

provided the NWF's resources those posts. And while C&C can under- WAI suggested growers should contribute dollar for dollar in promotions with processors. sheet. Broker staff in charge of shearer. undertaking innovation and improvements to the mobile regarded as one of Australia's premier shedded operations.

Brands eat into wool profits



Stain on the industry: Geoff Burch displays a brand on a fleece.

BY BRIAN CLANCY

WOOL growers have been told they face discounts of up to \$1/kg for fleece lines contaminated with branding fluids.

Chargeurs business development manager Geoff Burch said fleece wool carrying brands could do as much damage to top or combed wool as black or coloured fibre.

Mr Burch told the Woolclassers Forum in Bendigo last week that many growers believed most approved commercial brands were "scourable".

"I can assure you they are not," he said.

Mr Burch said branding should be eliminated and replaced by ear-tagging.

"If this were not practicable, growers should control the way they use these brands," he said.

"Failing that, they should class out or remove any branded wool."

Mr Burch quoted industry standards that say any brand should be carried out

immediately after shearing and be no wider than 4mm.

He said the problem was much bigger than many growers believed.

He said the market for brands was running at 400,000 litres a year.

Mr Burch's criticism caught many visitors to the forum by surprise.

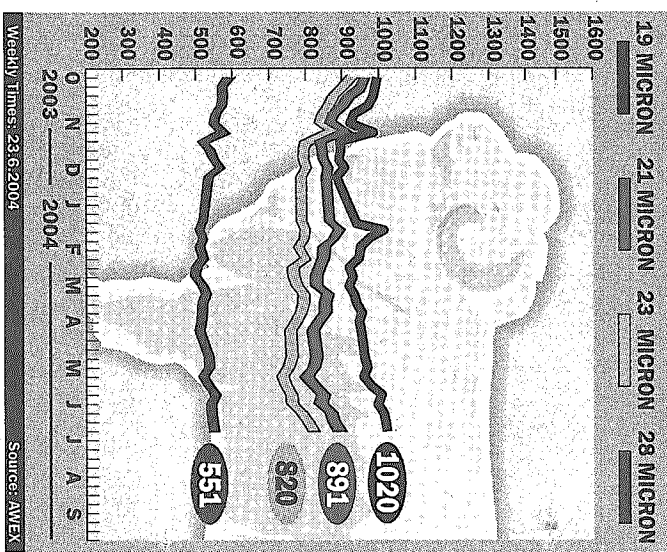
"How come we are only now hearing about this problem?" Bill Johnson from Colbinabbin, asked.

But Mr Burch and brokers said the problem was long standing.

He said the objective clip preparation code should be followed and any branded wool removed to a "brands" line.

THE WOOL MARKETS

Southern region weekly closing prices c/kg clean



THIS WEEK IN WOOL

For week ending June 18

AUCTIONS

Australian Wool Exchange

CENTRE	Bales rostered	Bales offered	Bales sold	Pass in rate
Northern	18,000	16,107	14,633	9.2%
Southern	21,800	20,377	18,871	7.4%
Western	15,600	14,631	12,146	17.0%
TOTAL	55,400	51,115	45,650	10.7%

Southern region

(Micron indicator quotes — c/kg clean)	Indicator	Change	Cards	Change
18	1094	(+7)	22	850 (+27)
19	1020	(+4)	23	820 (+16)
20	929	(+9)	24	742 (+6)
21	891	(+15)	25	703 (+9)

FUTURES

Macquarie Wool Futures

Prices up, but caution prevails

BY BRIAN CLANCY

WOOL prices continued their climb last week with the Eastern Market Indicator closing up another 7 cents to 821c/kg clean.

Most of the rises were in the 21-23 micron grades

