



New Zealand Wool Classers Association

Newsletter

SPONSORED by NZ Federation of Wool Merchants

August, 2011

Teresa McGregor-Scholarship Recipient

Tena Koe

I am a mother of two boys with a partner of 20 years and one lovely mokopuna, currently based in Dannevirke.

I started working in "the sheds" in 2001 mainly in the Hawke's Bay for Taiki Shearing, Sutton Brothers, PMS and others. I met a lot of amazing people along the way, Oti Mason and Ronnie Goss, with great talent which has inspired me to be where I am today.

From 2002 through to 2008, I have achieved level 2, level 3, level 3 fine and level 4 wool handling

qualifications. Having such a great love for wool and thriving to learn more I decided to enrol in the wool classing module. This module has made an immense change to the way I view the wools of New Zealand.

It has opened up doors of opportunities;

- being offered a position as a wool tutor/instructor with Tectra

- being mentored by NZ's best (my idols - Dave Carr and Laurie Boniface)

I am very motivated and like to achieve all I can to

the best of my ability. I love a challenge and will give anything a go.

My aspirations are to obtain Sheds in the South Island that start me on my classing career. I would also like to increase my knowledge on buying and selling wool in New Zealand.

I am overwhelmed and extremely excited that I was selected as a candidate for this scholarship. This alone is an achievement I am proud to be a part of.

Teresa McGregor



Steven Fookes, Chairman of Campaign for Wool addresses members at the recent Classer Refresher Day

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Martin Paterson Chairmans Report to NZWCA AGM

This year has seen a much needed and overdue lift in wool prices, especially for strong wool. It is hoped that this will stem the tide of land conversion to cows or trees. This is the time to maintain and improve the delivery of quality wool preparation and classing to deliver maximum price to the farmer.

It is pleasing to see much of the Wool Industry uniting for the common purpose of the promotion of wool in the absence of the "Wool Board". It is better late than never and in many cases it may be self-preservation with the major drop in sheep numbers

and wool production.

The wool classing "mentor scheme" is progressing as required by the numbers doing TECTRA's course. To date the numbers of "mentors" has been adequate but this is under review as demand increases.

It is concerning to see the drop in membership with people not renewing their subscription. We need your support to represent you in the wool industry.

In November last year we received confirmation of funding from Beef & Lamb of \$65,000 for each of the next two years for industry good wool related activities, e.g.

refresher courses, mentoring schemes etc, however this level or source of funding is not repeatable.

Allan Frazer is the facilitator/ secretary of the Wool Harvesters Group made up of NZ Wool Classers, Sport Shearing NZ, and Tectra. The NZ Shearing Contractors have not joined this group to date.

This Group was initially set up to work collaboratively on wool harvesting issues including funding and representation on the Minister's Wool Group. The Minister's Group is currently focusing on the post farm gate

has not been the necessity for this group to meet recently. Allan will report on the group's activities. It is hoped that the NZ Merino Co. will reintroduce the "Classer Select", programme, possibly in a changed format in the future.

I would like to thank Bill Dowle, our Vice Chairman, for his taking over my role and to work with David Carr in organising this year's AGM and Classer Refresher Course. It is much appreciated under my present circumstances. I wish to thank my fellow directors for their support during the year.

KEY MESSAGES FOR 2011/12 SEASON FROM NEW ZEALAND MERINO

Firstly, a congratulation on last season's classing. The improvement was very noticeable on many clips and this added considerable value to the whole New Zealand Wool Clip.

Feedback from many of the experienced Classers amongst the 180 who attended our Fibre Select day last year suggested that you felt there wasn't a need for a refresher course every year and that every second year would be more valuable to you, as long as you received the Key Messages from us prior to the start of each season. We have listened to your feedback and this coupled with the earthquakes limiting resources in Christchurch, we decided not to have our small classer day this year.

We will have a major Fibre Select again next season, and you can contact any of the NZM Area Manager's at any stage if you have questions about a specific clip. We will also be circulating in many sheds during the season, assisting classer's as usual.

The following are this season's Key Messages – keep up the good work:

1. Grass Seed

→With the wet/humid season we have experienced in most area's, the level of grass seed in the wool is going to be higher (we are already seeing this in crutching's etc).

→Skirting needs to be heavier if grass seed contamination is present. This includes Best/Spinners clips for auction and lighter skirted lines for contract. For instance, where necks/pieces were left on for contract last year, if they contain moderate to heavy grassed they will have to be skirted off this season.

2. Auction Market

→Prices for some wools have increased 30-60% from the main August-November selling season last year.

→Try and get as much wool into main lines as possible.

→Avoid binning part bales of fleece, necks, backs, pieces, bellies etc as they only get lower values when binned.

→Plan the Press out of lines to ensure all wool is pressed into full bales.

**Bale weight guide: Max 204 kgs
Min 110 kgs**

Finer lines can be a minimum of 90 kgs but only go this low to avoid a bin bale or super fine below 15.0 micron.

3. Super Fine Microns

- testing in-shed this season

→Unless testing for breeding purposes there are no significant premiums for sub 15.0 micron wool at this stage. The situation can change quickly so we will advise if prices increase as season progresses! Soundness, length and style are still the main price drivers, these combined with visual classing for micron is adequate at this stage.

→It is not worth micron testing very tender fleeces, even in good times the value is restricted.

4. Take 2nd Pieces out from lox

→This key message from last year saw a 60% increase in the amount of 2nd pieces sold last season. Some 2nd pieces sold for \$5-\$6 more than 2nd Pcs/Lox mixed lines. Another job well done and significant value added to prices by NZM, classers and growers communicating via Fibre Select.

→The premium is even bigger this coming season so continue to take the 2nd pieces out. DO NOT PUSH the line as too much shorter lox can eliminate it from the

5. Mulesing Certification – High Importance

→The wool specifications with a mulesing declaration must be accurately completed as they are an audited document.

→Mulesing regulations require Growers to sign specifications where lines have NM (Never Mulesed) or CM (Ceased mulesing) declarations. If specifications come in unsigned, auction wool WILL NOT be catalogued as NM or CM and will be labeled with "No Declaration". We have brand partners buying at auction that required CM in some cases so the signing of specification is imperative.

→If you as the classer complete the specifications they will have to be sent to the grower on completion for signing prior to being sent to the store.

→Note that some lines may be NM and others CM on the same specification depending on age of sheep and when the Grower stopped mulesing, so the status must be on EACH line of the specification.

6. FFP – Fit for Purpose**Classing**

→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 used in.

Contracts:

- Icebreaker / Smartwool / DTI
- Smedley
- Loro Piana
- REDA

Auction:

- Spinners
- Best / Average
- Hoggets

Wool Classing Student Profile Nicola Peddie

My name is Nicola Peddie, I am 21 years old and I am currently training to be a wool classer. I am currently flattening in Rangiora, North Canterbury. I have been bought up on my parents farm 'Westmere', where we run 900 half bred hogget's and my mother has a black and coloured Romney and Corriedale sheep stud called Karetu Coloureds. This consists of about 120 sheep. I have been brought up to know the day to day running of a farm, as well as how to produce quality wool through farm management. Since the age of 10 I have helped my mother with her stud wool, learning clip preparation. This was the start of my interest in wool. When I completed my high school education at Christchurch Girls High School I started working for Philp Shearing. I worked in my first merino shed with this contractor at Mt Arden out the back of Waikari,

(Peter Radford's) where they have saxon merinos and grow super fine wool which is used to make high quality suits. I found the merino fibre extraordinary, with its elasticity and soft feel. I decided that I wanted to get more experienced with merino wool so I went to work for Brice Hepi who runs a blade shearing gang in the high country of the North Canterbury area. While working for him I was fortunate enough to meet Diane Chilcott who was classing at many of the sheds. My knowledge in merino wool and its preparation grew extensively working under her. She encouraged me to do my classing ticket, so I started the course March of last year. I worked for John Bruce in his blade shearing gang for last winter, gaining more

experience in different regions. Last year I picked up four sheds to class that have the Smart Wool contract. One of the sheds consisted of 9,500 half bred hogget's, Price Shearing is the contractor there. I had the opportunity to go to Eskhead Station and class supervised by Diane Chilcott, where they have Ibex and Icebreaker contracts. This was a great learning experience and I look forward to more of Diane's tuition. I am currently working for Nesbit Shearing, which is based in Loburn. Last year I competed in the Waimate and Christchurch competitions wool handling and found it invigorating. I would like to do more competitions in the coming years. I cannot wait to get more experience in different regions so that I have a broad knowledge of wool preparation and the market.

Nicola Peddie

7. Tender & Coloured Lines

→Do not call lines tender or coloured in the description. Call AAM or AAAM, have a comment that it was made for tender in the comment field of the specification.

8. Specifications

→Make sure you fill out the Traditional Description (right hand column of speci sheet) for each line as this helps with the cataloguing in correct order and speed up processing.

9. Breed descriptions

→The 'M' part of the AWEX description (e.g. AAA M) is for Merino. ½ bred and Corriedale clips must use AAA ½ or AAA COR, or just use the traditional description e.g. AAA EX F ½ etc. Quarter bred/Polwarth clips are ok to use the M description.

10. NZM Classer Web site Access

→The NZM Classer Web Site give you access to up to date market information as well as the clip information from properties that you have classed at.

→To obtain a log-on code please contact Melinda Ferguson on 03 3777 990 or melinda.ferguson@nzmerino.co

→We will send you a form to fill out and for you to get your farmer clients to sign to give permission to access the clips test records.

*“Since the age of 10
I have helped my
mother with her stud
wool, learning clip
preparation.”*



Nicola Peddie receiving her NZ Federation of Wool Merchants Scholarship from Ross McGukin (Yaldhurst Wools) representing Fed Wool Merchants

Registrars Ramblings

First of all it was great to see so many of you make the effort to attend the Classer Refresher /AGM day that we held late in June . 53 registered classers made the effort to be present and hopefully there was something for everyone. I was a little skeptical of running a Crossbred module along with Halfbred and Merino, however the 3 groups that we made seemed to stick to the plan and did all the modules.

Steven Fookes was able to overcome illness and presented an update on the Campaign for Wool which got everyone thinking in a positive manner to kick the day off. Prince Charles's backing has certainly made the difference between the success and failure of this group.

Broker representatives and a buyer ran the classing modules, Yaldhurst Wools bent over backwards for us not only on the day, but in the lead up as well. Ross and John were able to look at things from a slightly different angle to normal and their input was very much appreciated. The Federation of Wool Merchants extended their sponsorship to the NZWCA by making sure that we were well fed. Kurow Wools topped that up and we had Wool Partners International sponsor the Half-bred Merit Award and Canterbury Wool Scourers the Crossbred Merit Award as well as Elders Wool sponsoring the Merino Award. Wool Testing Services stepped up with big sponsorship as well. To all those involved a very big thank you we could not have done it without you.

Unfortunately I have been proved wrong in my summation that a lot of 'high profile' classers would step up to the plate with their registration once the season started. There are still about 60 of you out there who I have kept on as members, but have not paid their registration. Come on guys it is not fair on the ones that have paid. If we are doing something wrong please let us know otherwise pay up especially those that came along to our Refresher Day, learn't something and ate for free! We have a reasonable number of new classers coming through as well as farmers and contractors employing more than they have over the past 10-12 years. I know which ones I would support.

Make use of our website, it is there for your benefit. There is a list of registered classers, room for a Q&A page and work available - wanted. I talk to the broker's representatives reasonably often and although classers are usually needed at short notice they are very supportive of the website. By next year I hope to have everyone's e-mail address and the likes of this newsletter can come out electronically. I will be asking your permission to publish contact details beside those who have paid their registration as well.

Have a great season and if you think that you may have been underselling yourself over the last couple of years, now would be a good time to negotiate a new rate.

Cheers

Dave Carr

Contact List for NZWCA Board Members July 2011

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