AWEX

ePCS BULLETIN

IN THIS ISSUE

Re-registration 2025-27

The current registration period ends at the end of 2024.

There is no need to do anything yet as will contact you later in the year, but if you have updated contact details (postal address, email, or mobile) and have yet to let us know then we recommend these are updated now.

You can do this online using WoolClip (via My Profile) or by contacting Wool Classer Registration Support on 02 9428 6160 (Monday-Friday 8am-5pm AEST).

DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN ACCESS ALL YOUR CLASSING RECORDS THROUGH WoolClip?

Log into **www.woolclip.com.au**

WHAT MAKES A GOOD SPECIFICATION? EVERYTHING.

All sections of the wool classer's specification and NWD are important. When all sections are correct and complete there is integrity and confidence in the information provided and the wool is offered for sale in the best competitive position.

Here are some often overlooked sections.

Owner/Manager signature. The signature is required to verify the NWD information as correct. Only the grower can declare this information. The **NWD** is more than the mulesing status. The declaration includes the property declaration questions, and DMFR mob details. Failing to sign could mean the growers clip is offered for sale with the Mulesing status and dark and medullated fibre risk (**DMFR**) printed as Not Declared. This would then be shown in the sale catalogue with the symbols of **ND**.

Classer signature, date, and details. A clip can often be held over to the following year before being sold. With no date for the completion of shearing it can be difficult to determine when the clip was classed. The classer signature is important when the Classer, Broker or AWEX are querying the stencil use. Full classer details MUST be completed.

Matching mob information, simple comments on wool length, especially when clips contain mobs of different shearing intervals is important to the broker who may build lines across mobs especially in small lots. The classer should build compatible larger lines. VM types and quantity should also be identified.

Classer comments. A simple clear comment that states what the line was *made for* is required on all lines, main lines, cast lines and oddments. Examples included 'Main line of mob', 'made for unscourable colour', 'lower strength line', 'all skirtings', 'wether bellies, pizzle stain removed', 'Board and table locks', etc. Bin Codes also help the broker to identify lines made for different characteristics.

**MOB NO.** The Mob/s No must be included at line level to **link** the classed line to the **mob** information on the NWD. This completes the integrity of the NWD for every line in the sale catalogue. Note that this column is shaded on the specification sheet indicting that this information forms part of the NWD. It is recommended to use **WoolClip** as this linkage is **automatically calculated** creating a document of high **accuracy** and **integrity** of information. This is especially important in clips with mobs of differing mulesing status.

DMFR and property questions answered. The customers of Merino fleece and pieces may use the information in the DMFR rating printed in the sale catalogue to identify dark fibre risk from the crutching status, sex and age of the mob and the runs with shedding breed status. When not completed fully the line will appear as not declared and may have decreased buyer competition.

The **property questions** on purchased and young mobs mulesing status forms the ceased mulesed (CM) declaration.

PIC. The Property Identification Code is important information for biosecurity and traceability and should be completed.
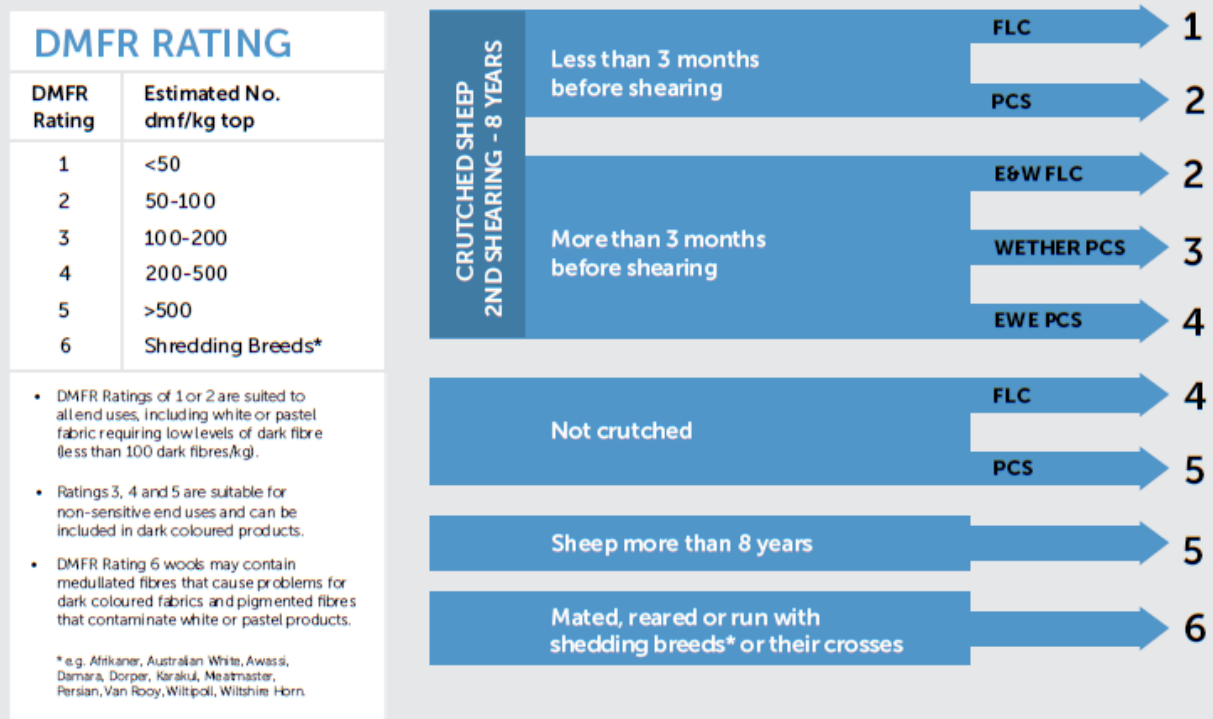
DMFR calculation table.

DESCRIBING **YOUNG SHEEP**

The correct description assists the broker in cataloguing and requesting additional measurements on applicable lines. The classer Must describe using the bale descriptions as follows:

LMS is used to describe **first** shearing **carding** length wool from young mobs **under 50mm**.

WNS is used to describe **first** shearing **combing** length wool from young mobs **over 50mm**.

Young mobs that have been previously shorn (second or consecutive shearings) MUST be described as **adult** wool regardless of age or length. It is the wool character that is being described and not the age of the sheep.

On the NWD the age of the young mob is described as follows:

Age Code 1 = first shearing LMS and WNS.

Age Code 2 = second shearing, young mob, described as adult wool.

Do not use age in months e.g., 6mth to describe the sheep age or half year ages such as 1 ½ yr.

> **Did you know** that the Age Code is easily completed using **WoolClip** by selecting **first** or **second** shearing when adding young mobs to the mob book. The correct Age Code will be automatically calculated on the completed NWD.

Want to do it Better – Smarter?

WoolClip creates a seamless calculation and collation of all information required for a complete wool classer specification and NWD. Mandatory fields in each module of the WoolClip program are automatically added to the specification on finalisation. See for yourself. Create a WoolClip specification and print a PDF draft for review.

You will see that all sections are completed using previously entered information from either the (Owner/Manager) and or the Classer. For more information or to get started contact **e.jcox@awex.com.au**

MEETING THE CODE: WOOL CLASSING 1.1

"The Code of Practice's key quality **Wool Classer objectives**, which underpin processor confidence in Australian wool are:

* Prepare uniform and predictable lines of wool,

* Ensure the product is free of contamination,

* Present a correctly packaged product,

* Correctly describe the contents of each bale, and

* Accurately document the entire clip.

Registered Wool Classers take on the primary **responsibility** for the delivery of these objectives when they accept the **role of Wool Classer** for the wool grower/manager".

Let's look at what the word 'Responsibility' means. It is accepted that when you take

on the role of Classer these 5 points in the Code of Practice will be meet (the objective of the Role).

Comments to AWEX from Classers are often around the expectation of meeting these objectives and the pressures of the work environment. Along with technical skills the Classer also needs to ensure the other key objectives are met so our customers have confidence in Australian wool.

Issues of Contamination, overweight bales and the uptake of WoolClip are important to the pipeline and are clearly related to the role of the Wool Classer 1.1.

Often the Wool Classer misinterprets the word '**Fault**' with '**Responsibility**'. It may not be the Wool Classer's fault that the scales do not work on the press, or sheep are presented uncrutched, or there is not enough wool bins, etc. **But** as it is the Wool Classers responsibility to meet

these objectives the Classer needs to apply contingency measures when not all is ideal. Unfortunately, less than ideal is what is termed **Quality Control**- Fixing issues and removing faults. Quality Control can never **guarantee** a good result.

The best scenario is when the classer is working in **Quality Assurance** processes where best practice, planning and preparation has been put in place through from last shearing and leading up to the next wool harvesting. Unfortunately, poorly maintained facilities and staffing issues are not the Classers fault...However in meeting the COP these issues are the Classers responsibility. Don't wait until you receive the next Clip report to see all did not go to plan. Give AWEX a call to talk through possible strategies. Fiona Raleigh, Wool Classer registrar on M.0403 396 842.

The Classer can use the objectives of the Code of Practice as discussion points with the shearing contractor or Owner/Manager, who can support the classer in meeting these objectives.

Some helpful information.

* Prepare uniform and predictable lines of wool, - prepare wool using the mob-based classing strategies. Don't combine mobs that don't meet the mob definition.

* Ensure the product is free of contamination, - Follow the processes outlined in the Code of practice Plan and Prep (Sec 2). Carry out a shed audits and risk assessment. Brief staff.

*Present a correctly packaged product, - Follow the instruction in the pressing section of the COP. Supervise the presser. Check the physical bales at the end of every run against the wool book for errors. Press to a conservative (estimated) weight on presses without scales. Manage wool cutouts to avoid over or underweight bales.

* Correctly describe the contents of each bale, Follow the bale description convention in the COP

and fairly describe the contents of the bale so there are no surprises for our customers especially for lines containing fault.

*Accurately document the entire clip. Use **WoolClip** to create and transmit complete clip information in an easy-to-read format straight to the marketing organisation.

Clean, tidy and well-appointed facilities create a quality assurance environment.

KEEPING STAFF MOTIVATED

Working with our human resources can be part of the most challenging aspects of Wool Classing. Developing skills as a team leader takes time and practice.

For staff to be motivated and productive, they need to:

- know what is expected of them.
- be treated with respect.
- be allowed to 'own' their jobs and contribute to their job description.
- be rewarded for good performance.

Staff are likely to feel valued when they

are encouraged to participate in decision making and contribute towards creative solutions. Is there a better way to do something? Are there some creative solutions that have not been tried before? Team meetings are a good starting point.

Motivating staff can be a challenge in the pressured shearing shed environment. People are often motivated when others take the time to teach them a new skill or impart knowledge.

Signs of unmotivated staff in the shearing shed might include:

- decreased productivity

- poor quality work
- staff avoiding tough jobs
- disorganisation
- staff leaving jobs for others to do
- staff showing little or no initiative
- staff becoming withdrawn and not interacting with other team members
- staff becoming uncooperative and complaining
- irritable or depressed staff
- staff acting defensively.

REASONS FOR
LACK OF MOTIVATION

There could be any number of reasons why a team member isn't working efficiently. Quite often, though, a lack of motivation can be attributed to one of four things.

- They may not know how to get the job done. They may not have the right skills for the job, or the supervisor might not have explained it in a way they could understand.

- The job may not match their skills and interests, or they may find it boring and unstimulating.

- They might be burnt out. They may be expected to do too much.

- They may not like the people they have to work with or there may be conflict in the workplace.

As a supervisor, it is important to recognise that each person wants different things from their job.

It is easy to make the mistake of expecting staff to feel, think and act in the same way as the Classer towards clip preparation and work ethic. We

are all individuals. But all staff should meet the following:

Do the job i.e. concentrating on the tasks to meet the required preparation outcome. E.g., correct skirting, throwing flat fleeces. Value adding to wool preparation.

Keeping up with the workflow (for a reasonable staff ratio)

Working in a **safe** and **respectful** manner towards others.

Working as part of a **team**.

Being **punctual**, turning up to work and starting on time.

See section 1.6 pages 11-12 COP

YOUR CLASSER REPORT **AND THE AWEX-ID A CLIP REVIEW TOOL**

Every sale lot is inspected on the show floor and an AWEX ID recorded for the non-measured characteristics of the sample. The Classer and Grower can use this information as a review tool as 'what the appraiser saw in the box' and how the wool presented for sale. Understanding this information can give a valuable insight for continuous improvement. AWEX reports the AWEX-ID to the Classer via the classing activity summary report.

How to interpret the AWEX-ID - **BREED GROUP**

There are 6 Breed Groups that may be applied in the AWEX-ID typing system. AS, M, X, D, T, R. The breed is assessed by the audit staff based on the visual appearance/ character of the sale lot. This is assessed independently of the bale description used by the classer. Note: AWEX does not have access to the wool classer specification.

Clip Review Note

AS or **M?** For Superfine Merino lots with a measured fibre diameter less than **18.5** the Breed Group AS is assessed based on visual quality count which reflects curvature or crimp frequency. The wool must exhibit the Saxon breed character. Classers may class out lines within a superfine clip that meet the **AS** breed definition where applicable. Clips may contain both **M** and **AS** types e.g., AAAM and AAASUP. Merino lots that are finer than **18.5** but with a broader visual crimp spacing (positive microning or visually broader then the test result) will be identified with the standard comment of **BOLD** in the AWEX-ID e.g., **MF4E. (BOLD)**

Clip Review Note

Wool from the **SAMM** breed may be assessed as **M** or **X** Breed Group based on visual character and identified with the AWEX-ID standard comment of **SAMM**. e.g., **MF5S. (SAMM)** The classer may class out lines within the SAMM clip that are more or less merino in character. SAMM wool must be described with the bale description of **SM** e.g., **AAASM** or the lot will be **non-conforming**. E.g., **MNF5S. (SAMM)** if described as **AAAM**. This applies to Afrino clips which are described with the bale description of **FO** e.g., **AAAFO**. Wool from the Dohne breed is indistinguishable from Merino and therefore does not need a separate breed code. **Dohne** is appraised and described as **M**.

Clip Review Note

X or **D**? The **X** Breed Group is used to appraise wool from fine crossbreed breeds such as Corriedale and Polwarth which are described with the bale description breed **CD** and **PW** respectively e.g., bale description of **AAACD, AAAPW**. British long wool breeds and their crosses are also appraised with breed group **X**. Most commonly this is applied to a first cross maternal ewe clip and other breeds including Border Leister wool. The **D** breed group is used to describe wool that is distinctly Downs in character, being fine crimping, spongy and lacking staple definition. Wool from Downs breeds such as Poll Dorset and Suffolk will be appraised as D eg **DF6S**, and described using the bale description of **DN** e.g., **AAADN**.

Clip Review Note

Black pointed Downs and their crosses must be described with the risk description of **Y** for visible pigmentation. E.g., **AAADNY**. The classer must indicate the presence of pigmentation in the bale description. The AWEX-ID scaled qualifier will be **Y** e.g., **DF5E. Y1** (light presence of pigmentation). Black pointed breeds are not a run with risk to white wool breeds as they do not shed fibre, so the description of **R** is not applied, however pigmented sheep/mobs/breeds should be shorn after all white wool breeds. A complete wool cut out and press up is required.

Clip Review Note

Composite wool can be a challenge to class and a challenge to appraise. Composite clips often contain wool of both downs and cross breed character. The classer should class wool making uniform lines, with the crossbred lines identified using bale description breed of **FX**, **MX** or **CX** (based on visual crimp spacing) and **DN** for downs types e.g. **AAADN**. Wool with character lying between these breed groups can be described as **DX** indicating the character is indistinct e.g., **AAADX**. The appraiser may make the standard comment of DNX. E.g., **DF6B. (DNX)**

Clip Review Note

British long wool is not appraised as **carpet wool, T**. Long wool breeds can be very coarse in visual crimp frequency, but they do not present with the medullated fibre characteristic of carpet wool.

Clip Review Note

Shedding breeds are appraised with the breed code **R**. These breeds have a high degree of medullated fibre and may also have pigmented fibres. They are a risk to white wool breeds. White wool mobs running with shedding breeds must be identified in the NWD mob information and appraised using the risk description of **R** e.g., **AAAMR** or when pigmentation is present, **AAAMY** or medullation present **AAAMK** or both **AAAMYK**. Lots from mobs identified in the NWD as DMFR 6 must be described as R (Y or K). Failing to describe correctly will result in the lot being non-conforming. Runs with shedding breeds Merino mobs would be appraised as e.g., **RMF5E**.

AS style fleece

DN style fleece

WHAT'S STAIN AND WHAT'S NOT

Pen affected wool occurs when sheep are penned for shearing full, during transportation or when daggy sheep are penned too densely and rub on the pen mate's fleece. The pen affected wool can be wet from urine, smeared with dung or both. Importantly this wool is not STAIN.

Urine needs to be in contact with wool for 3 months to develop the serious DARK colour fault.

How to prepare PEN affected wool: PEN affected wool must be dry before pressing and separated from other non-affected lines. Whole fleeces or parts of fleece must be skirted. These are not a stain line so they must not be described with the STN bale description. A fleece line or parts of fleece that are pen affected would be described with a secondary description of AA e.g. AAM.

Pen affected wool with dung tip

- *Examples of bale description and AWEX ID shown here are for fleece wool only. See AWEX Wool Classer COP for cast lines and oddment examples OR contact the Registrar fraleigh@awex.com.au for more information.*

- *A copy of the AWEX ID grid can be found at https://www.awex.com.au/media/2059/awx-322-awex-id-chart-v335.pdf*

Make it Clear!!! Handwritten information on the **NWD**, contact with shedding breeds and mob crutched questions can be unclear and misinterpreted resulting in an incorrect DMFR rating. Write the N and Y clearly or better still use **WoolClip** to digitally sign and transmit the NWD with the Wool Classer specification.

WET weather FLY alert

With high summer rain recently falling in some parts of Australia it is predicted that there may be an increase in fly affected wool. Fly blown wool can be prepared to meet the Code of Practice and be offered for sale as classed. All fly affected wool would be separated from non-affected wool. Wet fly must be dried before pressing and not be included in Colour or Urine Stain lines. All wool **must** be described accordingly e.g., **FLYM** for fly affected merino fleece wool. See the COP for more information.

MEET THE AWEX TECHNICAL TEAM

Did you know that AWEX technical staff inspect every lot, in every sale, in the three Australian selling centres? Thousands of boxes are examined that contain the grab sample from the lot and are assessed and the AWEX-ID type recorded. From this the market report is developed. It is during this assessment that the sample is checked for compliance to the Code of Practice. AWEX then reports to the Broker and the Buyer when an issue is identified. This allows for a fully transparent selling system.

Inspecting sale lots serves an important role to industry and is aligned with the the wool classer registration scheme, Rules of Registration:

The objectives of the Scheme are to:

- acknowledge the occupation of Wool Classing through formal qualifications.

- provide assurance and confidence to wool producers and purchasers that wool preparation is performed by an individual possessing skills and knowledge to undertake the classing function to the industry standard;

- provide a means of identifying that the classing of a particular clip has been carried out by a qualified Registered Wool Classer;

- provide a mechanism to ensure that all Wool Classers keep up to date with developments in wool and wool classing technologies and practices; and

- provide a mechanism for trace-back through the wool pipeline

A common misconception is that samples are inspected for the sole purpose of policing the Wool Classer. Samples with an issue are reported back to the Classer, via the Registrar, to ensure that as an industry we are supplying a quality product to our customers with no surprises. The Classer can use this information as feedback in a quality assurance system.

SOUTH REGION:
Melbourne Centre
Andrew Partridge

WEST REGION:
Fremantle Centre
Andrew Rickwood

NORTH REGION:
Sydney Centre
Eleanor Santolin

SOUTH REGION:
Melbourne Centre
Renee Timberlake

CALL IN AND MEET THE AWEX TEAM WHEN YOU ARE NEXT VISITING A SELLING CENTRE.

Follow us on Facebook for notices of AWEX events and Workshops plus classing tips and information.
www.facebook.com/woolexchange

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- Wool Classer Registration
- Administration: Change of Contact Details/Address
- Code of Practice
- Sheep Breed Compendium
- Clip Preparation Advice & Support
- Clip Inspection Correspondence
- Activity Statements
- Reference Material
- Stencils/Stamps/Pens
- WoolClip

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AWEX *we know wool*

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