

30 August 2010

## National Wool Declaration – Integrity Program

### COMMENCEMENT OF ON FARM INSPECTIONS

AWEX will commence on farm inspections as part of the NWD Integrity Program (NWD-IP) in September 2010. The on farm inspection is the final phase of the NWD-IP.

The National Wool Declaration (NWD) was introduced by AWEX in August 2008 to provide a mechanism for customers of Australian wool to source specific types to meet their requirements. The NWD is a single declaration providing information related to mulesing status, dark & medullated fibre risk and record of chemical use.

For the last two years AWEX has, on a weekly basis, conducted a pre-sale random desktop audit on the declared mulesing status of a wool clip to ensure the NWD is being interpreted correctly and to provide greater accuracy to buyers. This pre-sale service has also helped identify issues which may affect the uptake of the NWD. In instances where a declaration of mulesing status requires correction, the catalogue information and test certificates are changed prior to the wool being offered for sale.

A critical aspect of AWEX's NWD and its Integrity Program is that it is well recognised by Australia's wool customers, processors, retailers and Governments, who regard the program as a valuable information tool and a positive step for the industry. To this end, the On Farm Inspection is the final component of the program required to provide the necessary integrity to the declarations of woolgrowers.

AWEX has recently appointed three regionally based On Farm Inspectors who will commence the on farm program. The regional appointments are strategic as it will reduce the cost of travel. The on farm inspectors have successfully completed the necessary training and will initiate contact with woolgrowers over the coming weeks.

AWEX will inspect 225 properties over the remainder of the season, with the On Farm Inspections to formally commence on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010.

For further information contact:

Mark Grave p. 02 9428 6100 or e. [mgrave@awex.com.au](mailto:mgrave@awex.com.au) or

Kerry Hansford p. 03 9318 0277 or e. [khansford@awex.com.au](mailto:khansford@awex.com.au)

Australian Wool Exchange Limited

PO Box 649 Lane Cove NSW 1595 [www.awex.com.au](http://www.awex.com.au) [info@awex.com.au](mailto:info@awex.com.au) | t. (+61 2) 9428 6100  
Ground Floor 318 Burns Bay Rd Lane Cove NSW 2066 abn. 35 061 495 565 | f. (+61 2) 9420 9633

Update Reference: 2981 Commencement of NWD On Farm Inspections

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