through auction for the season. Records are grouped by Brands and are listed in the order of Broker Code, Number of Bales in the Lot, Bale Description, AWEX-ID, Fibre Diameter, CVD, Vegetable Matter, Yield, Staple Length, Staple Strength, Position of Break, Hauteur, DMFR Rating and Average Bale Weight.

As outlined in the Code of Practice, Woolclassers are encouraged to only use the wool descriptions that are listed in the COP when describing the wool they class.

Your Activity Summary

A table of the total number of bales offered through auction summarises the wool categories into: Fleece, Pieces, Bellies, Weaners, Lambs, Crutching, Locks, Stains and Other. In this section, the Average Bale Weight for each brand is presented as a horizontal bar chart.

Your Clip Inspection Records

A list of preparation issues raised during the period. Records are listed in the order of Inspection Date, Sale Number, Brand, Bale Description, Lot Number, Broker Code and Inspection Result. If any of your clip inspections have an Open status, it indicates AWEX has not received your response. Please follow this up with AWEX as a matter of priority.

This report provides useful, informative feedback for Woolclassers in relation to their performance. Please email woolclasser@awex.com.au or call Wool Services on (02) 9428 6140 if any information on the report appears to be incorrect or if you wish to discuss any issues regarding your Woolclasser Activity Report.

New Staff Appointment



Dr Kerry Hansford
Quality & Training Program Manager

AWEX is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr Kerry Hansford to the new position of Quality & Training Program Manager.

Kerry is well known to many in the wool industry both locally and internationally. She has a strong wool science background having formerly worked as Project Leader - Raw Wool Metrology and Early Stage Processing for the CSIRO at Ryde and Geelong; as well as at the International Wool Secretariat in Ilkley and London.

More recently Kerry has been consulting to Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) and Federation of Australian Wool Organisations (FAWO), where in conjunction with the industry-based Dark and Medullated Fibre Risk Working Group, she has been instrumental in the development and progress of work in this project.

Kerry's strong technical background will be an asset to AWEX and will enhance the depth of knowledge in a number of key technical areas.

Included in her responsibilities will be Secretariat to and management of projects emanating from ISAC (Industry Services Advisory Committee), AWEX representation on industry technical committees, further industry trialling of E-Bale to the delivery of the AWI OFFM-QA project. Kerry will also manage the review and development of the new training resources for woolclassers incorporating the 2007-09 Code of Practice.

Kerry is based at the AWEX Melbourne office. Contact details for Kerry are:

AWEX
691 Geelong Rd
BROOKLYN VIC 3025
p. 03 9318 0277
e: khansford@awex.com.au

Frequently Asked Questions

The development of the 2007-2009 Woolclassing Code of Practice (COP) provided the industry with an opportunity to overhaul many areas that were affecting Woolclassers in the workplace. After significant consultation, the industry decided that the previous bale description system was past its use by date. With this significant change to the COP, Woolclassers have been seeking answers to a number of frequently asked questions.

These frequently asked questions are shown below;

Q. I am worried about describing many of my lines as AAAM? How can I manage this in the shed?

AWEX: There are a number of techniques suggested by experienced classers.

- Some Woolclassers use a number system (e.g. AAAM 1 = main line wool, AAAM 2 = broad line wool, AAAM 3 = short wool, AAAM 4 = part tender wool)
- Others use an character such "B,S,T" (E.g. AAA M (B) = broad line, AAAM (S) = short wools, AAAM(T) = part tender line.)

This extra character can be written in the wool book and placed "discreetly" on the bale for in-shed management only. Woolclassers please ensure that all wool bins are clearly marked so the woolhandlers, the wool presser and the woolgrower don't press the wrong wool when assisting.

Q. Why are you asking for Tender, Short and Broad Merino lines to now be called AAAM?

AWEX: These characteristics are now measured objectively (staple strength, staple length and micron respectively) and are not required in the Bale Description.

Q. If I make a broad line in the shed (previously BBB), what is that line now called?

AWEX: If the wool is broader than the main line it is called AAAM. The Wool Specification must advise that this is a broad line and is not to be lotted with your other fleece lines.

Q. I make a shorter line in the shed (previously AAM) what is that line now called?

AWEX: If the line of wool is shorter than the main line, and provided the line is going to be tested for staple length describe it as AAAM. The wool specification must also clearly advise that this is a shorter line than the main line.

Q. Does AAA, AA need to be used on NON fleece wool?

AWEX: No. AAA and AA are required on most fleece lines (Adult, Weaner and Lambs), but are optional on non fleece lines. Classers may find them useful on non fleece lines (e.g. Pieces, Bellies etc) where they have made multiple lines and want to identify them separately.

It is important to remember the following:

"Using the new bale description system relies on good in-shed management and strong communication between the Woolclasser and the Presser. Bins must be identified clearly. The new bale description system does not change the principles of classing. The Woolclasser still needs to make the main fleece line and subsequent lines according to the standard woolclassing principles (see Section 5)." Pg 65 of the 2007-2009 Code of Practice for Woolclassing.

Back to Basics – What the Code of Practice is All About.

With many BOARDtalk seminars conducted around Australia and more to come, Woolclassers have been inundated with information, tips and advice on how best to prepare Australia's wool clip.

Perhaps it's a good time to review the three basic principles for Woolclassers as outlined in the Code of Practice. These are:

- To prepare uniform, predictable, low risk lines of wool (that meet the needs of wool processors and therefore attract maximum competition at sale time),
- To present a product correctly packaged and free of contamination, and
- To accurately document and describe each bale.

Other parties such as the producer, the contractor, the shed hands, the wool presser and the shearers all share in the responsibility to ensure that the wool is presented, harvested and packaged to the standard required.

Without the assistance of all these people it is virtually impossible for you, the Woolclasser, to fulfill your responsibility to prepare the clip in accordance with the COP.

Woolclassers, if there are any circumstances that make it difficult or impossible for you to achieve these three basic principles, please contact AWEX. We want to help protect your reputation and to work with you to fix any problems.

New Graduates' Woolclassing Competition



Pictured at the Australian Sheep and Wool Show, Bendigo are the Judges and Finalists of the 2007 VIC/TAS Graduate Woolclasser of the Year Competition

Two recent Woolclassing competitions, sponsored by AWEX, featured the best recent Graduate Woolclassers from around Victoria, Tasmania and New South Wales. AWEX sought to have the best graduate woolclassing students compete and display their skills at the Australian Sheep and Wool Show, Bendigo and Sydney Royal Easter Show. TAFE NSW and TAFE Victoria were also sponsors of the respective competitions.

The Woolpresser – An important person in the shed.

Did you know that the Woolpresser is the last person to see all the wool in its entirety before it arrives at the mill? It is essential the Woolclasser and Woolpresser work together as a team. Below are some tips for the Woolpresser:

- Remove any potential contamination from around your work area,
- Check the bins, at the start and during each run, making sure there are no foreign objects in the wool,
- Communicate with the classer at the cut out of the mob and shearing,
- Use only newspaper as bale dividers in bulk class bales,
- Recheck bale numbers and descriptions in the wool book,
- Use the AWEX bale labels on the head of the bale,
- Brand the head and the face of the bale with clear, legible bale descriptions,
- Have a contamination box available near the wool press,
- Finally, don't press overweight bales.

If you are pressing FLEECE WOOL finer than 18.5 µm, the minimum weight is 90 kg. For all other lines 18.5 µm and finer, the minimum weight is 110 kg.

Contestants were required to class three different wool types being Crossbred, Medium/Strong Merino and Fine/Superfine Merino wool. They were also required to use their skills to apply AWEX-ID, estimate prices on prepared wool lots and for each classing exercise write up a classer's specification report.

"The woolclassers were able to put what they had learned on display and in a pressured environment. Each contestant displayed an incredible amount of concentration and were a credit not only to themselves but also to the TAFE training colleges. The results were quite outstanding," said Mark Grave, AWEX CEO.

The winner of the 2007 VIC/TAS Graduate Woolclasser of the Year Competition was Meg Chandler, Hamilton, trained at South West TAFE, second place to John Leach, Rheola (BRIT) and third place went to Ethan Merton, McLeod (NMIT).

The winner of the Sydney Royal Easter Show competition was Florence Klingner, Forbes (Western Institute of TAFE) second place to Simon T Beer, Neilrex (Western Institute of TAFE), third place to Andrew J Worthington, Caringbah (Hunter Institute of TAFE).

Mr Grave said, "An important element of the competition was to have experienced judges that could provide beneficial and constructive feedback to each contestant. My congratulations go to each contestant for being a part of an important competition for the wool industry and the spirit in which they participated."

AWEX EVENTS

MARKETING MERINO is a joint **AWEX/VFF Wool Workshop** to be held in **Ballarat on Friday 19th October 2007**. The workshop will run from 10.00am to approximately 3.30/4.00pm.

The **Keynote Speaker** for the forum is **Andre Reich** (former Myer Business Manager for menswear and now CEO for Review – Australia, a boutique retail operation). Andre will present an overview of a retail buyer's decision making process, understanding consumer needs and identifying the most appropriate suppliers to meet consumer needs.

The day will comprise larger group sessions, and, as well, attendees will break into small groups for practical demonstrations. The program will include:

- (1) AWEX - Australian and World standards: Who's responsible? What the world wants and why Australia leads the way.
- (2) Fine/Superfine Wool Buyer - Superfine/fine wool and what the buyers want and what they look for in clip preparation.
- (3) Combing and Carding Wool Buyer - What matters to the combing and carding wool buyer.
- (4) Wool Marketing Experts – Wool marketing options, including Wool Swaps.

Woolclassers and wool growers are welcome to attend this forum. To book your place, please phone (03) 9318 0277.

BOARDTALK TO THE BUSH, which focuses on the 2007 – 2009 Code of Practice for Woolclassers, will travel to South Australia from 30th October to the 3rd November 2007. Please make your booking with AWEX on (02) 9428 6100.

The following towns will be visited in October and November.

Lock	Tuesday 30th	Bowling Club
Burra	Wednesday 31st	Sporting Club
Jamestown	Thursday 1st	Town Hall
Quorn	Thursday 1st	Town Hall
Maitland	Friday 2nd	Town Hall
Adelaide	Saturday 3rd	Shores Function Centre

All attendees are reminded to bring their '2007 – 2009 Woolclassing Code of Practice'

60 Seconds with the Registrar

Name: Ms Reily Daley

How long have you been classing and where did you graduate from? Fremantle TAFE, 1997.

Living in WA, have you ever classed in the Eastern States of Australia? Yes, I have. I grew up in Cowra NSW and have classed around Bourke, Cobar, Cowra, Young, Charleville and Cunnamulla. On the West Coast, amongst other regions, I have been to Moora and Coral Bay.

What have been some of your favourite locations to work with wool? Sardinia (small island off Italy), Falkland Islands, England, Wales, Sweden, Denmark.

You mentioned working and classing wool in the Falkland Islands; however, you trained in Australia. Is there much of a difference in the wool between the two countries? In most of the countries I have mentioned they run a crossbred style of sheep. Some are a local breed; some sheep are not used for wool at all. In Sardinia, Italy they burn the wool as the sheep are only used for milking, and the sheep cannot get too hot as it reduces milk production.

Australia for many decades has been working to keep the clip clean and to reduce black and medullated fibre contamination in the wool. How does Australian wool compare to wool from other countries you have worked in? So much better in Australia! In Europe there is a high prevalence of dark and medullated fibre. In the Falkland Islands, if there is more than two black spots in the wool, it is called black. If there are less than two, the spots are removed and this wool is kept separate. No one in the world has Australia's Quality Standards for Wool Preparation.

How far have you travelled to do a shed anywhere in the world? From Perth to New Zealand to Santiago (Chile) to Stanley (Falkland Islands).

As a Woolclasser, what measures do you take to reduce contamination in the shearing shed? Being vigilant. I also explain to the staff and farmers why you need to remove contamination. It's all about education.

List four points that are big issues within the shearing shed at the moment? Rates of pay; What jobs are available (i.e., where to next?); Inept shed staff; Smooth running shed management.

After travelling the world working with wool, what is your fondest moment in the shed? When I saw my first ever bale come out of the press with my stencil number on it. The relief that all the hard work had paid off.

Reily, thank you for spending 60 seconds with the Woolclasser Registrar.

**** Note: the Australian Woolclasser stencil can only be used in Australia****



BOARDtalk

Australian Woolclassing Journal | September 2007

From the Registrar



Greg Sawyer

Phone: 02 9428 6144

Email: greg_sawyer@awex.com.au

AWEX Clip Inspection Review

AWEX recently convened a workshop with nominated Woolclasser and Broker representatives to review clip inspection reporting practices. This workshop has allowed these representatives to have input and contribute to the process procedures used by AWEX in conducting and communicating clip inspections.

This review was conducted in the context that the AWEX clip inspection is a function supporting the objectives and policies defined in the Woolclassers' Code of Practice, namely:

- To prepare uniform, predictable, low risk lines of wool;
- To present a product correctly packaged and free of contamination; and, to
- Accurately document and describe each bale of wool.

The Code of Practice is non-sectorial and is written for the benefit of the pipeline and to enhance the Australian wool clip in a global environment.

If the Woolclasser believes at the time of preparation that the wool preparation does not comply with the standards described in the Code of Practice, then the Woolclasser is invited to contact the Registrar.

Wool Bale Description Chart

All Woolclassers are advised that AWEX has available the large bale description charts for the shearing shed. This chart is part of a series of posters currently being developed.

Single Sourced Wool

In the course of a show floor clip preparation audit, AWEX and Buyers query some lots for potentially multiple source wool. These lots typically display mixed characteristics not seen in a Mob as defined in the AWEX Woolclassers' Code of Practice. Where a query had been raised as to the origin of the wool on the show floor, AWEX will be seeking documents from the selling agent that clearly allows trace back to the single farm source. Where the origin of the wool is demonstrated to come from a single farm source, AWEX is then able to assess the lot from a Woolclasser clip preparation perspective; namely, whether the Woolclasser has exceeded the Mob concept or Lotting across Mobs as documented in the Woolclassers' Code of Practice.

Woolsearch

Readers are advised that the Woolsearch web site for Woolclassers, Shearers and Wool Handlers has been migrated into the corporate AWEX web site (www.awex.com.au). The two sites have been merged to offer a single point of reference for the Woolclasser community. Woolsearch provides an opportunity for all Woolclassers, Shearers and Wool Handlers to be placed on an internet employment database.

Woolclasser Code of Practice – Downloads

The AWEX web site now includes the following Code of Practice downloads:

- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ),
- Pre-sale Preparation checklist,
- Chemical Log,
- Woolclasser's specification sheet (generic),
- Bulk class tear off tags.

These downloads can be found in the Woolclasser section under Code of Practice.

Final Word...

AWEX is a small team of professional and experienced wool people who work with the overall wool industry to further enhance and develop industry standards. If you have any questions or queries on wool industry standards or compliance, please phone 02 9482 6140, email: woolclasser@awex.com.au or fax: 02 9420 9633 and our staff will be able to assist you further in working with the world's best woolclip.

Woolclasser Weekly

The Woolclasser Weekly is a wool-market report designed exclusively for Woolclassers. The one-page summary is published at the end of each week and reviews the key items of the current sale week. At a quick glance the reports provides the reader with a snapshot of pricing levels and clip inspection activity. Specifically, the report shows:

- AWEX-EMI (current level and movement for the week) – measures the performance of the overall market for the week.
- AWEX-EMI chart (last two years) – displays the trend of the market.
- Micron Price Guides (current level and movements for the week) – shows how the individual micron indicators performed for the week.
- Percentile rankings for the EMI and MPG's – a handy tool to compare current prices against over the last few years.
- Commentary – gives a more in-depth review of the performance of the market.
- Offering statistics by region – bales offered, passed-in rates, and gross turnover.
- Major buyers – summarised into five separate categories.
- Major clip inspection issues for the week – highlights the preparation areas that woolclassers need to focus on.
- Premium & Discount snapshot – clean prices and discounts for major types.
- Gross dollars per bale – a quick guide showing the value per bale for each micron.
- Forecast offerings over the coming weeks – gives an indication of how much wool is coming onto the market.

The Woolclasser Weekly is available by email only and is delivered on the Friday of every sale week. Price for the report is \$77 (GST inc.) per annum and can be ordered by emailing subscriptions@awex.com.au

AWEX

AWEX WOOLCLASSER WEEKLY
WEEK 13 - Friday, 28 September, 2007

AWEX EMI
919 (-1.5%)

AWEX-EMI Percentile rankings

1 yr: 48
3 yrs: 63
5 yrs: 76

Prices fell in most categories this week, with fleece prices up to 30 cents cheaper. Most affected were the finer microns in the North Region (Sydney) however this was compared to the more stylish Newcastle catalogue from the previous sale and explained some of the fall. Southern Region was a more modest 5 cents cheaper across the micron spectrum, while Fiemante was quite erratic, generally finishing 5 to 20 cents cheaper. Weighing heavily on the market over the past few weeks has been the curenwigh which has continued to strengthen. The Aussie dollar rose 2 cents for the week, which was on the back of a 2 cent rise in the previous week. The dollar rose to 85.3 US cents in Thursday night trading.

Region	Offered	Gross	Passed
North (S13)	23,676	\$21,046,307	9.8%
South (M13)	25,052	\$25,724,236	9.0%
West (F13)	11,652	\$11,792,172	15.3%
Total	57,380	\$58,562,715	

Category	Value
Poor Skirting	122
Miscellaneous	97
Bale Description issue	71
Mixed Characteristics	71
Sheep Brands	33
Over/Under Wgt	20
Total	414

Buyer	Bales
Superfine	909
ABB WOOL EXPORT	792
CHARSEURS WOOL (NZ)	2,505
Mer Fleece	2,773
TECHWOOL TRADING	2,505
Mer Pcs/Bls	1,896
MODIANO (AUST)	871
CHARSEURS WOOL	871
XBD	931
MODIANO (AUST)	658
TECHWOOL TRADING	658
Oddments	1,048
MICHELL AUSTRALIA	1,048
A.S. GEDGE (AUST)	1,028

Coming Up...	Current	Change on estimate
Week: 14	42,691	+2,248 6%
Week: 15	57,375	-25 0%
Week: 16	58,900	0%
Week: 17	58,000	

Source: AWEX Five Sheet Forecast

Change of Details

If you have changed your details, please fax (02) 9420 9633 or email woolclasser@awex.com.au with your stencil number and address details.

Change of address details –

Please fill in details below and post or fax this coupon to AWEX Head Office or email us

 Telephone: _____ Facsimile: _____
 Mobile: _____ Date of Birth: _____
 Email address: _____
 Woolclasser ID Number: _____

For Owner Classers

Registered Bale Brands

- _____
- _____
- _____



PO Box 823
Lane Cove NSW 1595
Telephone: (02) 9428 6140
Facsimile: (02) 9420 9633
woolclasser@awex.com.au

Northern Region
PO BOX 193
Guildford NSW 2161
Phone: (02) 9632 6166

Southern Region
691 Geelong Road
Brooklyn VIC 3025
Phone: (03) 9318 0277

Western Region
PO BOX 1280
Fremantle WA 6160
Phone: (08) 9434 6999

JUST A REMINDER...



- REMINDER:** R = Runs with Shedding Breed, Y = Visible Pigmented fibre, K = Visible Medullated fibre.
- REMINDER:** Woolclassing the first step in the processing pipeline.
- REMINDER:** The 2007 – 2009 Code of Practice "Developed by the industry for the industry, administered by AWEX".
- REMINDER:** Less than 10g of dark and/or medullated fibre in 10,000kg causes a problem for wool processors.



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