



ISSUE 002 | SPRING 2022

# ePCS BULLETIN

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ALL YOUR CLASSING  
RECORDS CAN BE ACCESSED  
THROUGH WOOLCLIP?**

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*I hope you enjoy the Spring edition of the ePCS Wool Classer Bulletin. The wet weather has provided many challenges for wool harvesting and preparation. Please feel free to share the information here with the wool harvesting team and wool growers. I am only too happy to be contacted about any issues raised in the Bulletin. Stay safe (and dry).*

*Regards Fiona Raleigh, Wool Classer Registrar*

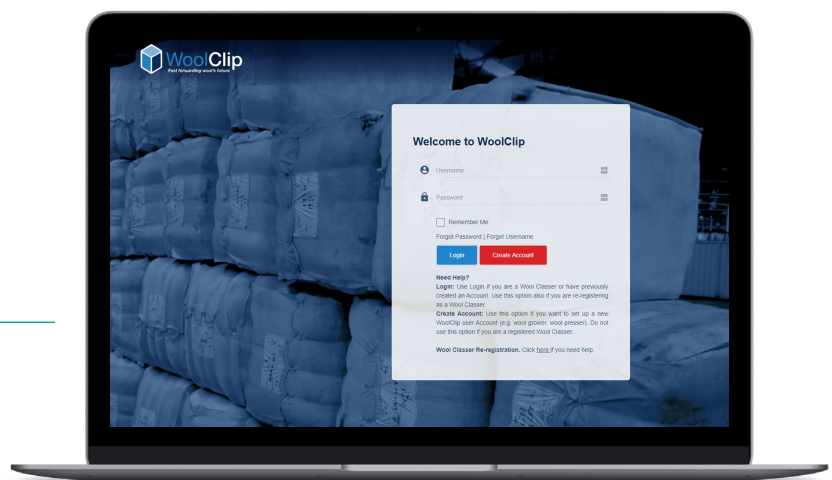
## START USING WOOLCLIP NOW

### Easy, accurate information transfer

- Easy-to-read specifications
- NWD linkage to mob lots
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### QUESTIONS?

Contact us to find out more

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# NATIONAL WOOL CLASSING TRAINERS WORKSHOP 2022

**Each year AWEX invites Wool Classing Trainers to meet and discuss industry updates, course content and training delivery. This provides a strong emphasis for consistency of wool classer training nationally and meeting the needs of industry.**

This year, trainers attended their annual workshop at the wool selling centre at Tottenham, Melbourne, VIC. The Focus of the workshop was on current industry issues of traceability, biosecurity

and wool quality as expected by our customers. Correct and accurate wool clip documentation via WoolClip electronic specification/NWD and eBale are an integral component of what our customers are demanding. Trainers were involved in presentations and training from various speakers and a review of the changes in the 2022-24 Code of Practice.

“Education, training and qualifications for Australian wool classers are integral to the success of Australia’s wool industry.”

said Mark Grave, AWEX CEO. “This represents the Australian industry’s commitment to continuous improvement and ensure that our wool customers, the buyers and processors of Australian wool, have confidence in and prefer the wool they purchase from Australia that is prepared by a trained, qualified and registered wool classer.”



Training providers for NSW, SA, VIC, TAS and WA attended the National Wool Classing Trainers Workshop in Melbourne VIC.

The knowledge gained from wool classer training is recognised as valuable to all associated with the wool industry.

A list of registered wool classing training providers (RTO) and their contacts can be found on the AWEX web page.

A full course outline for the Certificate III Wool Clip Preparation (Owner Classer Course) and Certificate IV Wool classing (Professional Wool classer) is available at <https://training.gov.au/Home/Tga>



# A LOOK AT LOCKS



Board locks consisting of regrown crutch wool



Locks from the breech of a crutched ewe.



A well-prepared line of board and table locks.

## What might seem like a simple wool category to prepare can often be confusing.

Commonly Classers are keeping table locks separate and treating all other sweepings as stain or describing as Crutch. AWEX has observed where board locks have been combined with longer Stain affected wool, hard shank, and brisket. This creates a Dump line which would be non-conforming for mixed length/mixed wool category as the short wool in board sweepings is appraised as Locks.

A locks line consists of

- Second cuts  
– staples cut during shearing
- Regrown crutch wool from sheep recently crutched, wool is under 50 mm
- Individual sweat fribs from points shorn off and fallen from the fleece.
- Small, thin and easily separated soft shanks

It has been noted that some Classers are only preparing the second cuts which accumulate under the wool table as locks. All other short wool from the clip is being discarded as it appears *dirty*, or Classers are incorrectly assessing short wool and fribs from the board as stain. As a result, locks are being downgraded to non-conforming lines or described as stain when no urine stain is present.

Wool characteristics of locks of importance to Wool Buyers and processors:

1. Fibre diameter – based on clip type
2. Length – locks are under 50 mm
3. Bulk – is there variation in the lock type/length to create bulk
4. VM percentage
5. Colour

The classer is in the best position to make decisions for each clip. Consider

the overall characteristics of the locks in the clip you are classing based on the 5 characteristics.

In the AWEX Wool Classers COP there is no preparation standard that requires locks to be white. It is well accepted by the trade that locks may be lower yielding, of a poor colour or high in VM. These characteristics will be influenced by the clip type, season, crutching date, shearing quality etc, and therefore follow mob concept of classing for uniformity and to be classed to the bulk of the clip.

In some fine and or large specialty clips the table locks can be kept separate. This does not mean that wool from the board is discarded. There would be a second line of board locks.

No wool prepared a shearing time is to be described as crutchings. If wool from the board is correctly prepared it is to be described as locks.



# CLASSING FOR COLOUR

Type and level of colour can be assessed as follows:

Type of colour - AWEX ID qualifier

- Creamy colour,
- Scourable colour, M
- Unscourable colour H1, H2, H3
- Water Colour N1, N2, N3

**Water colour** (bacterial green, blue, pink etc) poses a processing risk and can significantly lower the value of colour-free lines and must be separated. See image 1. Below

**Unscourable colour**, Canary yellow, with or without a distinct banding. Unscourable colour can affect the final dyeing colour result. In some clips the bulk of the mob could be significantly affected and would be the main line of mob. Unaffected free wool may be separated as a premium line. All lines must be even for quality count and length.

**Scourable colour** is used to describe old wool that has discoloured post shearing in storage.

**Creamy** wool is from fleeces higher in suint/grease.

**Creamy colour is scourable and should not be included with unscourable colour lines.**

Creamy lines are often unnecessary in many merino clips. Some blood lines and age groups will carry creamy colour due to suint content. Classing priority should be to separate lines made for more technically significant characteristics. Speciality superfine / fine clips may have creamy wool separated. Seek advice from the Wool Grower or marketing rep for preparation in these clips.

Care should be taken not to over class for creamy colour.

## BOARD WOOL 4 WAYS

1. Second cuts, short regrown crutch wool (<50mm), soft shanks and individual fribbs. Can be combined with table locks, described as - (Breed) LKS. **Always present for every clip.**
2. Dags, hard require crushing, cannot be scoured, described as - (Breed) DAG, **(If present).**
3. Urine stain wool from the crutch of ewes, > 3 months since crutching, described as STN (breed) PCS **(If present).**
4. Hard Shanks, cotted and/or high in VM, described as - (Breed) SHK **(If present).**

\*Do not remove full length skirtings from the back legs on the board\*.



A High incidence of water colour has been observed by AWEX show floor Auditors from all regions.

# 50 YEAR CLASS OF 1972

## HONOUR ROLL FIRST REGISTERED IN 1972 - 50 YEARS

Congratulations to all of our 50 Year Wool Classers for your continued commitment and valued contribution to the Australian wool industry.

Status	Salutation	First Name	Last Name	City
AW	Mr	Donald	Alexander	Berrybank
AW	Mr	Trevor	Allen	Yorketown
AW	Mr	Dean	Barrett	Freeling
AW	Mr	Harvey	Benton	Wangaratta
AW	Mr	Terry	Bone	Nhill
AW	Mr	John	Broderick	Crookwell
AW	Mr	Donald	Bruce	Cumnock
AW	Mr	Kenneth	Bruce	Savernake
AW	Mr	Robin	Cameron	Coleraine
AW	Mrs	Kerry	Cole	Sofala
AW	Mr	Rodney	Cook	Baddaginnie
AW	Mr	Neill	Croker	Taralga
AW	Mr	Keiran	Cummins	Uranquinty
AW	Mr	John	Davidson	Penola
AW	Mr	Bruce	Edwards	Cecil Plains
AW	Mr	Stuart	Everett	Crystal Brook
AW	Mr	Ian	Feldtmann	Major Plains
AW	Mr	Kevin	Fisher	Barnawartha
AW	Mr	Timothy	Flint	Kingston Se
AW	Mr	Peter	Forbes	Brookong
AW	Mr	Rodney	Fryar	Gawler
AW	Mr	Terry	Gardner	Minimay
AW	Mr	Geoff	Gellert	Willaura
AW	Mr	Jeffrey	Gill	Gawler West
AW	Mr	Graeme	Godward	Pyramid Hill
AW	Mr	Ray	Graham	Ledcourt
AW	Mr	Michael	Grogan	Binalong
AW	Mr	Geoff	Habel	Willatook
AW	Mr	Leon	Haines	Henty
AW	Mr	Geoffrey	Hall	Young
AW	Mr	Bruce	Hamilton	Coolamon
AW	Mr	Bryan	Hepburn	Moriac
AW	Mr	Peter	Hicks	Nhill

AW	Mr	William	Hill	Warrenbayne
AW	Mr	Richard	Hudson	Tottenham
AW	Mr	Trevor	James	West Lakes Shore
AW	Mr	Barry	James	Swan Hill
AW	Mr	Peter	Jenkins	Wallaloo East
AW	Mr	Peter	Kampman	Warrnambool
AW	Mr	Ray	Keatley	Currawang
CA	Mr	Malcolm	Lambert	Penola
AW	Mr	Terry	Maddern	Kaniva
AW	Mr	Graeme	Mason	Clunes
AW	Mr	Keith	McGrath	Yass
AW	Mr	Roderick	McKenzie	West Wyalong
AW	Mr	William	McKenzie	Griffith Dc
AW	Mr	Finley	McLean	Taralga
AW	Mr	Trevor	Missen	Woodside
AW	Mr	Kieran	Moore	Creswick
AW	Mr	Ian	Munro	Rankins Springs
OC	Mr	Malcolm	Plum	Tarcutta
CA	Mr	Chris	Reed	Burra
AW	Mr	Les	Rees	Little River
AW	Mr	Peter	Roberson	Mangoplah
AW	Mr	Raymond	Robinson	Ararat
MC	Mr	Anthony	Ryan	Berrigan
AW	Mr	Roger	Sambell	Meningie
AW	Mr	John (Ross)	Sharwood	Trunkey Creek
AW	Mr	Kevin	Smith	Runnymede
AW	Mr	Lyll	Starkey	Mount Pleasant
AW	Mr	Allan	Stewart	Hillside
AW	Mr	Gary	Suthern	Berridale
AW	Mr	Howard	Templeton	Coleraine
AW	Mr	Bruce	Weise	Ariah Park
AW	Mr	Robert	Willson	Tarago
AW	Mr	David	Yates	Forge Creek



# WOOL CLASSER TRAINING

Skilled and qualified Wool Classers are in demand in the current climate of labour and skills shortage.

Notice is sent to AWEX from the registered training organisation (RTO) when the course is completed by students. These graduates are then eligible for registration by AWEX. AWEX works with new graduates to support them in their first year on the Job.

**Show case of wool classing training:** Wool classing graduates competing at Sydney Royal Easter Show 2022.



*\*\*\*AWEX has graduate notifications that are yet to apply for registration. To remain current AWEX encourages new graduates to complete the registration process within 12 months of notification of course completion.\*\*\**

If you know someone who has completed the course but not yet registered, they can contact:

**FIONA RALEIGH, Wool Classer Registrar**

M. 0403 396 842

E. fraleigh@awex.com.au

# GRADUATE WOOL CLASSER REPORTING

The AWEX Wool Classer Registrar provides a feedback service for classers who have recently completed their wool classing courses. These reports continue for the first twelve months of their classing careers. The purpose of these reports is to provide constructive feedback so graduates can further develop knowledge and skills.

Fiona Raleigh, Wool Classer Registrar prepares the report for the graduate classer with comments on meeting the objectives of the Code of Practice in the following:

- By preparing uniform and predictable lines of wool,
- Ensuring that the product is free of contamination,
- Present a correctly packaged product and correctly describe the contents of each bale, and
- Accurately document the entire clip.

Test results are analysed for line uniformity

for length, strength and fibre diameter. Line size and classing appropriate to the clip type is also determined.

The bale descriptions used by the classer are checked to the AWEX Id type to ensure these are a correct representation of the line and that the bale descriptions follow the Code of Practice format.

Wool Brokers are requested to provide the AWEX Wool Classer Registrar with a copy of the wool specification to assist in the completion of the feedback report. When provided the specification is checked to see that all information has been completed clearly and correctly, with comments and mob information provided for all classed lines. Some brokers also provide feedback on classers they have spoken to and observed working in shed at shearing time.

Graduate Wool Classers are welcome to contact Fiona Raleigh if they have any questions or concerns regarding the information they have received.



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- Wool Classer Registration
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- 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](mailto:northernregion@awex.com.au)

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#### **SOUTHERN REGION**

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E [southernregion@awex.com.au](mailto:southernregion@awex.com.au)

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#### **WESTERN REGION**

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