

QUALITY COUNTS

Issue 1

AUSTRALIA'S WOOL CLASSER NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2025

Farm Bale Standards

Registration
Review Committee

National Wool Classer
Trainers Program 2024

FAQ Classer Comments

Bulk Class

Wool Mill
Contamination Report



Master Classer Course May 2025

Location: Melbourne

Duration: 4 days

Content: A pipeline focused course to give participants a deeper look into meeting downstream customer requirements.

EOI or for more information contact:
fraleigh@awex.com.au

Exact course dates to be confirmed in March 2025.

AWEX has reviewed the rules for Master Classer registration in the 2025-27 period. All potential participants should be aware of these rules.
awex.com.au/media/2427/awx-cop-2024-rules-for-registration_web.pdf



Did you know you can access all your classing records through WoolClip?

Log into woolclip.com.au



FARM BALE STANDARDS

Farm Bales need to withstand the rigours of transporting, warehousing, sampling and containerisation.

Uniform bales of optimum weight and length will perform better in these tough conditions.

One of the five primary objectives of the Wool Classer is: Present a correctly packaged product.

The quality of the bale is in how you start and finish.

Tips for a well pressed bale.

Start by:

- Placing the pack correctly in the press to allow enough flap to close off the bale.
- Filling the bottom corners of the pack to create a square base.

Finish by:

- Pressing to optimal weight.
- Levelling off the top by feeding the wool towards the **front** of the press and avoiding pushing wool to the back.
- Closing the bale without applying excessive tension on the bale fasteners. This will prevent the label wrinkling which can cause the label stitching to tear and makes label details difficult to read.
- Making sure no wool protrudes from the corners of the bale.

Aim: Correct bale length 1.25m, optimal weight (190-195kg), flat base and top, and a smooth label.



Well pressed bales create a stable and compliant truck load.



Excessive tension when closing off bale creating a wrinkled label.



BEST PRACTICE

Store Bales in the shed in number sequence for greater ease when:

- ✓ Checking for bale marking errors.
- ✓ Recording eBale details and scanning the QR code when completed at the end of the run.
- ✓ Checking off bales in wool book and consignment module as bales leave the shed.

WOOL MILL CONTAMINATION REPORT

AWEX has received feedback from a processor of Australian wool reporting contamination where the bales have been divided using old wool pack, cloth, and fertiliser bags.

NEVER use anything other than paper to divide a bale. To add to the issue, these bales were also misdescribed and not identified as Bulk Class.

Bales with divisions must be clearly described on the bale with BC. The mill reports identified that the bales were marked with classed line descriptions.



Pack used as a divider – found on opening.



Pack material has broken down after scouring resulting in batch contamination.

Always correctly identify and partition bales that are destined for rehandle and door sales.

NEW LOOK COP

The Wool Classer Code of Practice is reviewed every three years in line with the registration triennium.

Based on feedback, the 2025-27 Code of Practice has been updated to improve readability and included new sections and remove duplicated content where applicable. The new code has an emphasis on more how to information and greater clarity with two new sections around preparation and classing standards.



NATIONAL WOOL CLASSER TRAINERS PROGRAM 2024

Each year AWEX invites Wool Classing Trainers to meet and discuss industry updates, course content and training delivery.

Last year, Trainers attended their annual workshop in Tasmania. Thank you to Simon Cameron of KINGSTON for hosting the group on day one, where specialist Superfine preparation was discussed. The focus of the visit was sustainability, current industry issues of traceability, biosecurity and wool quality as expected by our customers. Day two of the program included a visit to Waverley Woollen mills to view processing and manufacturing.



Spinning and weaving at Waverley Woollen Mills.

Trainers were prepared for the strong emphasis on the importance of WoolClip electronic specification/ NWD and eBale as an integral component of the training curriculum.

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

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 classer.

A list of registered wool classing training providers (RTO) and their contacts can be found on the AWEX web page awex.com.au/wool-classer/education/woolclassing-courses-and-contacts/

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



2024 National Wool Classer Trainers.

BULK CLASS

Bulk Class bales are a useful quality assurance packaging method for small portions of wool that do not match other classed lines.

The Classer can utilise the Bulk Class bale, so uniformity in the classed lines is not compromised with the inclusion of non-matching wool.

Preparing bulk class bales at the completion of shearing ensures the shed is left tidy and no wool is left in bins or butts at risk of being contaminated. The presence of small portions of non-matching wool is unavoidable in some clips e.g. skin pieces, brands etc.

AWEX asked rehandle departments for recommendations on Bulk Class bale preparation for the 2025-27 COP. The following is a summary of those recommendations.

Key Points

- Bulk Class bales are for small portions of wool that do not match the classed lines.
 - By creating a bulk class bale Classers are not tempted to blend non-matching wool back through main lines.
 - Classers should avoid including 'left over' wool from classed lines into Bulk Class bales by managing pressing, bale weights and cut outs.
-

Six simple steps to meet the Bulk Class bale preparation standards of the Code of Practice (and meet the needs of the rehandle facility).

- ① **Prepare Portions** consistent with the Code of practice. Fleeces are skirted, and portions separated for wool characteristics e.g. breed, faults, lengths and wool categories etc. If possible, stack faults from worst (bottom) to best (top).
- ② **Always separate portions with paper** e.g. Newspaper is non-contaminating. Never use fertiliser bags, wool packs or cloth!
- ③ **Press less than 204kg.** 204kg gross is the maximum weight for a Bulk Class bale. Bulk class bales are more likely to be manually handled, and overweight bales pose a WH&S risk to rehandle (and wool shed staff) moving bales.
- ④ **List the contents of the bale.** Inside the pack flap opposite the label or on a bulk class sheet under the flap and on the classer specification. WoolClip will print a separate page on the specification with the Bulk Class bale/s content list.
- ⑤ **Clearly mark the bales as BC.** Only use the bale description of BC and identify on the label and the bale face. Bales that include Dark and or Medullated fibre should be described as BCY, BCK or BCYK. Classed line bale descriptions should never be used.
- ⑥ **Apply your stencil.** Provided the five steps above are done your classer stencil should be applied. This gives the rehandle staff confidence that the portions are risk free and will match the bulk class bins in the rehandle facility.

The above points align with the Wool Classer objectives or the Code of Practice.

FAQ BELLY WOOL PREPARATION



What level of preparation is required for belly wool?

In some clips there is a clear benefit to apply some level of belly preparation. Coloured and/or cotted briskets should be removed where there is an overall benefit to the presentation of the bulk of the belly wool. This preparation benefits clips where the belly wool is combing length and free of other faults such as high VM.

Belly preparation

Careful separation of the brisket will result in a uniform belly line. Staff should assess each Belly to determine if and how much brisket needs to be removed so that no combing length wool is removed with the brisket.



Briskets should be removed where they contain distinctly higher levels of cott and/or colour relative to the rest of the belly. This wool should be placed in a 2nd Bellies line.



The show floor sample shown has been separated to identify the two distinct wool types in a sale line of bellies.



Pic shows clear distinction between brisket and belly wool that can be achieved with appropriate preparation. Both lines would be described using the BLS wool category, with the brisket described using a secondary or cast line description.

NOTE: Brisket is not a stain line.

FAQ CLASSER COMMENTS



What information do I need in a line comment on the Classer specification?

Line comments are important information for the Marketing Organisation to assist in lotting and give insight to the intention of the classing of a specific line.

A Classer/line comment should be included for all lines.

A line comment does not need to be a full description of the wool. Line comments should include a statement about why the line was made or the intention of the classing eg “Main line of Mob”, “Made for fleece shorter than main line approx. 60mm”, “All skirtings”, “Board and table locks” etc.

There is often a space limitation in the Classer/line comment section of paper-based specifications. Using WoolClip allows for more detail if required with more space provided for line comments.

NOTE: AWEX does not see the specification when inspecting sale lots. Any classing concerns pre-sale can be discussed with AWEX at woolclasser@awex.com.au

Did you know? You can create custom line comments linked to a Bin Code in WoolClip. Go to the burger menu and select bin code on the user dash board or ask us how at woolclip@awex.com.au

REGISTRATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Registration Review Committee (RRC) is an Advisory Committee established to review and recommend to Australian Wool Exchange Ltd (AWEX) management appropriate corrective actions related to registered Wool Classers that have breached the requirements of stencil use or preparation as outlined in the Code of Practice.

Upon initial and renewal of registration Classers agree to the rules of registration and stencil use. These rules can be found at [awex.com.au/media/2427/awx-cop-2024-rules-for-registration_web.pdf](https://www.awex.com.au/media/2427/awx-cop-2024-rules-for-registration_web.pdf)

The RRC have had a number of stencil use issues presented for review over the last 18 months which have resulted in a lengthy suspension of registration.



The Classer stencil must only be applied to wool that has been classed by the Register Classer of the assigned stencil number.

WOOL INDUSTRY TRACEABILITY: THE ROLE OF eBALE AND WOOLCLIP



Digital traceability is a crucial for the future success of Australian wool, supporting both biosecurity, efficiency and market access.

The Federal Government has identified the need for digital traceability systems in agriculture and has awarded AWEX a Grant under the National Agriculture Traceability Grants Program to promote the adoption of eBale and WoolClip within the wool industry.

Wool Classers play an important role by adopting WoolClip for clip documentation. If you haven't yet used WoolClip, you'll be surprised at how simple and timesaving it is.

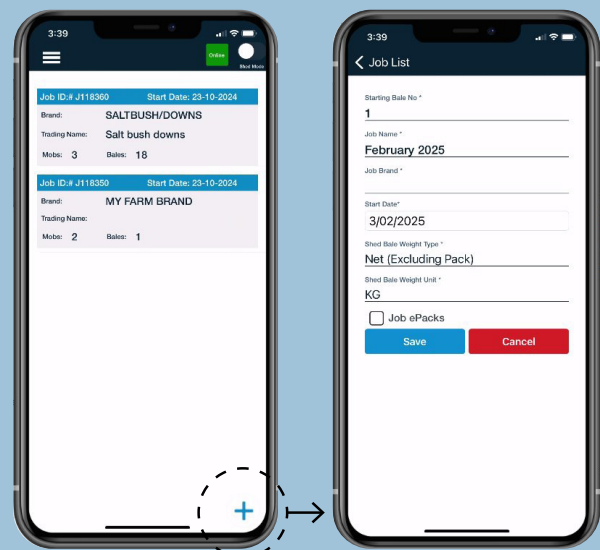


Worried about using WoolClip?

Here's how to overcome common barriers:

- **I don't have great tech skills:** If you can send an email, text, or use apps on your phone, you have the skills needed for WoolClip.
- **There's no service (internet) at the shed:** You'll need internet access to enter job and team details and finalise a specification, but you can still use the WoolClip app offline during shearing. Simply switch to "Shed Mode" to update your wool book and add details during shearing, then once you're back in range, take it off Shed Mode to upload the work you've done.
- **The grower prefers paper:** Some growers may still be unfamiliar with WoolClip. Reassure your grower that WoolClip is the industry-standard method for transmitting wool documentation, enabling traceability, reducing errors, and preventing delays. Contact AWEX if you or your grower need training or support.

- **Not all job details are available:** You can get started in WoolClip without all the details. Start by adding temporary values to mandatory fields to save the job, then update it later. Alternatively, use the Quick Start feature in the app to create a draft job. Once service is available, and you've got the details, complete and save the job to sync it online.



Quick start screen

Add job and mob information

WOOL INDUSTRY TRACEABILITY: THE ROLE OF eBALE AND WOOLCLIP (continued)

Did you know?

The Australian Wool Sustainability Scheme (AWSS), Australia's industry-led wool sustainability certification, supports both quality and traceability by requiring:

- ✓ the use of a Wool Classer, preparing wool to the Code of Practice (P certificate),
- ✓ a correctly declared NWD,
- ✓ use of WoolClip to capture job information,
- ✓ scanning of eBales in WoolClip.

All four requirements must be met for wool to be certified as either SustainaWOOL (NM/CM) or ReponsiWOOL (AA/LN). As a Wool Classer, make sure you're ready to meet these requirements. Use WoolClip for your next classing job and reach out to AWEX if you need assistance.

Why Classers are switching to WoolClip



Error reduction

No more duplicate bale numbers and all details are correctly linked, including mob and grower information.



Record keeping

WoolClip securely stores classing records and completed specifications online.



Time saving

The auto-generate feature makes it quick to complete specifications for large clips. Use bin codes and mob details to streamline the process, with easy edits for small lots.



Collaboration

Growers with farm accounts provide their WoolID to link all the essential information you need for a job like trading details and mob details. Using WoolClip also means the grower and classer both have access to the job and wool book, making communication easier.



Now's the time!

Join the growing number of Classers using WoolClip and experience the benefits for yourself.

For more information or support:
email: woolclip@awex.com.au or call: 02 9428 6170



Wool paperwork simplified



HONOUR ROLLS

Congratulations to all of our 50 Year and 60 Year Wool Classers for your continued commitment and valued contribution to the Australian wool industry. To view all the honour rolls, go to awex.com.au/wool-classer/honour-roll/

50 Years Class of 1974

Wool Classer Category	Salutation	First Name	Last Name	Town	State
AW	Mr	Michael	York	York	WA
AW	Mr	Peter	Stewart	Sea Lake	VIC
CA	Mr	Lindsay	Breeding	Mount Barker	SA
AW	Mr	Maurice	Dumesny	Laharum	VIC
AW	Mr	Ian	McDonald	Kaniva	VIC
AW	Mr	Anthony	Conway	Balranald	NSW
AW	Mr	Gordon (Don)	Chad	Dubbo	NSW
AW	Mr	William	West	Cowra	NSW
AW	Mr	Trevor	Macreadie	Worowing Heights	NSW
AW	Mr	Stanley	Reid	Wallangarra	QLD
AW	Mr	Desmond	Richardson	Broken Hill	NSW
AW	Mr	David	Nixon	Tamworth	NSW
AW	Mr	Gregory	Tighe	Guyra	NSW
AW	Mr	Keith (Ivan)	Furner	Coolamon	NSW
AW	Mr	William	Curry	Goulburn	NSW
AW	Mr	Lawrence	Sly	The Rock	NSW
AW	Mr	Kenneth	Hall	Burrumbuttock	NSW
AW	Mr	Dennis	Simpson	Grenfell	NSW
AW	Mr	Gary	Hallam	Gunning	NSW
AW	Mr	David	Howard	Wagga Wagga	NSW
AW	Mr	Robert	Gray	Gooloogong	NSW
AW	Mr	Murray	Redford	Nurcounq	VIC
AW	Mr	George	McInnes	Milang	SA
AW	Mr	John	Hanstock	Parkes	NSW
AW	Mr	Alan	Ticehurst	Bookham	NSW
AW	Mr	Rodney	Whittaker	Yeoval	NSW
AW	Mr	Lexton	Emmerson	Horsham	VIC
AW	Mr	Ross	Pope	Vanilla	SA
MC	Mr	Harvey	Notting	Woorinen North	VIC
AW	Mr	Graham	Scriven	Lake Cargelligo	NSW
AW	Mr	Noel	Leahy	Wagga Wagga	NSW
AW	Mr	Alan	Davies	Forbes	NSW
AW	Mr	Robert	Stewart	Streatham	VIC
AW	Mr	Brian	Robson	Canowindra	NSW
AW	Mr	John	Jess	Buangor	VIC
AW	Mr	James	Randall	Cootamundra	NSW
MC	Mr	Russell	Ford	Buninyong	VIC
AW	Mr	Neville	West	Goolgowi	NSW
AW	Mr	Garth	Perkin	Coolamon	NSW

Wool Classer Category	Salutation	First Name	Last Name	Town	State
AW	Mr	Peter	Pole	Glenelg	SA
AW	Mr	Roy	Wells	Goolgowi	NSW
AW	Mr	Michael	Moody	Tenterfield	NSW
AW	Mr	Ronald	Coburn	Ararat	VIC
AW	Mr	Alexander	Vearing	Rankins Springs	NSW
AW	Mr	Colin	Seis	Gulgong	NSW
AW	Mr	Brian	Gavin	Woodstock	NSW
AW	Mr	Max	McBurney	Longwood	VIC
AW	Mr	Alan	Forsyth	West Wyalong	NSW
AW	Mr	Lance	Partridge	Walcha	NSW
AW	Mr	Donald	Dyce	Coolamon	NSW
AW	Mr	Roger	Duthie	Mooralla	VIC
AW	Mr	Bruce	Luhrs	Hamilton	VIC
AW	Mr	Martin	McKenna	Baynton	VIC
AW	Mr	Robert	Wythes	Forbes	NSW
CA	Mr	Peter	Carroll	Craigieburn	VIC
AW	Mr	William	Haygarth	Hay	NSW
AW	Mr	Russell	Foulis	Willowie	SA
AW	Mr	Harold	Seaman	Crookwell	NSW
AW	Mr	Graeme	Moyle	Hamilton	VIC
AW	Mr	Errol	Sullivan	Manildra	NSW
AW	Mr	Daryl	Nagorcka	Penshurst	VIC
AW	Mr	Craig	Lawson	Goulburn	NSW
AW	Mr	Terry	Green	Trundle	NSW
AW	Mr	Paul	McCulloch	Tamworth	NSW
AW	Mr	Michael	Merriman	Yass	NSW
AW	Mr	Geoff	Delaney	Cowra	NSW
AW	Mr	Malcolm	Kohlhagen	Yarragundry	NSW
AW	Mr	Julian	Kaye	Elmhurst	VIC
AW	Mr	Patrick	Anderson	Eugowra	NSW
CA	Mr	John	Kelly	Swan Hill	VIC
AW	Mr	Ian	Baxter	Taralga	NSW
AW	Mr	David	Thompson	Cootamundra	NSW
AW	Mr	John	Gray	Kelso	NSW
AW	Mr	Donald	Cameron	Hamilton	VIC
MC	Mr	Ian	Lovell	Parkes	NSW
AW	Mr	Bruce	Saville	Taralga	NSW
AW	Mr	Kevin	Edmonds	Armidale	NSW
AW	Mr	Tom	Fleming	Kariah	VIC
AW	Mr	Philip	Turner	Junea	NSW
AW	Mr	James	Mitchell	Angaston	SA
AW	Mr	John	Alcock	Bungarby	NSW
AW	Hon	Clive	Bahr	Kukerin	WA
AW	Mr	Ian	Sandilands	Shepparton	VIC
AW	Mr	Robert	Death	Caragabal	NSW
AW	Mr	Peter	Munsie	Uralla	NSW
AW	Mr	Barry	McIntosh	Crookwell	NSW
AW	Mr	John	Kirkpatrick	Stockyard Hill	VIC
AW	Mr	Glenn	Wallace	Temora	NSW
AW	Mr	Graeme	Hunter	Parkes	NSW

Wool Classer Category	Salutation	First Name	Last Name	Town	State
AW	Mr	Paul	Grange	Coolac	NSW
AW	Mr	John	Wesley	Merriwagga	NSW
AW	Mr	Greg	O'Sullivan	Goornong	VIC
AW	Mr	Graham	Taylor	Walcha	NSW
AW	Mr	Kenneth	Harris	Cootamundra	NSW
AW	Mr	Ashley	Fithall	Magpie	VIC
AW	Mr	Roger	Clark	Kaniva	VIC
CA	Mr	Douglas	Southwell	Walleroo	NSW
CA	Mr	Michael	McCormack	Crookwell	NSW
AW	Mr	Michael	Corkhill	Boorowa	NSW
AW	Mr	Kevin	Beaton	Coojar	VIC
AW	Mr	Keith	Mitchell	Tooma	NSW
AW	Mr	William	Hampson	Nimmitabel	NSW
AW	Mr	Andrew	Gordon	Dunkeld	VIC
AW	Mr	John	Higgins	Willaura	VIC
AW	Mr	Allan	Osborne	Caloola	NSW
AW	Mr	Bruce	Burger	Victoria Valley	VIC
AW	Mr	Malcolm	Henman	Black Mountain	QLD
AW	Mr	Robert	Smith	Berrigan	NSW
AW	Mr	John	Rees	Little River	VIC
OC	Mr	Hugh	Martel	Dubbo	NSW
AW	Mr	Peter	Gorham	Frogmore	NSW

60 Years Class of 1964

Wool Classer Category	Salutation	First Name	Last Name	Town	State
AW	Mr	Raymond	Cummins	Crookwell	NSW
AW	Mr	Robert	Meecham	Dandaragan	WA
AW	Mr	Graeme	Keating	Buninyong	VIC
AW	Mr	William	Worland	Tullibigeal	NSW
AW	Mr	Bruce	Lyons	Lake Cathie	NSW
AW	Mr	Neville	Maberly	Gunning	NSW
AW	Mr	Ian	Meek	Mininera	VIC
AW	Mr	Peter	King	Canowindra	NSW
AW	Mr	George	Matchett	Hermidale	NSW
AW	Mr	Norman	Musgrove	The Rock	NSW
AW	Mr	John	McLean	Dubbo	NSW
AW	Mr	Laurence	Pola	Tottenham	NSW
AW	Mr	Anthony	Simmons	Trundle	NSW
AW	Mr	Roger	Copper	Merrygoen	NSW
AW	Mr	Desmond	McIntyre	Peak Hill	NSW
AW	Mr	Bernard	Murphy	Orange	NSW
AW	Mr	Neil	Robinson	Nimmitabel	NSW
AW	Mr	William	Tyrer	Deans Marsh	VIC
AW	Mr	Roy	Ballard	Currabubula	NSW
CA	Mr	Neville	Hann	Gorae West	VIC
AW	Mr	Desmond	Manwaring	Condobolin	NSW
AW	Mr	Kieran	Gleeson	Yerong Creek	NSW
AW	Mr	William	White	Wagin	WA



CONTACT DETAILS

Wool Classing (Technical)

T: +61 2 9428 6140

E: woolclasser@awex.com.au

- Clip Preparation Advice and Support
- Activity Statements
- Clip Inspection Correspondence
- Code of Practice
- Sheep Breed Compendium

Wool Classing (Administration)

T: +61 2 9428 6160

E: woolclasser@awex.com.au

- Wool Classer New Registration
- Wool Classer Re-registration
- Change of Contact Details/Address
- Stamps/Stencils/Pen

awex.com.au

