



KEY MESSAGES

From The New Zealand Merino Company Ltd

WOOL CLASSER KEY CLASSING MESSAGES

2014/15 SEASON

The Market

The global market for fine Merino wool remains subdued due to the increased volumes of fine wool on the market and soft demand. The volume shift in 17.5 micron and finer is dramatic and has affected prices significantly. In 19.0 micron and stronger, production is down and prices have dropped, but not to the extreme nature of the 14.0 to 17.0 micron ranges.

In these conditions contracts are extremely important for wool growers financially.

Make sure you know well in advance of starting in a shed what contracts are signed and what is required. Fortunately many NZM clients have wool forward contracted, so it is important we work together to get all grower wool into the contracts they have. Missing contracts for vegetable matter, length, soundness or style could be very costly to the grower. Unfortunately there have been lines of contracts that have been rejected due to poor classing – please be very careful when classing contract lines.



Grass and seed

- » Grass and seed content is a major contaminant of all types of wool: if in doubt take it out!
- » With light skirted contracts, we need to be very conscious of grass seed and Horehound contamination
- » Skirting needs to be heavier this year if grass and other seed contamination is present
- » With significant premiums above the market at stake, we cannot risk a large contract line being rejected

Bale weights

Auction Bale weight:

Max 200 kgs	Min 110 kgs	Ideal Target 180 kgs
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Contracts Bale weight:

Max 200 kgs	Min 160 kgs	Ideal Target 180 kgs
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- » Finer lines can be pressed into a minimum 90kg bale – only go this low to avoid a bin bale or if the wool is super fine below 15.0 micron.
- » In the current market, you are better to press heavier bales with combined lines (e.g. Super F and Extra F) Buyers do not want to buy very light bales this season.

Do I separate 2nd pieces out from lox?

A premium is still there this coming season, so continue to take the 2nd pieces out. Do not push the line as too many shorter lox can eliminate it from the higher price.



Important: Mulesing Certification

- » The wool specification sheets with a mulesing declaration must be accurately completed as they are an audited document.
- » Mulesing regulations require growers to sign specification sheets where lines have NM (never mulesed) or CM (ceased mulesing) declarations. If specification sheets come in unsigned, auction wool will not be catalogued as NM or CM and will be labelled with "No Declaration".
- » We have brand partners buying at auction that require CM in some cases so the signing of the specification sheet is imperative.
- » If you as the classer complete the specification sheet they will have to be sent to the grower on completion for signing prior to being sent to the wool store.
- » Note: some lines may be NM and others CM on the same specification depending on age of sheep and when the grower stopped mulesing, in this case the status must be specified on each line of the specification sheet.
- » For any reason, if you are unsure, consult the grower.

Fit for purpose classing – FFP

- » FFP is not just light skirting and broader classing for Icebreaker and SmartWool contracts. It is classing and preparation to the standard required for the market/process the wool is going to be used in.

Contracts:	Auction:	Custom Clip:
Icebreaker / SmartWool / DTI	Spinners Best/Average	Same as previous seasons
John Smedley	Hoggets	
Loro Piana		
Reda		

Breed descriptions

- » Merino – The 'M' part of the AWEX description (e.g. AAA M) is for Merino descriptions only. Quarterbred/Polwarth clips can use the "M" description.
- » Mid-micron and crossbred clips must use AA ½ or AA COR, or just use the traditional description (e.g. AA EX F ½, A Xbd).

NZM Wool Classer Facebook page

- » Join the new NZ Merino Wool Classer Facebook page for updates from The New Zealand Merino Company and to interact with other Wool Classers.
- » To search for the page type in **NZM Wool Classer** on Facebook or contact **Brenna Sharland** on **03 335 0911** or **brenna.sharland@nzmerino.co.nz**.

Have a great season and we will see you out there,

The team at NZM.

