

# boardtalk

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we know wool AWEX

## 2017 National Graduate Wool Classer Competition Golden Stencil

The 2017 AWEX/TAFE National Graduate Wool Classer Competition was once again held at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. The AWEX/TAFE competition is a showcase for wool classing and the wool industry, and has proven to be a popular event on the Show programme. The event first began as state competitions in 2007, and based on their success, became a national competition in 2012. NSW TAFE, in conjunction with AWEX, was integral in expanding the competition from State-based to the National-level. AWEX has proudly sponsored this event since it began in 2007. This is the sixth year the national competition has been run, bringing together the best 2016 graduate Wool Classers from across Australia to compete for the "Golden Stencil".

Training organisations are asked to nominate their top students. This year 9 competitors from NSW, TAS and VIC were challenged to a series of tasks that reflect industry skills and demonstrate their training. Unfortunately no nominations were received from WA, SA or QLD.

The judges for the competition represent their respective areas of the wool industry to give a balanced evaluation of the competitor's performance.



The judges Ms. Fiona Raleigh, Wool Classer Registrar, AWEX. Mr. Brett Cooper, Australian Wool Network and Mr. John Mills, TAFE NSW, commented on the value of the competition as an opportunity for the top students to showcase their talents. Mr. Brett Cooper added that the winner showed a good all round knowledge of classing strategies as they applied to the three clip types and was able to verbalise her decisions in a confident manner to the judges. This was a reflection of her commitment to her training. It was noted that all graduates had skills that would hold them in good stead for a future in the wool industry.

Three simulated classing exercises of Crossbred, Medium Merino and Superfine/Fine Merino are completed along with AWEX -ID and wool valuing exercises. An oral presentation is given to the judges by each graduate on the Fine merino classing exercise. This gives the graduates the opportunity to present their knowledge of the strategies and influences on the classing decisions made. This could include mob size, Code of Practice requirement and marketing, all with the aim of preparing uniform lines for the processor and maximizing sale competition for the grower.

To be nominated is an honor, and we congratulate all of the competitors who took part in the competition. Each competitor gains valuable experience along with feedback on how to improve their skills.

### Competitors for 2017

Alan Smith	Gillgandra	NSW
Laura Offley	Crookwell	NSW
Lachlan Moody	Kimbolton	VIC
Georgia Reeves	Daysdale	NSW
Charlie Shadwell	Dubbo	NSW
Sarah Hampshire	Modewarre	VIC
Lisa Garszka	Bungendore	NSW
Hayley Baker	Canadian	VIC
Casey Patterson	Hobart	TAS

The successful graduate was Georgia Reeves from Daysdale, NSW, who was able to impress the judges to be awarded the golden stencil.

Georgia was trained by Jenni Turner from Riverina institute of TAFE, Walla Walla, NSW.

Second place and the silver stencil was awarded to Alan Smith of Gilgandra, NSW who was trained at the Western Institute of TAFE and third, and the bronze stencil went to Casey Patterson of Hobart, TAS, who graduated from TASTAFE.

Georgia was also the winner of the DAS Campbell prize for the top NSW graduate. This is the 44th year of the DAS Campbell award.

The Royal Easter show is the ideal event to showcase the contribution training has to this important area of Australian agriculture. The aim of the event is to recognise excellence in woolclassing and education and to lift wool classing's profile as a profession and career opportunity.

The Dennis Teasdale Perpetual Trophy, awarded to the training organization and trainer of the competition winner, was presented to Jenni Turner Riverina TAFE NSW. The Dennis Teasdale Trophy recognises the valuable contribution that education plays in the wool industry, and in particular, that made by trainers and TAFE.

The competition would not be possible without the support and encouragement of AWEX, NSW TAFE and the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW.

For more information on the National Graduate Woolclassing Competition please contact:

**Fiona Raleigh**, Wool Classer Registrar, e. [fraleigh@awex.com.au](mailto:fraleigh@awex.com.au) p. 0403396842  
**Mark Grave**, CEO, e. [mgrave@awex.com.au](mailto:mgrave@awex.com.au), p. 02 9428 6100



TOP: Silver, Alan Smith, Gold, Georgia Reeves, Bronze, Casey Patterson.

ABOVE: Fiona Raleigh AWEX, Georgia Reeves Winner, judge, John Mills, TAFE NSW and Brett Cooper, Australian Wool Network.

# Honour Roll

## reg. 1966

AW	Mr John	Adams	PALMYRA	WA
AW	Mr Murray	Arnold	HAMILTON	VIC
AW	Mr John	Bruce	BAROOGA	NSW
AW	Mr Robert	Bowers	CLARENDON	VIC
AW	Mr Stuart	Boxer	KANGAROO ISLAND	SA
AW	Mr Rob	Daws	BARHAM	NSW
AW	Mr Peter	Fielder	GRANGE	SA
AW	Dr Ken	Frost	POOLAJELO	VIC
CA	Mr Robert	Godde	CULCAIRN	NSW
AW	Mr Keith	Jenkinson	HORSHAM	VIC
AW	Mr Elwyn	Johnson	YORKETOWN	SA
AW	Mr Kenneth	Jones	NAGAMBIE	VIC
AW	Mrs Margaret	Laughton	HARGRAVES	NSW
AW	Mr Doug	Meyer	HENTY	NSW
AW	Mr Haydn (Barry)	Miller	ANAKIE	VIC
AW	Mr Rodger	Morden	BUNBARTHA	VIC
AW	Mr Patrick	Morrison	QUEANBEYAN	NSW
AW	Mr John	Rudd	COBRAM	VIC
AW	Mr Kevin	Seamer	TOCUMWAL	NSW
AW	Mr John	Teitzel	ARMIDALE	NSW
AW	Mr Graham	Toole	CLUNES	VIC
AW	Mr Max	Zell	GILGANDRA	NSW

## reg. 1967

AW	Mr John	Adams	PALMYRA	WA
AW	Mr William	Blackwell	DUNKELD	VIC
AW	Mr Robin	Blyth	BRENTWOOD	SA
AW	Mr Larry	Bruce	GOL GOL	NSW
AW	Mr Michael	Burn	MOUNT HICKS	TAS
AW	Mr Rodney	Campbell	TRANGIE	NSW
AW	Mr Lloyd	Charles	NARRANDERA	NSW
AW	Mr Robin	Christopher	VICTOR HARBOR	SA
AW	Mr Tim	Christopherson	FOUR MILE CREEK	NSW
AW	Mr James	Cozens	KEITH	SA
AW	Mr Graham	Croker	CROOKWELL	NSW
AW	Mr Robert	Davey	GOULBURN	NSW
AW	Mr Ken	Davis	DERGHOLM	VIC
AW	Mr Stirling	Draffin	HEXHAM	VIC
AW	Mr Graeme	Ellis	MANNIBADAR	VIC
AW	Mr Harold	Enscoe	MERINO	VIC
AW	Mr Jim	Field	MARYBOROUGH	VIC
AW	Mr John	Francis	DOWNSIDE	NSW
AW	Mr John	Fraser	BO PEEP	VIC
AW	Mr Ivan	Frederick	GOWANGARDIE	VIC
CA	Mr Bruce	Gibbs	WILLETTON	WA
AW	Mr David	Gowing	TAMWORTH	NSW
AW	Mr Noel	Hanlan	ARMIDALE	NSW
AW	Mr Anthony	Hayne	GUNNEDAH	NSW
AW	Mr Peter	Hirth	TORQUAY	VIC
AW	Mr Colin	Holmes	WILLAURA	VIC
AW	Mr William	Howlett	NORTHAM	WA
AW	Mr Anthony	King	TORQUAY	VIC
CA	Mr Karl	Lofhjelm	AVALON BEACH	NSW
AW	Mr Peter	Lynch	MUDGEES	NSW
AW	Mr Stuart	McLean	NARACOORTE	SA
AW	Mr Christopher	Packer	BETHANGA	VIC
AW	Mr John	Pech	JINDERA	NSW
AW	Mr Bruce	Pettitt	BANNOCKBURN	VIC
AW	Mr Jeffrey	Pfitzer	NARACOORTE	SA
OC	Mr David	Salter	HEATHCOTE	VIC
AW	Mr David	Steel	FRESHWATER CREEK	VIC
MC	Mr Geoffrey	Stewart	WARRACKNABEAL	VIC
AW	Mr Doug	Smith	SKIPTON	VIC
AW	Mr John	Smith	MORTLAKE	VIC
AW	Mr Robert	Thomas	AUBURN	SA
AW	Mr Brian	Trewin	DEVENISH	VIC
CA	Mr Malcolm	Vaughan	FRANKLAND RIVER	WA
AW	Mr Ken	White	YASS	NSW
AW	Mr Roderick	Young	COONABARABRAN	NSW



# 50 years of continuous registration

*AWEX would like to take this opportunity to recognise and congratulate the admirable achievement of 50 years of continuous registration by the Wool Classers acknowledged on the 50 year Honour Roll.*

Wool Classing courses and registration were introduced with the recognition of the Australian Wool Board to establish a standard to meet the needs of the trade. Not much has changed. 50 years of service in the wool industry demonstrates dedication and commitment. The 1966-67 alumni are no exception.

Wool Classer registration formally began in 1963. The experiences and history has been proudly shared by the Wool Classers that are honoured on the 1966/67 roll. Many of these Classers spoke of their dedication to the training that was necessary to gain their 'Ticket' as a number of the courses were conducted over 4 years. Wool Classers from this time would have their first clips inspected after registration. Hand written letters were returned from selling agents confirming inspection.

Many of the 50 year classers were trained or working in the industry prior to this date but were first registered 50 years ago such as Bill Howlett who trained in 1952.

Margaret Laughton, NSW, recalled how she found it difficult to find a Cross Bred clip to class in her region. The only grower with cross bred sheep was hesitant about having a young woman in a shearing shed, however, he had full confidence in Margaret's ability, Margaret saying she 'topped' the state. The grower collected the weeks clip in wool packs which Margaret classed on the weekend. Such was her dedication to following her classing dream.

Stuart McLean, SA, said the only time that he was absent from the industry in 50 years was during National Service, although he remained registered during this time. Ken Frost, VIC, recalls he was only going to stay as a classer for 5 years then look for a steady job!

Larry Bruce, NSW, trained at the Institute of Technology, North Terrace, Adelaide. The institute nominated wool sheds for eight weeks practical experience in first and second year and then a four week practical in third year, titled

'Your Foremanship Assessment'. This involved clip classing and organisation of shed staff. Larry claims the course pass rate was 8%! Larry explained how classing has changed as in an early shed he had thirty classed lines, the same shed today would be prepared with twelve lines.

Peter Fielder, SA, attended the South Australian School of Mines and was tutored by Max Abel and Cyril Smith, and continued to work in the industry for 40 years as a wool buyer. Many of the graduates from this era were employed in wool stores classing rehandled wool. Murray Arnold, VIC, was able to provide his membership tickets to the Wool Classers Association from 1967.

Interesting to note that the wool classer award rate for 1967 was \$13.22 per day or \$66.11 a week for up to four stands. Adding another \$22 per week for combined duties including experting. Thank you to Anthony Hayne, NSW, for supplying a copy of the Federal Pastoral Industry Award from 1967, and to Robert Davey, NSW for the copy of his original registration letter.

*-Congratulations-*



## woolsearch

Find qualified Wool Classers, Shearers and Shed Hands

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- Thousands of listings
- Work wanted section
- Local or interstate
- Search by postcode or town
- Download Wool Preparation Standards

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- Simple charts and graphs
- Quick and easy



Follow industry updates on Facebook [www.facebook.com/woolexchange](http://www.facebook.com/woolexchange)

# The Wool Classer – Rules of Registration Misuse of Stencil



AWEX, as the industry body responsible for the maintenance and improvement of the quality of the Australian wool clip, monitors the use and application of the Wool Classer stencil.

A Wool Classer ID (stencil and stamp) is unique and is assigned to one registered individual who has completed the qualifications required at the time of registration.

Under the rules of registration the registered Wool Classer is not to misuse the stencil or stamp. This includes:

- lending the stamp or stencil to a third party;
- placing the stamp or stencil on a bale not prepared by that Wool Classer;
- use of an MC or AW stamp or stencil on a bale not prepared on-farm by the MC or AW;
- use of the OC stamp or stencil for classing clips other than those which the Owner Wool Classer was registered.



Cases of misuse are treated seriously and suspected cases will be investigated by the Registrar as stated in the Rules for Wool Classer Registration, 2016-18. Where the Registrar believes there is some doubt about the presence of the Wool Classer on farm, the Wool Classer or broker will be asked to supply a copy of the specification sheets with woolgrower/manager name and contact (telephone) details. The Registrar will contact the woolgrower/manager to establish the presence of the wool classer on farm. All Wool Classers are encouraged to keep copies of the Wool Classer specification from clips that they have classed.

AWEX management, after investigation, may implement procedures for corrective action which could result in deregistration. Furthermore persons acting or falsely representing themselves as registered wool classers are open to legal proceedings based on fraud.

The presence of the stencil and stamp on the bale and included on wool classer documents is used to verify wool classer presence. Hand written Wool Classer numbers on bales will not be recognised as valid.

Broken stencils and stamps can be replaced by contacting AWEX.

Lost or stolen stencils and stamps must be reported to AWEX and a new number set will be issued.

AWEX issues Classer Activity Reports which should be checked carefully by the Wool Classer to identify that lots classed by them have been correctly allocated.

Serious issues, such as fraudulent stencil use, may be identified this way.

## Online Wool Classer Verification Check

AWEX has an online service to enable third parties such as wool growers, shearing contractors and wool broking personnel to check the registration status of a wool classer (or a person claiming to be a wool classer).

This can be found on the AWEX web site [www.awex.com.au](http://www.awex.com.au) by locating the Wool Classer Validation page under the Wool Classer tab, or by using this direct link:

[www.awex.com.au/woolclasser/wool-classer-validation/](http://www.awex.com.au/woolclasser/wool-classer-validation/)

By entering the stencil number and the last name of the person, one of the following responses will be returned:

- The wool classer is currently registered.
- The wool classer is currently unregistered.
- The wool classer is not registered to class. (This means the wool classer is currently registered as a Classer Associate but is not registered to class.)
- No matching results. (This means there is no matching number and last name.)

The stencil and stamp is and remains the property of AWEX. AWEX encourages all Wool Classers to protect the integrity of the stencil issued to them by following the rules of registration and by good record keeping and checks. The Rules for Wool Classer Registration are issued to the Wool Classer with their registration pack.

Any matters and concerns with regard to suspected issues of stencil misuse should be reported to AWEX.

For reports of misuse or stolen and lost stencils please contact **Fiona Raleigh**, Woolclasser Registrar. ph 0403396842 e. [fraleigh@awex.com.au](mailto:fraleigh@awex.com.au)

Lost and broken stencils and stamps can be replaced by contacting AWEX.



# Skirting – Fleece Improvement

*Skirting is one of the six principles of Wool Classing as stated in section 8 of the Wool Classer Code of Practice 2016-18.*

## Why do it?

Put simply - skirting improves the fleece by removing characteristics likely to have an adverse impact on processing. The Code of Practice refers to skirting as fleece improvement. This includes checking and preparation in addition to removing sweat and frib.

## What is it?

The skirting process removes: (COP 2016-18, page 31).

- Any stain and/or dag,
- Flibs or sweat points,
- Skin pieces,
- Short edges,
- Clumpy or significantly higher vegetable matter,
- Cotted portions of the fleece or jowls,
- Coloured or belly edges,
- Hairy breech wool, kemp and shanks,
- Crows-nest or water-stained necks,
- Very dusty, wasty and tender backs,
- Portions of fleeces where necessary (e.g. coloured, dermatitis, flyblown), and
- All wool containing sheep marking substances, such as branding fluid, raddle, sprays and back lines.

## Skirting and the Wool Classer's stencil

The stencil on the bale means the Wool Classer and wool preparation team has inspected/classed each fleece and the function of skirting has been performed.

Fleece wool that is not skirted must not bear a Wool Classer stencil.

*Please note: On some fleeces there may be only small quantities of the faults described above. In these cases very little wool would be removed. The important thing is that the fleeces are inspected and where a fault is found it is removed.*

## Are there exceptions?

Yes. Fleece wool that would be deemed as Black (e.g. merino with pigmented spots), medium-hard cotts or matts, or fleece wool containing medium or heavy concentrations of dermatitis do not have to be skirted and can have a stencil applied. These lines need to be described for the fault as applicable, eg. COT M.

## What if the wool is not destined for auction?

The same rules apply for private or direct marketing schemes. A stencil shall not be applied to wool if it has not been skirted regardless of selling method.

## Does the Code of Practice use terms such "Minimum" Skirt or "Nil" Skirt?

No. These terms are not used or recognised in the Code of Practice. The Code of Practice advocates removing faults as defined above – Nothing more, nothing less. Prem shorn or fleeces from a shorter shearing interval must be skirted. This includes fleeces in bulk class bales which carry the Wool Classer stencil. Fleeces from terminal sires, lambs and crossbreds all require skirting.

## How is unskirted wool identified at sale?

In the wool sale catalogue unskirted fleece wool is identified by the broker using a catalogue symbol "U". Furthermore those identified in advance are usually tested as a D certificate (meaning not meeting the Woolclassing Code of Practice).

If not detected by the broker AWEX auditors identify fleece wool containing skirting material. These are reported using a U1, U2 or U3 (AWEX-ID code) depending on the amount of skirting material present. An appraisal of U2 or U3 will result in a non-conforming lot, (i.e. not prepared to The Code of Practice standard) and assigned a D certificate.

## Use the wool table

- Skirting on the wool table facilitates quality assurance of fleece preparation and efficient skirting. Quality assurance is the checking of all fleeces for uniformity prior to pressing.
- Wool Classers are encouraged to consider skirting as a priority when allocating shed duties to staff.
- Skirting fleeces on the shearing board does not address the aims of skirting as listed in the COP.
- Fleece faults are better accessed and removed when fleeces are thrown onto a wool table.
- Removal of second cuts/locks occurs as a result of throwing and rolling fleeces on the wool table.
- Sheep brands are not easily identified on the board and make up a high proportion of weekly clip inspection reports.
- Placing two fleeces on the table at once can be inefficient and lead to missed faults as fleece is not flat. Wool handlers should be directed to have a consistent skirting routine of moving from breech to neck, checking both tip side and shorn side of entire fleece for faults.

## Shed staff: Communicate the aims and importance of skirting.

In the hierarchy of shed duties, skirting (fleece improvement) has the greatest impact on clip preparation and its role in creating uniform lines of contamination free fleece wool is important. Duties such as sweeping have a role in the management of contamination, however, timing of sweeping by staff must be managed so as to ensure fleece skirting duties are not rushed and all fleeces are thoroughly checked.

*Communicate to staff that fleeces need to be inspected for faults, skirting is not just about removing frib!*

## Skirting Ratios

AWEX discourages the skirting ratio approach. Do not set targets that bear no relationship to the mob or fleece under review. Regularly check through skirtings and fleece lines to monitor effectiveness of staff performance.



# Bale Weights

From January 2016, the bale pressing standard in the Wool Classers Code of Practice was updated to increase the minimum bale weight from 110kg gross weight to 120kg gross weight. The only exception to this change is single bale lines of specialty superfine fleece wool which may have a minimum weight of 90kg gross.

## What can be concluded from this chart's data?

The most commonly occurring individual bale weight (the mode) for both seasons is 190kg (highlighted by the black vertical line). 60% of all bales are pressed between 180 and 200kg (2016/17).

The average bale weight (the mean) for 2014/15 has increased from 178.3kg (2014/15) to 178.7kg (2016/17 ytd).

Wool Classers have responded to the change in minimum bale weight policy as can be seen by the change in volumes at the lightest end of the scale.

There are still a significant number of overweight bales having to be weight adjusted after being pressed over 204kg. These can be seen by the spike in volume near 204kg. Weight adjustments are costly and time consuming. The data in this chart is recorded after any weight adjustments by the handling agent.

## Why not increase the maximum bale weight?

At the last industry review in 2015 there was limited support to increase the maximum bale weight.

weight. Principle reasons for not increasing this weight are (in no particular order):

Work Health and Safety remains a high priority where bales are manually handled (on farm, rehandle [bulk class] facilities, some truck loading, and some warehouses).

Reducing the opportunity to press overlong bales. Overlong bales create problems with overwidth trucks. Overlong bales can also be problematic when stacking bales in containers (if undumped).

Wear and tear on dumps and core lines. Dumping operators in Australia are careful to ensure their equipment is not overstressed which can lead to breakdowns. Likewise core and grab lines were designed to operate with 204kg maximums. An increase in the maximum bale weight is likely to result in an increase in the mode and mean of bale weights (i.e. the peak shown in Chart 1. moves further to the right). Thus a relatively small increase in the maximum could result in an increase on a large number of bales (i.e. small change, large impact).

## Advice for the Wool Grower

Ensure a set of appropriate scales are available to the wool presser.



An excellent example of correctly pressed bales. AWEX would love to see more images of quality pressing. Follow us on face book or email to [woolclasser@awex.com.au](mailto:woolclasser@awex.com.au)

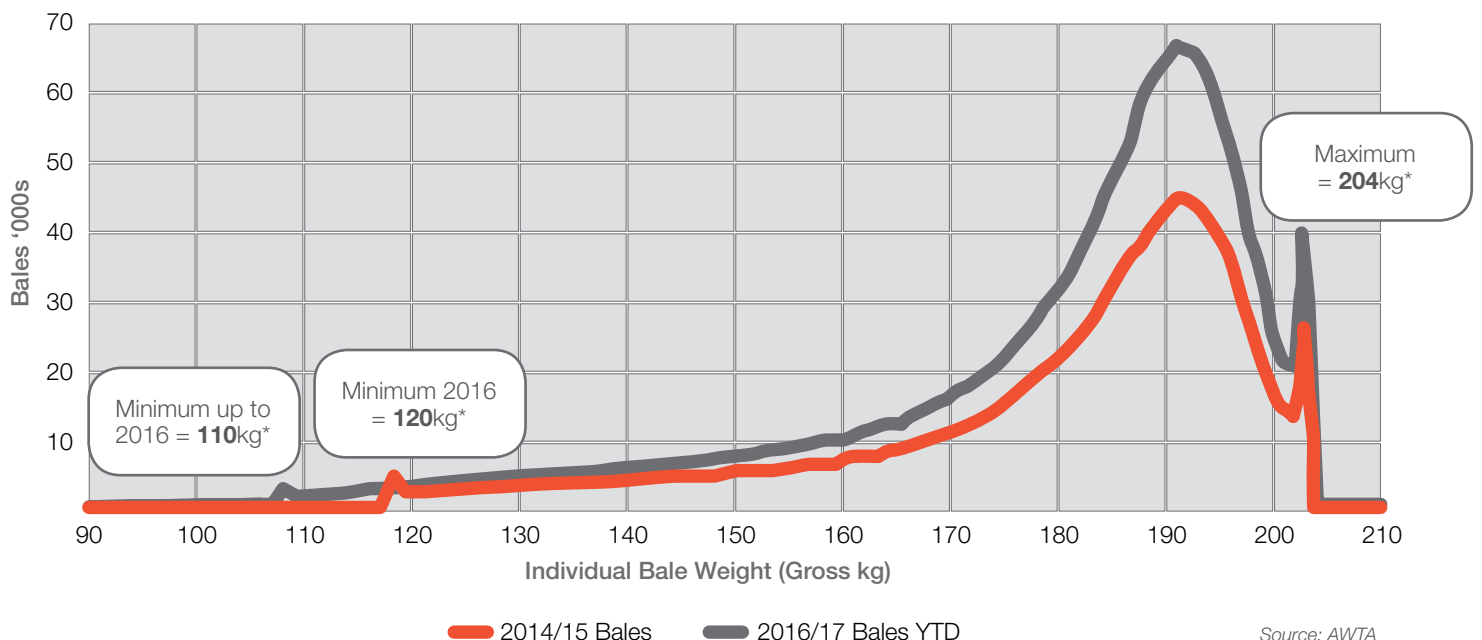
If you are providing a wool press check the scales prior to each shearing by weighing some known weights (at both the lighter and heavier end of the allowable weigh range).

Support the wool classer/wool presser by ensuring bales are not pressed overweight. This includes Bulk Class. If you are unsure of the accuracy of the scales, ensure a reasonable margin of error is left (for example – bales are pressed to a target weight of 185-190kg).

AWEX encourages maximising bale weights within the industry agreed limits. If the wool grower (wool classer or wool presser) would like to model the likely bale weight scenario in a line, (using expected cuts/head and sheep numbers) we recommend downloading and using the AWEX Bale Weight Calculator app available from the Apple and Android stores. Visit our home page [www.awex.com.au](http://www.awex.com.au) on your phone for the download links or Search on the respective stores.

For more information contact AWEX on 02 9428 6100.

## Bale Weight Profile of Australian Bales offered under Farm Brand: Seasons 2014/15 and 2016/17 YTD



Source: AWTA



# Classing Reminders from the Wool Classer Registrar



**Fiona Raleigh**  
Wool Classer Registrar

*From time to time Wool Classers may be faced with various issues that require a different approach or one that the classer finds challenging. As part of my services to Wool Classers I would like to offer some classing tips for dealing with these situations. The following are some common classing issues. Please feel free to contact me at any time to discuss classing strategies and approaches.*

## Mixed Mobs

Many Classers will encounter a situation where the grower may present sheep for shearing as a mob but they may not meet the mob concept (see page 29 of your COP). This may be a consequence, for example, of trading or feedlotting activities, mobs run together based on joining or pregnancy status, or sheep run together due to drought conditions.

### Tips for classing mixed mobs.

- Always make enquiries beforehand as to the composition of the mixed mob. **Preparation is the key.**
- If the varying component sheep can be identified (via ear tag etc./visual/size/breed etc.) then ask whether they can be drafted prior to entering the shed. Both the wool handling team and the shearers benefit from this approach. It can significantly lower the workload on the wool handling team and deliver a better outcome. If however the mob is presented and shorn as a mixed status the following points are relevant.
- Staff should be made aware that the mob is mixed and look for identifiers such as ear tag colour.
- In Mobs that are mixed for breed, bloodline, age or sex (i.e. do not meet the definition of a mob), the Wool Classer must class lines

based on technical uniformity and visual compatibility for breed, wool characteristics and age.

- Older sheep, if present in the mob, may require a broad and/or a short line.
- Staff need to be instructed to identify skirting and oddment lines from different breeds or ages. This may require ongoing monitoring.
- Packs, butts and bins should be provided to cater for extra lines and clearly marked.
- The wool classer should identify bought in sheep or sheep run on different properties that may contain a different vegetable matter type or dust colour. These type differences should be separated.

### Six month shearing and premature shorn

Classer feedback is indicating more growers are adopting a shorter shearing interval or a six month shearing.

### Tips for classing premature wool.

Often what appeals to a wool buyer about premature wool is its ability to be put in a variety of orders and ability to delivering a good processing result through uniformity.

- Classing these clips will involve paying strict attention to uniform length of the fleece lines.
- Pay particular attention to keeping length even. Make sure the range between the shortest and longest staples is not too far.
- These fleeces must be skirted – often only a small amount of frib, clustered VM or coloured edge needs to be removed. Likewise more severe faults such as dermo and water colour must always be removed.
- Whilst these fleeces will not always hold together the fleece inspection/skirting procedure is best done on a table not the board.

### Pieces and Bellies

The Code of Practice standard requires combing length pieces and bellies to be kept separate. This also applies to weaner pieces and bellies if measured over 50mm.

Why does the Code take this position?

- Pieces (and Bellies separately) are critical components in the buyer/processor recipe structure in their blends. The inclusion of Bellies limits buyers.

- Bellies have a higher dark fibre risk than pieces especially wether bellies.
- Bellies will contain higher levels of VM,
- The belly fibre presents differently to pieces, usually presenting more elastic characteristics.

Often the practice is justified as necessary for line building in “small clips”. The AWEX Code of Practice preparation standard is not determined by the size of the clip. A small clip is a small clip and the corresponding lines will be small or will need to be consigned to a rehandle facility.

### Describing non Merino wool

**XB** is **NOT** a valid breed code (e.g. XB PCS, XB LMS). This is usually used by persons not trained as Classers and usually suggests to the buyer or auditor that there is a high risk of “all in”.

Crossbred wool classed by registered Classers should have a breed description that reflects the visual count of the line.

Breed Code	Indicative Counts
<b>CBK</b>	64s, 60S, 58s
<b>FX</b>	56s, 50s
<b>MX</b>	46s, 44s
<b>CX</b>	40s, 36s

Similarly wool from Downs breeds and their crosses or wool that displays downs characteristics must be described using the breed code DN.

### Classing Small clips

Regardless of clip size and type the Code of Practice standard remains the same. Classing to the Code of Practice achieves uniformity of preparation across the Australian wool clip allowing exporters to create compatible uniform consignments.

Unfortunately Classers of small clips are often asked or feel compelled to combine wool to make lines of commercial size – often at the expense of classing quality.

When small lots are prepared to the Code of Practice they are better able to be matched with similar lots and therefore attract more competition.

- Use bulk class and interlot services. These may not be popular but from a quality perspective they can represent a better outcome for the pipeline.
- To gain the most value for bulk class wool prepare bulk class contents to the Code of Practice standard (see Pages 97-98)
- Rehandle services appreciate well pressed bulk class bales with the contents separated by newspaper and clearly marked on the flap or the bulk class slip – page 121 of the Code of Practice.



**Wool Classer Registrar**  
Fiona Raleigh  
02 9428 6144  
woolclasser@awex.com.au



**Northern Region**  
Robert McKeown  
02 9632 6166  
northernregion@awex.com.au



**Southern Region**  
Des Warner  
03 9318 0277  
southernregion@awex.com.au



**Western Region**  
Andrew Rickwood  
08 9434 6999  
westernregion@awex.com.au

# NWD version 7.0

	5	M LKS	15	19	46							1,2,3,4	Wool class
	3	M LKS	15	19	46							1,2,3,4	Wool class
	2	M LKS	33	42								1,2,3,4	Wool class
	3	AAA FX LMS	43	44	45							5	Lamb long, 45mm
	1	FX LPCS	48									5	Lamb pick
<b>TOTAL BALES</b>											<b>48</b>	<b>NWD V7.0, 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017</b>	

**Mulesing Status (for each Mob):**  
**NM:** No sheep in this mob has been mulesed.  
**M:** Some/all of the sheep in this mob have been mulesed.  
**PR:** All sheep in the mob were mulesed using a registered Pain Relief product.

**AWEX** The National Wool Declaration (NWD) must be completed/signed by Owner/Manager.  
**CM:** Wool from sheep where mulesing has ceased on the property. No lambs born on this property in the last 12 months have been mulesed. No purchased sheep are mulesed.  
**Has Mulesing Ceased on this Property?** YES  or NO  (Tick Box)

Mob No.	Mob Breaks/ Bale Ranges	Mulesing Status (circle answer)	Age Code	Breed Code	Sex Code	Contact with Shedding Breeds (Y/N)	Mob Crutched (Y/N)	Crutched within 3 months prior to Shearing (Y/N)	Wool Length (mm)	VM (LA, 2nd or 1st)	Comments / Matching Mob Info
1	1-7,38-39	NM	M PR	2	M	M	N	Y	85	Lo	Hogget wool best and stylish
2	8-16	NM	M PR	3	M	E	N	Y	100	Lo	Can match 3
3	17-25	NM	M PR	4-5	M	E	N	Y	100	Lo	Can match 2
4	26-32	NM	M PR	3-5	M	W	N	Y	105	Lo	Bales 33-37, 40-42 various mobs.
5	43-46	NM	M PR	1	XB	M	N	N	45	Lo	Lambs, First cross

**WOOLCLASSER DETAILS**  
 Registration No. 6 5 4 3 2 1  
 Name: Karen Classer  
 Signature:   
 Mob/No. 04XX XXX XXX  
 Date: 14 / 06 / 2017

By signing this declaration, I warrant that (a) I am authorised to complete this declaration and confirm that all details contained in it are true and correct, (b) I authorise the selling agent to submit this document to AWEX (if requested) for the purpose of the Integrity Program and (c) I understand that I may be subject to random desk audits and on farm inspections, the results of which may be made available to the buyers of the declared wool and the selling agent. Details of the AWEX Integrity Program and Privacy Policy are available on the AWEX website: [www.awex.com.au](http://www.awex.com.au)

PIC: A B 1 2 3 4 5 6 Owner/Manager Name: A. Grower Signature: Date: 14 / 06 / 2017

NWD Version 7.0, 1st July 2017 is now available on the AWEX website ([www.awex.com.au](http://www.awex.com.au)) or by contacting Kerry Hansford (details below). The NWD is a voluntary declaration; however, its use is strongly supported by all brokers, buyers and processors of Australian wool.

## What's Changed?

### Format Changes

The format of the NWD was changed to assist in the correct completion of the NWD.

- Mob Mulesing Status is now located on the left hand side of the NWD nearer the Mob No. Mob Mulesing Status asks that one of the three answers is circled: NM (Non Mulesed), M (Mulesed) or PR (mulesed with Pain Relief).
- Ceased Mulesing (CM) status is on the right hand side of the NWD, with the revised definition of CM and the question highlighted.

### Definition Changes

Changes to the definition of Ceased Mulesing (CM) will have ramifications for growers who buy stock. To be eligible for CM status, no lambs born on the property in the last 12 months have been mulesed and no purchased ewes or wethers are mulesed.

- If a Merino and/or Crossbred producer does not mules on their property but restocks with sheep that are mulesed or mulesed with PR, the property is not eligible for CM status (answer No to the question). Individual mobs are then declared according to their actual status, NM, PR or M.

- For example, if a grower buys mulesed or PR Merino ewes to breed Crossbred lambs, the property is not eligible for CM status (answer No to the question). The individual mobs should be declared according to their actual mulesing status, i.e. M for the Merinos and NM for the Crossbreds.

If the Merino ewes were mulesed with PR, they may be declared as PR, providing proof of purchase Pain Relief can be sourced from the vendor.

- If a Merino and/or Crossbred producer has ceased mulesing and either (a) does not buy sheep or (b) only purchases sheep that are NM, they are eligible to declare CM status (answer Yes to the question). Individual mobs are then declared according to their actual status, NM, PR or M.

### Applying the definition to mobs

**Note 1**, if a mob comprises:

- only NM sheep, it should be declared as NM
- only sheep mulesed with PR, it should be declared as PR
- any mulesed sheep, it should be declared as M

**Note 2**, for mixed mulesing status (where the mob is not drafted prior to shearing) where:

- NM sheep are mixed with mulesed sheep, the mob should be declared as M
- NM sheep are mixed with PR sheep, the mob should be declared as PR
- PR sheep are mixed with mulesed sheep, the mob should be declared as M

### Requirements of the NWD - Integrity Program

- The Property Identification Number (PIC) is necessary for the NWD - Integrity Program as well as traceability related to potential exotic animal disease outbreak(s). Ensure this is completed.

- Owners/Managers and the Woolclasser should be aware that declarations may be subject to desktop audits of NM, CM and PR, verifications for the use of PR and on farm inspections for NM/CM. Proof of purchase of PR may be requested for home bred or purchased sheep. The Owner/Manager must provide a copy of their tax invoice (from a vet, stock agent mulesing contractor or other source e.g. family) or an invoice for mob(s) from the vendor.

- For NM inspections, an inspector may ask to inspect any mob(s) that has been declared as NM. However, they work with the Owner/Manager to ensure that the inspection is efficient for everyone. If a mob declared as NM has been sold, the Inspector will request proof of the sale of the mob (i.e. NVD or Account Sale).

### What is required of the Wool Classer?

- The Wool Classer should only fill out Mulesing Status if the grower gives clear advice on this. **When the declaration is being signed, ensure that the Owner/Manager is fully aware of the Mulesing Status declared for each mob.** There have been cases of false declarations when this is not checked by the grower.
- All lines of wool are identified with the mob number(s) on the wool classer specification, including fleece and oddments.
- Bale ranges for each mob must be completed to include all lines and all bales.

For more information:  
 Dr Kerry Hansford, AWEX Quality & Project Manager, [khansford@awex.com.au](mailto:khansford@awex.com.au) or (03) 9318 0277  
 Mr Mark Grave, AWEX CEO, [mgrave@awex.com.au](mailto:mgrave@awex.com.au) or (02) 9428 6100