



The wool pipeline is seeking more information on how wool is grown. The National Wool Declaration (NWD) gives wool growers the ability to provide data relevant to Merino Dark and Medullated Fibre Risk, Mulesing Status and Chemical Use. The information will ensure that buyers and processors can make informed choices regarding their wool purchases and that Australian wool remains their wool of choice.

Recently, AWEX undertook a review of the NWD, specifically Mulesing Status. This annual review, which included input from all sectors, helps maintain the confidence of the broader wool industry in the declarations.

Note: Mulesing Status is applicable to all sheep breeds, with non-Merino breeders also encouraged to complete the NWD.

What's New - NWD Version 2.0 March 2009

- The Definitions were refined to ensure they are unambiguous and are able to be audited. Ceased Mulesing is now defined such that *all sheep born or transferred onto a property in the last 12 months must not have been mulesed*. There must be no intention to mules in the future and evidence must be available for audit purposes.
- The Mulesing Status codes remain unchanged. Clips and Intradermals have not been included in the NWD at this time.
- For consistency, the NWD will adopt a Yes/No format for all questions.
- A Grower ID box has been added for use by Brokers in identifying a property brand.

NWD Version 2.0 is now available for use and can be downloaded from www.awex.com.au

How to complete a National Wool Declaration

National Wool Declaration

Dark and Medullated Fibre Risk (Merino only), Mulesing Status and Record of Chemical Use (any breed) for Sheep Mobs

1 Grower ID:

2 Owner Trading Name: _____ ABN: _____

Property Brand: _____ Phone No: () _____

3 Property Identification Code (PIC): Property Location: _____

- This form is to be completed/signed by the Owner/Manager and must be consigned with the Woolclasser Specification Sheet. This Declaration is valid for one shearing only.
- The purpose of this Declaration is to ensure that the details provided about your wool when offered for sale are true and correct. By completing this Declaration, you acknowledge that the Vendor's agent will catalogue the wool based on the statements you make, and buyers will in turn rely on those statements. You also agree that this Declaration may be subject to random audit in a format agreed to by industry.

This Declaration is for wool pertaining to shearing completed on: ____/____/____ 4
According to the definitions below, please indicate whether mulesing¹ has ceased² on this property, Yes (Y) or No (N): 5

Mob No. (Refer Spec)	Mob Breaks (Bale Numbers)		Age Code	Breed Code	Sex Code	Contact ³ with Shedding Breeds ⁴ (Y/N)	Mob Crutched (Y/N)	Crutched within 3 months prior to Shearing (Y/N)	Mob Mulesed ⁵ (Y/N)	Pain Relief ⁶ Used on Mob (Y/N)	Record Kept of Chemical Use ⁷ (Y/N)	Office Use Only
	FROM	TO										
6			7			8						

Age/Shearing	Code	Breed	Code	Sex	Code
1st Shearing	1	Merino	M	Ewes	E
2nd Shearing to 2 yrs	2	Merino Dohne	MD	Wethers	W
3 years	3	Merino SAMM	MS	Rams	R
4 years	4	Crossbred	XB	Mixed (E/W/R)	M
5 years	5	Downs	DN		
6, 7, 8 years etc.	6, 7, 8...	Shedding Breeds	SB		
Mixed (e.g. 3 to 5 yrs)	3 - 5	Carpet Wool	CW		

Definitions	
1 Mulesing	The removal of skin from the tail and/or breech region of a sheep using shears.
2 Ceased Mulesing	All sheep born on or transferred onto this property in the last 12 months must not be mulesed at the time of this shearing and there must be no intention to mules in the future. Evidence of Ceased Mulesing status must be available for audit purposes.
3 Contact with Shedding Breeds	Mated, reared or run in the same paddock with shedding sheep/lambs or their crosses.
4 Shedding Breeds	Breeds that shed fibre (e.g. Afrikaner, Awassi, Damara, Dorper, Karakul, Meatmaster, Persian, Van Rooy, Wiltipoll, Wiltshire Horn).
5 Mob Mulesed	A mob is defined as mulesed if any of the sheep in the mob are mulesed.
6 Pain Relief	Pain Relief products must be registered by, or supplied under permit from, the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority for use with sheep. Evidence of the purchase and use of Pain Relief products for sheep bred on this property or transferred onto it must be available for audit purposes.
7 Record Kept of Chemical Use	If Yes (Y), details of mob, date, purpose, type and amount of chemical(s) must be recorded. If chemicals are not used, a record of this must also be kept.

By signing this Declaration I warrant that I am authorised to complete this declaration and I confirm that all details contained in it are true and correct, having made all reasonable enquiries.

OWNER/MANAGER NAME: _____

9 OWNER/MANAGER SIGNATURE: _____

Date: ____/____/____ we know wool

Property Details

- The Grower ID is for use by the Broker. Do not complete.
- Complete the Owner Trading Name, ABN, Property Brand and Phone No. of the Owner/Manager.
- Fill in the Property Identification Code (PIC) and/or Property Location (eg. nearest town).
- Fill out the date the Shearing was Completed. (An NWD can only be used for one shearing).
- Using Yes-Y or No-N, to specify whether Mulesing has Ceased on this Property.

Mob Identification and Declarations (use Codes and Definitions to assist completion)

- Transfer Mob Number and Mob Breaks (bales ranges) from Woolclasser's Specification to NWD.
- Use Codes beneath the columns to complete Age (in Years), Breeds¹ (M, MD, MS, XB, DN, SB, or CW) and Sex (E, W, R or M) for each separate mob.
- Refer to Definitions before using Yes-Y or No-N to specify for each separate mob:
 - Contact² with Shedding Breeds³
 - Mob Crutched
 - Mob Crutched within 3 months of Shearing
 - Mob Mulesed
 - Pain Relief used on Mob
 - Record Kept of Chemical Use

- The DMFR Scheme is only applicable to Merino Fleece and Piece lines.
- Contact with Shedding Breeds is defined as mated, reared or run in the same paddock as shedding sheep/lambs or their crosses.
- Shedding Breeds are defined as breeds that shed fibre (e.g. Afrikaner, Awassi, Damara, Dorper, Karakul, Meatmaster, Persian, Van Rooy, Wiltipoll or Wiltshire Horn).

Sign Declaration and Submit with Classer's Specification to Broker

- Fill in both Name and Date, and SIGN Declaration.

NWD 2.0 - MARCH 2009



How to complete a National Wool Declaration

MULESING STATUS DECLARATION

Buyers' are specifically requesting more information related to mulesing. Based on detail provided in the NWD and Woolclasser's Specification, Mulesing Status Codes for each sale lot will be published in the Sale Catalogue and Test Certificate. The codes in use are as follows:

SALE LOT CODE	DEFINITION
NM	Not Mulesed
PR	Mulesed with Pain Relief
CM	Ceased Mulesing
BLANK	Mulesed
ND	Not Declared

Property Level

The NWD provides wool growers with the ability to promote that they have made a strategic decision to Cease Mulesing. Ceased Mulesing is applicable when: *"All sheep born on or transferred onto this property in the last 12 months must not be mulesed at the time of shearing and there must be no intention to mules in the future."*

As with all Mulesing Status declarations, evidence must be available for audit purposes.

How this works for you: If you have declared 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 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 is based on a two-part question (a) Mob Mulesed (Y/N) and (b) Pain Relief Used on Mob (Y/N).

For mobs containing sheep of different Mulesing Status, the mob goes to the lowest common denominator. For example:

- Non-Mulesed sheep mixed with sheep Mulesed with Pain Relief will be declared as *Mulesed with Pain Relief*;
- Non-Mulesed sheep mixed with Mulesed sheep will be declared as *Mulesed*; or
- Sheep mulesed with Pain Relief mixed with Mulesed sheep will be declared as *Mulesed*.

MERINO DARK AND MEDULLATED FIBRE RISK (DMFR) SCHEME

DMFR Declaration

Australia receives a premium for its Merino clip compared to similar wool from South Africa and South America, because it is well specified and is considered to be low in contaminants. Processors are detecting increased occurrences of dark and medullated fibre (DMF) in Australian Merino wool, thereby threatening its high reputation.

The DMFR Scheme was developed to provide buyers and processors with objective data on the DMF status of the Merino wool they purchase and growers with the facility to advertise their wool as being of low risk.

DMFR Ratings

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 and published in the Sale Catalogue and Test Certificate. The DMFR Ratings are interpreted as follows:

- Ratings 1 and 2 are suitable for the white/pastel trade.
- Ratings 3, 4 and 5 are suitable for non-sensitive end-uses including dark colours.
- Rating 6 (contact with Shedding Breeds), caution is required as lots may contain both dark and/or medullated fibres.

RECORD OF CHEMICAL USE

Due to a world-wide increase in regulations related to chemical residues, the international textile trade is interested in information related to the use of chemicals in the production of fibres, including wool.

Currently, chemical use is not reported in Sale Catalogues; however, growers are encouraged to document their usage (or non-use) to prepare for possible stronger policies in the future or to be able to meet requests for this information from specific buyers or processors.

Keeping a Record of Chemical Use

A Record of Chemical Use should include the following:

- Details of mob,
- Date,
- Purpose of chemical, and
- Type (registered brand name) and amount of chemical(s).

Note: If chemicals are not used, respond Yes-Y to Record Kept of Chemical Use. Document the details for each mob stating that no chemicals were used, recording the period of time (month/year or number of years) that they have not been in use.

WHAT IF YOU CHOOSE NOT TO COMPLETE A NWD?

If you do not sign the 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. Note: ND is also applied to interlots and bulk class.
- The **DMFR Code** of Not Declared (ND) will automatically be applied to your Merino Fleece and Pieces sale lots.

Critical Elements of NWD

Desktop audits are conducted to ensure the integrity the NWD. This process compares the NWD, Woolclasser's Specification and auction catalogues, with anomalies and/or incomplete forms followed through to the Broker.

From April 2009, the audit will be conducted pre-sale allowing brokers, buyers and the AWTA to be notified of any changes to the Mulesing Status of sale lots.

The critical aspects for correct completion of the NWD are:

- It must be signed and dated by the Owner/Manager of the Property.
- The details of the property and all mob(s) must be completed, with mob numbers transferred from the Woolclasser's Specification to the NWD.
- Mob Age/Breed/Sex details must be completed on the NWD.
- Mobs containing sheep with different Mulesing Status must be declared as the "lowest" Mulesing category.
- Mulesed with Pain Relief is only applicable to sheep 4 years or less (in 2009), since Pain Relief was not commercially available for sheep older than this.

For further information contact:

Australian Wool Exchange Ground Floor, 318 Burns Bay Rd, Lane Cove NSW 2066
Telephone: +61 2 9428 6100 Fax: +62 2 9420 9633 Email: info@awex.com.au
Visit: www.awex.com.au Postal Address: PO Box 649, Lane Cove NSW 1595