

Newsletter

Federation of NZ Wool Merchants incorporating Woolfirst are proud to sponsor this Newsletter and provide two significant scholarships to up and coming Woolclassers.

Certificate of Technology

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Kurow Wools New Zealand

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Boniface From my Perspective

by Rob Cochrane **Wool Partners**

Chairman's Report

wool handlers. On behalf of the Federation of

Greetings fellow classer and

NZ Wool Merchants and Woolfirst group we trust you have all had an interesting and challenging pre-lamb season. Once again many superb wools around the country. It is very pleasing to see strong sales in recent weeks. Always pleasing to see your efforts recognized. Finewools I have seen this

and classed. Well done to you I was very pleased to attend the AGM of the Wool Classers

Association in Queenstown

year have been well prepared

this year to launch the two Wool Merchant bursaries to assist students doing the Wool **WOOLCLASSING REVIEW 2009/2010**

The Federation course. congratulates the recipients and wish them a long and fruitful career in the industry. The Federation, also makes a

cash grant to NZWCA specifically to help with the production of your newsletter. Our members strongly believe this publication is a great means of communication and way of getting essential information out to the -face With main shear starting and

lamb shearing not far away it is time to think about skirting levels and preparation levels of these different wools. Please remember poor skirting results in shorter lengths and lower fleece yields, particularly lambs wool.

and condition. We see many

been taken out is condition.

to the internet, make use of your excellent website and also our merchant website Woolfirst.co.nz

For those of you with access

Have a great Christmas and

New Year and look forward to a productive 2011

Regards to all **Don Urquhart**

Kurowwoolshed.co.nz

KUROW WOOL

Registered wool & skin buyers **Liverpool Street** P O Box 43 Kurow Ph 03 436 0585

NEW ZEALAND LIMITED



attention at the Shearing and Woolhandling World Championships Wales July 2010

The wool growing season over therefore it is very important for lines made for colour that test the last 12 months has seen contractors to speak to farmers preparation of a very high prior to shearing to get a gauge up very good when all that has

standard across all sheep on what staffing levels are breeds. Wool classing has been of a

practices being put into place. Because of the good growing conditions tenderness, colour and vegetable matter faults have been minimal therefore making the preparation in the shed a lot less stressful. Vegetable matter is still a con-

cern in the crossbred market,

required for shearing to remove the vegetable matter. very high standard with good Fine wool classers should communicate with the farmer well in advance of shearing to

get an indication of the season the sheep have been through and the classer requirements for con-If there is one criticism of the preparation that is the distinction between non scourable colour

This is mainly applicable to the Mid Micron and full wool crossbred clips. It is important you talk to your broker for advice. Finally congratulations to you all for maintaining good standards and good 'passion in an industry that is starting to see some positive signs

Roger Fuller **ELDERS, CHRISTCHURCH**

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It has been a challenging season for the wool harvesting industry. The

Newsletter

|| merino

classers worked to ensure wool was prepared and delivered to NZWH as efficiently as possible really made a difference. The wool market has improved significantly; the effect of Chinese competition on the auction in Melbourne right across the spectrum of wool types is paramount to this, particularly the secondary lines, oddments and shorter carding types. To follow is a line graph produced by the ICS in Australia showing 18.2 / 19.0 /20.0 / 21.0 / 24.0 micron prices in AUD from 2005 through until the present time.

wet weather early into pre lamb tested everyone and made for a

difficult time. In contrast the dry wool growing season in many areas

also proved difficult for classers as we saw clips move finer, quite

significantly in some cases. The cohesive way in which the wool

If we reflect on the key messages highlighted at "Fibre Select" back in June we can see where classers were able to add significant value this season by following these key message guidelines. Separating 2nd Pcs from Lox – Prices for carding types achieved this season were very high; there was and still is significant premiums for bulky 2nd pcs. Where the lox were left in with

2nd pcs lines would achieve the Lox price only.

Super Fine Micron (in shed testing) – Testing solely for a commercial return on the fineness of a line was not required as these types have not lifted like the 15 micron and stronger

Skirting / Fribbing Bellies – very high prices for well prepared

<u>Tender & Colour Lines</u> – not identifying these by description but

calling them AAAM resulted in these lines being purchased for the Chinese market, in some cases the prices were as high as the best prepared fleece lines as competition in

bellies.

Melbourne for fine wool was strong. <u>Preparation of fleece lines</u> – The European mills were back in this season buying the well prepared lines of sound fleece. The backs, necks and 1st pieces that were taken out of these lines sold well, again in some cases as high as the best fleece lines.

stronger fleeces (+26 micron) and did not push them into Smartwool resulting in less lines being rejected because of falling outside the maximum micron specification. 18.9 micron contract lines – An observation from this season, some contract lines came in very fine, well under the required minimum micron specification. This was due to a number of seasonal factors. This can change from year to

year, we need to be aware of this and adjust next season if required. It is better to be short on quantity for a contract than to push too much fine wool into it and come in too

Smartwool 23.0 Micron - Some classers were more aware of

A smaller "Fibre Select" refresher course will be run next year in Christchurch where we will highlight key points for the coming season; we look forward to seeing you there. Have a safe and happy Christmas and may the New Year see continued prosperity for our industry.

season and at the other end of the spectrum lifts of \$3.00 a kilogram were not uncommon for 16-17 micron merino.

Prices for well prepared wools have taken a significant lift

right across the board. How many x- bred producers would

have dared dream of achieving \$4.00 greasy over this past

Registrars Ramblings

What does this mean, is it going to be ongoing? I don't know, but I do believe that it is a chance that we all should take with both hands. NZWCA have asked brokers to write QA assurances regarding qualified staff into their contracts - up until now

this has not happened, maybe now it will as contracts become more specific. The demand for that contract to be met is paramount - once wool is in the bale you cannot do anything else with it.

As Registrar it is great to see the revival of interest in people wanting to be involved in our industry. People asking what they need to do to become classers, farmers asking about becoming owner classers – all this is positive. Our website www.woolclassers.nz_is up and running and being extended all the time this is for all of you to use and by early next year we hope to have the job search up

enabling you to see if there is work available and for you

to be offered work.

contact me.

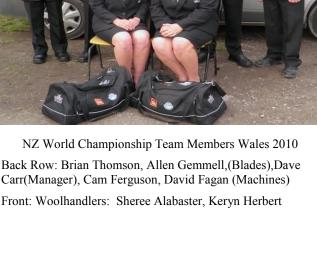
To all those who have given time and effort to support the association, whether it be running training day's or a bit of advice in a shed situation over the last 12 months thank you. We are all in this industry together and the feedback along the entire chain is most important as we look to the

Have a great festive season and welcome in the new

season with a positive attitude and work ethic. If anyone

out there has any problems please do not hesitate to

david.carr@tectra.co.nz or on 021 372 244



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1350 1300 1250

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1450 1400

18.2 mic

20 mic

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19 mic

21 mic

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900 850 800 700 650 'PENNING FROM THE DESK' Well the festive season is nearly upon us and I would like to take this opportunity to wish the entire Certificate in Wool Technology - WOOL CLASSING students a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year. It has been a real tough few years with declining sheep numbers and very low Crossbred wool prices which has impacted greatly on student numbers; but here we are in 2010 with some hope that Crossbred prices will hold at their current level and next year will increase which would be the ideal tonic needed for our industry. These Crossbred Growers are now starting to show some enthusiasm regarding improving preparation standards of their clip instead of just focusing on meat production. This is a real positive which all goes well for us in the training arena. Tectra currently have 20 students enrolled in the Certificate in Wool Technology - Classing Programme and we would like to increase this number by 15 next year. So if there are any budding Level 3 or above Wool Handlers out there in the field who want to make Wool Classing their career please contact either me or Robyne Murray on the freephone 0800 496 657 and a brochure with application form attached will be sent to you. Finally a gentle reminder for those students who are behind with their modules; please focus on them and send them into me quick smart as there is nothing worse than getting too far behind and making the Course Controller grumpy!! Cheers for now, Laurie Boniface

Clean Wool Prices Prices from 1/7/05 Onwards

NZ WOOL CLASSER

Our Thanks too:

ASSOCIATION

very low base!

the future.

Second year Classing student

Keryn Herbert competing World

Championships Wales July 2010

Federation of Wool Merchants for sponsoring our Newsletter From My Perspective The past twelve or so months have proved interesting times for crossbred wool in particular, for a raft of reasons, but for

New Zealand Merino for the Wool Prices graph, and

wool prices to move from the lows experienced in mid to late 2009 to the highs of October/November 2010, has been quite astounding. During that time prices have improved by somewhere around 75%, however as mentioned the low base was a Over the past couple of seasons we have noticed a definite reluctance from growers to employ excessive numbers of wool handling staff during shearing, and although that decision could be understood completely due to poor returns for wool, the

danger of such an approach can have long-term negative reaction from users of NZ wool, who may consider that the wool did

growers, therefore, as all of you will understand, it is important to "get the job right" by referring to the growers' selling broker or agent prior to shearing to gain an exact understanding of what is required. Let's hope that wool returns remain buoyant into 2011 and beyond so that once again we can all take pride in our work efforts, and our ability to return value to our growers. The industry is changing, and we must all embrace that change for the benefit and sustainability of the New Zealand wool industry as a whole. By Rob Cochrane WOOL PARTNERS

Chairman's Report

administration, Personal Development Programmes and the funds required to run the Mentoring Scheme. In that process we have had to go through the new Minister of Agriculture's "Wool Industry Group" to secure funding from our historic source Beef and Lamb. This only added to the problems, as there will be no more money coming to NZWCA from this source in

The most important role for myself as Chairman since the AGM has been to secure funding for the next two years for

With our membership now at 202, with an income of \$14700.00 there will have to be some judicious use of income in future years. With the money coming from Beef and Lamb, our subscriptions and some cash reserves, it is intended to run an organization that has a meaningful contribution to the Wool Industry. NZWCA is now a member of the "NZ Wool Harvesters", a group combining NZ Sport Shearing, NZ Shearing Contractors,

funding for the shortfall in funds until the "New Commercial Trainee Funding Model" is proved sustainable into the future. NZWCA has supported the Merino Co. in an application for funding, also from Beef and Lamb, in this transitional phase. We believe the "Classer Select" has made a huge contribution to the maintenance of standards and commercial

understanding of industry requirements and should be continued. If funding is not forthcoming from B & L, the Classer Select in Christchurch will proceed this year but without B & L funding the programme will be under review according to

Martin Paterson

NZWCA and TECTRA with Allan Frazer as facilitator. This group was formed as a condition of membership to the "Wool Industry Group" which to date has had about 4 meetings. At the latest meeting an application was made for transitional

Mike Hargadon of the Merino Co. Once again NZ Shearer's and Woolhandlers have done exceedingly well and have won most classes at the World Championships in Wales this year. They represent the professionalism of the NZ Shearing Industry. Well Done

NZWCA Chairman

not perform as expected. Many wool clips have obviously displayed poorer than expected wool preparation standards during this time and, whilst that is now history, we must ensure that NZ wool's reputation remains at the forefront of quality expectation. Whilst there are a number of wool clips which may need minimal in-shed preparation, there are very few (if any) which require none! All wool clips must be prepared in the correct manner, and whilst the monetary cost of harvest and preparation should be kept under control, wool returns must be maximized. Because growers spend several months growing their wool crop, they should not discount it by substandard shed preparation. Over-preparation can also prove costly for