



## WOOL COMMITTEE

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### Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Sheep

The Wool Committee has been working in conjunction with the Association's Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines Taskforce to finalise the Association's recommendations on the National Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Sheep. These recommendations have been submitted to WoolProducers as our representative to the writing group.

The Committee and Taskforce made a number of constructive changes to the document and these appear to have been well received. The Association hosted a forum on 19 October 2009 to discuss its proposal with other stakeholders including Meat and Livestock Australia ('MLA'), Australian Wool Innovation ('AWI'), WoolProducers, Sheepmeat Council of Australia and Animal Health Australia.

### NLIS Sheep and Goats

New National Livestock Identification System ('NLIS') regulations were introduced on 1 September 2009. From this date, livestock agents, saleyard operators and processors are required to record all sheep and goat transactions in the mob based movement database.

Following lobbying by the Association, mandatory year-of-birth colour tagging was not introduced on 1 September, and year-of-birth colour tagging remains recommended but voluntary.

Touch-screen technology is currently being trialed in Dubbo and Tamworth which allows easy processing of multiple Property Identification Codes ('PICs') within a mob. These trials are aimed at supporting livestock traceability and could alleviate any push for mandatory transaction tags.

### WoolPoll 2009

Eligible producers should have received their voter packs for WoolPoll 2009. The Wool Committee are urging producers to use their vote to retain a levy of at least 2%.

Having met with AWI and considered their response to the 3 year review of performance, the Committee believes AWI research and marketing directions are sound and funding should be maintained.

Negative media and indications of poor voter turnout mean an increased need for Members to support AWI. The Committee are committed to working with AWI after WoolPoll to ensure the concerns raised in the 3 year review of performance are addressed.



## **AWEX Woolclasser's Code of Practice 2010-2011**

The Wool Committee provided Australian Wool Exchange ('AWEX') with comments in relation to their draft Woolclasser's Code of Practice. A number of concerns were raised including identification of mulesed sheep by shearers and clip contamination by shedding breeds. AWEX has agreed to address these concerns in the final code, due for release in October 2009.

## **WoolProducers Australia**

WoolProducers Australia met over 10 and 11 August 2009 in Canberra. The meeting was attended by Wool Committee Chair, John Manwaring. The discussion included Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines, the Australian Wool Production Forecast Report, the future of FSP1 and FSP2 development, WoolPoll 09, NLIS and the AWEX Quality Service Fee. WoolProducers are also calling for nominations for independent members.

## **Committee Meeting**

The Wool Committee met on 14 September 2009. A number of guest speakers attended to brief the Committee on various policy priorities.

AWI Chairman Wal Merriman and Strategic Advisor Stuart McCullough attended and discussed a number of areas AWI was working on. Notably, Mr Merriman advised that AWI's funding for shearer/shedhand training had been marginally increased, and \$400,000 had been cut from management costs which will now go towards training. This funding has been locked in for 3 years.

David Cother attended to provide an update from AWEX. He advised that submissions for this year's National Wool Declaration Review would open shortly. Submissions must be provided to AWEX by 9 November 2009, anyone with suggestions for the Association's submission should contact the Wool Committee.

## **WoolCheque**

The Wool Committee would like to encourage producers to trial AWI's online WoolCheque tool. Using WoolCheque, producers can obtain daily market information, search and view their AWEX sales records and access information aimed at maximising productivity.

Low levels of producer take-up have meant AWI are reviewing their funding for the program. Please make sure you are aware of the website's features and their potential benefit before any decision is made on its future.

WoolCheque can be accessed when you register and log in to the AWI website ([www.wool.com](http://www.wool.com)).



Wool Committee Chairman John Manwaring (left) with Australian Wool Innovation Chairman Wal Merriman at the Association's Sydney Office