



The National Council of Wool Selling Brokers of Australia Inc

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NEWSLETTER

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2020/07

From the desk of Chris Wilcox, Executive Director

- Australian wool auctions resume after cyber-attack, prices ease
- Superfine wool tested weights fall 8%
- Increase in bales declared as Ceased Mulesed
- Australian wool export slide in January
- Wetter outlook for Autumn
- Upcoming industry events



Lower volumes of superfine wool tested for 2019/20 season to date

The latest data from AWTA shows a sharp fall in the **volume of wool tested** in February compared with February 2019, for Australia and for each state. Overall, the weight of wool tested in Australia fell by 10.3% in February. For the 8 months of this season to February, the weight of wool tested was 5.7% lower than for the same period in 2018/19. There were some very large declines by state in February based on Wool Statistical Area data, led by a 32% drop in wool tested in Tasmania (albeit one of the smaller wool producing states). New South Wales (the largest producing state) recorded a 12% decline in February, as did Queensland. There was a 14% drop in South Australia, while Victoria (the second largest state) recorded an 8% drop in the weight of wool tested. Western Australia (the third largest state) recorded a 6% decline.

While there has been a 5.7% drop in the weight of wool tested so far in 2019/20, there are some significant differences between micron ranges. After the increase in 2017/18 and 2018/19, the weight of superfine wool (18.5 micron & finer) fell by 8% this season to date. The largest decline was for medium and broad Merino wool (21-24 micron), fell by 14%. This follows the large decline last season. In contrast, the weight of fine Merino wool (19-20 micron) has increased a little. The weight of Crossbred wool (25 micron and broader) tested has fallen. Overall, the mean fibre diameter has remained steady at 20.6 micron.

Further details including a chart showing the volume of wool tested by micron range for the 2019/20 season to February compared with the previous 5 seasons, is provided in this week's edition of the *Weekly Newsletter*. Available to NCWSBA members.

INDUSTRY EVENTS

The **Australian Wool Production Forecasting Committee** meets on 29th April 2020 in Melbourne.

The **Italian Wool Trade Association** will hold its Centenary celebrations in Biella on 16th April.

The **International Wool Textile Organisation's 2020 Congress** will be held in Brussels on 21st to 23rd May.

WOOL SALES WEEK BEGINNING 9th MAR 2020 – week 37 (roster as at 5/3/2020)

<u>Sydney</u>	Wed, 11 th Mar; Thurs 12 th Mar	8,870 bales
<u>Melbourne</u>	Wed, 11 th Mar; Thurs 12 th Mar	25,312 bales
<u>Fremantle</u>	Wed, 11 th Mar; Thurs 12 th Mar	12,498 bales

Information in the Weekly Newsletter is intended to provide general information only and is not intended to constitute advice for a specific purpose.