



The National Council of Wool Selling Brokers of Australia Inc

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NEWSLETTER

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2021/08

From the desk of Chris Wilcox, Executive Director

- Mixed week for prices in the Australian wool market
- ABARES' bullish forecasts for wool prices and production
- AWTA tests soar in February
- Proportion of Non-Mulesed wool increases in February
- Upcoming industry events



Sharp jump in AWTA wool tests in February

AWTA released the wool test statistics for February on 1st March and these show that the weight of wool tested jumped by 16% in February compared with February 2020. As a result, for the 2020/21 season to end February, the weight of wool tested was 4.9% below year earlier levels. If this trend of year-on-year increases continues, the AWPFC's forecast of a 1.1% increase in shorn wool production for the 2020/21 season will be within reach.

All states with the exception of Western Australia (WA) recorded a significant increase in the volume of wool tested in February, led by a 57% jump for Tasmania and a 38% surge for New South Wales (NSW). For the season to date, NSW and Tasmania both recorded a year-on-year increase in the weight of wool tested (+2.2% for NSW and +11% for Tasmania), while the other states have seen falls in the weight of wool tested, with Queensland down by 15.5% and WA down by 13.2%. Victoria and South Australia both recorded declines of a little over 6%. The impact of the better seasonal conditions for the eastern and southern states is seen in the significant improvement in staple strength (up from an average of 32.3 N/ktex in 2019/20 to 34 N/ktex this season) and mean fibre diameter (up from 20.6 micron last season to 20.8 micron this season). Staple length has also increased sharply, up from 86.5 mm to 89.4 mm this season. Some of this increase will be due to delays in shearing caused by COVID travel restrictions.

Further details are provided in this week's edition of the NCWSBA Weekly Newsletter. Available to NCWSBA members.

INDUSTRY EVENTS

Launch of the **Trust in Australian Wool** initiative from WoolProducers Australia and Animal Health Australia on 18th March 2021. Register [here](#).

The state and national committees of the **Australian Wool Production Forecasting Committee** will meet in mid-April 2021.

The **2021 IWTO Congress** will be held as a virtual event on 17th to 21st May 2021 by WebEx. Details [here](#).

WOOL SALES WEEK BEGINNING 8th MAR 2021 – week 37 (roster as at 4/3/2021)

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| <u>Melbourne</u> | |
| Wed 10 th Mar, Thurs 11 th Mar | 26,533 bales |
| <u>Sydney</u> | |
| Wed 10 th Mar, Thurs 11 th Mar | 13,502 bales |
| <u>Fremantle</u> | |
| Wed 10 th Mar, Thurs 11 th Mar | 9,848 bales |

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