

1st March 2016

ENSURE YOUR CLIENTS COMPLETE THE NWD CORRECTLY

Since being introduced in 2008, the National Wool Declaration (NWD) has increasingly become an important source of information being used by our wool customers. As an industry we need to ensure that the NWD is well understood by growers to help them reduce errors when completing the form. Non Compliance can reduce the credibility of the NWD program and reflects badly on the Australian wool industry.

AWEX has recently worked with Broker and Private Treaty Merchant (Sellers) data entry staff across Australia to address issues related to incorrect data entry. This education/extension program resulted in the percentage of correct data entry across all states improving from 82% (period July 2014 to October 2015) to 95% (period November 2015 to January 2016). The success of this program has been immediate.

AWEX will continue to work with Seller's staff to ensure that the improved results are maintained and that an open line of communication continues between AWEX and all Sellers.

Mulesing Status declaration errors can also occur when the NWD is incorrectly completed by the Owner/Manager. Processors/End-Users are now increasingly seeking sale lots with declarations of: Non Mulesed (NM), Ceased Mulesing (CM) and/or mulesed with Pain Relief (PR). Buyers may use the declared information to make purchasing decisions on behalf of their Processor clients.

It is important that all Sellers are able to advise their Clients on how to complete the NWD correctly by taking these basic steps:

- **Take care when completing the NWD.** For example, NM cannot be declared when the mob contains sheep that are Mulesed or mulesed with PR. It is important to understand that the Mulesing Status categories are not inter-changeable.
- **Read the NWD before you sign it.** It is the Owner/Manager's responsibility to ensure the declaration is correct before signing it.
- **Be aware of the definitions in the NWD.** If any sheep in a mob are mulesed, the mob should be declared as Mulesed (M). The removal of any (small) amount of skin from the tail and/or breech of any sheep is Mulesing, and the mob should be declared as (M).
- **Understand that the NWD is (a) voluntary and (b) a legal document, and that it may be subject to a desk audit and an on farm inspection.** If the Owner/Manager has completed and signed the NWD, they are agreeing to be part of the NWD - Integrity Program of desk top audits and on farm inspections. The inspections are not difficult and the NWD inspectors make every effort to fit with each grower's schedule.

Please talk with your Clients about the importance of the NWD and help them complete the form correctly to ensure that they provide accurate information.

The NWD information brochure (also on the AWEX web-site) is attached separately to this email. Please feel free to add this brochure to your own web-site, distribute it by email or print it off for hand-delivery to your clients.

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Members Update: 3085