ePCSbulletin

AWEX

Welcome to ePCS

I hope you enjoy the first edition of this new-look Wool Classer Bulletin. ePCS will feature contributions & news from AWEX and industry stakeholders across the globe that is current and aimed at keeping you, the wool classer, informed.

I trust you find the contents of this newsletter valuable. Please feel free to share ePCS with the Wool Harvesting team. Stay safe.

Regards, Fiona Raleigh

AWEX Wool Classer Registrar

COVID-19

As with all aspects of daily life AWEX operations have been affected by the COVID-19 Global Pandemic. Since March 2020 AWEX services that require travel, such as on farm audits and classing house inspections were suspended. COVID-19 Safe Operating Procedures have been developed for AWEX staff and these industry services have resumed. The auction wool selling system has continued to operate under modified conditions.

AWEX and key wool industry bodies collaborated to develop a set of protocols aimed to keep wool harvesting staff safe. The protocol and recommendations can be found at -
http://www.awex.com.au/media/1926/shearing-operations-protocols-in-response-to-covid-19.pdf

COVID-19 Protocols in place at a wool Shed entrance
*More COVID-19 news on page 3 of this edition.

A message from AWH - Bale numbering within a financial year.

AWH are the largest wool warehouse in the world. Warehouses are just one of the many customers in the wool supply chain.

"We are finding an increasing use of duplicate bale numbers within a 12-month financial period. (e.g. July 2019 to June 2020).

AWH IT systems are set to not duplicate bale numbers within a financial year However with a change in shearing patterns in recent times we are starting to experience this practice. That is, each shearing (or 'Job') is commencing with bale number 1.

As a consequence, at AWH we need to either, physically renumber the bale/s or apply a code to the property brands wool number to allow the duplicate clip/consignment to be processed. Assigning varying clip codes to the one wool brand/clip can cause additional confusion with wool grower identification for alternate purposes.

In some cases, clips may be held over a number of years however this would not be as common as the increase in multiple shearings. Along with increased wool grower stocks now being held we see the chances of many duplicate bale numbers in one location/store." - **DAVID MITCHELL National Wool Manager AWH**

Avoiding Duplicate Bale Numbers

- Ensure that you check the first bale number in the wool book for bales pressed before this shearing
- Correctly date and identify the current wool book so details are clear when returning for the next shearing
- Ask the Owner/manager(s) if there are any unsold bales from this season (financial year)
- When using WoolClip make sure you select the correct bale number in *First Bale in Job*

- See COP 19-21, page 108, sec18.8, (iii). Page 109, sec18.9, c. and d. Page 114, sec 20.2, e.

Wool Classer Reports

AWEX sends two monthly reports to wool classers with an email address*.

- **Activity Statement and Clip Inspection Report**: of wool offered at auction for the previous month and any associated clip inspections.

- **Receival report:** Over-and under-weight bales are recorded by the receiving warehouse and are reported to the wool classer.
  *Contact AWEX to update or add your email address.

FAQs

Two of the most common questions from these reports are:

Why did I receive an overweight bale report?

The receival warehouse is one of the wool classer's primary customers. Warehouses need your help to reduce the number of over-and under-weight bales. The issue of over/under-weight bales is not new, and classers should be aware of the Work, Health and Safety implications and the cost of weight adjustments.

In any quality system, feedback is essential for continual improvement. AWEX is asking classers to help identify the source of the bale weight error and assist Owner/Managers, contractors and shed staff in developing strategies and solutions.

Awareness of the issue is the first step to reduce bale weight issues in our industry. See page 4 of the Jan 18 Boardtalk for hints and tips on pressing http://www.awex.com.au/media/1784/awex-boardtalk-january-2018_email.pdf

Why did I receive a bale description feedback comment on my AAMLMS description?

AAMLMS is a skirted fleece description. A feedback comment is provided when the wool type was identified during a show floor audit as pieces, e.g. AWEX-ID **MLP**

The bale descriptions must reflect the bale contents. Lines made for **skirted lambs fleece** are described using the line descriptions of **AAA** or **AA**, then the **Breed** (e.g. **M**) and **Wool Category** (LMS). Lambs wool lines containing frib and skirting material must be described as **LPCS**.

A typical classing example for merino lambs would be:

AAAMLMS - main line of skirted Merino lambs fleece e.g. best length, under 50mm.

AAMLMS - second line of shorter skirted Merino lambs fleece 30mm.

MLPCS -all Merino lambs pick and frib including belly wool for carding length lambs.

See COP 19-21 Classing Merino Lambs, page 61 sec 11.5. Classing Crossbred Lambs, page 82, sec 13.6. Classing Downs Lambs, page 90, sec 14.5.

Classing Tip

Identifying lambs and weaner mobs. Remember to identify mobs of young sheep, first shearing as **Age Code 1** on the Classer's specification mob details. Second shearing is **Age Code 2**. Age code 1 refers to the presence of the unshorn tip and not the age of the sheep or wool length.

When using WoolClip select *1st Shearing* when adding a mob as Age Code 1.

Weaners Tip - first shearing (over 50mm), Age Code 1.

COVID-19 Cancellations

Master Classer 2020

The Master Classer course for 2020 has been postponed until further notice due to COVID-19 travel restrictions and social distancing rules. Thank you to the Classers that have expressed interest in attending. Your nominations will be considered when the course is rescheduled. If you know a classer who you think would be interested in increasing their knowledge of the wool pipeline, please contact Fiona Raleigh: e.fraleigh@awex.com.au

Master Classer (2019) course participants inspecting farm bales prior to scouring.

Golden Stencil Graduate Wool Classer Competition

With arrangements in place for the 2020 AWEX/TAFE NSW Graduate Wool Classer competition, the host event of the Sydney Royal Easter Show, was cancelled. Much to the disappointment of the 14 competitors, their opportunity to represent their respective training organisation has been postponed. These competitors deserve recognition for their achievements and commitment to their training.

2020 National Graduate Wool Classer Competition Finalists:

Katie Atherton, Nyngan NSW
Kristen Hegarty, Cassilis NSW
Artie Wright, Peak Hill NSW
Joseph Kingston, French Park NSW
Emma Smith, Breadalbane NSW
Sophie Tongue, Nundle NSW
Josh Murcott, Glencoe SA
Angus MacKindlay, Moama NSW
Lisa Shalders, Wagin WA
Jacob Rhen, Kingston SA
Nicole Ritchie, Tatong VIC
Sharon Stewart, Launceston TAS
Skye Edmonds, Willaura VIC
Duncan Trethowan, Cookardinia NSW

The Winners - Where are they now?

Left: 2018 Golden Stencil Winner -Matilda Scott, Conara TAS, TAS TAFE. Matilda is currently studying an Agricultural Science Degree

Right: 2019 Golden Stencil winner-Tahlia Delaney, Bethungra NSW, TAFE NSW Southern Region. Tahlia continues to work as a busy professional Wool Classer.

NWD version 8.0

The National Wool Declaration (NWD) Version V8.0 is effective from 1st July 2020. The NWD is the industry agreed form that allows Owners/Managers to declare their animal husbandry practices on mobs of sheep.

Verifying and signing the NWD is the responsibility of the Owner/Manager(s). The Classer can assist by making sure the NWD is completed and is accurate by communicating with the grower prior to shearing on the mob details, including mulesing status, crutching history and mobs in contact with shedding breeds. WoolClip has been updated to reflect these changes.

NWD V8.0 Definitions:

- Ceased Mulesing (CM) status can be declared if:

    – lambs have not been mulesed on the property in the last 12 months*, and

    – no ewes or wethers that are mulesed or mulesed with AA have been purchased.

*At the time of shearing, lambs must be marked but not mulesed before a property is eligible for CM Status.

- Mob mulesing status codes NM, AA or M must be completed for all mobs:
    – NM – No sheep in this mob have been mulesed.

    – AA - All sheep in this mob were mulesed and treated with a pre- and/or post- Analgesic and/or Anaesthetic product(s) registered by APVMA for use on sheep.

    – M - Some/all sheep in this mob have been mulesed

For more information visit:
http://www.awex.com.au/publication/national-wool-declaration-nwd/

NWD V8.0 extract.

Did you know?

The indicative count range for classing crossbred has changed. See COP 2021, page 77.

Breed Code	Indicative counts	Estimated micron
CBK	64s,60s, 58s	< 25um
FX	56s	27um
MX	50s, 46s	30um
CX	44s, 40s, 36s *	> 34um

*Remember two adjacent counts only in crossbred lines.

Want to use WoolClip?

WoolClip is an online web-based system that is easy to use where you can add bale details, complete the NWD and create Specifications online. When used with the smartphone app, Mob and Bale details can be collected in the shed even where there is no signal or data connectivity.

WoolClip Training and Support

Training is recommended as an easy way to get started and is available 7 days a week and after hours.
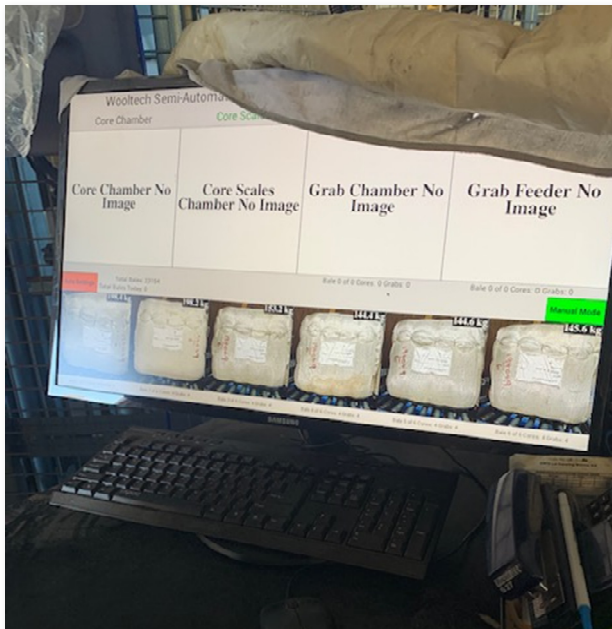To book a training session, or need Support, please call 02 9428 6170 or send an email to
woolclip@awex.com.au

A Pressing issue

The bale label is the primary source of information at the wool receival store and during sampling.

AWEX has received feedback on pressing and branding quality and the problems created in the warehouse.

The information on the bale head is recorded remotely by camera at the grab/core sampling line.

Picture shows image collection and display at sampling

Unclear bale label details or writing can contribute to errors and delays. Excessive wrinkling of the bale label can lead to poor reading quality.

The bale head must not be domed or lop-sided. Bales are inverted during core sampling. Lop-sided or domed bales tip and jam, needing to be manually removed from the core chamber.

Bale in Core chamber

Best practice

To achieve a level bale head and flat smooth label:

- Correctly place the pack in the press making, sure the corners reach the top of the press.
- Do not push wool to the back of the press when filling. Evenly distribute the wool especially as the bale nears required weight.
- Level off the wool before closing by drawing wool to the corners/edges of the press to be held by the pins. This may involve running the press through extra pinning cycles.
- Evenly space fasteners paying attention to creating a flat label.

- The bale should be easily closed without excessive stretching and tension on the bale flap. When pins are released the wool pressure will tighten the fasteners
- The Bale Fastening Guide (BFG) is the stitched line on the pack flap. The bale is the correct length and the bale head flat when the fasteners *easily* reach this guide.
- A flat label can be written on before or after releasing pins and will be easy to complete and read.

Flat label with large easy to read details.

! Important

- The bale label must be flat and free of excessive wrinkling.
- Writing must be large, clear, and easy to read.
- The bale head must not be domed or lop-sided.
- The bale flaps must not be stretched when closing.
- Watch bale weights, 190-195kg in shed.

🔑 Key Point

A bale is easy to close when the wool is level. An easy to close bale creates a flat label. A flat label is easy to write on and read.

Bale details difficult to read due to excessive wrinkling from too much tension applied when closing bale.

Features of a correctly completed bale label

- Black texta/marker or stamp.
- Large clear writing (40mm).
- All details completed.
- Classer's stamp applied.

50 years of continuous registration 1970

AWEX would like to take this opportunity recognise and congratulate the admirable achievement of 50 years of continuous registration.

Honour Roll reg. 1970

Mr Vern Armstrong, COOTAMUNDRA NSW
Mr William Baxter, NARRABRI NSW
Mr Anthony Boyle, DENMARK WA
Mr George Brabin, ILLABO NSW
Mr Chris Britnell, STRATFORD NSW
Mr Phillip Broadhead, BUNGONIA NSW
Mr Geoff Brooker, BUDERIM QLD
Mr Glyn Bruce, CUMNOCK NSW
Mr John Bunn, BRAIDWOOD NSW
Mr Geoffrey Burey, GUYRA NSW
Mr James Campbell, CAPEL WA
Mr Garry Clapperton, HAMILTON TAS
Mr Evan Clarke, KIKOIRA NSW
Mr Patrick Corrigan, LAVINGTON NSW
Mr Peter Dark, MIRRANATWA VIC
Mr Anthony Dickens, YEOVAL NSW
Mr Ross Dickinson, BALLARAT NORTH VIC
Mr Terence Drum, BALLDALE NSW
Mr Roly Dye, COROWA NSW
Mr Paul Flinn, YERONG CREEK NSW
Mr Bill Gaffney,MUDGEENSW
Mr Garry Gibson, BULGANA VIC
Mr Malcolm Graue, TANUNDA SA
Mr Alan Heathcote, LENNOX HEAD NSW
Mr Kenneth Hooper, DEVENISH VIC
Dr David Hucker, WICKLIFFE VIC
Mr Richard Jennings, COOLAMON NSW
Mr Clifford Kelly, NEWBRIDGE NSW (1967)

Mr Harold Lane, GLEN INNES NSW
Mr Barry Lang, OBERON NSW
Mr Thomas Lee, BENALLA VIC
Mr Greg Lees, GUNNING NSW
Mr Robert Love, VIOLET TOWN VIC
Mr Graeme Maconachie, LEARMONTH VIC
Mr Michael Martin, GREENSBOROUGH VIC
Mr Bruce Maxwell, GULGONG NSW
Mr Charles McGee, PARKES NSW
Mr Leon McMillan, SELLICKS BEACH SA
Mr Rodney Mills, TERANGVIC
Mr Ray Moroney, GOULBURN NSW
Mr Kelvin O'Neill, PORONGURUP WA
Mr Rodney Ostini, MULLION CREEK NSW
Mr Trevor Owens, WELLINGTON NSW
Mr David Preston, CRANBROOK WA
Mr Robert Queale, RIVERSIDE VIC
Mr Ian Rathbone, ALBERT NSW
Mr Austin Reid, TEMORA NSW
Mr Robert (Bob) Saunders, LAUNCESTON TAS
Mr James Smith, URANA NSW
Mr Forbes Spillman, ARMADALE WA
Mr Peter Tiller, KELLERBERRIN WA
M Graham Warren, YORKETOWN SA
Mr Leslie Waters, NEVERTIRE NSW
Mr Trevor Wilkin, COONABARABRAN NSW
Mr Keith Woodhouse, BALDRY NSW

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