

boardtalk

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we know wool AWEX

2017 Wool market in record territory

The 2017 calendar year has been a memorable one for Australian wool growers. The market has enjoyed many weeks of upward movement, pushing the AWEX Eastern Market Indicator (EMI) into record territory.

The sustained increase in price has brought previously reluctant sellers to the market, resulting in the number of bales being held in brokers stores reaching low levels and keeping auction clearance rates reasonably high. Volumes at auction have become reasonably consistent with catalogues largely restricted to freshly shorn wool, particularly in the Merino Fleece sections.

As an indicator of the health of the market the average of the AWEX EMI was positive and finished the calendar year ahead for the third consecutive year. At the close of trading in December 2017 the EMI had an increase of almost 250 cents, its largest gain since 2011. In the post-stockpile era (since 2000) the market barometer has established a reasonably consistent pattern; rising or falling in groups of 2-year or 3-year blocks. Of course, the recent trend has been up, with the annual average jumping by almost 500 cents in the 3 years since 2015. It was a similar story in the 2000 to 2002 period with an almost identical rise during that rally. All good things usually come to an end however, and the charge in the market during those earlier years was followed by a 318-cent fall. The only period in the modern era (since 1979) to push past the critical 3-year rally stage was the 8-year run up to record prices in 1988, however market signals were disguised during that bull run by the Reserve Price Scheme. On

the flip side, the limited amount of wool on hold at the moment may help the market continue its upward trend.

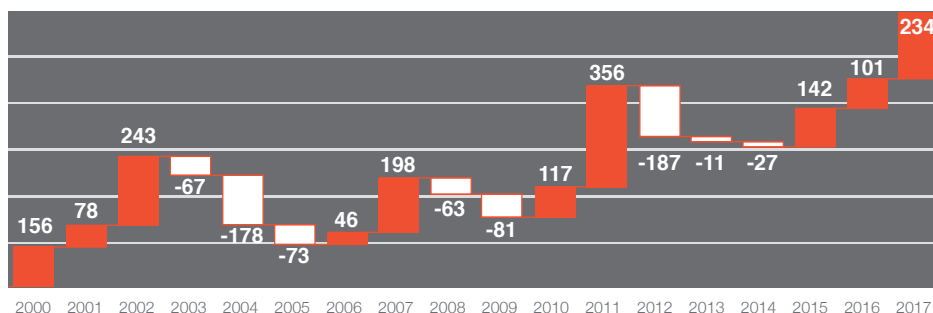
Diving deeper into performance of the EMI shows mixed results. The EMI is a basket of types, structured so that it mirrors the Eastern seaboard wool clip. As such, any movement in the EMI can mask the performance of the individual microns and types within the basket. Over the past 12 months the finer microns have been the main driver and have enjoyed the largest increases after making a solid base in 2015 and 2016. However the gains diminish towards the broader Merino ranges where the increases were less impressive. Meanwhile, the Crossbred categories posted losses for their second consecutive year; 32-microns were as much as 150 cents lower than the

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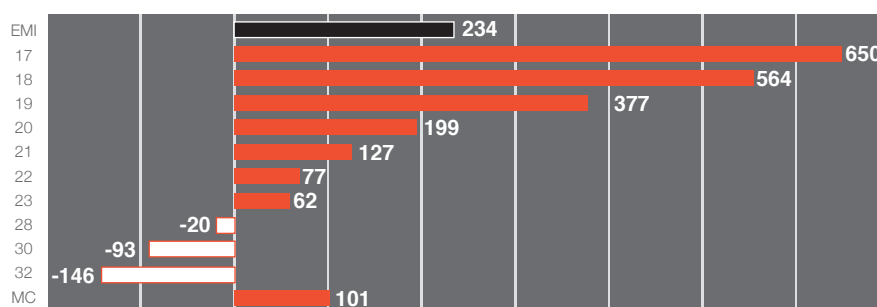
2016 average. For the fifth straight year the Merino Carding Indicator gained ground, a reflection of the underlying strength in the shorter wool types.

For further information contact Lionel Plunkett, AWEX Market Information Manager, p. 02 9428 6136 or e. lplunkett@awex.com.au

AWEX-EMI Change in annual average



2017 vs 2016 – calendar year average price movements



About Wool Classer Training

AWEX is committed to the ongoing association with Registered Training Organisations to provide quality training opportunities for people wishing to be registered as Wool Classers.

Registered Training Organisations

Wool Classer training is provided nationally by Training Organisations registered with AWEX (RTOs). Each year AWEX requires wool classing trainers to meet and discuss industry updates, course content and delivery. This provides a strong emphasis for consistency of Wool Classer training nationally. This year trainers attended the wool selling centre at Yennora, Sydney NSW. Trainers used this opportunity to access the show floor to review clip preparation. Focus was placed on discussing wool clip documentation and the review of 2019-21 Code of Practice.

Wool classing qualifications

There are two levels of wool classing qualifications:

- Certificate III in Wool Clip Preparation, (which provides graduates with opportunity to register with AWEX as an Owner Classer – OC)
- Certificate IV Wool Classing (which is the qualification that is required for Australian Wool Classer registration – AW)

Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) are the National regulatory body that administers the qualification structure. A full course outline for the Certificate III Wool Clip Preparation and Certificate IV Wool Classing is available at <https://training.gov.au/Home/Tga>

A list of registered Wool Classing training provider contacts can be found on the AWEX web page;

<http://www.awex.com.au/woolclasser/education/woolclassing-courses-and-contacts/>

Refresher and retraining courses

Wool Classers who have let their registration lapse should contact AWEX to enquire about requirements for re-registration. AWEX will review the Wool Classer's registration history and depending on the number of years lapsed since registration the Wool Classer may be required to undertake a refresher or retraining course. These courses have proved very popular and participants have indicated the value in updating their knowledge to current industry standards and the networking opportunity that the courses provide.



Trainer of the Year

Each year AWEX, in conjunction with TAFE NSW and the RAS-NSW, conduct the National Graduate Wool Classer competition at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. This competition is open to graduates from all Australian training organisations. The trainer of the winning graduate is awarded with the Dennis Teasdale perpetual trophy. The 2017 winning trainer was Jenni Turner of Riverina TAFE NSW, who trained Georgia Reeves.

It is not surprising that many of the competitors further their careers in the wool industry by gaining employment with selling agents and wool service providers. The knowledge gained from Wool Classer training is recognised as valuable to all associated with the wool industry.



Trainers attending the National Trainers Workshop, Sydney, August 2017. *Back left to right:* Nancy Cauduro, John Dwyer, Stacey Lugsdin, Melissa Goodman, Craig Mackley, Norm Tozer, John Cox, Stuart Murphy, Phil Ward, Frank Roberts. *Front:* Tara Hadley, Marion Kelly, Pauline Smith, Raelene Laidlaw, Kerri Capill, Fiona Raleigh, Paddy McCarthy.

contact



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

Master Classer Courses

Master Classer Courses are a professional development opportunity for Australian Wool Classers. Applicants must be nominated by an industry body who believes the classer would benefit from attending this program. Nominations may be made by; for example, by a Selling Agent, Auction or Private Buyer, Wool Producer, Shearing Contractor or Training Organisation.

Wool Classers nominated by industry should have the following attributes:

- Must have been actively woolclassing for the last three years, (and intend to continue),
- Must class a minimum of 7 clips or 400 bales per annum,
- Must have ability and desire to further their wool knowledge, and
- Must demonstrate good character, judgment and capacity for leadership.

The Master Classer course will be held in Melbourne only and is of 4 days duration focussing on:

- Staff management/supervision skills, strategic thinking and communication techniques,
- Customer requirements (producer, warehouse, broker, buyer, and processor),
- Quality assurance and wool preparation with show floor lots, and
- Building deeper levels of understanding behind the Wool Classer's Code of Practice.

Nomination Forms available from the website: www.awex.com.au

For further information:

Fiona Raleigh, p. 02 9428 6144 or e. fraleigh@awex.com.au

AWEX – 25 years on

AWEX has commenced its 25th year and for many there is still some misunderstanding about who AWEX is, what AWEX does and how AWEX fits in the complex industry structure.

Who AWEX is

AWEX was established by the wool industry at the time of the collapse of the Reserve Price Scheme, to provide stability and continuity to the necessary administrative services and systems infrastructure which enabled the wool industry to continue to trade efficiently and without interruption.

In effect AWEX was set up as the independent industry organisation that developed and implemented the rules for trading at auction in consultation with the industry. AWEX is owned by Members (Brokers, Exporters, Processors, Private Treaty Merchants and Growers) and has the support of industry associations.

What AWEX does

Over time, the services have increased to include world class market information, a greater emphasis on Quality Assurance programs such as wool classer registration, on-farm QA programs such as the National Wool Declaration and innovative projects such as eBale (electronic bale identification). AWEX develops standards with industry and monitors their performance to ensure that they are effective and relevant.

These standards and programs are the cornerstone of AWEX's commitment to servicing and adding value to the Australian wool industry.

**AWEX is owned
by Members and
has the support of
industry associations**

AWEX's position in the Australian wool industry

Whilst AWEX is small, in size, the influence of our information, standards and services provided to our members, wool classers, our clients and customers is enormous. AWEX receives funding from the services and programs we deliver.

The majority of AWEX services and programs are delivered between the shearing shed and the sale of wool.

AWEX was established to add value to the Australian wool industry and we do this by continuing to develop and innovate our services and quality assurance programs for the benefit of the Australian wool industry.

To learn more about AWEX go to <http://www.awex.com.au/about-us/> or contact Mark Grave, AWEX CEO, p. 02 94286100 e. mgrave@awex.com.au

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- Relevant, up-to-date wool market information
- Simple charts and graphs
- Quick and easy



Follow industry updates on
Facebook www.facebook.com/woolexchange

Avoiding overweight bales

Pressing bales close to the maximum weight can achieve savings for the wool grower and the pipeline, but inaccurate scales on farm can pose a risk of overweight bales entering the system which ADDS COSTS to the pipeline.

Whilst the maximum bale weight is 204kg (including bulk class), AWEX recommends bales are pressed on farm to a maximum target weight of 190-195kg to make allowance for potential scale and operator error.

Factors that can contribute to inaccurate scales.

- Wool presses located on wooden floors may flex due to the uneven load placement on floor joists. Where possible place the press on a solid steel plate or a concrete floor.
- The wool press wheels act as a pivot point when under load, increasing the inaccuracy of the scales.
- Wool press scales may have a manufacturing error rate of +/- 3 to 5% or 3- 5kg per 100 kg of wool pressed. This is unavoidable and needs to be taken into consideration.
- Presses that get moved from shed to shed may be less accurate due to wear and tear.



Inaccurate scales on the grower's wool press may be a cause of overweight bales.

Checking scales

Scales should be checked for accuracy at the beginning of shearing. Whilst it is recommended scales are professionally calibrated periodically, in many cases this is not done or is impractical.

It is recommended wool press scales are checked prior to shearing. Options include:

1. Use a second set of scales or load cells to check the initial bale weights coming out of the wool press. (Ideally if using portable scales or load cells it is more practical have these professionally checked periodically). If using load cells/bars ensure the weight of the bale is distributed evenly.
2. Check the scales by placing a known weight evenly placed inside the press on the platform/load cells. Containers of water may be considered - 1 litre of water weighs 1 kg.
3. If the wool press is being serviced, then have the scales checked by the service operator.

Important: **Accuracy should be checked with a weight of at least 150kg or more.** Scales that may be accurate at low weights can become increasingly more inaccurate at heavier weights.

Why are overweight bales a problem?

1. Overweight bales are a WH & S concern when manually handling bales. Manual handling mostly occurs on farm, loading trucks on farm and in bulk class facilities.
2. Overweight (and lightweight) bales can be problematic when stacking. There have been incidents of injury resulting from these bales poorly positioned in stacks, resulting in stack collapse or falling bales.
3. Automatic core lines will alert samplers when overweight bales enter the line. The equipment will stop the sampling process and the bale is removed. The contents of the bales are adjusted before sampling of the lot can recommence. This may require the opening of one or more grower bales.

Bales should be pressed to a maximum range of 190-195 kg.

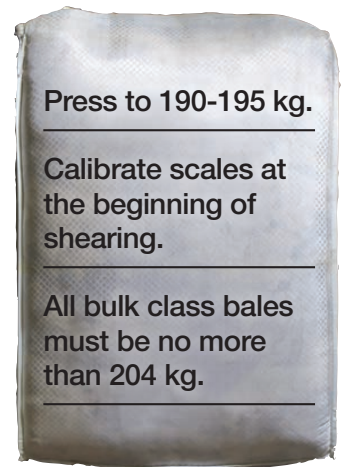
Growers can be charged for this weight adjustment; a typical commercial charge for this is service around \$20 per bale.

4. Wool dumping equipment is usually optimised to handle within-weight bales. Overweight bales contribute to the stresses on these machines.
5. The weight of a container (packed with wool) must not exceed a weight limit. Whilst this is managed by the dumping/packing organisation, overweight bales must be taken into account, which can result in less bales being packed.

As rehandling facilities manual handle bales on a daily basis – **All Bulk Class bales MUST be under 204kg, whether the classers stencil is applied or not.**

The AWEX bale weight calculator can be used to manage bale weights and cut outs to avoid underweight and overweight bales using from five pressing strategies. This app is free to download to smart phones running Android or IOS.

Care should be taken to not press bales to the maximum weight in shed.



Wool press placed on solid steel plate.

Bin codes

To manage lines of wool with the same bale description the Code of Practice recommends Wool Classers use a bin code (Page: 43, 10.3 2016-18 Wool Classer Code of Practice). The bin code can be a numeric code e.g. 1, 2, 3 or an alpha code e.g. M, B, T etc. The code used for each line is at the Wool Classer's discretion.

The bin code system relies on good in-shed management and documentation.

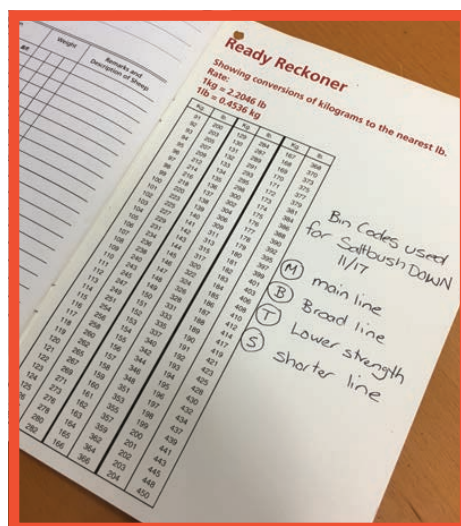
A bin code should be used where ever the bale description is recorded: namely;

1. The wool bin. Write the bin code on the wool bin. A quick chalk board can be made with bale ink. This is easily changed for each mob or year.

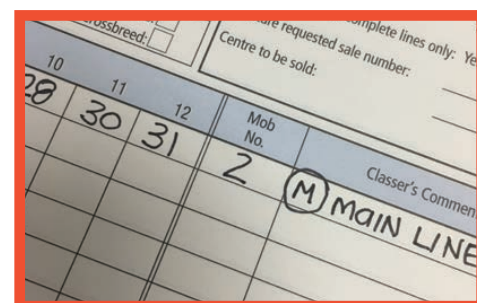


3. The wool book. (If the book does not have a separate column add it to the description column and circle).

Communicate with the Wool Presser by supplying a bin code list. This may be written in the cover of the wool book.



4. The Wool Classer specification sheet. (If the specification does not have a separate column add it to the comments column and circle).



Who else uses the bin code?

The selling agent and handling warehouse will use the bin code to help identify bales in the wool store that are from the same classed line and use this information for lotting wool for sale.

The bin code is not printed in the catalogue.

2. The bale label. Write the code in the circle on the label. Do NOT write it on the face of the bale.

AAAM	(M)	195	2	MAIN LINE
AAAM	(M)	190	2	MAIN LINE
AAAM	(M)	193	2	MAIN LINE
AAAM	(B)	190	2	Broad

© Australian Wool Exchange Ltd - July 2016 Label Supplied by AWEX

SALTBUSH/DOWN

FARM BRAND

AAA M **3** (BIN CODE)

WOOL DESCRIPTION

23

BALE NUMBER

123456

CLASSER STAMP

Maximum Bale Length - 1.25m. Maximum Bale Weight - 204kg.

The bin code should be used wherever the bale description is recorded: wool bin, bale label, wool book and wool classer specification sheet.

Declaring what the world is demanding

In 2017/18 NWD declaration rates are close to two thirds of the Australian wool clip. Significant growth over the past 2 years in all states has helped the national declaration rate reach 65.3% for the first time since the NWD was introduced in 2008.

The on-farm program (NWD-IP) commenced in 2010 and declarations have increased 54% since then (see Table 1).

Not all states are equal with the performance and adoption of the NWD in Tasmania and Victoria achieving the outstanding results of 84.7% and 78.6% respectively. This is effectively 8 out of every 10 bales of wool have a declaration.

The increase in the declaration rate coincides with the strong support for the NWD from Brokers and strong commercial interest from Exporters, Processors and their down stream customers. This commercial interest is now reflected in the prices being achieved in the wool market for declared wool.

AWEX recently held several meetings with processors and retailers interested in how they can acquire declared wool that meets their needs.

Table 2: Average price movement as compared to Mulesed wool, by Micron and Mulesing status (c/kg Clean)

Cells are empty when there is insufficient data.

Mulesing Status	Region	Micron										
		17.0	18.0	19.0	20.0	21.0	22.0	26.0	27.0	28.0	29.0	30.0
NM	North	48	62	45				-8	-18	18	-20	
	South	68	49	102					2	-10	2	-38
NM National		55	57	76				-8	-10	-6	-3	-38
CM	North	78		-20	10				-34			
	South	69	101	45	-4	-19	-13					-15
CM National		76	101	23	3	-19	-13		-34			-15
PR	North	26	7	33	-3	2						
	South	6	-27	1	6	5	-5		10	7		-40
	West		87	27	-1	1	-1					
PR National		18	-4	17	2	4	-4		10	7		-40
ND	North	-2	3	19	-16	-5		-25	-47	27	-25	
	South	13	5	-8	-2	4	-10	5	-10	5	-24	0
	West	21	14	6	-12	2	-2					
ND National		5	6	5	-8	2	-8	-1	-19	8	-24	0

Table 1: NWD Update

Season	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017 to 31 Oct
National Declaration Rate (%)	42.2	44.6	44.8	43.4	49.5	55.0	61.2	65.3
By State (%)								
NSW	43.2	46.5	49.6	49.4	56.3	63.1	68.1	69.8
QLD	30.0	29.4	38.2	35.0	39.5	47.4	52.7	58.0
SA	43.6	47.9	44.8	45.4	55.7	61.3	66.6	68.8
TAS	69.1	54.7	55.3	47.0	50.8	67.2	79.9	84.7
VIC	45.3	49.6	51.0	51.3	60.9	65.2	76.0	78.6
WA	36.5	34.7	28.4	23.7	20.9	23.9	31.1	38.1
By Status (%)								
NM	5.5	6.2	6.6	6.3	7.5	9.1	9.9	9.9
CM	3.1	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.8
PR	8.4	12.1	14.3	14.2	18.8	22.8	27.7	27.7
M	25.3	24.0	21.4	20.4	20.4	20.3	20.6	21.0
ND	57.8	55.4	55.2	56.6	50.5	45.0	38.8	34.7
Compliance performance (%)								
Desk Audit	65	58	68	73	77	86	87	89
PR Verification	88	91	89	90	76	88	93	94
On Farm Inspection	84	80	87	85	82	86	89	93
On Farm Inspection Selected	245	229	277	237	257	237	210	30

Figures based on % sum of bales, all breeds & wool types, first hand offered, P & D Certs only (excludes NZ).

From a grower's perspective, this means that Australia has an informed market where growers and customers alike can make informed business decisions. By completing the NWD we are ensuring that Australian wool remains the wool of choice for all of our supply chain customers.

Premiums for non-mulesed wool on the rise

AWEX analysis of auction data indicates that the premiums for non-mulesed wool are rising and becoming substantial across all wool categories (see Table 2).

The premium for non-mulesed wool averaged between 13 and 30 cents/kg in 2016/17 for Merino wool 21 microns and finer. This is up from between 1 and 15 cents/kg 2015/16 and between -3 and 16 cents/kg from 2010/11.

It is interesting to note that even in season 2017/18, where the wool market has been so strong, reaching record highs across the board, the price incentives for declared wool, particularly for NM wool, have increased significantly. In the current 2017/18 season (31st October table 2) identifies that these

levels have increased further with averages up to 100 c/kg clean being seen regularly for wool 19 micron and finer.

This confirms and gives the market feedback that growers had been seeking. There is definite rising interest in non-mulesed wool among retail brand companies seeking non-mulesed wool in their product

ranges. It is also noted that the market recognises all declared wool as a positive message from wool growers wanting to communicate and display transparency to the customer. This is reflected in the discounts that are emerging for lots of wool that do not have a National Wool Declaration or are shown as ND in sale catalogues and test certificates.

The market is sending a strong message that there are opportunities for growers that complete the NWD on all lines of wool regardless of mulesing status. Overseas mills are seeking mulesing status declarations for Crossbred wool as well as for Merino wool, this includes lines of lambs wool.

There is an old saying in the world of market analysts which says that "trend is friend". In any given market there will be highs and lows, allowances made for the time of season, variations in currency and variations in quality of the offering but the overall value and market trend for declared wool is clear.

Tips for completing the National Wool Declaration

The latest version of the NWD was released by AWEX on the 1/7/17. The current version and of the NWD is available for download from the AWEX web site.

Remember:

- the NWD is the responsibility of the Owner/Manager.
- The Wool Classer should only fill out the Mulesing Status and DMFR details if the grower gives clear advice on this.
- When the Declaration is being signed, the Wool Classer should ensure that the Owner/Manager is fully aware of Mulesing status declared for each mob.
- The NWD must be signed by the Owner/Manager to be valid.
- For FAQ and information on completion of the NWD plus downloads go to <http://www.awex.com.au/publication/national-wool-declaration-nwd/>

Q FEVER

A notice to all Wool Classers and shearing shed staff: AWEX has been notified of several Wool Classers who have contracted Q fever recently. Please take the time to read the following information and seek out advice on preventing this serious disease through screening and immunisation.

Q fever is an illness caused by the bacterium *Coxiella burnetii*. Q fever is spread to humans from infected animals. The bacteria survive for long periods in the environment as they are resistant to heat, drying and many disinfectants.

What are the symptoms?

Q fever is usually an acute (immediate) infection but it can sometimes lead to a chronic (long-term) illness. Symptoms begin about 2-3 weeks after exposure and typically include:

- high fevers and chills
- severe sweats
- severe headaches, often behind the eyes
- muscle and joint pains
- extreme fatigue (tiredness)

If untreated, symptoms can last from 2-6 weeks. Most people make a full recovery and become immune to repeat infections. Occasionally, people develop chronic infections which affect the heart (endocarditis) or the liver (hepatitis). Some people develop chronic fatigue (post-Q fever fatigue syndrome), which can last for many years after the initial infection. Symptoms of chronic Q fever may occur up to two years after the initial infection.

How is it spread?

People usually get infected by breathing in infected dust when working with infected animals, animal tissues, or animal products. The main carriers of the disease are farm animals such as cattle, sheep and goats but other animals such as kangaroos, bandicoots, domestic pets such as dogs and cats can also be infected. Q fever can be contracted by inhaling dust from wool, hides, straw or grass that contains the Q fever bacteria

People working with these animals are at risk including:

- farmers and shearers / shed staff
- stockyard workers and animal transporters



Being tested for Q Fever immunity – AWEX Wool Classer Registrar, Fiona Raleigh

How is it prevented?

A vaccine (Q-Vax®) is available to protect people against Q fever. Vaccination is recommended for all people who are working in, or intend to work in, a high-risk occupation. Workplaces at risk should have a vaccination program.

People must be screened and tested before they are vaccinated against Q fever.

People who work with animals or materials that may carry the Q fever bacteria should use appropriate protective equipment and be aware of the steps required to stop the spread of the bacteria. The risk of Q fever can be further reduced by:

- washing the hands and arms thoroughly in soapy water after any contact with animals
- washing animal urine, faeces, blood and other body fluids from the work site and equipment, and disinfecting equipment and surfaces where practicable
- properly disposing of animal tissues including birthing products
- minimising dust in slaughter and animal housing areas
- keeping yard facilities for sheep and cattle well away from domestic living areas
- removing clothing that may carry the bacteria before returning to the home environment
- wearing a mask when mowing lawn or gardening in areas where there are livestock or native animals.

People who are not immunised should not be allowed to visit high-risk work areas such as abattoirs. Source: NSW health Q fever Fact sheet. For more information contact the local health unit in your State, see <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/state-health-services.htm>

Woolclassing FAQ

As part of the triennial review for the 2019-21 Code of practice, AWEX issued a survey to Wool Classers and industry members. AWEX thanks the Wool Classers who responded and for the comments and suggestions that were contributed. These responses have been collated and will be issued for consideration for the 2019-21 Code of Practice by the Industry Services Advisory Committee.

The following Questions arose from the survey around preparation issues and other industry matters.:

I would like to keep updated with industry and changes, how can I do this?

AWEX is committed to keeping Wool Classers up to date with code of practice preparation requirements and industry information. Clip Inspection Reports, Boardtalk, Wool Forums and Facebook are examples of ongoing training support available to the Wool Classer. The Registrar may be contacted via the AWEX portal, email or by phone to discuss specific classing issues.

What is the definition for super fine and how should I class bold crimp fine wool?

The point of micron difference for ultra-fine wool is 15.5 and finer. Super fine 15.6 to 18.5 Saxon style characteristics with visual counts 74s and higher.

Ultrafine / super fine can be classed with two methods – premium classing method, and the merino classing method. Low fibre curvature, bold crimp wool is described with merino descriptions (not superfine) regardless of fibre diameter. *Page 56-57, 2016-18 Code of practice.*

What's the difference between Broken and Pieces (BKN and PCS)?

Both are removed from the fleece by skirting. PCS may or may not have sweat edges present. BKN represents skirtings that have been picked to represent fleece wool free of sweat edge. *Code of practice, Page 48-49 for merino classing.*

How do I class Dohne merino?

Dohne is classed and described using merino classing principles.

How can I contact AWEX If I have a question on an aspect of classing or documentation?

You can lodge questions at any time via the wool classer portal <http://www.awex.com.au/about-us/contact-us/> or use personal login details to lodge a question with the Registrar <https://gateway.awex.com.au/Webpages/Woolclasser/Requests.aspxreplies>

Or call Fiona Raleigh, Wool Classer Registrar p. 02 9428 6144 m. 0403 369 842 or AWEX head office p. 02 9428 6100. Or email: woolclasser@awex.com.au

Bale Descriptions

20 Most Common Bale Descriptions for MERINO (Australian) Season 16/17

Bale Descriptions	Lots	
AAAM	111,699	49.4%
MPCS	17,785	7.9%
MBLS	10,861	4.8%
AAAAM	7,969	3.5%
AAAMLMS	7,912	3.5%
MLKS	5,171	2.3%
AAAMP	4,382	1.9%
MSTN	2,768	1.2%
AAM	2,712	1.2%
MBKN	2,591	1.1%
MCRT	2,371	1.0%
AAAFM	1,786	0.8%
AAAMWNS	1,784	0.8%
SUPAAA	1,565	0.7%
SUPAAAM	1,544	0.7%
AAAMBLS	1,513	0.7%
AAMLMS	1,502	0.7%
MLPCS	1,083	0.5%
AAASUP	1,078	0.5%
SUPAAAA	1,064	0.5%
Others	2,058	36,893 16.3%
		226,033

Total number of unique descriptions used **2,078**.
Percentage of top 20 Merino lots using Code of Practice descriptions **IN ORANGE 79.8%**.

20 Most Common Bale Descriptions for CROSSBRED (Australian) Season 16/17

Bale Descriptions	Lots	
AAAFX	13,239	26.6%
AAAFXLMS	5,586	11.2%
AAAMX	2,962	6.0%
AAACBK	2,117	4.3%
AAAXBLMS	1,916	3.9%
AAAXB	1,812	3.6%
FXPCS	1,194	2.4%
AAA	1,191	2.4%
AAALMS	883	1.8%
XBPCS	826	1.7%
XBLMS	815	1.6%
FXBLS	748	1.5%
AAFX	650	1.3%
AAAFXB	649	1.3%
AAFXLMS	625	1.3%
AAACX	569	1.1%
XBLS	560	1.1%
AAAXLMS	501	1.0%
AAACBKLMS	441	0.9%
FXLMS	390	0.8%
Others	1,330	12,074 24.3%
		49,748

Total number of unique descriptions used **1,350**.
Percentage of top 20 Crossbred lots using Code of Practice descriptions **IN ORANGE 56.6%**.

Merino Locks

Bale Descriptions	Lots	
MLKS	5,146	76.2%
AAAMLKS	391	5.8%
LKS	351	5.2%
LKSM	167	2.5%
AMLKS	124	1.8%
AAMLKS	113	1.7%
STNMLKS	47	0.7%
LOX	29	0.4%
AUSFINELKS	26	0.4%
MPCS	22	0.3%
SUPLKS	22	0.3%
Others	93	311 4.6%
	104	6,749

Total number of unique descriptions used **104**.
Percentage Merino Locks using Code of Practice descriptions **IN ORANGE 84.4%**.

The AWEX Wool Classer Code of Practice uses a simple structure to apply a description to a classed line.

- The description should clearly and fairly represent the contents of the bale.
- The Code of Practice gives 17 options for describing merino fleece lines (including cast fleece and superfine, excluding Y,K,R).
- Approx. 80% of merino fleece lots are described by Classers using Code of Practice descriptions.
- AAA M was used to describe 80.4% or 102,587 lots of merino fleece in 16/17 selling period.
- Merino Locks account for 1.99% of total offering (16/17).
- Classers are using 104 descriptions to describe merino locks. Of these, two Code of Practice descriptions account for 82% of all merino locks lots.

Refer to section 10 of the AWEX Wool Classer Code of Practice for information on applying correct bale Descriptions.