SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES FOR THE MEETING OF THE WOOL INDUSTRY EDP USERS GROUP HELD ON MONDAY THE 13th OF OCTOBER 2008

SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES

1. ACWEP Catalogue Delivery Proposal

Initially ACWEP did not come to WIEDPUG as they believed it was not a technical issue as the solution uses current formats, it was a business decision to reduce costs and was initiated for this reason only. This forum was not asked to discuss business implications it was merely looking for technical feedback.

The proposal meets the current standards however FTP has to this point in time been the chosen method of data transmission for current network providers. It is also known that multiple companies do email data. Other than stating that the proposal meets current standards the committee cannot make any further comments.

Two issues were raised with the proposal, the first is it was stated in the proposal that all catalogues would not be sent until the last catalogue was received would this mean that if there was a late catalogue the sellers that were on time would be disadvantaged? The second issue is would file size be an issue with some ISP's holding files that reach a certain size? In regards with the first issue if there was a late catalogue a second email would be sent. With the second issue the files that will be used are not all that big, most are less than 1 MB and will not cause any issues.

An issue with the 21C record being included in the transmission from the sellers to ACWEP was raised as it contains commercially sensitive data (with privacy undertakings) such as classer stencil numbers, appraiser id's and AWEX-ID's that sellers have specifically requested to be sent to AWEX only and not to enter the public domain. The solution is that once the data is received by ACWEP it will be filtered out for the email transmission to exporters.

Over the last 12-18 months there have been a lot of structured discussions within WIEDPUG about future directions and the direction of the data standards. As XML has been discussed as a possible solution, the ACWEP email solution would need to be able to handle XML in the future if necessary.

2. DMFR

An issue has been raised in regards to the calculation of DMFR from the test house. The query was in regards to the logic that if the value was a weaner it would overwrite the age value. If there is an incorrect value it will cause an issue with the DMFR calculation.

This may be a logic issue and it is not this forums domain to comment on, the DMFR group would be the best to handle this.

3. Futures – XML Formats

Work begun by AWTA was outlined; it has been built on the Talman and AWEX work that was completed in 2003. It was designed to be a start in the XML feasibility work and it is open to any suggestions from the committee, a working group with an experienced XML technician may be the next step.

A lot of queries have been raised about XML and it is believed the policy committee would not accept the proposal in the current environment. WIEDPUG has not recommended (to any committee) that XML be adopted at this time, and that the working group/trial was part of the technical research and development process.

Issues such as file sizes and associated increased costs should not be barriers as there are solutions to these issues.

The committee has a duty of care in relation to EDI document standards to ensure that they are able to meet current and future industry demands. A trial will be organised that will concentrate on the TC.

4. Other Business

AWTA VPN Client
AWTA is looking at alternatives to its current VPN client. Encrypted FTP would be used in the proposed solution and AWTA are considering individual logons versus a single logon.

Network Support Times
It was enquired if it was possible to have the networks supported outside of normal business hours as there had been an issue over the recent weekend and support was not available.

Normal business hours support had been implemented by AWEX Network support for several years and due to the high availability of the network since its upgrade several years ago support has not been an issue. However the AWEX Network support number will be updated to include after hours support.

IWTO Data Standards
The committee was advised that the IWTO data standards committee was progressing with developing an international standard for wool transmissions and a group had been formed to formulate the standards. The project that is being taken on is big as there are multiple data transmission formats used within the wool industry.

5. Next Meeting

TBA