



The National Council of Wool Selling Brokers of Australia Inc

NEWSLETTER

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2018/44

From the desk of Chris Wilcox, Executive Director

- Merino wool prices up, Crossbred wool prices down
- Prices for synthetics fall sharply in November on the back of lower oil
- Large drop in wool test volumes in November – superfine wool at 36% share
- Non-Mulesed and Pain Relief wool maintain share as auction volumes fall
- Better rainfall in November but more needed
- Upcoming industry events



Superfine wool tested rises, sharp drop in total wool tested in November

The latest statistics on wool tests for November showed a surprisingly large 21% drop in the weight of wool tested in November. At just 32.2 mkg, the weight tested was the lowest tested in the month of November for many, many years. My databases only go back to 2011/12 and the total tested is well below the next lowest, which was 34.3 mkg in 2015/16. The Australian Wool Production Forecasting Committee when it met in 3 weeks ago was not expecting such a collapse in wool tests in November for Australia or for most states. We will need to keep a close eye on the weight of wool tested in the next few months to see if the result for November is a 'one off', or if it heralds another step down in wool production in Australia as a result of the drought.

The wool test statistics by micron range continues the trend seen from the start of the 2018/19 season with a large drop in the weight of wool tested in the 19 to 23 micron category, but an equally large lift in the weight of wool tested in the 18.5 micron and finer (superfine) category. The superfine category has seen a 20% jump in the weight of wool tested for the five months between July and November 2018 compared with a year earlier. Of this, there was a 74% increase in the weight of 16.5 micron & finer wool for the first five months. At 50.5 mkg, it is the largest weight tested in the superfine category on record for the first five months. Superfine wool accounted for a massive 36.2% of the wool tested in the July to November 2018 period, compared with 26.2% for July to November 2017.

Further details including a chart showing the change in the weight of wool tested for November 2018 and the 2018/19 season to November for Australia and for each state, as well as the predicted change in shorn wool production for the full 2018/19 season from the Australian Wool Production Forecasting Committee (AWPFC) is given in this week's edition of the NCWSBA *Weekly Newsletter*, available to NCWSBA members.

INDUSTRY EVENTS

The **IWTO 2019 Congress** will be held in Venice on 9th to 11th April 2019. For further details, [click here](#).

The Australian wool market will be in recess from 17th December 2018 to 4th January 2019. Auction sales recommence in the week beginning 7th January 2019.

WOOL SALES WEEK BEGINNING 10th DEC 2018 – week 24 (roster as at 6/7/2018)

Sydney

Wed, 12th Dec, Thurs, 13th Dec 13,072 bales

Melbourne

Wed, 12th Dec, Thurs, 13th Dec 27,146 bales

Fremantle

Wed, 12th Dec, Thurs, 13th Dec 8,559 bales

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