

OFFM-QA Operators Newsletter *June 2005*

Welcome to the June **OFFM-QA Operator** Newsletter from the Australian Wool Exchange (AWEX). This newsletter is distributed to all participants in the AWI OFFM-QA program.

OFFM-QA Accreditation

Congratulations to the 34 OFFM Organisations around the country that have recently gained their OFFM-QA accreditation. By now you should have received your certificate of accreditation and your details on the OFFM website (www.woloffm.com.au) have been updated.

There are many other organisations that are still required to complete one of more of the program requirements, such as an audit. If you are unsure of your accreditation status, or to arrange on Audit please contact AWEX.

OFFM-QA Training

A second round of OFFM-QA training is currently being organised. The training program is the first step in promoting the principles and practices of quality assurance to participants, as well providing a detailed understanding of the requirements of the OFFM-QA Program.

The training also provided those attending with exposure to the latest information and adoption practices relating to OFFM. This will assist OFFM-QA organisations to work in an informed way with woolgrowers. Organisations wishing to become OFFM-QA accredited are required to have completed training.

If your organisation did not have the opportunity to attend one of the Operator training sessions last year, please contact AWEX so arrangements can be made for you to do so in the next round of training.

OFFM-QA Annual Accreditation Fees 2005/06

The first year of the OFFM-QA program was fully funded by Australian Wool Innovation (AWI). Now that the program has commenced its second year of operation, AWI is continuing its commitment to the program and is substantially subsidising the cost of accreditation.

From 1 July 2006, the following annual accreditation fees will be payable by OFFM-QA accredited organisations in order to retain accredited status.

- Laserscan / OFDA100 Laboratories \$385
- Fleecescan / OFDA2000 Operators \$274

For OFDA100 and / or Laserscan Laboratories that also operate a Fleecescan and / or an OFDA2000, only the Laboratory fee will be payable. Prices include GST.

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OFFM-QA Proficiency Testing Trials

The first OFFM-QA Proficiency Trial is now complete. 49 organisations took part in the trial and results have been mailed to all participants.

The next Proficiency Testing Trial will be conducted towards the end of 2005.

OFFM Grower Workshops

A series of OFFM grower workshops are currently underway and have been scheduled at the following locations.

- Bathurst, NSW 20th June, 2005
- Glen Innes, NSW 28th June, 2005
- Hamilton, VIC 20th June, 2005
- Rokewood, VIC 8th July 2005
- Lucindale, SA 8th July 2005
- Burra, SA 11th July, 2005
- Moora, WA 18th July 2005
- Katanning, WA 25th July 2005

Existing users of OFFM such as your clients would benefit from learning how to maximise their returns from using OFFM. The workshops offer a tool from which they are able to model their own production system and make informed decisions about OFFM. Why not encourage your clients to take advantage of the workshops programmed for 2005. Growers can register by phoning the OFFM hotline on 1800 045 633.

If you would like to discuss the potential of running an OFFM grower workshop in your area, please contact Ben Swain on (02) 6743 2306.

Contacts - Australian Wool Exchange Limited (AWEX)

Phone: 02 9428 6140

Fax: 02 9420 9633

email: offm_qa@awex.com.au

Mail: PO Box 823 Lane Cove NSW 1595

website: www.wooloffm.com.au