



ISSUE 003 | SPRING 2023

# ePCS BULLETIN

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**THROUGH WoolClip?**

Log into [www.woolclip.com.au](http://www.woolclip.com.au)

# GOLDEN STENCIL

The 2022 AWEX/TAFE National Graduate Wool Classer Competition was held at the Sydney Royal Easter Show on Tuesday 11th April 2023. 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".

The Royal Agricultural Society of NSW host the competition with the sponsors and organisers, Australian Wool Exchange Limited and TAFE NSW.

This year competitors travelled from New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania and Western Australia.

**The 2023 winner of the "Golden Stencil" and \$500 prize money is Austin Grace from Young NSW. Austin graduated from TAFE NSW and was trained by Kerri Capill.**

Second place and "Silver Stencil" (\$300 prize money) Ms Jacqueline Dare, Oatlands TAS Trained by Evelyne Archer TAS TAFE.

Third place (\$200 prize money) and "Bronze Stencil" was Mr Cameron Gall, Uralla NSW, Trained by Pauline Smith TAFE NSW.

"The competition showcases the best of wool classing skills and knowledge for new and emerging Wool Classers." said Mark Grave, AWEX CEO. "What is pleasing is that we have some very talented (& younger) people coming into the industry and that is something we should celebrate."

"TAFE organisations across the country should be congratulated for training and nominating classers of such high calibre. To be nominated is an honour that 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"



Dennis Teasdale trophy winner Kerri Capill Tafe NSW Dubbo pictured with her winning Student, Golden stencil and DAS Campbell prize winner, Austin Grace, Young, NSW.

TAFE NSW and trainer Kerri Capill received the Dennis Teasdale Perpetual Trophy awarded to the training organisation and trainer of the competition winner.

Austin Grace was the winner of the DAS Campbell prize for the top NSW graduate.

The judges of this year's competition were Mr. Andrew Mills, MacDonald & Co Wool Brokers, Mr Stewart Murphy, TAFE NSW and Mr David Cother, 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. The finalists completed three classing tasks of fine merino, medium merino and crossbred simulated clips, in addition to AWEX-ID wool typing, valuation and an oral presentation to the judges.

"AWEX has been a proud sponsor of the national wool classing competition since it commenced in 2012. The national competition is the pinnacle competition for graduates and has created additional enthusiasm and profile for wool and the skills of wool classing." said Mr Grave.

## MISUSE OF STENCIL

Wool classed to the Code of Practice by a registered Wool Classer is identified at sale with the certificate wool preparation category of P.

P Certificate wool is recognised as the highest preparation standard. Buyers and Processors buy classed wool with confidence that the wool will meet expectations.

Wool Classer registration and training underpins the Australian wool industry. Misuse of Stencil by letting unqualified/unregistered persons class wool where bales carry a Wool Classer ID is fraudulent.

The lending of Wool Classer stencils to unqualified persons is a serious breach of the Rules of Registration.

AWEX will investigate cases of misuse of stencil. Wool Classers lending their stencil will be referred to the Registration Review Committee. See Rules of Registration. [https://www.awex.com.au/media/2089/awx-cop-2021-rules-of-registration\\_web.pdf](https://www.awex.com.au/media/2089/awx-cop-2021-rules-of-registration_web.pdf)

Report issues in writing to AWEX Wool Classer Registrar [e.fraleigh@awex.com.au](mailto:e.fraleigh@awex.com.au)



L to R Cameron Gall 3rd NSW. Jacqueline Dare 2nd TAS. Austin Grace 1st NSW. Ebony Short, SA. Lauren Rayner, WA. Zoe Wilson VIC, Janaya Ireland, NSW. Grace Collins, NSW. Katie Waters, NSW. Brendon Barry, NSW.

# WOOL HARVESTING SAFETY CULTURE A PRIORITY

**In late 2022 AWEX conducted a survey that invited all professional Wool Classers and Master Classers to have their say on the current work environment. Results from this survey has formed an opportunity for collaboration between key industry bodies to promote change and a positive and safe work environment.**

A clear message from Wool Classers is that they are passionate and proud of the wool industry and the part they play in it. 95% would recommend the wool industry as an industry to pursue as a career.

However, poor, and potentially unsafe workplace environments are impacting the industry's ability to attract and retain new staff.

Key areas that detract from what is generally considered a positive environment.

#### **Facilities:**

Inadequate and poorly maintained facilities impacting on shed safety was highlighted

as a risk that must be addressed. Simple maintenance of the wool shed and WHS briefings before a shed starts would have an immediate and lasting impact on the wool shed work force and culture.

Providing secure toilets, showers & accommodation, with clean meal and wash-up facilities is a must to improve the wool shed environment.

#### **Culture:**

The wool industry is not immune from general societal issues such as drugs & alcohol, harassment, and bullying. Classers expressed concern that the industry must be proactive in meeting these challenges head on.

These issues require a united approach and a clear message of zero tolerance across the industry.

Visit [www.safetyculture.com/safesheds](http://www.safetyculture.com/safesheds) for an industry checklist.

## CODE OF PRACTICE 2025-27!

Work has started preparing for the 2025-27 triennium with the release of the online Survey seeking your input on all matters wool classing.

An email with a link to the survey will be issued to wool classers in early September 2023.

If you have a point of view, please take 15 minutes to complete the Survey.

## REMINDER TO ALL CLASSERS

**The presence of the Wool Classer stencil and stamp on a bale are important identifiers of classed wool. It is the Classers responsibility to carry their Stencil and Stamp at all times when classing.**

The official Wool Classer ID stencil and stamp is verification of the classed status. Handwritten Wool Classer ID may deem bales as not classed (D Certificate).

Worn or damaged stencils and stamps can be replaced on written application to AWEX. A replacement fee will apply.

See The Wool Classer Rules of Registration at [www.awex.com.au/media/2089/awx-cop-2021-rules-of-registration\\_web.pdf](http://www.awex.com.au/media/2089/awx-cop-2021-rules-of-registration_web.pdf)

Did you know you can re-ink your stamp. Ink is available where you buy office supplies.



# CONTAMINATION OF AUSTRALIAN WOOL ON THE INCREASE

**Contamination of wool is not a new issue. The problems that foreign objects and fibres cause to our customers are well known.**

Wool processors have asked that the importance of Keeping the Clip Clean be communicated to Wool Classers, shed staff and growers. Everyone shares the responsibility in eliminating contamination risk from wool harvesting areas so we can keep the Australian wool clip contamination free.

This includes:

**Non wool items:** Clothing, rubbish, pens, lighters, string, rope and poly twine, cans, lamb bats, elastrator rings etc.

**Foreign fibres:** Dog hair and Shedding Breeds.

**Pigmented wool:** Black wool

Contamination is occasionally identified in the show floor grab sample or from the core sample at testing. But unfortunately, not all contamination is detected prior to sale.

In the last few months AWEX has been contacted with multiple examples of contamination found in mill consignments from Australian wool. Some serious issues included a needle stick injury to a mill worker from a hypodermic needle while opening bales.

## Case study

A 16 bale Merino lambs fleece consignment. Approx. 5 kg of black wool found in a bale. See below image.

The black wool was identified at the scour line, however this was not before a large amount of the scoured wool had been affected. On this occasion the Property Brand and Wool Classer of the bale could be identified. The processor had asked AWEX to investigate the circumstances leading to the contamination. It was found that the pigmented wool was from a butt of wool brought in from a related Property to be combined with the current shearing. The butt had no identification to show that the contents were Black Wool. The Classer instructed the presser to include this wool with the main line of AAA M LMS- WITHOUT INSPECTING THE CONTENTS.

Had the correct process been followed the black wool may have been found. Contamination of this nature is a significant commercial cost to the customer.

### Reminder to all classers!

Do not include wool that you have not classed with the current clip – unless the wool is fully inspected. This does not mean simply opening the bale/butt and identifying the wool type, but the contents must be thoroughly emptied

from the pack and reclassified.

If the risk is high do not include this wool in the current clip. e.g., possibility that Shedding Breeds could be present or no clear information of the bale/butt history, COP 22-24, 1.5. p10.

**There are some butts of wool in the shed from a previous shearing. Can I mix this wool into my lines?**

Provided all the wool is **completely removed** from the butt, inspected, and/or re-classed to this COP by the current Wool Classer, the wool may be lotted with the current clip. Remain vigilant to **possible contamination** by Dark and Medullated Fibre and other non-wool contaminants.

COP 22-24, 14.1 p117. It **is not** recommended that small segments of wool are kept on farm (i.e. until there is enough to form a bale), because there is the risk of contamination, e.g. from rodents, pests, rubbish, clothing, moisture, etc., or they may be accidentally mixed with other wool types.

If the classer feels under pressure to include wool they have not classed or there is a deemed risk, then the stencil should not be applied or contact AWEX Wool Classer Registrar with full details of the issue prior to sale.

Fiona Raleigh m. 0403 396 842



# CLASSING FAQ

**The standards of preparation in the AWEX Wool Classer Code of Practice have evolved over time to meet the requirements of the pipeline. Applying The Code to a dynamic work environment and varied mob presentation can be challenging. Some common classer questions are:**

## **Why do I need to remove brands, the product label says it is scourable?**

Sheep marking substances (Brands) are registered for use on wool. However, it has been shown that these substances are not always fully scourable. Processors are not able to determine the level of application, the weathering time or conditions, or if the marking fluid has been mixed with other substances. Because of these variables the Code of Practice states all sheep marking substances must be removed. See COP 22-24. Sec.2.2. v. p.15



*Brand in scoured wool*

## **Do all skin pieces need to be removed or does it depend on the size?**

Large skin pieces can damage wool processing machinery, small match head size skin pieces can break up causing specks/flecks in finished fabric. The Code of Practice states that all skin pieces must be removed.



*Skin flecks in fabric*

## **Should Locks be white?**

No, not always. In most cases board and table locks are to be combined. Locks consist of second cuts, short regrown crutch wool, loose individual sweat fribs and short soft shanks. Locks consisting of only second cuts will be white (Table Locks).



*M LKS (Board and Table)*

## **Why is it necessary to identify the Age Code of mobs on the National Wool Declaration (NWD)?**

The NWD uses Age Codes to identify an important technical characteristic of wool.

- Age Code 1 indicates first shearing and the presence of the (lambs) tip (i.e. not the actual age of the mob).
- Age Code 2 indicates sheep of second shearing. These mobs may be young (the actual age of the sheep) but the wool is technically adult wool as the (lambs) tip has been removed.

Therefore, using an age of 6 months etc on the NWD does not identify the presence of lambs tip. The age code is used to calculate the DMFR rating for Merino mobs. For older Merino mobs an Age Code of 8 indicates an increased risk of pigmentation and this is shown in the DMFR calculation. SEE COP page 39. Technical Principles. See COP 22-24 Principles sec. 4.3 Age separation.

## **When is the description of LMS applied to a classed line?**

The correct application of the LMS description is for wool with an unshorn tip under 50mm. LMS is a carding length wool and therefore the description clearly identifies this to the buyer. LMS must not be applied to combing length wool.

## **What do I describe the wool swept from the crutch area during shearing?**

When it is not clear what to describe a line of wool it is often because the preparation

doesn't meet the Code of Practice.

All classed wool meets 5 appraised wool categories (AWEX ID), Fleece, Pieces, Bellies, Locks, and Crutch. A self-check that classers can carry out in shed would be to apply the AWEX ID to the line. If this is easily determined then this would indicate that the line is uniform for wool category. Uniformity is the objective of classing.

When a line is mixed for wool categories it is not possible to accurately apply a description to meet the Code of Practice. Wool collected from the board and/or swept from the crutch, can often contain mixed categories depending on the skill and knowledge of the wool handlers, the crutch status of the mob, sex (ewes or wethers), breed and lower leg covering (wool, hard or soft shanks, or no shank).

The classer must give clear instructions and line outcomes to staff on the preparation required. If the instruction that is given is to simply "sweep all crutches" then inevitably staff will be confused, and the wool collected will be mixed and not meet COP preparation.

## **Instructions to Staff and the Wool Categories from the Board.**

"Sweep short regrown crutch wool" (crutched mobs only) – **LKS e.g. M LKS**

"Collect and separate hard shanks" (only when present) – **SHK e.g. M SHK**

"Remove and separate urine stain wool" (uncrutched or > 3 months, ewes) – Classer to determine length. The length of urine stain wool is uniform based on the mob.

Under 50mm (LKS) e.g., **STN M LKS**.  
Over 50mm (PCS) e.g., **STN M PCS**.

Bulky short wool, <50mm, may be described as a carding length piece e.g. **STN M PCS**. NOTE: lines describe using the classed line description of **STN** are made for Urine Stain wool.

"Separate Dags" (Where present) – **DAG eg M DAG**

*In Low-risk mobs e.g. Pre-Shearing crutch, staff may not need to carry out any sweeping or separation during the shearing process. Staff will then sweep the board after the fleece is collected and before the shearer drags the next sheep to the board. This eliminates confusion and unnecessary work and frees staff for other duties.*

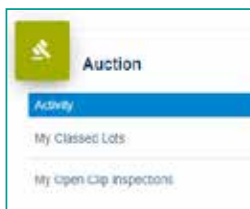
*See COP sec 4.5. ii p.34. sec 5.3 p.44*

# WOOL CLASSER WoolClip FEATURES



**Did you know you can log in to WoolClip to access all your wool classing activity records, respond to clip inspections and contact the Registrar? Go to [www.woolclip.com.au](http://www.woolclip.com.au)**

My Classed lots shows your classing history and will also list lots classed by you prior to sale. If there are lots showing that you did not class, please contact the Registrar.



7	AAAAM	MF4E	16.1	20.3	0.1	72.6	62	17	54	41	32	AA	NA	67
3	AAAAM	MF4E	17.2	18.7	0.2	69.6	78	16	43	25	9	AA	NA	77
16	AAAAM	MF4E	19.3	18.6	0.2	77.4	77	15	48	33	32	M	1	78
10	AAAAM	MF4E	19.1	18.4	0.1	77.4	84	12	41	26	33	M	1	79
3	AAAAM	MF4E	20.7	20.2	0.1	75.4	70	16	43	27	41	M	1	72
3	AAAAM	MF4E (HC)	19.0	18.9	0.1	74.3	76	15	50	34	18	M	1	80
6	MPCS	MF4E	17.6	21.7	0.7	67.1	72	20	46	28	39	M	2	68
3	MBSL	MB4E.H1	18.4	18.4	0.4	65.0	72	20	31	18	44	M	NA	65
2	MLPCS	MLP4E	15.8	21.6	0.5	67.0	55	22				AA	NA	47

## eBale FAQ

### What is an eBale?

An eBale is the application of a unique bale-ID (number) via a RFID/QR Code on each individual wool pack (ePack).

### Bale Branding

Will bale branding still be required on the new eBale packs (Face/Head of bale)?

**YES**, Bale Branding of both the Head and Face of a bale remains an important part of identification of wool bales and is required.

The RFID/QR Code technology is in addition to bale branding and not a replacement.

### Old (Non-eBale) packs

I have some old packs left in the shed, can I still use these?

**YES**, There will be a transition phase of moving towards eBale pack and we will see a mixture of old and new being used. Over the next 9-12 months we will see more eBale packs come through the supply chain.

### Retro-fitting Non-eBale packs

Can I retro fit the old packs I already have?

**YES**, AWEX has available RFID/QR Code tags for purchase. These adhesive tags can be used to 'retro-fit' existing non-eBale packs. Tags are applied to the bale label for use on farm or in a warehouse.

eBale Tags are available for purchase at a cost of \$0.80ea + GST, including postage. To purchase eBale Tags please contact AWEX WoolClip Support, John Cox, [e.jcox@awex.com.au](mailto:e.jcox@awex.com.au)

## eBale

### IMPORTANT NEW DEVELOPMENT IN THE AUSTRALIAN WOOL INDUSTRY

As of the 1/7/2023 all new wool packs imported into Australia will have a QR code and RFID tag incorporated. These new Packs are known as ePacks. The ePacks are an integral part of traceability for Australian Wool.



### How to Use the ePacks.

The QR Code is for on-farm use. The QR code is scanned by using a smart phone or tablet, through the AWEX WoolClip App. The WoolClip App is available free from the app store for apple and android.

The QR code on the bale label is scanned and the bale details recorded and saved (The same information that is recorded in a physical wool book). The electronic wool book information (along with the eBale unique number) is transferred to the WoolClip web site.

WoolClip is a quick and accurate web based electronic specification and NWD. The bale-ID is matched to the record on WoolClip, including Farm Account, PIC, Farm Brand, NWD, bale details etc.

AWEX – with the support of industry – has committed to securing 5 million RFIDs exclusively for the Australian wool market, a provision of 2.5 – 3 years of wool production.

Wool Classers and all other users have full access to support provided by John Cox WoolClip program lead, 7 days a week. Contact m. 0468 533 529. Or e. [jcox@awex.com.au](mailto:jcox@awex.com.au)



Scan the QR code to access the WoolClip log in page. **For All Registered Wool Classers** use your username and password issued by AWEX.

All other users of WoolClip (not registered classers) select create account.

# HONOUR ROLL 50 YEARS

## CLASS OF 1973

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
OC	Mr	Robert	Gollasch	WALLACETOWN
AW	Mr	William (Bill)	Crawford	VICTORIA VALLEY
AW	Mr	Brendan	Molloy	BROWN HILL
AW	Mr	Gary	Staehr	LAHARUM
AW	Mr	Michael	York	YORK
AW	Mr	Trevor	Welsh	EUGOWRA
AW	Mr	John	Shaw	GUNNING
AW	Mr	Peter	Mapletoft	NUMURKAH
AW	Mr	Gerard	Hiscock	MORGIANA
AW	Mr	Trevor	Bussell	UPPER LURG
AW	Mr	Trevor	Taylor	QUANDIALLA
AW	Mr	John	Charles	BERRYBANK
AW	Mr	Wayne	Cameron	CRESSY
AW	Mr	Ronald	Hannan	GOONDIWINDI
AW	Mr	Robert	Bennett	ARIAH PARK
AW	Mr	Peter	Stewart	SEA LAKE
CA	Mr	Lindsay	Breeding	MOUNT BARKER
AW	Mr	Ronald	Elliott	COONAMBLE
AW	Mr	Geoffrey	Adams	ENSAY
AW	Mr	William	Pekin	CLEAR LAKE
AW	Mr	Stephen	Clancy	GUNNING
AW	Mr	Peter	Onions	WANDINA
AW	Mr	Maurice	Dumesny	LAHARUM
AW	Mr	Richard	Kerr	DELACOMBE
AW	Mr	Ian	McDonald	KANIVA
AW	Mr	Michael	Barry	LAKE GARDENS
AW	Mr	Grant	Robertson	BOYUP BROOK
AW	Mr	Bernard (Butch)	Lane	LOCKHART
AW	Mr	Paul	Glover	BINALONG
AW	Mr	Colin	Warrick	VECTIS
AW	Mr	John	Naughton	CROOKWELL
AW	Mr	Kevin	Erwin	STAWELL
AW	Mr	Graeme	Halbisch	STOCKINBINGAL
AW	Mr	David	Taylor	TRUNDLE
AW	Mr	Graeme	Edgerton	QUANDIALLA
AW	Mrs	Helen	Wright	GLENLOFTY
AW	Mr	Desmond	Ryan	GIDGINBUNG
AW	Mr	Maxwell	Pilgrim	MINIMAY
AW	Mr	Laurie	Baker	WEST WYALONG
AW	Mr	Glen	Forbes	HENLEY BEACH
AW	Mr	Hugh	Everard	KOROIT
AW	Mr	Kenneth	Burkinshaw	LOCKHART

Status	Salutation	First Name	Last Name	City
AW	Mr	John	Chapman	STONELEIGH
AW	Mr	Raymond	Schroeder	MURRAYVILLE
AW	Mr	Malcolm	Nicholls	STRATFORD
AW	Mr	Charles	Dare	HALLETT
AW	Mr	Kerrin	Gellie	MAROONA
AW	Mrs	Beverley	Norman	ILLABO
AW	Mr	Wayne	Kreutzberger	RAND
MC	Mr	Les	Bush	BERREMANGRA
AW	Mr	Neil	Granger	COLLECTOR
AW	Mr	Trevor	Pike	SCONE
AW	Mr	Alan	Weir	MARYBOROUGH
AW	Mr	Robert	Hagger	BORDERTOWN
AW	Mr	Peter	Colvin	POWLETT PLAINS
AW	Mr	Alister	Strickland	NORWOOD
AW	Mr	Anthony	Conway	BALRANALD
AW	Mr	Garry	Jennings	MT RICHMOND
CA	Mr	Richard	Martin	LADYSMITH
AW	Mr	Peter	Conrick	BLANCHETOWN
AW	Mr	Jeffrey	Brennan	KAPUNDA
AW	Mr	James	Sheahan	JUGIONG
AW	Mr	Timothy	O'Halloran	BALRANALD
AW	Mr	Ron	Granger	QUIALIGO
AW	Mr	Nigel	Hoad	WALCHA
AW	Mr	Noel	Stein	HENTY
AW	Mr	Garry	Gruber	YASS
AW	Mr	Donald	Kerr	GROGAN
AW	Mr	Donald	Hunt	EUROA
AW	Mr	Rodney	Williams	MANILDRA
AW	Mr	Brenden	Cole	SOFALA
AW	Mr	Alan	Mattiske	STOCKINBINGAL
AW	Mr	Andrew	Grieves	MARONG
AW	Mr	Jeffrey	Major	RAVENSTHORPE
AW	Mr	Rodger	Lorraine	CLAPHAM
AW	Mr	Trevor	Mosey	GREENOCK
AW	Mr	Geoffrey	Driffin	GRENFELL
AW	Mr	James	Neary	MURMUNGEE
AW	Mr	Michael	Dickinson	NHILL
AW	Mr	George	McKenzie	ILLABAROOK
AW	Mr	Donald	Shaw	HOLBROOK
AW	Mr	Gordon (Don)	Chad	DUBBO
AW	Mr	Denis	Kroemer	TUMBY BAY

# MASTER CLASSER COURSE

## Class of '23

AWEX is committed to the ongoing training and support of registered Wool Classers. Wool Classer extension services includes the provision of the Master Classer program for Wool Classers showing a desire for ongoing professional development.

The 2023 Master Classer course was held in Melbourne from the 22nd to 25th May. Twelve Wool Classers were invited to attend the program. These Wool Classers were nominated by industry after being identified as showing leadership skills and technical knowledge with a desire to improve their understanding of the wool industry beyond the farm gate.

The course involved building a deeper understanding of the Wool Classer Code of Practice and looking into the principles and objectives of wool clip preparation. Participants were taken through the sections of the Code of Practice to develop an understanding of the implications of Wool Classer roles and objectives, as they relate to each of the customers' requirements along the wool pipeline.

A day workshop given by Greg Vance of Vance Australia Training, engaged the participants in looking at their influencing

and leadership style. Effective staff supervision and communication skills were developed during this session. For many this was the first experience that they had had to participate in training on leadership and communication.

AWEX industry services were introduced to the group during the course program being, the WoolClip, the National Wool Declaration program and e-bale technology.

The course involved industry visits to the Australian Wool Testing Authority, EP Robinson Geelong, and the AWH rehandling facility, as well as being present for the Melbourne wool sale and show floor AWEX-id activities. Participants from Victoria, Tasmania, New South Wales, Western Australia, and Queensland found the content, industry involvement and peer support provided them with a valuable learning experience.

What did the participants have to say "The Course was well run, I learnt so much more than I thought I already knew!" "Master classer gives you a chance to go back to basics, and gauge where you are at in the current wool industry." "35 hours of intense learning with 11 other marvellous course participants" "Improved understanding of wool harvesting and the processor requirements"



Master Class of '23 pictured with Jim Robinson (EP Robinson), Renee Timberlake (AWEX) far left and Fiona Raleigh-AWEX Wool Classer Registrar far right.

## HEAD OFFICE

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- 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

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- Auction Enquiry

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- Auction Enquiry

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- Clip Preparation Advice & Support
- Auction Enquiry



**AWEX** we know wool

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