

## **OFFM-QA Operators Newsletter** *December 2004*

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

### **OFFM-QA Training - Finalised**

OFFM service providers are embracing quality assurance, with nearly 100 participants having completed OFFM-QA training since September.

The training program was 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 work in an informed way with woolgrowers.

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

### **OFFM-QA Proficiency Testing Trials**

The planning for the first Proficiency Testing Trial is almost complete and it is anticipated that samples will be distributed to all organisations before the end of January 2005.

As outlined in the previous newsletter, an important requirement of the OFFM-QA Program will be the regular conduct of Proficiency Testing Trials. All organisations wishing to become "OFFM-QA Accredited" must successfully participate in these trials, including those organisations that may already be accredited to ISO9001 or ISO17025 or another recognised Quality Management System.

Samples should be tested under normal commercial conditions and the results sent back to AWEX for analysis. Specific testing procedures and reporting processes will accompany the samples. Participants will receive a full report from AWEX detailing an assessment of their measurement performance.

This trial, which will be the first in a regular process of proficiency testing, will be a key component in providing confidence in the accuracy and precision of the results from OFFM-QA accredited organisations.

In order to be involved in the Proficiency Testing Trials, you will need to have completed the Proficiency Testing Trial form that has been sent to you previously. If you have not yet returned this form, could you please do so prior to Christmas.

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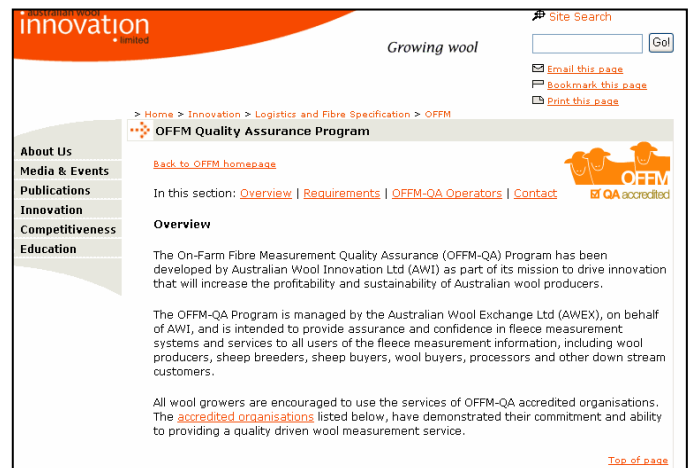
### OFFM-QA Audit

In order to become an accredited OFFM-QA Operator or Laboratory, each organisation needs to successfully satisfy the requirements of an external audit. Those organisations currently holding accreditation to ISO9001, ISO17025 or another recognised Quality Management System do not need to complete this process. The details of the audit were outlined during the training workshop and are included in the OFFM-QA Manual. An approved AWEX auditor will conduct the audit on-site.

All organisations that have successfully completed training and are eligible for accreditation will be contacted in the near future by AWEX to arrange a time to have your audit undertaken.

### The OFFM Website

The OFFM Website has recently been updated and now incorporates a list of all organisations that have completed training and details their current accreditation status and the services they offer. All accredited OFFM-QA Operators and Laboratories will be listed on this website, which has been designed and promoted as a tool to assist woolgrowers in locating and selecting OFFM-QA Accredited organisations. Further details and updates for the OFFM Program can be located at [www.woloffm.com.au](http://www.woloffm.com.au).



### OFFM Grower Workshops

A roll out of OFFM grower workshops is planned for next year and a hotline has been set up for growers to register their interest in attending (1800 045 633). 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.

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