

### Background

- Due to public concern regarding the animal husbandry practice of mulesing, the Australian wool industry has been working towards the development of practical alternatives to mulesing.
- During this same period of time, industry and the Federal Government have developed the 'Draft Mulesing Appendix of the Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals - The Sheep'.
- This document states that contract mulesing operators need to be accredited under the National Mulesing Accreditation Program (NMAP) by 31 December 2006.
- Producers, who do their own mulesing, have until 31 December 2008 to become accredited

### Issue

- These requirements raise the question of who will be able to accredit contractors and sheep producers.
- The Kondinin Group has developed a nationally accredited training and accreditation program which is a one day training and assessment course.
- The course involves half a day of training which includes; mulesing techniques and information, hygiene, occupational health and safety as well as shear setting, grinding and sharpening.
- The second half of the day is the NMAP accreditation session.
- This course is up and running and are being held currently around the State at a cost of \$700.
- At the present time the Kondinin course is the only option for contractors who must be accredited by the end of 2006.
- The Association has negotiated with the Livestock Contractors Association (LCA) and through a broader agreement with Kondinin that members receive a 20% discount, which means course cost is \$560.
- People who attended Kondinin training courses last year still need to become accredited, Kondinin is now running separate half day accreditation only courses, (non-members \$350, members \$280)
- Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) is now in the process of developing through Dr Norm Blackman (Immediate Past Chairman of the Australian Veterinary Association) a National Mulesing Accreditation Program (NMAP).
- The aim of this program is to provide assurances that Australian sheep are mulesed in accordance with best practice and with a view to having all those who mules (contract or private) to be accredited by 31 December 2008.
- This AWI program recognises prior-learning and it is less resource intensive (it does not have a major training component) than the LCA/Kondinin training program.
- The AWI program is still under development and hence it is not yet up and running.

### What the Association has done so far

- The Association has secured members a 20% discount for those producers and contractors wishing to undertake the Kondinin accreditation.
- The Association through its involvement with WoolProducers has been maintaining pressure to ensure the AWI program is rolled out as quickly as possible.
- WoolProducers has decided to apply for a funding to offer a rebate to growers who participate in the course
- The Association has also been providing comment on both the Draft Code of Practice and the Mulesing Guidelines in its own right as well as through WoolProducers.
- The Association through WoolProducers has attended stakeholder forums on this issue as part of the Australian Sheep and Wool Industry Taskforce

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