



EPCS BULLETIN

ISSUE 001 | WINTER 2022

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**WOOL CLASSER
REGISTRATION 2022-24**

More than 14 000 wool classers have registered for the 2022-24 triennium.

67% of Classers self-registered online using the WoolClip web portal.

I hope you enjoy this Winter edition the ePCS Wool Classer Bulletin. Please feel free to share this information with the Wool Harvesting team. Stay safe.

Regards Fiona Raleigh, Wool Classer Registrar

UPDATE TO THE NATIONAL WOOL DECLARATION (NWD)

The revised NWD Version 9.3 takes effect from 25 July 2022, but you can start using it now.

In NWD V9.3, wool from sheep treated with Liquid Nitrogen (LN) is identified, with Ceased Mulesing retained.

NWD Version 9.3 is available in different formats. Contact your Broker, scan the QR Code (at right) or go to www.awex.com.au to download/print the NWD.

The NWD is also available as part of WoolClip (web or app). Go to www.woolclip.com.au or the App store.

The following brochures/documents are also available:

For more information contact:

Dr Kerry Hansford,
AWEX Technical Projects Manager,
t. 03 9318 0277 or
e. khansford@awex.com.au

Mr Mark Grave,
AWEX Chief Executive Officer,
t. 02 9428 6100 or
e. mgrave@awex.com.au



DOWNLOAD THE NWD V 9.3 AND SAVE TO YOUR COMPUTER

Brokers updating to NWD V9.3 should ensure that both the NWD and the accompanying notes are carefully reviewed.

Combined Classer's Specification and NWD
(NWD Definitions, Explanations and Codes are on p.2).

AWEX NWD V9.3 March 2022 Landscape

AWEX NWD V9.3 March 2022 Portrait

Separate NWD for use with an "old" Classer's Specification without a NWD. The NWD Definitions, Explanations and Codes are included on this single page.

AWEX NWD V9.3 March 2022 Separate

Additional information related to the NWD V9.3

AWEX NWD V9.3 Declaring What the World's Demanding March 2022

AWEX NWD V9.3 How to Complete the NWD Correctly March 2022

AWEX NWD V9.3 FAQ March 2022

AWEX NWD V9.3 Business Rules for Mulesing Status

WOOL CLASSER REGISTRATION 2022-24

AWEX is on the road again post Covid 19 restrictions and will be reinstating Wool Forums in regional locations and the running of Master Classer courses for 2022-23 period. Check our Facebook page for notice of events including WoolClip training workshops.



www.facebook.com/woolexchange

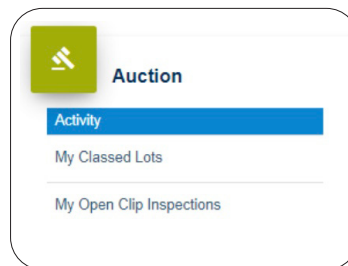
Over 14 000 wool classers have registered for the 2022-24 triennium. The number of classers that have reregistered has declined from the previous period; this is in line with industry trend. The number of registrations continue to grow from new graduate registrations. AWEX encourages anyone looking for a career in the wool industry to complete training as Wool Classers are in high demand.

Looking for a Wool Classer in your area? Use Woolsearch <https://www.awex.com.au/wool-classer/woolsearch/>

Please contact AWEX to be added or removed from this listing.

AWEX Wool Classer WEB services

- 67% of Classers self-registered online using the WoolClip web portal. This demonstrates that classers are becoming familiar with working online and using WoolClip for their woolclassing documents.
- Did you know you can view your classing activity and clip inspections through the WoolClip web portal using your AWEX username and password.



Log in to <https://www.woolclip.com.au>
AUCTION: My classed lots is accessed from the wool classer dashboard.

- Using the Auction tab Classers can respond to Clip inspections or contact the Registrar.
- All Wool Classer details, address and contacts can be updated through the WoolClip dashboard.
- New to WoolClip? contact AWEX for a training session and support – contact John Cox m. 0468 533 529 or visit the training web site to create Mockups of jobs and specifications. <https://training.woolclip.com.au/>

MEET THE TEAM

AWEX is pleased to have appointed John Cox in the position of WoolClip Program Leader. Classers may have already spoken to John during recent workshops for WoolClip training and in WoolClip phone support.

John has had a lifelong involvement in the wool industry as a Wool Grower and Wool Classer, with expertise as a specialist Superfine classer and in Training and Broking. John and his

family have an ongoing involvement in merino sheep breeding. John is available to assist with all aspects of WoolClip from getting started to technical support. John is only too happy to be contacted after hours and weekends with any questions or issues.

John can be contacted at
e. jcox@awex.com.au
p. +61 (0) 2 9428 6100
m. 0468 533 529



STAFF AND TABLE WORK

MEETING THE NEEDS OF OUR CUSTOMER
= BEST OUTCOME FOR THE GROWER

The industry is reporting a staff shortage. Working with low staff numbers and/or unskilled or untrained staff adds risk to clip preparation.

When staffing is an issue, employers and wool classers will need to determine how to achieve the best outcomes for clip preparation by assessing how to utilise available staff. Staff should be allocated to tasks to meet the standard of preparation on a shed by shed, clip by clip, mob by mob basis. What happened at the last shed may not be the best strategy for the next.

Think about-

- How often do we need to sweep under the table? e.g., only when there are no fleeces to be skirted or to be picked up.
- Waiting for a sheep to be finished and pulling the shearers hand piece out of gear is an unnecessary task when there are fleeces waiting to be skirted or oddments to be sorted.
- Recently crutched sheep or stain free mobs will not need the crutch area swept out during shearing. This will free up staff for more important duties.
- Keeping the table running efficiently by prioritising skirting has a benefited result in keeping the board running more smoothly.

In addition to staff issues placing two fleeces on the table has been shown to create poor skirting outcomes and a slower work rate.

The priority in clip preparation must be the majority of the clip – the fleece wool.

All fleece wool must be skirted to meet classed status as defined in the COP 2022-24 (see page 32 for definition of skirted).

Poorly skirted fleece wool may be discounted or overlooked by buyers.

Poorly skirted fleece is easily identified from the show floor sample. The AWEX-ID scaled qualifier of U1, indicates skirting material present in the sample. Unskirted fleeces identified by a high level of skirting material (frib, VM or cotted/coloured edge) in the sample will be non-conforming and assigned a D certificate in the sale catalogue.

Classers can review their classer activity statement to assess the outcomes of fleece preparation from the show floor audit.

AWEX recommends the following:

- only one fleece on the table,
- fully thrown and flat,
- skirted from breech to neck in one direction and
- rolling the fleece to fully assess the shorn side.

While waiting for the table to be free, fleeces may be:

- placed on the floor in a clean area,
- parked between stands on a raised board, or
- placed in a clear space on the end of the table

If staff are skirting more efficiently from well thrown fleeces the time taken to skirt will be less and the table becomes free more quickly. All this leads to a quicker throughput of fleeces across the table.

In addition to this, if priority is given to skirting rather than sweeping (e.g., under the table) staff are better utilised for the most productive and value adding activities.

Advantages of one fleece on the table are:

- table work and skirting achieves the best results for clip preparation where the largest portion of the clip is being given the most attention from staff,
- Full inspection and efficient and effective skirting occur when the fleece is fully thrown and flat,
- edge wool is identified and assessed for frib, VM and cott and coloured wool,
- it is easier to remove skin pieces by inspecting the shorn side of the fleece and rolling the fleece after skirting,
- rolled fleeces stack better in the wool bin – can be easily checked and removed for pressing,
- brands are easily located and removed from a fleece that is thrown flat,
- second cuts will fall from a fleece when thrown out fully,
- a fully thrown, flat fleece is quicker to skirt and a table that moves quickly leads to a better workflow on the board.

*For more details see
Page 43 of the 2022-24 COP.*



Photo 1: Two fleeces on the table may seem efficient but missed edge wool and faults can be costly to the grower resulting in rejected lots and discounts.



Photo 2



Photo 3: A potential buyer of this lot indicated the level of VM and edge wool meant they were not able to offer a bid on this line. The fleece was prepared by placing two fleeces on the table. (See above Photo 3.)



Photo 4: The objectives of skirting and full fleece inspection is achieved when one fleece is thrown on the table.

“ BULK CLASS AND RISK WOOL ”

Bulk Class bales that contain portions from risk breeds must be described as BC Y for (visible Pigmented) BC K (visible Medullation) or BC YK for the presence of both. Bulk class bales that contain wool from 'run with' mobs must be described as BC R.

When identified correctly the Broker's rehandle staff can match the bulk class portions to bins that contain similar wool without risk of contamination.

- List Bulk Class contents on the inside flap or by using bulk class contents sheets (page 139 2022-24 COP),
- List the bulk class contents on the wool classer specification,

- Be clear and identify what each portion contains. Always keep faults and sheep breeds separate,
- Only use newspaper to separate portions,
- Bales that meet the COP should have a classer stencil applied.

**** bulk class bales with a classer stencil applied gives confidence to the Broker's rehandle staff that the contents can be matched to the appropriate bins.*

!!! When using WoolClip the bulk class contents appear on a separate page making it easy to forward or print for the Broker rehandle department.

TRACEABILITY: EBALE PROJECT

AWEX has been conducting the large scale, eBale project on farm trials predominantly across Eastern Australia. eBale utilises RFID & QR Code technology to give each wool bale a unique number. eBale utilises an electronic tag that can be adhered to the pack label (trial phase) or incorporated into the pack label (epack) at manufacturing. The aim of the trial is to determine the value proposition of the industry utilising technology to improve the integrity and accuracy of data captured on farm and to have a recording and logistics system that meets the needs of the wool pipeline.

AWEX's eBale project is aimed at benefitting information flow, logistics efficiencies, provenance, biosecurity, animal welfare & sustainability along the wool supply chain.

The eBale trial is used in cooperation with AWEX's WoolClip software program.

WoolClip provides accurate clip information in the form of an electronic wool classers specification and NWD.

WoolClip has been in place for around 5 years and is the documentation of choice for many classers, especially in large clips due to the efficiency of creating documents.

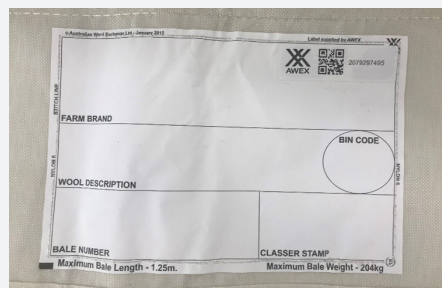


Photo 1 Tag attached to standard wool pack for the eBale trial phase.



Photo 2 Printed pack label with QR and incorporated RFID



Photo 3 Scanning on farm with WoolClip app using a tablet

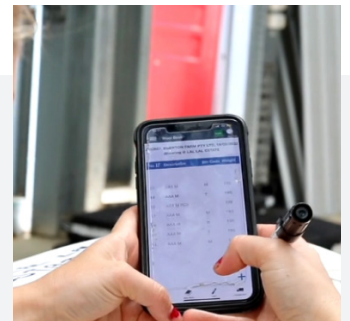


Photo 4 Adding bale information to the WoolClip App

WoolClip works in conjunction with the eBale RFID tags to link a unique number to each farm bale. This number has many uses along the pipeline from transport to mill consignment. The combination of eBale and WoolClip creates a conduit between the wool shed and the grower's selling agent of choice.

AWEX's eBale project has been conducted with the direct involvement of pack manufacturers, RFID tag supplier, growers, classers, warehouses, brokers, exporters & overseas processors.

If you are interested in being involved in the eBale project please contact AWEX. Tags and epacks are currently being ordered and will be available in July 2022 for use on farm.

NATIONAL GRADUATE WOOL CLASSER COMPETITION

The 2022 AWEX/TAFE National Graduate Wool Classer Competition was once again held at the Sydney Royal Easter Show on Tuesday 12 April, after a three-year COVID hiatus.

This is the premiere classing competition that brings together the best graduate wool classers from across Australia to compete for the major award and 1st Prize - "Golden Stencil".

After the cancellation of the 2020 & 2021 competitions, due to COVID restrictions and State border closures, the competition was welcomed back by the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW and sponsors and organisers, the Australian Wool Exchange Limited and TAFE NSW.

This year competitors travelled from New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia. The 2022 winner of the "Golden Stencil" and \$500 prize money is Sarah Haynes from Naracoorte, SA. Sarah graduated from Registered Training Organisation SCAA and was trained by Alie Tuinder, Kingston SA. Second place and "Silver Stencil" (\$300 prize money)

was won by Emma Pearson, Armidale, NSW, trained by Pauline Smith TAFE NSW. Third place (\$200 prize money) and "Bronze Stencil" was won by Grace Jones, Ballarat, VIC, trained by Moera Hammond SCAA.

This is the ninth running of the national competition. All finalists completed the tasks of classing fine merino, medium merino and crossbred wool as well as exercises in AWEX-ID, valuation and an oral presentation to the judges. Sarah demonstrated her all-round ability to class wool and perform under the unique pressured environment of the competition.

To be nominated is an honour and has to be earned." said Mark Grave "Each finalist gains valuable experience and in many ways this is as good as a job interview for prospective industry personnel.

SCAA, SA and trainer Alie Tuinder received the 14th Dennis Teasdale Perpetual Trophy awarded to the training organisation and trainer of the competition winner.

2022 Place Getters (LtoR): Grace Jones, VIC (3rd), Sarah Haynes, SA (1st), Emma Pearson, NSW (2nd)

Emma Pearson was the winner of the DAS Campbell prize for the top NSW graduate. This is the 48th year of the DAS Campbell award.

The judges of this year's competition were Mr. Andrew Mills, MacDonald & Co Wool Brokers, Ms Evelyn Archer, TAS TAFE and Ms Fiona Raleigh, AWEX.

The aim of the competition is to recognize excellence in wool classing and education and to lift wool classing's profile as a profession and career opportunity.

AWEX has been a proud sponsor of the national wool classing competition since it commenced in 2012.



LtoR: Lewis Abby, WA; Sarah Haynes, SA (1st place), Heather Walker, TAFE NSW; Helena Fischer, NSW; Jacquie Thompson, NSW; Darby Tremain, NSW; Emma Pearson (2nd Place), NSW; Grace Jones (3rd Place), SCAA VIC; Rosina Te Maipi, RIST VIC



USE OF STENCIL AND STAMP: YOUR WOOL CLASSER ID

The presence of your Stencil and Stamp on a farm bale indicates the contents of the bale:

1. meets the Code of Practice preparation standard, and
2. has been prepared, in shed, by the wool classer to whom the Stencil and Stamp has been issued.

The Stencil and Stamp must be visible on the face and head of the bale (respectively).

Marking **both** the face and the head of the pack/bale is important.

The head of the wool bale is a common reference in warehouses when stacked, and when moving through the core line. Having two identification locations (head & face of the bale) assists if one becomes

unclear or indistinct.

It is important that the bale label is clear, accurate and easy to read as the head of the bale is most often referenced through the pipeline. Excessive wrinkling of the bale label can make the details unclear or difficult to read.

TIP: Level the top of the bale before closing the pack flaps and do not stretch the label with too much force for the bale fasteners. (see 2022-24 COP p. 111 - Closing Bales.)

Recommended Practices

- The Wool Classer shall have both Stencil and Stamp with them, on farm.
- Broken/worn Stencils and Stamps can be replaced by contacting AWEX.

- TIP: Check that ink is available at the start of shearing for stencil use.
- TIP: The Stamp is best and most easily applied to the bale label when the pack is flat and prior to unfolding and placing in the wool press.

HANDWRITING

IMPORTANT: A bale with handwritten only or missing Wool Classer ID will be deemed NOT classed and the lot will be downgraded to a D Certificate.



HEAD OFFICE

PO Box 651 North Ryde NSW 1670

T +61 2 9428 6100

F +61 2 8088 7944

E woolclasser@awex.com.au

- Wool Classer Registration
- Administration: Change of Contact Details/Address
- Code of Practice
- Sheep Breed Compendium
- Clip Preparation Advice & Support
- Clip Inspection Correspondence
- Activity Statements
- Reference Material
- Stencils/Stamps/Pens
- WoolClip

NORTHERN REGION

T +61 2 9632 6166

E northernregion@awex.com.au

- Clip Preparation Advice & Support
- Auction Enquiry

SOUTHERN REGION

T +61 3 9318 0277

E southernregion@awex.com.au

- Clip Preparation Advice & Support
- Auction Enquiry

WESTERN REGION

T +61 8 9434 6999

E westernregion@awex.com.au

- Clip Preparation Advice & Support
- Auction Enquiry



AWEX *we know wool*

Australian Wool Exchange Limited ABN 35 061 495 565

Visit us at www.awex.com.au