

3rd December 2013

2013 NWD REVIEW: OUTCOMES

The AWEX Board, at its meeting on 28th November 2013, approved a number of recommendations arising from the 5th review of the National Wool Declaration (NWD).

The following is a summary of the key issues and changes from the 2013 NWD Review:

1) Mulesing Status Categories

a) *Mulesing*

- i) Historically, for consistency across the industry, the NWD will use the definition as determined and approved by Animal Health Australia.
- ii) A category of Mulesed (M) will be introduced to the NWD. It was agreed that including the code M (for Mulesed) in the Mulesing Status column of the NWD would allow growers and brokers to more accurately complete the NWD. The definition of Mulesed is:
 - “Some or all of the sheep in the mob have been mulesed.”

b) *Ceased Mulesing*

- i) The Ceased Mulesing (CM) declaration will remain due to its commercial support from buyers; and because potentially, a grower will always be moving towards non mulesing and CM may provide an incentive to do this. Therefore, it was felt that while ever CM has commercial value, it should be supported by industry.
- ii) The application of CM remains a property declaration (as opposed to a mob declaration) as it is a statement of the husbandry practice at that point in time.
- iii) Although there is empathy for growers involved in trials to evaluate new flystrike control technologies (e.g. clips or intradermals), for consistency, where mulesed controls are used, CM cannot be applied to the property in that year and the wool from the mulesed control sheep must be kept and sold separately. CM may be declared once an entire drop of lambs is non mulesed.
- iv) To assist with the correct completion/data entry of CM status, a revised definition of CM was included in the question to remove any ambiguity related to its meaning. In addition, to help ensure the Owner/Manager is aware of the CM question, on the combined NWD/Speci, it was put in larger, bold font and moved closer to the Owner/Manager signature. The CM question is now worded:
 - “Has mulesing ceased on this property (i.e. no lamb born on this property in the last 12 months has been mulesed)? YES or NO (Tick Box).”

c) *Non Mulesed*

- i) In considering the definition of Non Mulesed (NM), it was agreed that clips and intradermal technologies would not be declared separately as the use of clips is extremely low and intradermal technology has not been commercialised. The definition of Non Mulesed is:
 - “All sheep in this mob have not been mulesed.”

Australian Wool Exchange Limited

PO Box 651 North Ryde BC 2113 www.awex.com.au t. (+61 2) 9428 6100
Unit 12A, 2 Eden Park Drive Macquarie Park NSW 2113 abn. 35 061 495 565 f. (+61 2) 9428 6120

d) Mulesed with Pain Relief

- i) It was felt that requesting additional information about the mulesed with Pain Relief (PR) declaration, (e.g. details about its application, the batch number etc.), was unnecessary at this time.
- ii) To ensure the accuracy of the declaration of PR, it was felt that declaring PR at the mob level was required. The definition of PR is:
 - “All sheep in this mob have been mulesed using a registered Pain Relief product. Each mob must be declared separately.”

e) Not Declared

- i) The continued use of Not Declared (ND) was approved as it was felt that it was important to advise the industry whether the grower has or has not made a declaration.

2) Other Issues

a) Electronic NWD

- i) The need for electronic signatures for the NWD, as the industry adopts new technologies such as WoolClip, was recognised. When completing an electronic NWD, the wording must be clear and the supporting information for the electronic signature must be provided.
- ii) An electronic signature will be developed for the NWD for use within WoolClip. To verify the declaration, the authorisation sections will require the compulsory provision of additional information such as the PIC or ABN, Owner/Manager Name and Phone Number.

b) Mandatory NWD

- i) The NWD will remain a voluntary program.

c) Accreditation of the Mulesing Operator

- i) Accreditation is provided and promoted by WoolProducers and Australian Wool Innovation. WoolProducers is in the process of developing mulesing accreditation for contractors as well as farm owners/staff.

d) Ensure the most recent Version of the NWD is used

- i) It was noted that brokers distribute new stationery to their clients annually; but despite this, old versions continue to be submitted (approx. 30% of 2013/14 desktop audit NWDs were Version 4 or earlier). It was felt that little could be done to stop this; however, the latest Version of the NWD will be promoted along with why it is important and who is requesting it.

e) Reporting of NWD-IP data

- i) It was agreed that aggregated data would continue to be reported to industry.
- ii) Some buyers wish to know the Mulesing Status of brands that they purchase and they will be invited to “Op-In” to receive information on individual cases of Non Compliance.

f) Frequency of NWD Review

- i) The AWEX Board agreed to conduct future NWD Reviews in line with the triennial review of the Woolclasser Code of Practice. This means that the next review will be conducted at the end of 2015, and subsequently in 2018.

The AWEX Board approved the immediate release of NWD Version 6.0, November 2013 as per the example shown on pages 3 and 4.

For more information or to obtain copies of the NWD V6.0 contact:

Dr Kerry Hansford, khansford@awex.com.au or (03) 9318 0277

Mr Mark Grave, mgrave@awex.com.au or (02) 9428 6100

Completion of the National Wool Declaration (NWD)

- Determine the order of shearing **prior to** completing the NWD. It is recommended that:
 - Mobs with a higher Dark and Medullated Fibre risk are shorn last,
 - Mobs of a different Mulesing Status can be kept separate, and/or
 - The wool from mobs with similar characteristics can be combined as required especially; for example, oddment lines.
- To declare the DMFR and/or Mulesing Status for each mob (and line of wool):
 - **The Owner/Manager**, preferably in consultation with the Woolclasser, in the NWD Section, must:
 - Complete the **NWD questions for each Mob**.
 - Answer the question “**Has Mulesing Ceased on this Property (i.e. no lamb born on this property in the last 12 months has been mulesed)?** YES or NO (Tick Box)”
 - **Sign and date the declaration.**
 - **The Woolclasser**, in the central Specification section, **must list ALL Mob Numbers** used to make up each line of wool.
- **Note 1:** If Mulesing has ceased on the property, CM will be allocated to lines of wool from mobs that contain some (or all) mulesed sheep.
- **Note 2:** If the DMFR or Mulesing declaration is left blank or is incomplete, Not Declared (ND) will be recorded for these lines of wool.

Definitions and Codes

1 Mulesing	The removal of skin from the breech and/or tail of a sheep using mulesing shears. <i>Source:</i> Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Sheep (draft).
2 Ceased Mulesing (CM)	Wool from sheep where the property has ceased mulesing. A mob may contain mulesed sheep; but no lamb born on this property in the last 12 months has been mulesed at the time of this shearing.
3 Non Mulesed (NM)	<u>All sheep</u> in this mob <u>have not been</u> mulesed.
4 Pain Relief (PR)	<u>All sheep</u> in this mob have been <u>mulesed using a registered Pain Relief product</u> . Each mob must be declared separately. Note: The NWD definition for PR applies at the <u>mob level</u> , not at the property level.
5 Mulesed (M)	<u>Some or all</u> of the sheep in this mob <u>have been</u> mulesed.
6 Shedding Breeds	Breeds that shed fibre (e.g. Afrikaner, Awassi, Damara, Dorper, Karakul, Meatmaster, Persian, Van Rooy, Wiltipoll, Wiltshire Horn).
7 Contact with Shedding Breeds	Mated to, or run in the same paddock as shedding sheep/lambs or their crosses.

Background to the National Wool Declaration (NWD)

- Information provided in the National Wool Declaration is the responsibility of the Owner/Manager.
- **The Owner/Manager must sign** the Declaration.
- By completing this Declaration, the Owner/Manager acknowledges that:
 - The Vendor’s agent will catalogue the wool based on the statements you make, and buyers will in turn rely on those statements.
 - This Declaration may be subject to **random audit or inspection** as part of the NWD-Integrity Program.

Age/Shearing	Code	Breed	Code	Sex	Code
1 st Shearing	1	Merino	M	Ewes	E
2 nd Shearing to 2 years	2	Afrino	FO	Wethers	W
3 years	3	SAMM	MS	Rams	R
4 years	4	Corriedale	CD	Mixed (E/W/R)	M
5 years	5	Crossbred	XB		
6, 7, 8 years etc.	6, 7, 8....	Downs	DN		
Mixed, e.g. 3 to 5 years	3 - 5	Shedding Breeds	SB		
NWD V6.0 November 2013		Carpet Wool	CW		

