

National Wool Declaration



we know wool

Declaring
what the
world's now
demanding

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The National Wool Declaration (NWD) is an initiative of the Australian wool industry to consolidate critical information about the Australian wool clip for the use of and promotion to purchasers of Australian wool. The NWD captures information related to Merino Dark and Medullated Fibre Risk, Mulesing Status and Record of Chemical Use. All Declarations are voluntary.

A single NWD is the preferred method to gather this information because of its ease of use for woolgrowers and to ensure that duplication of information and paperwork does not occur.

This information will allow buyers and processors to make informed choices regarding their wool purchases and to ensure that Australian wool remains their wool of choice.

The critical elements of the NWD are:

- NWD must be signed by the Owner/Manager of the property,
- The details of the property and each mob are completed,
- NWD will be linked to the sale lot of wool for audit purposes, and
- Owner/Manager is aware they are signing a Declaration of reliance that is subject to audit.

Mulesing status declaration

Mulesing Status Declaration

Property Level: The international wool industry is interested in whether you are taking action to cease the practice of mulesing. The NWD provides you with the opportunity to advise industry that while you do have mobs that were previously mulesed, you have now ceased this practice on your property. If you have Ceased Mulesing on your property or do not mules, tick the box .

How this works for you: If you have declared that you have ceased mulesing on your property but you have a mob of older sheep that were mulesed; these older sheep will receive the Mulesing Status code of CM. This differentiates your sheep from those on other properties where the mulesing is still practised and/or the grower has not declared.

Mob Level: Each mob may have a different mulesing status based on their management. Mulesing Status of a mob is based on a two-part question (a) Mob Mulesed (Y/N) and (b) Tick if Pain Relief Used. A mob's Mulesing Status may be: Not Mulesed (NM), Mulesed using Pain Relief (PR) or Mulesed (Blank). Together with Ceased Mulesing (CM), these four codes provide the industry with the information they require when purchasing wool.

What if you choose NOT to complete a Declaration for Mulesing?

If you do not sign a NWD and/or do not submit it to the Broker, the Mulesing Status Code of Not Declared (ND) will automatically be applied to your sale lots. ND is also applied to interlots or bulk classed wool.

Understanding the Mulesing Status Declaration

Note 1. Mulesing is defined as the removal of skin from the tail and/or breech region of a sheep using shears.

Note 2. For sheep Mulesed with Pain Relief, the product must be registered by, or be supplied under permit from, the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority for use as a pain relief product with sheep. Proof of purchase will be required in the event of an audit.

Note 3. For Owner/Manager declaring Ceased Mulesing status (tick in box) where:

((a) Sheep are bred on the property:

An entire drop of non-mulesed lambs/young sheep must have been shorn to obtain Ceased Mulesing status.

To retain Ceased Mulesing status, there must be no further mulesing on the property.

(b) ALL sheep are brought onto the property:

Mulesing is not performed on any mob on the property.

Note 4. The Mob Mulesed question should be completed for each mob; however, blank is acceptable. To identify each mob of sheep that is **not mulesed**, "N" must be used. A blank response indicates the mob is mulesed without pain relief.

Merino dark and medullated fibre risk (DMFR) declaration

DMFR Declaration

The Australian Merino clip receives a price advantage compared to South African and South American wool because it is well specified and has a reputation for clean white wool. In recent years, processors have noticed increased occurrences of dark and medullated fibres in Australian Merino wool tops. The DMFR Scheme was developed to provide processors with information on the risk of contamination.

Factors that affect the incidence of dark fibre contamination, viz. wool type, sex, age and crutching history, are used to calculate a DMFR Rating from 1 (low) to 5 (high). Potential dark and medullated fibre contamination resulting from contact between Merinos and shedding breeds is also identified and given a Rating of 6.

For fleece and piece lines of Merino wool, Ratings 1 and 2 are suitable for the white/pastel trade, Ratings 3, 4 or 5 are suitable for non-sensitive end-uses including dark colours, while caution is required with DMFR Rating of 6 wool, as it may contain both dark and medullated fibres.

How this works for you: By providing mob data on age, sex, crutching history and contact with shedding breeds or their crosses, a **DMFR Rating of 1 to 6** is calculated for Merino fleece and piece lines and is provided to buyers in the sale catalogue and on the test certificate.

What if you choose NOT to complete a DMFR Declaration

If you do not sign a NWD and/or do not submit it to the broker, the DMFR Status Code of Not Declared (ND) will automatically be applied to your Merino fleece and pieces sale lots.

Understanding the DMFR Declaration

Note 1. The Dark and Medullated Fibre Declaration is applicable to Merino Fleece and Piece lines only.

Note 2. Shedding Breeds are those that shed dark and/or medullated fibre (e.g. Awassi, Damara, Dorper (including White Dorper) or Karakul). Refer AWEX Woolclasser Code of Practice.

Note 3. Contact with Shedding Breeds is defined as Merinos mated to, or run in the same paddock as shedding sheep/lambs or their crosses.

Record of chemical use declaration

Due to world-wide increase in regulations related to chemical residues, the international textile trade is becoming increasingly interested in information related to the use of chemicals in the production of fibres, including wool. Currently, a declaration regarding the use of chemicals is not reported in sale catalogues.

How this works for you: The NWD Record Kept of Chemical use can be used to advise brokers that you have kept all the records necessary to fully disclose the use (or non-use) of chemicals for your individual mobs. Keeping a record of chemical use and making the Declaration is good preparation for any future industry requirements.

Mob Level: Each mob may have a different application of chemicals, and these must be recorded on a mob by mob basis.

Understanding the Record of Chemical Use Declaration

Note 1. Details of mob, date, purpose, type and amount of chemical(s) must be recorded. If chemicals are not used, respond Yes, a record must also be kept of this.



Head Office
Ground Floor 318 Burns Bay Rd Lane Cove NSW 2066
Telephone: +61 2 9428 6100 Facsimile: +61 2 9420 9633
Visit: www.awex.com.au

Postal Address
PO Box 649 Lane Cove NSW 1595