

PREMIUMS AND DISCOUNTS FOR MULESING STATUS

Results presented by AWEX show increasing premiums for Non Mulesed (NM) declared wool, on-going but modest premiums for Pain Relief (PR) declared wool, and small discounts for wool that is Not Declared (ND).

PREMIUMS AND DISCOUNTS FOR MULESING STATUS (C/KG CLEAN)

		Merino (micron)						Non-Merino (micron)				
		16	17	18	19	20	21	22	27	28	29	30
INDICATIVE MICRON PRICE GUIDE												
SEASON	2013	1404	1328	1261	1218	1187	1180	1167	724	664	645.5	627
	2014	1364	1331	1285	1231	1196	1185	1168	823.5	769	747.5	726
	2015	1523	1510	1468	1408	1359	1344	1330	939.5	844	806	768
	2016	1926	1915	1835	1699	1523	1448	1403	882.5	729	657.5	586
	2017	2643	2552	2278	2029	1867	1793	1717	1008.5	842	725	608
NON MULESED PREMIUMS AND DISCOUNTS												
SEASON	2013	16 1.1%	12 0.9%	9 0.7%	9 0.7%	4 0.3%	-3 -0.3%	2 0.2%	0 0.0%	-1 -0.2%	4 0.6%	16 2.6%
	2014	28 2.1%	15 1.1%	11 0.9%	12 1.0%	13 1.1%	0 0.0%	5 0.4%	3 0.4%	4 0.5%	-3 -0.4%	28 3.9%
	2015	10 0.7%	15 1.0%	7 0.5%	8 0.6%	8 0.6%	1 0.1%	-15 -1.1%	0 0.0%	-1 -0.1%	1 0.1%	4 0.5%
	2016	14 0.7%	15 0.8%	30 1.6%	13 0.8%	21 1.4%	18 1.2%	-12 -0.9%	-1 -0.1%	11 1.5%	-5 -0.8%	-1 -0.2%
	2017	36 1.4%	44 1.7%	57 2.5%	44 2.2%	36 1.9%	18 1.0%	-13 -0.8%	20 2.0%	6 0.7%	1 0.1%	2 0.3%
MULESED with PAIN RELIEF PREMIUMS AND DISCOUNTS												
SEASON	2013	0 0.0%	2 0.2%	0 0.0%	3 0.2%	0 0.0%	3 0.3%	-15 -1.3%	16 2.2%	-9 -1.4%		0 0.0%
	2014	11 0.8%	6 0.5%	-2 -0.2%	1 0.1%	-1 -0.1%	-4 -0.3%	1 0.1%	3 0.4%	0 0.0%	-1 -0.1%	11 1.5%
	2015	2 0.1%	2 0.1%	-4 -0.3%	0 0.0%	1 0.1%	0 0.0%	2 0.2%	8 0.9%		9 1.1%	14 1.8%
	2016	6 0.3%	-1 -0.1%	6 0.3%	1 0.1%	3 0.2%	4 0.3%	0 0.0%	14 1.6%	19 2.6%	-11 -1.7%	12 2.0%
	2017	24 0.9%	4 0.2%	5 0.2%	8 0.4%	1 0.1%	3 0.2%	1 0.1%	27 2.7%	6 0.7%	-2 -0.3%	-1 -0.2%
CEASED MULESING PREMIUMS AND DISCOUNTS												
SEASON	2013	4 0.3%	14 1.1%	9 0.7%	-2 -0.2%	3 0.3%	1 0.1%	16 1.4%	2 0.3%	-4 -0.6%	4 0.6%	4 0.6%
	2014	11 0.8%	4 0.3%	-3 -0.2%	10 0.8%	-5 -0.4%	-3 -0.3%	17 1.5%	-1 -0.1%	5 0.7%	-3 -0.4%	11 1.5%
	2015	51 3.3%	15 1.0%	3 0.2%	8 0.6%	5 0.4%	4 0.3%	-1 -0.1%	2 0.2%	5 0.6%	-8 -1.0%	-3 -0.4%
	2016	1 0.1%	21 1.1%	15 0.8%	5 0.3%	5 0.3%	3 0.2%	8 0.6%	30 3.4%	9 1.2%	-20 -3.0%	20 3.4%
	2017		68 2.7%	8 0.4%	19 0.9%	4 0.2%	0 0.0%	-10 -0.6%	-8 -0.8%	4 0.5%	-5 -0.7%	5 0.8%

Source: AWEX

NWD Premiums and Discounts for Mulesing Status – Criteria:

- Australian stored; Merino fleece/weaners & crossbred fleece.
- >30 N/ktex, >60% Schlum Dry, <2.2 VMB, Styles 4/5, Good/light colour (incl. H1), P Certificate.
- Lengths according to diameter range: 70–95 mm (<18 µm), 75–99 mm (19–21 µm), 83–104mm (22–24 µm), 90–110 mm (26–29 µm), 100–130 mm (30–34 µm).
- Records per group (micron/NWD status) >2, empty cells when not enough data to generate a premium or discount.
- Premiums and discounts for Not Declared and Declared Mulesed are not shown in the above table.

While the demand for Australian Merino wool has increased due to brands expanding their use of the fibre in new ranges and sectors, and many other brands 'discovering wool' and using it for the first time, it is important that the Australian wool industry continues to inform the market about the fibre's on-farm provenance.

The Australian wool industry, through the Australian Wool Exchange (AWEX), introduced the National Wool Declaration (NWD) program ten years ago as a means for woolgrowers to document their flystrike control practices through the wool selling system.

The NWD creates transparency and choice in the marketplace for retailers and suppliers wanting to source wool that has been produced using husbandry practices preferred by the buyer. AWI encourages woolgrowers to declare their practices to provide the supply chain with the information they are requesting.

The proportion of woolgrowers declaring their wool through the NWD continues to increase. 66% of Australian wool sold through auction was declared through the NWD in 2017, up from 61% in 2016, 55% in 2015, 50% in 2014, 43% in 2013 and 38% in 2008.

The declaration by woolgrowers of their use of Pain Relief (PR) for mulesing is increasing through the NWD, as is the proportion of Non Mulesed (NM) declarations.

What are the levels of premiums and discounts that woolgrowers have been receiving for declaring their practices?

At the recent Breech Flystrike Research, Development and Extension (RD&E) Forum, Kerry Hansford of AWEX presented the levels of discounts and premiums that woolgrowers have been receiving for their wool over the past five years – see table left..

AWI Animal Welfare Advocacy Manager Geoff Lindon said while the results can vary across micron categories; Not Declared wool is receiving a small discount, Pain Relief wool is receiving a modest premium that in most cases will more than pay for the product, and the premiums are increasing for Not Mulesed wool. These are important emerging market signals for woolgrowers. **B**