

BOARDtalk

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NATIONAL GRADUATE WOOLCLASSER COMPETITION



AWEX National Graduate Woolclasser Competition Place Getters
L to R: 1st Place: Holly Byrne (Bagshot, VIC); 2nd Place: Carmen-Lee Campbell (Dubbo, NSW); 3rd Place: Thornall Burey (Guyra, NSW)

At the Sydney Royal Easter Show twelve of Australia's finest and newest woolclassers competed in the inaugural AWEX National Graduate Woolclasser of the Year Competition.

This was the first national competition and the best graduate woolclassers from around the country were present, representing: New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and Western Australia. "Each of today's finalists should be acknowledged for their commitment to the wool industry and on achieving such recognition so early in their careers. This is exciting for woolclassing and the wool industry," said Mr Mark Grave, AWEX CEO.

The AWEX National Graduate Woolclasser of the Year Award acknowledges the skills required to be a professional woolclasser in today's wool industry. "We're delighted at the high standard and evenness of the competition, which highlights the depth of talent and skill of the next generation of Australian woolclassers. This is why Australia's reputation for producing the best wool in the world is justified."

The winner of the 2012 AWEX National Graduate Woolclasser of the Year and "Golden Stencil" was Holly Byrne, Bagshot, VIC. Second place and "Silver

Stencil" was awarded to Carmen-Lee Campbell, Dubbo, NSW, and 3rd place and "Bronze Stencil" was awarded to Thornall Burey, Guyra, NSW.

"The national competition is a pressure cooker environment and one that most woolclassers may never get to experience" said Mark Grave, "Holly's performance was outstanding. She displayed confidence under pressure and her ability to make effective decisions was a contributing factor to her win."

The Dennis Teasdale Perpetual Trophy, recognising the college and trainer of the winner of the National Graduate Woolclasser Competition, was awarded to Bendigo Regional Institute of TAFE (BRIT) and trainer Mr Jim Field. This trophy acknowledges the important contribution that the college and trainer play in woolclasser education



AWEX National Graduate Woolclasser Competition
L to R: Contestant: Bernadette McRae (Morangarell, NSW); Judge Jim Stedman (Kathaytex, Sydney); David Cother (AWEX, Sydney)

and the pursuit of excellence.

"This is an outstanding and deserved achievement for BRIT and Jim Field. The Bendigo region has a rich heritage in wool and it is a fruitful area for well trained and skilled people in the wool industry," said Mr Grave.

The 2012 National Graduate Woolclasser finalists were:

- Sarah Artery, Oberon, NSW
- Thornall Burey, Guyra, NSW
- Holly Byrne, Bagshot, VIC
- Carmen-Lee Campbell, Dubbo, NSW
- Sophie Cameron, Hawkesdale, VIC
- Matthew Chambers, Boyup Brook, WA
- Marcelle Cheetham, Cooma, NSW
- Grace Cornish, Pawtella, TAS
- Andrew Hughes, Baldry, NSW
- Bernadette McRae, Morangarell, NSW
- Andrew Robertson, Skipton, VIC
- Tara Smith, Poolajelo, VIC

Mr Grave added, "Woolclassing remains a valuable skill in today's wool industry and its value will only increase as the industry advances. Wool growers should be using trained woolclassers to maximise their returns."

"This event will now be a permanent fixture in the Australian wool calendar and plans for the 2013 competition are well underway."

For further information:
Mark Grave or p. 02 9428 6100
e. mgrave@awex.com.au



Use woolsearch.com.au to find qualified Woolclassers, Shearers and Shed Hands.

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www.woolcheque.com.au

- FREE Online pricing tool
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- It's quick and easy



we know wool

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AWEX is a national organisation of brokers, growers, exporters, processors and private treaty merchants which, in the best interests of the wool industry, provides: Industry standards (wool packs, wool preparation), Clip inspection services, the National Wool Declaration-Integrity Program, Woolclasser registration, Independent market reports, Wool description and appraisal, Wool sale rostering and Wool administration.

Woolclip: Software for Woolclassers

AWEX is pleased to announce the release of its software package for Woolclassers: WoolClip. The primary purpose of this software is to record the normal information within the shearing shed (such as Mob Details, Wool Book, Tally Book etc.) and produce a professional, error free Specification Sheet, National Wool Declaration and other supporting reports.

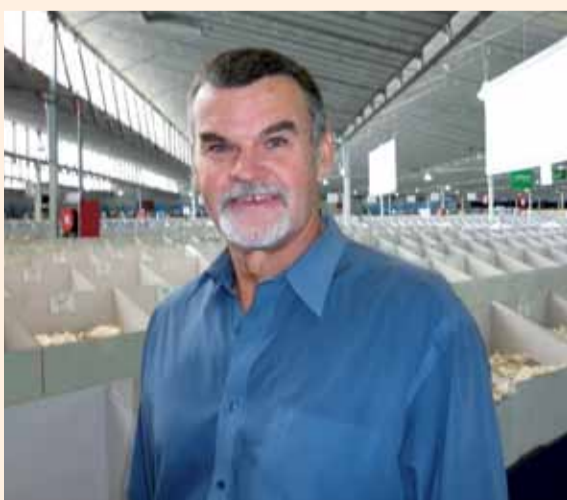
This software is **free** to **Registered Woolclassers**. A series of short (2hr) introduction and training workshops in regional areas are planned. Simply

register your interest by contacting us using one of the following options:

Contact:
David Cother
t. 02 9428 6100
e: woolclasser@awex.com.au or
w. www.awex.com.au/woolclasser/woolclip.html



AWEX appoints new Woolclasser Registrar



Woolclasser Registrar, Peter Sudholz.

AWEX is pleased to announce the appointment of a new Woolclasser Registrar, Peter Sudholz.

Peter has a strong agricultural background and brings with him considerable wool industry expertise and experience stemming from his family cropping and Merino sheep breeding property in the Wimmera region of Victoria. Peter has worked in shearing sheds and classed professionally for several years before entering the education system as a woolclassing instructor.

During his extensive career in wool industry education and shed-hand training Peter, through his involvement in the development of educational resources and the implementation of competency based training, has been an innovative and proactive educator. Within the education sector he has held management roles in primary industries and TAFE serving at both state and national levels in the development of curriculum, training packages and writing of resources for woolclassing.

Peter remains an active Australian woolclasser and has served on AWEX's Industry Services Advisory Committee (ISAC) Woolclasser Code of Practice Review Committee, and more recently he has updated the national woolclassing theory resources. Over the past 2 years whilst remaining actively involved in sheep production and education as a woolclassing instructor, Peter has been one of AWEX's National Wool Declaration (NWD) - Integrity Program on-farm inspectors for mulesing status. This role has seen Peter examine mobs of sheep on properties in Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania, New South Wales and Western Australia.

Peter's role will be highly visible, providing training and support to current woolclassers and training organisations, whilst also working to ensure the future needs of industry are met in terms of woolclassing.

Peter can be contacted on 0408 881 137 or e. psudholz@awex.com.au



BOARDtalk

Version 5.0 of the NWD now Available

Once again, a key focus of the review was to make the NWD more intuitive to increase uptake and minimise errors in completing it. The definitions used in the NWD have not changed.

The most important change is that the Mulesing Status Code is now to be put against each mob (NM/PR or blank) in the mulesing column of the NWD, instead of a Yes/No answer.

Woolgrowers are further reminded to complete the

question "Has Mulesing Ceased on this Property? Yes or No. While Woolclassers should list all the mob numbers for each line of wool; that is, both fleece and oddment lines.

The NWD continues to be combined with the Classer's Specification to reduce duplication, with a separate page detailing the Definitions, Background and Guidelines for completing the NWD. However, a separate NWD form is available if required.

Woolclassers, Owner/Managers and/or Brokers can download soft copies of all formats for the NWD V5.0, February 2012 from the AWEX Website: www.awex.com.au.

For more information:

Mark Grave, p. 02 9428 6100 or e. mgrave@awex.com.au

Kerry Hansford, p. 03 9318 0277 or e. khansford@awex.com.au

WOOLCLASSER'S SPECIFICATION

Broker _____ _____ _____		Farm Brand _____ _____		Proceed Instructions By Cheque (Y/N)..... OR A/C Name..... Bank..... BSB..... A/C No.....		Shearing Details Is this Shearing Complete (Y/N)..... No. of Bales in this Consignment..... Est. No. Bales in this Shearing..... Date Shearing Completed...../...../..... Quality Scheme(s)..... Remarks.....	
Wool No. _____		Delivery Centre _____		Trading Details Trading Name..... Contact Name..... Postal Address..... _____ P/C..... Ph/Mobile..... Fax..... Email.....		Offering Instructions 1st Available Sale (Y/N)..... Other.....	
ABN..... GST Reg (Y/N).....							
Office Use Only Lot / Sale..... AM.....		No. Bales _____		Bale Description _____		Bale Numbers 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	
						Mob Numbers _____	
						Mulesing Status CM ² / NM ³ / PR ⁴ Office Use Only	
						Bi Code _____	
						Classer's Comments _____	

COMPLETE
Shearing Date

FOR EACH LINE of WOOL
Enter ALL mob numbers

National Wool Declaration Mulesing Status and Merino Dark and Medullated Fibre Risk Scheme for Sheep Mobs For the NWD to be valid, this section must be completed & signed by the Owner/Manager. See Definitions, Background and Guidelines.												CM² : Wool from sheep where the property has ceased mulesing. No lamb born on this property in the last 12 months has been mulesed and there must be no intention to mules in the future. NM³ : All sheep in this mob have not been mulesed. PR⁴ : All sheep in this mob were mulesed with a registered Pain Relief product.	
Has Mulesing¹ Ceased² (CM) on this property? YES or NO													
Mob No.	Mob Breaks/Bale Ranges	Age Code	Breed Code	Sex Code	Contact ⁵ with Shedding Breeds ⁶ (Y/N)	Mob Crutched (Y/N)	Crutched within 3 mths prior to Shearing (Y/N)	Mulesing ¹ Status Code NM ³ or PR ⁴ (if Applicable)	Wool Length (mm)	VM (Lo, Med, or High)	Comments/Matching Mob Info	Woolclasser Details Reg. No. _____ Name _____ Signature _____ Ph. /Mob No. _____	
BY SIGNING THIS DECLARATION, I WARRANT THAT (A) I AM AUTHORISED TO COMPLETE THIS DECLARATION AND (B) I CONFIRM THAT ALL DETAILS CONTAINED IN IT ARE TRUE AND CORRECT, HAVING MADE ALL REASONABLE ENQUIRIES AND (C) I SUBMIT TO THE INTEGRITY PROGRAM COMPRISING RANDOM DESK AUDITS AND ON FARM INSPECTIONS												OWNER/MANAGER SIGNATURE _____ DATE ____/____/____	

IMPORTANT Answer CM question

FOR EACH MOB, write NM if non mulesed, PR if mulesed with Pain Relief, or leave blank if mulesed or contains mulesed sheep

REMEMBER Sign and Date NWD

REMINDER
Short Definitions for Mulesing Status

Lambs Wool Preparation – A Buyer’s Perspective

I recently gave a talk to a Woolclassers' Masterclass on lambs' wool preparation, which created some interesting discussion and broadened the participant's knowledge beyond the wool shed. Having worked previously as a Woolclasser, I have a good understanding of how preparation should take place in the shed and how good preparation standards will achieve the best returns on the auction floor.

Before talking about practical shed preparation, it is useful to have an understanding of the end usage of lambs wool and why the price paid in the market varies so greatly from one clip to another and from one individual clip line to another.

Lambs wool falls into three main categories, which determine the processing method. The most critical factors are vegetable matter (VM) and length as well as dark fibre and colour.

"Free lambs" - is the terminology used by the trade to describe lambs wool that contains a maximum of 0.3% VM; therefore, being virtually free of impurities. This wool is shorn from lambs that have only run on green pasture and had minimal contact with grass seeds. Being very seasonal in nature, this lambs wool is keenly sought by European woollen mills specialising in hosiery yarns. The VM content is critical as this lambs wool is spun straight from the scoured (washed) wool into yarn without further processing and it is reliant on the small amount of VM falling out on the carding machinery. The hosiery yarns are used in knitwear for making jumpers and pullovers and; in particular, ladies knitwear where softness is required against the skin. The attraction of "free lambs" for mill buyers is that only scouring is required and the natural softness of the wool is retained. Quite often a normal mill specification will be 0.2% VM in the scoured state meaning that lambs wool with 0.1% VM come under intense demand in the sale room.

"Carbonizing lambs" – the wool comes from lambs carrying higher VM contents, generally from 1.0% upwards to in excess of 10% for some clips. Lambs shorn in late spring and autumn fall into this category. Because of the higher processing costs, in the sale room, carbonizing lambs carry significant discounts to "free lambs in the sale room." The carbonizing process is complex and involves acid treatment and high temperatures, which also affects the softness of the wool. The process involves normal scouring to remove grease and dirt; it then moves into a bowl where the VM is penetrated by acid. The wool is then baked in an oven at a temperature where the seed is converted to carbon while the wool fibre remains intact. This process is followed by beating to remove the carbon, then re-scouring, bleaching and drying. The final product being completely free of any impurities and bleached white. The end usage is also for knitwear and fabrics and it is used widely in woollen mills around the world.

"Open tops" – the lambs wool that falls into this category has achieved a length of 50 mm and is usually from later spring shorn or autumn lambs. In this category, the VM can be around 1.5 - 3.0%. "Open top" lambs are used for combing where the fibres are paralleled and the noils and VM removed. In the production of "open tops", the sliver is broken or opened as opposed to sliver tops where the tops are kept intact (e.g. when producing suiting fabrics). "Open tops" are used in the woollen system (despite being combed), primarily to add strength to carding yarns and once again for use in the knitwear industry.

Preparation at Shearing

Lambs wool is inherently difficult to manage in the shed in that it has few binders and simply falls apart when handled. From my experience, I find it pays to do most of the work on the board while the lambs are being shorn.

In the first instance, this involves the shed staff sweeping away the belly and crutch wool as the shearer works on the "first leg". By doing this you are eliminating some of the shortest wool, wool that may contain some colour and wool that contains the most VM. In the case of "free lambs", a small reduction of VM in the top line may increase the value significantly.

Keeping the board completely clean of the bellies, crutch and lambs locks will ensure that the lamb's fleece arriving on the table is already much easier to deal with. Essentially the board sweepings will become [Breed] L PCS. Once the lambs fleece is on the table a quick pick and shake of the longest wool will create your AAA [Breed] LMS. It is important to class to a uniform length particularly if the length is approaching that of "open tops". The remnants on the table will essentially make AA [Breed] LMS. For smaller clips, this may be reduced to 2 lines and the board sweepings and AA [Breed] LMS combined.

Note: Exactly the same principals apply to Merino and Crossbred lambs, the latter are still made into knitwear for the Shetland style.

Additionally, under normal practice it is important to remove any stain or colour as well as any visible skin pieces. Skin pieces are an ongoing problem as they cause defects in the yarn, and in poor market conditions result in claims from the mills. As a matter of interest, approximately 40 kilos of skin can be removed by pickers from a 16,000 kg processing batch, which greatly increases the cost of production.

Well prepared lambs wool is sought by the trade and attracts stronger competition in the market place.

For further information:

John Bradbury, Fremantle Wool Trading Company Pty Ltd, p. 08 9335 6170

Progress Report – AWEX Wool Pack Trials

What is the Issue with Wool Packs? The wool industry in NSW has been put on notice regarding the problem of over width loads. The Road Rules state that a legal load is one that does not exceed 2.5 metres in width. This road rule has been in place for many years and it is apparent that some loads of wool have exceeded that limit; and as a consequence, traffic infringement notices have been given to drivers.

AWEX is working with NSW Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) and the wool industry to address the issue; a step which is important since the Road Rules are foreshadowed to become National in 2013.

AWEX has made considerable progress in the conduct of wool packs trials, which are part of a review of the wool pack standard. The primary aims of these trials is to quantify the factors contributing to over-length bales and to evaluate whether modification(s) to the wool pack can help resolve the problem.

Preliminary Trials - Evaluation of Newly Designed Wool Packs

Results from preliminary testing showed that breed (XB longer than Merino) and wool length (FLC longer than LMS and M LKS) both affect the length of a bale. These and other factors, such as bale weight and the type of wool press, were considered in these preliminary trials.

AWEX commissioned the manufacture of variants to the current standard wool pack. The aim was to assess whether the changes improved the performance of the packs (in terms of bale length) and thus could help reduce the occurrence of over-width loads. The wool packs variants were:

- (a) Standard Wool Pack: Standard 3 panel construction.
- (b) Variant 1: Standard wool pack with 4 sewn seams in the base.
- (c) Variant 2: Standard wool pack with 4 sewn seams with reinforced strips weaved into each panel.

To undertake the trials, AWEX staff travelled to properties and brokers' stores in NSW and VIC to evaluate and measure the packs under a wide variety of conditions.



Pack with 4 seams at the base

The thirteen properties assisting with the trials were located in vastly different wool production areas of NSW and



Measuring re-inforced bales on farm

VIC, while seven wool broking companies were involved. Approximately 550 packs were measured on wool ranging from superfine to medium Merino through to a variety of Crossbred types.

The results showed that; on average, heavier bale weights resulted in longer bales (i.e. 1 kg increase in bale weight produced a 0.43 mm increase in bale length), while a 1.25 m bale measured On Farm will be 8 mm longer when measured In Store.

In terms of the preferred pack, the data showed that the reinforced pack fabric had no effect on reducing pack length; however, the 4-seam base was effective. The preferred pack, Variant 1 (standard pack with 4 seams sewn in the base), reduced the pack length on average by 8.5 mm.



Bale Fastening Guide showing fasteners positioned on or past the guide

Proving Trials – Evaluation of Preferred Pack and Bale Fastening Guide

Given the large number of factors in the pack trials described above, it was necessary to conduct a second set of trials, called Proving Trials, to allow the final determination of any potential changes to the wool pack standard to be made. The twelve properties assisting with the trials were again located throughout NSW and VIC, while six wool broking companies were involved. Also being evaluated in the Proving Trials is a Bale Fastening Guide (BFG). The BFG is a line sewn onto each flap of the pack, which will ultimately act as a guide for the correct placement of bale fasteners. In the Proving Trials, the Standard Wool Pack (2 sewn seams in the base) is compared to Variant 1 (4 sewn seams in the base). The Bale Fastening Guide was applied to all packs, with the Presser asked to use it when fastening the bales.

The data collection phase of the Proving Trials is now complete, with the analysis to be finalised in July 2012. An extension program, which is currently being planned, will follow.

Exemption Notice

On the 6th July 2012, the NSW Roads and Maritime Services Class 3 Baled Agricultural Commodities Load Exemption Notice 2012 will become effective for a period of three years. This notice is very welcome as it provides relief to AWEX as it moves to finalise its review of the Australian wool pack standard and implement a new standard. The Notice is also important as it allows time for "old" packs to filter through the system. Those transporting wool are advised to familiarise themselves with the new notice (go to: www.rta.nsw.gov.au/heavyvehicles/downloads/permitnotices/class_3_baled_agricultural_commodities_exemption_notice_2012.pdf) to ensure they abide by the rules and do not put themselves at risk of a fine.

Acknowledgement of Assistance

AWEX extends its gratitude to the wool growers, shed staff, brokers and wool store staff who have been involved in the pack trials. AWEX greatly appreciated the assistance given by those involved, especially as the trials require assistance in fitting the trial bales in amongst other bales as well as moving bales in shearing sheds and wool stores.

For more information:

Kerry Hansford, p. 03 9318 0277 or e. khansford@awex.com.au

Mark Grave, p. 02 9428 6100 or e. mgrave@awex.com.au

Specification Booklets (Triplicate) – Woolclasser polo shirts

Three part generic Woolclasser Specification sheets are now available in booklets of 10 (30 pages total). There is a copy for the wool store (white sheet), the owner (yellow) and the woolclasser (pink). These are available from AWEX for **\$17.50 per booklet of 10** (includes postage and GST). Order as many Woolclasser Polo Shirts as you would like for \$40 each incl. postage and GST.

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

By Cheque: Please attach cheque to this Order Form and return by mail to: AWEX, PO Box 651, North Ryde BC, NSW 2113. Cheques are to be payable to Australian Wool Exchange Ltd.

By Credit Card: Order/Payment can be made by **Phone:** (02) 9428 6100 or by completing the details below and returning by **Fax:** (02) 02 9428 6120, **Post:** AWEX, PO Box 651, North Ryde BC, NSW 2113 or **E-mail** (scanned): woolclasser@awex.com.au

\$40 each

Until SOLD OUT

100% Merino Wool
Colour Navy Blue

Sizes*	S	M	L	XL	XXL
Chest	95cm	100cm	105cm	110cm	115cm
Qty.					

*Sizing is full chest measurement in centimetres

Please retain this section as your tax invoice

Date Paid: _____

Paid By: CHEQUE / CREDIT CARD (please circle)

NO. OF BOOKLETS Woolclasser Specification Booklets @ A\$17.50 per booklet including GST & postage.

NO. OF POLO SHIRTS Woolclasser Polo Shirts @ A\$40.00 each including GST & postage.

TOTAL AMOUNT PAID \$ (incl. GST)

Supplier: Australian Wool Exchange Ltd, ABN 35 061 495 565, PO Box 651, North Ryde BC, NSW 2113. When fully complete and paid, this section will be a Tax Invoice for GST purposes.

WOOLCLASSER NAME STENCIL NO.

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NO. OF BOOKLETS Woolclasser Specification Booklets @ A\$17.50 per booklet incl. GST & postage.

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VISA MASTERCARD

CARDHOLDER NAME

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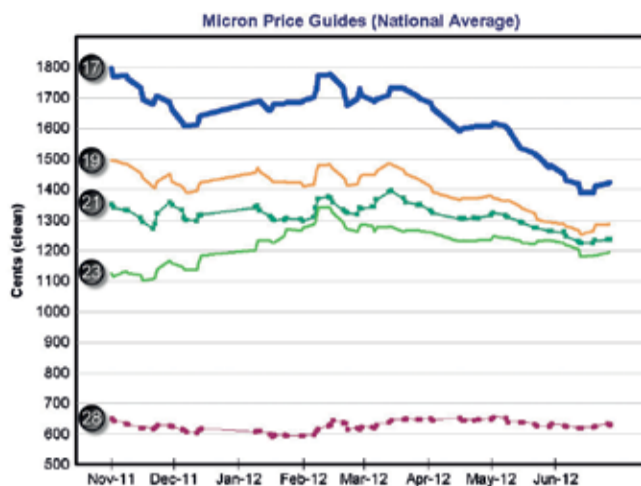
EXPIRY DATE / /

CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE

TOTAL AMOUNT \$



Auction Action



In December 2011, BOARDtalk reported that the AWEX EMI was at 1210 cents, with the promise of a slightly firming market helping to maintain expectancy that it may kick in the New Year. As we now look back on the past six months, it is evident that the market has decreased in value, with the AWEX EMI today showing a value of 1075 cents, some 153 cents or 11.5% lower.

Prices in Superfine and Spinners styles showed some initial increases early in 2012; however, the overall market demand was not apparent and the Italian market could not maintain prices without any competition. The 16.5 micron indicator has waivered through a 400 cent swing, with current prices now on the lower end of the cycle. Fine wool of lower styles have suffered severe discounting during this period with buyers unwilling to take large volumes of colour or cott affected wool.

Mid micron Merino fleece has also reduced in value with the 19.5 to 21 micron range currently very close in terms of price. There has been a distinct premium for the well classed clips; however, the lower lines have suffered in line with the finer microns (i.e. discounts for colour and cott).

The broader Merino fleeces have shown an interesting trend of late. The low volumes in this range have indeed forced buyers' hands, with prices making large gains around mid February. There has been some tapering off prices since then; however, competition continues to support the broader end to a far greater extent than other micron categories.

A point to note, in the recent past there has been an overall fall in prices for burry Merino fleece wool. It is therefore important that classers are particularly vigilant in separating out those fleeces containing excessive amounts of burr.

Merino skirtings have, in most instances, mirrored the price fluctuations of the fleece wool. The movements have been smaller and the percentage of price variation has been less than the fleece, which is a typical pricing pattern for skirtings. Lots offered for sale have been of varied quality over the past six months with a period around February and March registering a high percentage of heavily cotted and discoloured pieces and bellies. Skirtings classed out to separate any heavy discolouration or jowls have a much higher value to buyers due to the easier processing capabilities and wider end-use potential.

Crossbreds of all but the 26.8 micron and finer lots have barely shown a sign of movement in 6 months and, despite a small offering, buyer interest has remained fairly steady in this range. A point to classers: Crossbred fleece needs to receive the same professional treatment as Merino fleece; that is, SKIRTED properly. A large portion of Crossbred fleece wool presented for sale have not received the necessary classing attention and buyers have no choice but to downgrade to pieces prices.

Carding types have decreased in value across the past 6 months, with all three AWEX Carding Indicators losing close to 150 cents. All styles have been affected; however, most notable has been the crutchings and stains. Locks were least affected while Lambs types continue to exhibit a volatile nature.

For more information:

Phil Jeffries, p. 03 9318 0277 or pjeffries@awex.com.au
Lionel Plunkett, p. 02 9428 6136 or lplunkett@awex.com.au

CHANGE OF DETAILS?

If you have moved or changed contact details, please advise AWEX Head Office by:

Phone: (02) 9428 6100 Fax: (02) 9428 6120
or Email: woolclasser@awex.com.au

Make sure you provide your **full name** and **stencil number** as well as your Postal Address, Phone, Fax and Mobile Numbers and Email Address.

Describing Australia's Wool Clip

In 2006, the Woolclassers Code of Practice introduced a revised modular format for the description of wool. The update was made to address two issues:

- concerns about the large number of bale descriptions presented for Sale, and
- the Code of Practice needed a description system that could easily respond to and reflect changing flock/breed demographics at the time and in the future.

This system has been in place for five years. Statistics over this period for clip lines offered at auction are tabled

below. The number of unique bale descriptions applied by woolclassers have fallen 25%, and importantly the most common Code of Practice descriptions are now applied to a higher percentage of the clip. Additionally over 80% of lots offered for sale now include a recognised Breed Code in the Bale Description, up from 45% in Season 2007.

For further information:

David Cother, p. 02 9428 6100 or
[e. dcother@awex.com.au](mailto:dcother@awex.com.au)

Wool Category	Bale Descriptions used in Season 2007	Bale Descriptions used in Season 2011	Change	5 most common Bale Descriptions in Season 2011 describe this % of Category	Bale Descriptions in Season 2011 used to described balance	Most common Bale Description in Season 2011 (% of Category)
Merino Adult Fleece	1119	786	-29.8%	90.1%	781	AAAM (81.7%)
Merino Pieces	700	575	-17.9%	78.0%	570	MPCS (47.8%)
Merino Bellies	386	276	-28.5%	87.0%	271	MBLS (63.6%)
Merino Lambs	567	436	-23.1%	73.7%	431	AAAMLMS (47.4%)
Merino Locks	175	119	-32.0%	90.1%	114	MLKS (64.0%)
Crossbred Adult Fleece	540	342	-36.7%	82.8%	337	AAAFX (52.5%)
Crossbred Pieces	283	222	-21.6%	37.5%	217	FXPCS (18.5%)
Crossbred Bellies	136	100	-26.5%	70.7%	95	FXBLS (37.6%)
Crossbred Lambs	535	421	-21.3%	53.0%	416	AAAFXLMS (25.3%)
Crossbred Locks	63	49	-22.2%	77.8%	44	FXLKS (37.3%)
All Categories (incl. others not published above)	5,734	4,253	-25.8%			

WOOLPACK Quality



The quality of wool packs is important to the overall perception and performance of the Australian wool clip. AWEX has received a number of complaints about the poor quality of new wool packs, which has resulted in swift action taken by AWEX against the manufacturer. The AWEX wool pack quality program aims to ensure that all wool packs are manufactured to the standard expected by the Australian wool industry and our customers. Wool packs, both new and used, not meeting the Australian standard is unacceptable.

AWEX appreciates the feedback received from woolclassers, woolgrowers and brokers about poor performing or poor quality wool packs. Complaints have ranged from poor

sewing, over-large seams on flaps to loose fibres found in the wool pack.

When contacting AWEX to advise of a poor quality wool pack, please take note of the information on the small white tag on the side-seam of the wool pack (approx. 10 cm x 4 cm). The details on the tag, including company name/brand and a series of numbers, help to accurately trace the manufacturing of the wool pack and identify when the problem occurred. This is a very effective way of ensuring that wool pack manufacturers are accountable under the AWEX wool pack quality program.

If possible:

1. Photograph the problem and the identification tag and send by email to AWEX e. woolpacks@awex.com.au, or
2. Remove the small identification tag and any evidence and post to: AWEX, PO Box 651, North Ryde BC, NSW 2113, or
3. Contact Mark Grave by phone 02 9428 6100.

The information you provide is crucial to identifying problems and improving the quality of Australian wool packs.

For further information about the AWEX Wool Pack Quality Program go to www.awex.com.au or contact AWEX Head Office 02 9428 6100.

Class of 2012



Back Row: Greg Bush, Paul Lennon, Warren Reedy, Craig Mackley, Mathew Kaluder, Paddy McCarthy, Leo Fittler, Robert Carter, Des Humphrey, Stuart Murphy

Middle Row: Michael Butler, Ashley Fithall, Jim Field, David Crean, Tim Carroll, Lewis Lawler, John Dwyer, Bruce Suttor, Peter Young, Stephen Madson, Peter Sudholz, Norm Tozer, Colin Loffler, Frank Roberts

Front Row: Pauline Smith, Louise Cameron, Marjorie Carpenter, Raelene Laidlaw, Craig French, Nancy Cauduro, Evelyn Archer, Stacey Lugsdin, Phil Ward, Cameron Fisk

The first National Training Workshop for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) was held in Sydney on 28 & 29 June 2012.

The Workshop is an important networking opportunity for trainers as they all face similar or the same issues.

It also provided an opportunity to undertake technical exercises; for example, calibration to ensure that everyone and every State is at the same level in terms of

knowledge of issues that have developed in the industry and how they apply today. Additionally, issues of concern (e.g. funding, changes in government education policies) were identified and discussed. This meeting was also an opportunity for trainers to discuss the success of the recent National Graduate Woolclasser competition and start to make plans for the 2013 event.