

SustainaWOOL Integrity Scheme Grower Declaration

This is a 'self-assessment' document which should be completed only after reading the **SustainaWOOL** Integrity Scheme Standard and Audit Checklist, issued separately. Wool growers who meet the requirements detailed in the Standard through their declared practices* and the audit checklist and who are financial members will receive **SustainaWOOL** certification.

By completing this declaration, you acknowledge that you are authorised to complete the form, and accept that you will be subject to random desktop and/or on-farm audits for the declaration items listed below. A high level of compliance is required to obtain and maintain Certification. Please return **completed and signed** Grower Declaration to:

Email: sustainawool@awex.com.au

Post: PO Box 651, North Ryde NSW 1670 Australia

Grower and Property Detail

Full name of Owner/Operator		Existing SW No. (if known)	
Property Trading Name		Mobile	
Property Address (the "property")		Landline	
Postal Address (if different address)		Email Address	
PIC (8-digit Property Identification Code)		Farm Size (hectares)	
Breeds (sheep numbers by breed)		Bales Produced annually (approx.)	
Farm Brands (list all used)		Brokers (list all used)	

Grower Eligibility (please tick the appropriate box)

To be eligible for participation in the SustainaWOOL Integrity Scheme, growers need to have read the Standard and Declaration, and must not have been successfully prosecuted under relevant laws in each State, Territory, or nationally.

GENERAL INTRODUCTION		YES	NO	DECLARANT COMMENTS
Have you received and read the SustainaWOOL Manual and understand the Scheme's requirements for certification?				
Has the owner or manager of the property ever been successfully prosecuted under any of the following Acts applicable in your State or Territory? If YES , give details.	Animal Welfare Act or equivalent			
	Environmental Planning & Assessment Act or equivalent			
	Occupational/Workplace Health and Safety or equivalent			
	National or State employment legislation Acts or equivalent			

Farm Practices Declaration

In the following sections, we require you to answer each of the questions applicable to your enterprise.

For each practice, please enter a tick or a cross against the relevant answer column (YES, NO, or WT – which means WORKING TOWARD), and enter dates or comments in the right most column where appropriate.

1.0 ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE		YES	NO	WT	DECLARANT COMMENT
1.1	Are sheep regularly monitored for injury, health, predators and general well-being?				
1.2	Are corrective actions taken when sheep require treatment for, or relief from, disease and suffering?				
1.3	Is on-farm slaughter of sheep carried out humanely, minimizing pain and/or distress to the animal?				
1.4	Are mortality records kept for all sheep classes, including cause of death?				
1.5	Are only Registered Animal Health products* used, within the use-by dates specified?				
1.6	Are records kept of all Animal Health treatments (and are available on request)?				
1.7	Are doses of treatments administered as per written procedures or as directed by product manufacturer?				
1.8	Are adequate food and water available for all sheep on the property to maintain good health?				
1.9	Are sheep provided with adequate shelter such as trees to ensure wellbeing during extreme weather?				
1.10	Have all reasonable steps been taken to minimise effects of fire or flood on the farm and its livestock?				
1.11	Is Body Condition Score (BCS)* monitored and managed to meet BCS targets for the sheep class?				
1.12	Are artificial breeding procedures* (e.g. AI) carried out on your property by competent operators?				
1.13	Are dehorning, disbudding and substantial horn trimming conducted by competent operators, and accompanied by effective pain relief?				
1.14	Are sheep dogs appropriately trained, and muzzled where necessary?				
1.15	Are all sheep on the property free to display all natural behaviours?				
1.16	Are staff provided adequate instruction and training for the responsible and humane handling of stock?				
1.17	Have all reasonable efforts been made to minimize stress or risk of injury during handling and transport?				
1.18	Transport service organizations or individuals meet applicable transport safety standards for the humane loading, unloading and transport of stock?				

ANIMALWELFARE/ ANIMAL HEALTH CONTINUED		YES	NO	COMMENT
1.19	Does all your wool clip come from sheep bred on the property (excluding rams bred elsewhere)? If NO , please provide details of bought-in sheep.			
1.20	Breech modification Are the breeches of sheep modified for fly or stain control, using mulesing or any other approach? If YES , proceed to 1.22.			
1.21	If breeches are NOT modified (1.20 above), when did the practice cease? Then go to 1.23.			YEAR ceased (write)
				Never practiced (tick)
1.22	If the breeches of sheep are modified (YES to 1.20 above), identify the specific breech modification method used (tick the appropriate box). Breech modifications must occur in the first 12 weeks of life, and timings will be assessed by farm auditors.			Mulesing*
				'Sheep freeze-branding'* (liquid nitrogen)
				Others, including Clips *
1.23	Pain Relief for Breech Modification – identify the form of pain relief applied and the year of first use. Other forms of pain relief used aside from Tri-Solfen, Buccalgesic or Metacam20 must be specifically identified and require veterinary authorisation.			Topical Pain Relief (Tri-Solfen®)
				Buccalgesic® or Metacam 20®
				Other prescribed pain relief *
				YEAR of first application
1.24	Tail docking – lambs must be at most 12 weeks of age and the residual tail length must be sufficient to cover the vulva in ewe lambs (the 3 rd palpable joint). Please identify the specific method used (tick the appropriate box).			Hot (cauterising) knife
				Rubber rings
				Other (please identify)
1.25	Castration – lambs must be at most 12 weeks of age at castration, and castration must occur using a rubber ring, unless on veterinary advice. Identify the method of castration used.			Rubber rings
				Other
1.26	Pain Relief for Tail docking and Castration – is recommended for all growers, and is a requirement for SustainaWOOL GOLD . Please identify the form of pain relief applied and the year of first use. Other forms of pain relief aside from Tri-Solfen, Buccalgesic or Metacam20 must be specifically identified and require veterinary authorisation.			No Pain Relief Provided
				Topical Pain Relief (Trisolfen®) *
				Buccalgesic® or Metacam 20® *
				Numnuts® *
				Other prescribed pain relief *
				Year of first application

2.0 TRACEABILITY		YES	NO	WT	DECLARANT COMMENTS
2.1	Are all sheep on the property identified with a secure form of identification?				
2.2	Are mobs routinely monitored and their location on the property known at all times?				
2.3	Does the property participate in the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS)* ?				
2.4	Does the property use the Livestock Production Assurance National Vendor Declaration System (LPA NVD)*, or equivalent?				
2.5	Is the property compliant with all Animal Health treatment withholding periods?				
2.6	Are all fodder and supplements brought onto the farm documented?				
2.7	Is the AWEX* National Wool Declaration (NWD) completed for all mobs/wool from the property offered for sale?				
2.8	Is a current Wool Book (or similar) kept as a record of all bales for every shearing?				
2.9	Are bales branded/marked so as to allow ready identification of correct ownership and content integrity?				

3.0 ENVIRONMENT		YES	NO	WT	DECLARANT COMMENTS
3.1	Is total grazing pressure on the property managed to support sustainable land use (e.g., control of vermin, pests and weeds, drought down-stocking).				
3.2	Is ground cover routinely monitored, and remedial actions undertaken to avoid overgrazing and soil erosion?				
3.3	Are soil tests taken on property to monitor soil fertility and/or potential contamination?				
3.4	Is the property part of a local/state/national environmental group (e.g. Landcare™), or a certified environmental management system (e.g. ISO)?				
3.5	If YES , list any relevant group(s), scheme(s) certifications, or courses (e.g. Grazing for Profit, RCS, Lifetime Ewe Management, etc.)				

3.6	Has reasonable care been taken to avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects on the environment, and biodiversity?				
3.7	Are all stock excluded from any rubbish facilities or disused dips on the property? If these do not exist on the property, also answer YES . If answering NO or WT , please provide details.				
3.8	Has a Farm Chemical Users course has been completed by at least one person on this farm within the past five years and course completion records are available?				
3.9	Is an inventory of chemicals kept and is available? If not, a template is available upon request.				
3.10	Are all chemicals used for pasture and livestock treatments safely stored in a lockable, bunded, and well ventilated storage area?				
3.11	Are hazardous substances disposed of as required by law (e.g. Drum Muster recycling program)?				

4.0	HARVESTING AND QUALITY	YES	NO	WT	DECLARANT COMMENTS
4.1	Is the wool clip prepared according to the AWEX* Code of Practice for the preparation of the Australian Wool clip?				
4.2	Is a shearing Tally Book (or similar) used to document relevant information from every shearing?				
4.3	Crutching* - are sheep crutched and/or dagged before shearing?				
4.4	Is a high level of care is taken to keep all contaminants out of the wool clip at shearing time?				
4.5	Does a registered professional wool classer/owner classer prepare and oversees the wool clip and their stencil is applied to all bales.				
4.6	Is all shorn wool packaged in nylon wool packs in good condition that have been authorised for use by AWEX?				
4.7	Are all animal markers and raddles used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and brands removed from fleece lines?				

4.8	Are shed-hands briefed before shearing begins by classer/owner/ manager on preparation levels?				
4.9	Have shearers been made well aware of their responsibilities under the Animal Welfare Act applicable to the particular State or Territory. by the contractor, classer, or owner/manager?				
4.10	Have all shearers attained an effective standard of competence*), and are competent to treat animals for severe cuts?				
4.11	Do shearers have their own counting-out pen to allow accountability for the quality of the sheep they shear?				
4.12	Is the shearing shed environment safe and healthy, with adequate amenities, lighting and ventilation, and with well-maintained shearing machinery?				
4.13	Is the period of time stock are shedded (without feed and water) prior to shearing appropriate for the class of stock (e.g. pregnant ewes)?				
4.14	Are there any Shedding Breeds* of sheep run on the property? If YES please give details.				
4.15	If YES , have your shedding breed sheep come into contact* with other sheep on the property at any time?				

5.0 SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY		YES	NO	WT	DECLARANT COMMENTS
5.1	Is the owner and/or manager fully compliant with all National and State *WH&S/OH&S legislation and guidelines for all staff and family members?				
5.2	Have all staff received adequate instruction and training for the responsible use of agricultural machinery and animal handling equipment?				
5.3	Is the owner and/or manager fully compliant with all National and State Employment legislation (award wages and conditions) in relation to all staff?				

SustainaWOOL GOLD Member module

While all SustainaWOOL growers are leaders in sustainable wool production, SustainaWOOL GOLD members are willing to go further, and act as role models who apply the highest possible standards for sheep health and welfare, environmental management, clip preparation, and traceability.

SustainaWOOL GOLD members build on their GREEN qualification by:

- providing pain relief for tail docking and castration operations, to minimise discomfort for marked lambs
- using electronic classer specification and e'bale technology, for maximum traceability
- implementing practices known to increase soil health, ground cover, water use efficiency, and biodiversity.
- Committing to the highest standards of transparency and integrity – including annual farm inspections.

The following table lists the 'GOLD' practices which must be evidenced by COMPLIANT SustainaWOOL GOLD growers.

AREA	GOLD PERFORMANCE PRACTICES	YES	NO	EVIDENCE
Sheep health and welfare	Pain relief for tail docking and castration is provided and readily evidenced.			
	Marked lambs show no evidence of breech modification (mulesing, freeze branding, clips, or other), and tails are docked to the 3 rd palpable joint.			
Traceability and visibility	Electronic classer specifications are utilised and readily evidenced			
	E'bale tags are used and readily evidenced			
	Grower is willing and able to share images and videos of production standards, and to act as a role model and mentor			
Environmental practice	Grower is able to evidence investment in paddock subdivision over time, for purposes of timing controlled rotational grazing.			
	Grower is able to evidence a rising trend in tree, shrub, or perennial grass cover on the property, and that environmental plantings have occurred.			
	Grower is able to evidence a rising trend in year-round pasture ground cover on grazed country, and identify current and target levels			
	Grower is able to evidence knowledge of the diversity in tree and pasture species, and key native animals and plants.			
	Grower is able to evidence implementation of strategies to control stock access to riparian areas (creeks, waterlines etc) and reduce flow rates.			
	Grower is able to evidence implementation of strategies to maximise water retention and use efficiency, and minimise soil erosion by water.			

DECLARATION

By signing this declaration, I warrant that I am authorised to complete this declaration and confirm that all details contained in it are true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I also agree to submit to random desktop and/or on-farm audits required under this Scheme by the authorised auditors as chosen by AWEX Ltd for this purpose. You also agree to comply with all membership obligations contained in the SustainaWOOL Rules. The SustainaWOOL Rules include the SustainaWOOL Manual, the SustainaWOOL Terms and Conditions and any other obligations communicated to you by AWEX which purport to form part of the SustainaWOOL Rules.

Signed Wool Grower/Declarant: _____ Date: _____

Please Print Full Name: _____

Note: This completed, signed and dated document will remain in force as the true and correct record from the above mentioned declarant until such times as an updated, signed and dated version is received by AWEX as a replacement document due to changes in the behaviour and/or activities on the property that make the original document no longer true and correct. *AWEX adheres to the Privacy Amendments (Enhancing Privacy Protection) Act 2012. No information you supply, other than for auditing purposes, will be offered to a third party without your prior consent.*

PAYMENT

Payment due: Certification at Group or Individual level under the SustainaWOOL Integrity Scheme is offered on a rolling 12-month basis, subject to annual re-application and payment of the certification fee. Non-financial members will have their certification withdrawn.

Certification level & applicable fees (tick one option):

<input type="checkbox"/>	Basic Certification (\$220.00 GST inclusive), associated with 20% chance of farm inspection each year.
<input type="checkbox"/>	GOLD Certification (\$900.00 GST inclusive), associated with an annual farm inspection each year, and more comprehensive audit scope.

If paying by VISA or MasterCard provide details below:

Card Issuer: VISA MasterCard

Name on Card: _____

Card number:

Expiry date: / CVV

Cardholder's signature: _____ Date: _____

Please make Cheque/Money Order payable to: Australian Wool Exchange Limited.

Payment by Electronic Fund Transfer: Please contact the AWEX Office on (02) 9428 6100, and a property-specific invoice will be issued.

A. RELEVANT GOVERNMENT ACTS and CODES OF PRACTICE

1. Animal Welfare Acts

States and Territories

- NSW** *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 No 200, Animal Research Act 1985 No 123*
- VIC** *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986*
- QLD** *Animal Care and Protection Act 2001*
- SA** *Animal Welfare Act 1985; Occupational Health and Safety (SA / TAS) Welfare Regulations 2012*
- ACT** *Animal Welfare Act 1992*
- WA** *Animal Welfare Act 2002*
- NT** *Animal Welfare Act (currently under review)*
- TAS** *Animal Welfare Act 1993 (No. 63 of 1993)*

Farmers are expected to comply with the Codes of Practice and Standards and Guidelines. See also:

- AHA Australian Animal Welfare Standards & Guidelines Edition One, Version 1, 2016
- International Specifications for Wool Sheep Welfare 2016

2. Environmental Care Acts

National

The Commonwealth's *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* for matters of 'national environmental significance'. Information for Farmers on this Act can be found at <http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/>

States & Territories

- ACT** *Environment Protection Act 1997, the Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991; Nature Conservation Act 1980.*
- NSW** *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (the Act)*
- NT** *The Environment Assessment Act 1994 and the Territory Parks; Wildlife Conservation Act 1996.*
- QLD** *Environmental Protection Act 1994 and the Nature Conservation Act 1992.*
- SA** *Natural Resources Management Act 2004; Environment Protection Act 1993; Water Resources Act 1997.*
- TAS** *Environmental Management & Pollution Control Act 1994; Pollution of Waters by Oil & Noxious Substances Act 1987.*
- VIC** *Environmental Protection Act 1978; Planning and Environment Act 1987.*
- WA** *Environmental Protection Act 1986; Soil and Land Conservation Act 1945.*

3a. Farm Chemical Users Course

There is a mandatory requirement for buyers and users of Agricultural Chemical to undergo a registered Chemicals Users Course in the majority of States. This requirement exists under State Government Acts such as the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000* (the OHS Act) and the *Occupational Health and Safety Regulation* (OHS Regulation) in NSW and the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004* and the *Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2007* in Victoria. Please see legislation applicable to your State or Territory.

3b. Chemical Use/Handling/ Labelling Legislation

National

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicine Authority (APVMA) – administration of the following acts:

- Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Administration) Act 1992 (Admin Act)
- Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Act 1994 (Agvet Act)
- Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code, which is a schedule to the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994 (Code Act) see also APVMA info for Farmers: <http://apvma.gov.au/node/1163>

4. Social Responsibility & WHS

- Work Health & Safety Act 2011 (ACT/NSW/NT/QLD)
- Work Health & Safety Act 2012 (SA/TAS)
- Occupational Health & Safety Act 2004 (VIC)
- Occupational Safety & Health Act 1984 (WA)

Employment

- The Fair Work Act 2009
- The Fair Work Regulations 2009

5. Wool Preparation and Shearing

- AWEX Code of Practice (Latest Version)
- AHC21316 (Certificate II in Shearing), AHC32916 (Certificate III in Shearing), and AHCSHG304 (Shear sheep to professional level)

6. Handling & Transport

- AHA Australian Animal Welfare Standards & Guidelines; Land Transport of Livestock. Edition One, Version 1.1 2015

B. ABBREVIATIONS, DEFINITIONS & NOTES

- * **Authorised Auditor** = Auditor(s) chosen by Australian Wool Exchange Ltd (AWEX) for the SustainaWOOL Integrity Scheme.
- * **Alternative Procedures** = An alternative procedure for modifying the breech of sheep for the purposes of reducing blow fly strike risk or stain and contamination, comprising Sheep Freeze Branding (cryosurgery), or application of constrictive mechanical clips.
- * **Artificial Breeding** = The practices of artificial insemination (by laparoscopic or cervical methods) or embryo transfer, which should be conducted by competent operators on ewes provided with effective pain and discomfort relief, and antiseptics.
- * **Body Condition Score** = The practice of hand assessment of the cover of fat and muscle tissue along the backbone and ends of the short ribs. It is scored on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being emaciated and 5 obese. Sheep in the flock should range from 2 – 4, and breeding ewe BCS should be BCS of 3 or above for joining, mid-pregnancy, and at lambing.
- * **Buccalgesic® or Metacam 20®** - registered analgesic products, containing Meloxicam as the active ingredient. While having beneficial impact for 24-48 hours, both need to be delivered 20-30 minutes pre-operatively for pharmacological effect at the time of the lamb marking procedure.
- * **Castration** = The removal or disruption of the function of the testes by use of a rubber ring or excision. Tail docking must occur before the lamb reaches 12 weeks of age, occur using the least painful method, and it should be accompanied by provision of effective pain relief. Practitioners must be adequately trained and proficient.
- * **Contact with Shedding Breeds** = Mated to, or run in the same paddock, as shedding sheep/lambs or their crosses.
- * **Corrective actions** may include (but are not limited to):
 - treatment for internal parasites (e.g. worms), external parasites (e.g. lice), infections (e.g. footrot), and for flystrike
 - treatment of injuries, including removal of grass-seeds from the eyes of animals
 - humane slaughter of suffering animals
- * **Crutching** – the practice of removing wool from the hindquarters and tail of sheep using shears. The crutching history for each mob is recorded in the NWD.
- * **Declared practices** - The SustainaWOOL Integrity Scheme requires growers to truthfully declare **current** or **intended** farm practices, using the SustainaWOOL Grower Declaration. This declaration of practices must be renewed on an annual or biennial basis, where:
 - **current farm practices** are those that have been in operation for at least 12 months at the time of declaration, such that when a grower ticks 'YES' in response to any numbered question in the grower declaration, the grower is declaring that the practice the question refers to does currently occur on the farm and has been place for at least 12 months. This ensures alignment with the National Wool Declaration where grower declare mulesing and stock purchase practices over the preceding 12 months. By extension, the declaration can only apply to fresh shorn wool grown during the period of currency of the Declaration, where the date of harvesting can be no earlier than 60 days of the date of the declaration.
 - **intended farm practices** are those which are not yet in full application on the farm (so fall outside the definition of current practice) but which are desired practices which the responsible grower is 'working toward', through assimilating the needed awareness, skills, or facilities.
- * **Meat and Livestock Australia LPA NVD/NLIS** for more information visit www.mla.com.au
- * **Mulesing** = The removal of skin from the breech and/or tail of a sheep using mulesing shears. Practitioners must be adequately trained and proficient.
- * **Numnuts®** - Numnuts provides targeted pain relief for ring-based tail docking and castration of sheep, combining a ring applicator with an injector that dispenses NumOcaine® anaesthetic.
- * **Others, including Clips** – Methods for removing excess wool bearing skin from the breech of sheep. While Clips are the recognised method, others may be developed. Any new method may only be applied if accompanied by effective pain relief and on the basis of ternary advice, such as part of a scientific trial with ethics approval from a registered research institution.
- * **Other prescribed pain relief** - a registered veterinary chemical analgesic or anaesthetic, used with veterinary approval. An example occasionally used is Flunixin®.
- * **Pain relief product** = Anaesthetic or Analgesic registered for use by APVMA for the relief of pain in sheep.
- * **Registered Animal Health Products** = Product must be registered in Australia by the Australian Pesticides & Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) Registration means that the product can be supplied or sold, and used safely according to label directions.
- * **Shearer competence** = recognised competencies include AHC21316 (Certificate II in Shearing), AHC32916 (Certificate III in Shearing), and AHCSHG304 (Shear sheep to professional level).
- * **Shedding Breeds** = Breeds that shed fibre (e.g. Afrikaner, Australian White, Awassi, Damara, Dorper, Karakul, Meatmaster, Persian, Van Rooy, Wiltipoll, Wiltshire Horn).
- * **Tail Docking** – Removal of the excess tail section by means of hot knife tail docking or use of an elastrator ring. The tail should only be docked through the joint space between 3rd and 4th palpable joint, before lambs are 12 weeks of age, and should be accompanied by provision of effective pain relief. Practitioners must be adequately trained and proficient.
- * **Topical Spray Pain Relief** - Trisolfen® is the registered topical spray anaesthetic and antiseptic solution for lamb marking.
- * **WH&S** = Work, Health & Safety.

Acknowledgements New England Wool Limited, Michael Blake (Bally Glunin)