

AMSEA
Accredited
Central Test
Sire Evaluation



Requirements for an accredited site

Edition 3.3

Prepared by the

Australian Merino Sire Evaluation Association
(AMSEA)

ISBN 978 0 7347 1951 5

January 2009

AMSEA accredited Central Test Sire Evaluation - Requirements for an accredited site
Edition 3.3

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January 2009

ISBN 978 0 7347 1951 5

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NSW Department of Primary Industries 2009

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SECTION 1. CTSE Site Check List

The following Site Check List allows a site to review the primary administrative requirements at the different stages of becoming a site and meet the AMSEA requirements presented in this booklet.

- 1.1 **Site committee established.**
- 1.2 **Site inspection by 2 or more site committee members** to assess the suitability of ewes (Section 5.1) and suitability of facilities.
- 1.3 Prior to mating the following information must be sent by the site committee to AMSEA at the following address for approval and to ensure funding.
Mr Ben Swain, AMSEA Executive Officer, “Gartmore” Gunnedah NSW 2380
Ph: 02 6743 2306, M: 0427 100 542, Fax: 02 6743 2307,
email: ben_swain@bigpond.com
 - a. **Site Evaluation Accreditation** (Appendix 1.1).
Complete the top section of the *Site Evaluation Accreditation Form* down to but not including the activities table and forward the form to AMSEA.
 - b. **Sire Registration** (Appendix 1.2).
Each entrant (including Link Sires) must complete a *Sire Registration Form* and supply a blood sample card (8.2). A site committee representative must sign each form after checking it has been completed.
 - c. **Link sires** (Appendix 1.3)
Choose link sires that meet AMSEA Requirements (Section 3.5).
 - d. **Extreme Sires, Show Ring Sires and Young Sires** (Appendix 1.3 and 1.5)
If a site committee intends to mate one or more assisted rams they must chose rams that meet AMSEA Requirements (Section 4.2) and forward the completed the application form for *Assisted Sire Funding* to AMSEA.
 - e. **Additional traits** (Appendix 1.4)
Assistance is available to assess additional traits by completing the application form for *Additional Trait Funding* and forwarding it to AMSEA for approval.

The application forms for assisted sires and additional traits cannot be funded until AMSEA has received a Site Evaluation Accreditation Form, as well as a Sire Registration Form and blood card for each ram being mated.
- 1.4 **Have at least one committee member at all required activities** (Appendix 1.1).
As each activity on the *Site Evaluation Accreditation Form* is carried out the form must be filled out and signed by a committee member who attended the activity.
When all activities have been carried out the completed form is sent to AMSEA (1.3).
- 1.5 **Forward assessment data to AMSEA (Section 1.3)**
Following each of the 1st and 2nd Assessments forwarded all required data in the specified electronic format to AMSEA and obtain back results for the site report.
- 1.6 **Forward AMSEA a list of rams not to be reported and why** prior to publication of any site reports and receiving AMSEA funding.
- 1.7 **Approval of an accredited site report.**
Before an AMSEA accreditation site reported is published and distributed a draft report must emailed to the following address for review and approval (Section 8.3).
Mr Allan Casey, NSW DPI, Forest Road, Orange NSW 2800
Ph: 02 6391 3812, Mob: 0408 279 719, e-mail: allan.casey@dpi.nsw.gov.au
- 1.8 **Send a pdf copy of the approved site report to AMSEA** (Section 1.3) to be reported on the AMSEA web site.

SECTION 2. Requirements Summary

Section 2 provides an overview of Central Test Sire Evaluation. In this section you will find detail that will assist your site and site reports to obtain accreditation.

2.1 What is Central Test Sire Evaluation?

Central Test Sire Evaluation (CTSE) allows the relative genetic performance of rams to be established according to an agreed standard by evaluating the performance of the ram's progeny. The agreed standard is administered and accredited by the Australian Merino Sire Evaluation Association (AMSEA).

The high evaluation standard encourages:

(i) public confidence in the results, and (ii) easy use by breeders throughout Australia.

2.2 What is a CTSE site evaluation?

A CTSE site evaluation is an evaluation of a drop of progeny bred by several rams each mated to an equal allocation of a group of ewes. Following mating the ewes in a site evaluation are managed the same with the exception that in the 14 days prior to the estimated start of lambing and for up to 14 days after lambing, ewes may be stocked in different paddocks however they must have access to similar feed. Ewes scanned as carrying multiples foetuses can be managed differently from ewes scanned as carrying a single foetus. The resulting management groups must be clearly recorded (8.2v).

From 14 days after the end of the lambing period to the completion of all assessments, all progeny of the same sex at a site evaluation must be managed the same and with access to the same feed.

A site evaluation is conducted by a local site committee who normally represent an ongoing site organisation who operate in a local region (e.g., New England Sire Evaluation Association). Some site organisations conduct their site evaluations on one property and start a new site evaluation each year while others move the location of their site evaluations periodically and others start a new site evaluation every second year. There is no requirement relating to the location or how often a new site evaluation is conducted relative to previous evaluations.

This publication is relevant to both site evaluations and across-site evaluation reports.

2.2 Which rams can be mated in an evaluation?

Rams mated at a site evaluation require both the owner(s) and breeder(s) permission. A *Sire Registration Form*, together with a blood sample card, must be completed for all rams before mating and forwarded to AMSEA for accreditation (Appendix 1).

2.3 Which ewes can be mated in an evaluation?

Ewes mated are to be from a high quality classed ewe flock, inspected by the site committee and found to be standard for quality, evenness and soundness. An equal allocation of ewes must be mated to each ram at a site evaluation. The equal allocation of ewes must be selected by a random draft of the available ewes or subgroups (e.g. age, breeding).

2.4 Link sires

To allow results from different site evaluations to be combined, each site evaluation must use link sires. A link sire is a ram that has been previously mated at an accredited site evaluation and has 25 or more progeny reported. Two or more link sires must be mated at a site evaluation. The link must be both between the site evaluations conducted by a site committee and between the site evaluations conducted by different site committees (3.5).

2.5 When is a ram's performance publicly released?

Only rams with 20 or more progeny (with one assessment) or 15 or more progeny (with two assessments) can have results publicly reported. An entrant may elect to withdraw a ram's identity from public release in that site evaluation. A ram that is not reported at any site evaluation he is entered in is not eligible to be reported in *Merino Superior Sires* (9.1).

2.6 An assessment – traits evaluated, recorded and publicly presented

A minimum set of both measured and visually assessed traits must be evaluated, recorded and publicly presented in an approved site evaluation report format (2.7, 2.8). Site reports must include the number of progeny a ram had at the last fleece weight assessment. Sites with additional trait funding must report the funded traits.

All site evaluation reports must provide details about the ewe base, stocking rates, climatic conditions and management procedures.

2.7 Minimum measured traits

Greasy fleece weight, clean fleece weight, fibre diameter (FD), coefficient of variation FD, FD curvature, staple length, staple strength, body weight. Weaning weight and yield must be assessed to assist the EBV analysis however do not need to be reported.

2.8 Minimum visually assessed traits

Site evaluations must score all progeny for Classers Grade (Top, Flock or Cull grades) and each the traits described in the Visual Sheep Scores booklet (obtained from Australian Wool Innovation 1800 070 099).

Until EBVs can routinely be reported for scored traits site evaluations must report ram's progeny performance for each trait, both the ram's progeny group average score and the percentage of the ram's progeny recorded for each score.

- (i) Wool quality: fleece rot, wool colour, wool character, dust penetration, staple weathering, and staple structure.
- (ii) Pigmentation: fibre pigmentation, non-fibre pigmentation, recessive black, and random spot.
- (iii) Conformation: jaw, legs/feet, shoulder/back, face cover, body wrinkle.

A ram that has bred one or more progeny scored as 'recessive black' or 10% or more progeny recorded as 'fibre pigmentation' or 'random spot' (7.5) across all AMSEA site evaluations cannot be reported in an AMSEA Combined Site Report or used as a link sire.

The measured and visual trait assessment and recording must be carried out by people independent of the rams (not the breeder, owner or their employee).

2.9 Age and wool growth at assessment for fleece traits

1st Assessment: 300 days of age or older, 2nd Assessment: 400 days of age or older.

Fleece traits assessed from a fleece sample or visually assessed must be assessed on 5 months or greater wool growth. All other fleece traits must be assessed on 6 months or greater wool growth.

If only 1st Assessment is carried out fleece traits must be assessed at a minimum of 330 days of age and have been previous shorn at or after weaning (6.3).

2.10 Combined CTSE accredited site evaluation report – e.g., *Merino Superior Sires*

All site evaluations that meet the requirements are combined and relevant rams reported in *Merino Superior Sires* publications. Owners or breeders may elect to withdraw a ram from being reported in *Merino Superior Sires*. A ram reported in *Merino Superior Sires* may also be reported in Sheep Genetic publications unless the entrant or the breeder of a ram elects not to publicly report in Sheep Genetic publications (Appendix 1.2).

A site evaluation included in a combined site evaluation analysis must have a minimum of two link sires approved by AMSEA with a combined total of 30 or more progeny assessed for fleece traits.

SECTION 3. Setting up and conducting a site evaluation

3.1 What is Central Test Sire Evaluation?

Central Test Sire Evaluation (CTSE) allows the relative genetic performance of rams to be established within the agreed standard of conduct accredited by AMSEA. Accredited site evaluations provide public confidence in the results and easy use by breeders throughout Australia. The rams' performance is based on their progeny performance, that is, the rams' genetic value.

3.2 Who accredits CTSE?

CTSE is conducted under the auspices of the Australian Merino Sire Evaluation Association (AMSEA) Inc. Membership of AMSEA is made up of a representative nominated by each operational site evaluations, an independent Chair, and representatives from Australian Wool Innovation and the Australian Association of Stud Merino Breeders.

3.3 What is a site evaluation?

A site evaluation is an approved evaluation of rams via the assessment of their progeny. The rams being evaluated are mated to an equal allocation of ewes at the same location and time. The management of ewes and their progeny is critical to an accurate evaluation of the genetic performance of the evaluated rams (5.1).

A site evaluation must be supervised by a site committee, who must ensure these *Requirements for an accredited site* are adhered to. A site evaluation must be established as an AMSEA CTSE site evaluation before mating (and any AMSEA funding to a site committee is made). **In doing so the site committee agrees it will meet all requirements in this publication.**

A site evaluation becomes established by completing the top section of the *Site Accreditation Form* (Appendix 1.1) down to but not including the activities headings and sending it to AMSEA. Prior to a site evaluation being reported as an accredited site evaluation the following must be sent to AMSEA to allow accurate analysis and reporting of performance.

- (i) *Site Evaluation Accreditation Form*.
- (ii) *Sire Registration Form*, together with a blood sample card for all rams.
- (iii) a complete set of pedigree and performance data to AMSEA in a suitable format (8.2).
- (iv) written list of rams which must not be reported and why (8.5 iv).
- (iv) email that states the draft site evaluation report has been approved for publication (8.3).

Within 5 working days of all of the above material being received, AMSEA must provide the Site Committee and the AMSEA Database with written notification of the accreditation status of a site evaluation, i.e., (i) accredited, (ii) pending more information, or (iii) not accredited.

When the site evaluation is accredited by AMSEA the site committee will be notified by email within 7 days of the last of the required information being received. If the site evaluation is not accredited or accreditation is pending AMSEA will contact the site committee by email stating the reason for the site evaluation not being accredited (8.3).

On behalf of a site evaluation AMSEA will provide a site evaluation's data to Sheep Genetics for both site evaluation and across-site evaluation analysis and reporting. AMSEA will return site evaluation analysis results to the site committee for publication in their site evaluation report.

To obtain approval to publish a site evaluation report a draft report must be sent to AMSEA (8.3).

3.4 Site committees

Each site evaluation seeking accreditation by AMSEA must have an effective site committee. A site committee must be established prior to the mating of the site evaluation or any AMSEA site evaluation payments are made. A site evaluation is established by completing 1.3 on the Check List and sending the required information to AMSEA for accreditation.

Apart from general operation and management of the site evaluation, an important role of the site committee is to ensure that the requirements outlined in this document are adhered to. Each member of the committee must be given a current copy of the *Requirements for an Accredited Program*

booklet and critically evaluate their site evaluation relative to the requirements and when necessary initiate a change to achieve the requirements.

To ensure that accreditation requirements are followed, at least one member of the site committee must be present during the core management and evaluation activities and sign off immediately after completion to verify compliance with the requirements in this booklet. A *Site Accreditation Form* (Appendix 1.1) lists and provides a process for the site committee to confirm that the committee supervised these activities and that accreditation protocols for each activity were followed.

The site committee must have a *Site Accreditation Form* for each site evaluation approved by AMSEA to allow the evaluation to be accredited and the site evaluation report distributed. A Site Committee representative must sign a *Sire Registration Form* (Appendix 1.2) for all rams entered in the evaluation to indicate the site committee has checked the form has been completed. The Site Committee must supply a list of rams that must not be reported and a draft site evaluation report for the evaluation.

A Site Committee must also ensure that all the relevant information in the correct format is transferred to the AMSEA Database (Section 8). The Site Committee must recognise that AMSEA is responsible for the management of the AMSEA database. The Site Committee must recognise the complimentary relationship between AMSEA and *Sheep Genetics* and that the AMSEA database is routinely submitted to Sheep Genetics for the purpose of across-flock linkage, site evaluation analysis, combined site evaluation analyses and reporting (2.10).

3.5 Link sires

Where a site committee has difficulty in meeting the following link sire requirements (e.g., where a link sire being used to link a site's evaluations no longer has semen available) they must contact the Executive Officer (1.3) at least 2 months prior to the mating to allow alternatives to be discussed and alternative semen to be sourced for the site evaluation.

Link sires are rams that must be mated at each site evaluation to allow results from different site evaluations to be combined. At the time a ram is mated by a site evaluation as a link sire the ram must have been previously mated at an accredited site evaluation and must have 25 or more progeny reported at another site evaluation at their 1st Assessment. Link sires must be mated to a minimum of 50 ewes (5.1).

At least two link sires must be mated at a site evaluation. At least three link sires are required when the number of tested rams (not including links) exceeds 14. At least four link sires are required when the number of evaluated rams (not including links) exceeds 21.

Two types of link sire are required;

(i) link across the site evaluations conducted by a site committee

At least one link sire must provide a link across the site evaluations conducted by a site committee (or the committee's predecessor in the region). This can be achieved in two ways;

- (a) mating the same ram for four consecutive site evaluations conducted by a site committee (or all evaluations when a committee has conducted less than four), or
- (b) mating a ram in a site evaluation that has previously been mated at least four site evaluations prior to the current evaluation.

In both cases the ram must have has 25 or more progeny reported at their 1st Assessment in at least one of the previous site evaluation

(ii) link between the site evaluations conducted by different site committees

At least one link sire must provide linkage between the site evaluation being conducted and a previous site evaluation that was conducted by a site committee in a different region, e.g., linkage between a New England site evaluation and an earlier Tasmanian site evaluation. This linkage is achieved by mating a ram that has already 25 or more progeny reported at their 1st Assessment in a site evaluation that has been conducted by a site committee in another region.

One link sire may meet both linkage requirements, however, a minimum of two links are required to be evaluated to ensure that if one ram fails the other is likely to maintain satisfactory linkage.

Prior to a site evaluation receiving link sire funding from AMSEA a site committee needs to provide in writing evidence that the link sires they have selected meet the criteria listed above.

SECTION 4. Sire intakes

4.1 Which rams can be entered?

Any merino ram can be entered at a site evaluation, including Dohne, SAMM or Afrino. All these merino types can be reported by a site evaluation and in *Merino Superior Sires*.

Sires bred in an unregistered flock must be identified in the “Sire and Owners Details” table and Table 1 of a site evaluation report. These flocks must be identified in these two tables by ‘UR’ as a superscript following the ram’s graph code and have an appropriate foot note to the table.

A completed *Sire Registration Form*, together with a blood sample card, must be obtained by the site committee for all rams mated at a site evaluation. After the site committee checks all forms are completed a copy must be forwarded to AMSEA (1.3) and the originals retained by the committee.

The breeder and owner(s) of the ram at the time the ram is first entered must be listed on the Registration Form and must sign the form. The person who has entered the ram and the site committee must sign the form.

4.2 Who can enter a ram?

A ram can be entered into a site evaluation when permission is obtained from the breeder(s) and owner(s) and all site evaluation requirements and fees are met.

4.3 How is a ram identified?

The primary identification of a ram in data reported to AMSEA, Site Reports and Merino Superior Sires is the rams correct Australian Sheep Identification System number (ID) – see below for a description of the ID system. Secondary identification is by way of a ram name that has the following structure; flock that bred the ram, name or number as it is used by the breeder.

The Australian Sheep Identification System provides a unique 16-character identification number for all sheep and thus enables sheep to be genetically linked in across site evaluations. The system is used by AMSEA and Sheep Genetics and allows each ram’s breed, flock, year of drop and on-farm number to be recorded and analysed correctly.

An ID is constructed in the following way:

- First two characters – Breed* of the flock – BB
 - Next four characters – Registered (or unregistered) flock** – FFFF
 - Next four characters – Year of drop – YYYY
 - Last six characters – On-farm identification number*** – TTTTTT
- The complete ID is therefore – BBFFFFYYYYTTTTTT

For example, the ID 5049672005050012 is read in the following way:

- First two characters – 50 - is the breed (in this example 50 is Australian Merino*).
- Next four characters – 4967 - is the flock (usually maintained by the breed society**).
- Next four characters – 2005 - is the year of drop.
- Last six characters – 050012 - is the on-farm sheep identification number***.

* Breed code are available on the Sheep Genetics website ([www.sheepgenetics.org.au/lambplan/General/Breed Codes](http://www.sheepgenetics.org.au/lambplan/General/Breed%20Codes)) or by contacting a service provider.

** Registered flock codes are provided by the relevant breed society. Unregistered Merino and Poll Merino codes (e.g., each CTSE site) can be obtained from NSW Department Primary Industries Sheep Breeding Group (1.7). Unregistered codes for flocks of other breeds can be obtained from Sheep Genetics.

*** The last 6 characters of the ID must be recorded as it is recorded by the breeder on-farm. It is the breeders choice as to the format of these 6 characters however AMSEA recommends that CTSE sites code their data with the first 2 of these 6 characters to record the year of drop, e.g., a sheep born in 2005 will starts with 05.

Note: An ID can only contain numeric (0 to 9) and upper case alpha (A to Z) characters.

When submitting an ID in a dataset the 16 digits need to be one continuous string of characters – there must be no gaps, dots or dashes between the characters. If a section of the ID is less than its allocated number of digits, for example if a flock's registered code is two digits, say number 12, when 4 digits are allocated to flock code in an ID, the two digits need to be padded out with zeros so that in this example the flock code will be 0012.

4.4 Assisted sires

AWI and MLA provide funds to assist site evaluations to mate a range of rams that provide general industry benefit – they include link sires, extreme sires, show ring sires and young sires.

Extreme sires are rams that demonstrate exceptional performance in particular areas such as meat traits, worm resistance, plain bodied combined with high productivity, or breech cover. Extreme sires must also perform well on a relevant standard index or offer industry value.

Joining an extreme sire is optional although recommended by AMSEA. The procedure for selecting an extreme sire is available from AMSEA (1.3).

Once an extreme sire is mated at a site evaluation, the site committee must measure all the progeny of all the rams mated in the site evaluation for the extreme trait(s) that the ram has been approved for by AMSEA.

AMSEA publishes annually a list of show ring sires that may be mated in sire evaluations over the following 12 months. These rams have been successful at major sheep shows.

AMSEA provides a financial incentive for entrants to enter young sires in sire evaluation. Young sires are rams whose year of drop is no more than 2 years earlier than the year of drop of the site evaluation where he is mated.

Contact AMSEA (1.3) to discuss extreme and young sires approved for assistance prior to mating.

SECTION 5. Mating

5.1 What ewes are mated at a site evaluation?

High quality classed flock or stud ewes, of one type and one bloodline. Prior to mating the ewes that are planned to be mated in a site evaluation must be inspected by 2 or more members of the site committee for quality, evenness of type and soundness.

The ewes that meet the required standard are equally allocated to each ram in a site evaluation. Equal allocation requires stratification of ewe by age and by time from sponge removal to insemination.

A minimum of 50 ewes must be mated to each ram, but 60 are considered a more reasonable number to obtain the required number of progeny for all rams. Mating at a site evaluation must be completed within 5 days.

5.2 The number of rams mated

There is no minimum or maximum number of rams that can be mated in a site evaluation.

SECTION 6. Ewe and progeny management

6.1 Minimum standard of management

A high standard of management is critical to ensure a successful evaluation, presentation and confidence in the conduct of the evaluation by users and most importantly our responsibility to a high standard of animal care.

The following minimum standard of management of the ewes mated and the progeny that are evaluated must be maintained at all times. Site committees must maintain “Site Management Plan” that describes the management practices used in the current site evaluation(s). These practices must meet those reported in this chapter and these requirements in general.

A site committee must report the assessment and management program in the proscribed table within the Managers Report (as shown by table 9.4 i) as a record of the standard of care of the flock.

Meeting regional needs

These standards need to be combined with “Lifetime Wool Regional Guidelines” - a series of guidelines and recommendations for managing ewe flocks throughout the year as described by the Lifetime Wool website: www.lifetimewool.com.au/guidelines.aspx (Making More From Sheep, Module 11 Health and Contented Sheep). Making More From Sheep, Module 8 “Turn Pasture into Product” is a valuable resource in achieving the condition score benchmarks referred to below.

An agreed management plan

A site committee must have an agreed management plan in place at the start of an evaluation. The committee and the site evaluation’s sheep manager must be involved in the plans establishment and they must agree on the management plan. This plan must meet the requirements for an accredited site in general and the management requirements in particular. The relevant “Lifetime Wool Regional Guidelines” must be used to assist the development of the plan. As the evaluation progresses if there is the need for a significant variation to the plan these must be agreed to between the site committee and the site evaluation sheep manager prior to the change being implemented. If this change is outside the requirements this must be discussed with AMSEA to ensure the site evaluation can if at all possible retain its accreditation if the change is undertaken.

(i) Ewe management

The ewes that are mated in a site evaluation must be managed to maintain a minimum progeny group average condition score of 2.5 from mating until weaning. Preferably they should be managed to maintain a minimum progeny group average condition score of 3 over this period.

Pregnancy scanning can be used to facilitate the management of ewes (and the evaluation of their progeny). Ewes scanned as bearing multiple foetuses can be managed to more effectively meet the higher demands of their pregnancy compared to the ewes scanned as singles (6.1 iii). Ewes scanned as dry can be removed from the ewes scanned in lamb thus allowing the ewes scanned in lamb to have the most appropriate management and have the best chance to meet the 3 score target. Ewes scanned as “dry” must be lambed as a separate group so that any lambs born (contrary to their scan) can be mothered up and their sire recorded.

To ensure ewes carrying triplets and quadruplet can be effectively managed these ewes can be removed from the site evaluation and managed to cater for their high level of need.

(ii) Progeny management

Evaluation progeny must be managed to maintain a minimum progeny group average condition score of 2 from weaning (6.3) until all evaluations are completed. For a minimum of 50% of the wool growing period evaluated the progeny must have a minimum progeny group average score of 2.5.

If assessing muscle and fat depth sheep below a weight of 30kg at the time of scanning will not be analysed for these traits. Site committees need to know that progeny in general are above 30kg body weight. There should be no more than 1 in 20 progeny below 30 kg at the time of assessment.

If assessing WEC (7.4 xiii) you must consult a person who has local expertise in carrying out WEC evaluation programs. Animal care is particularly important as sheep health can be jeopardised if the evaluation is not carefully designed and monitored.

(iii) Animal care and ethics

All ewes and progeny in a site evaluation must at all times be treated with a high standard of animal care and ethics.

(iv) Public displays

Ewes and progeny management is particularly important if sheep are going to be yarded for non-essential activities such as public displays. Public displays normally require yarding, drafting, and progeny being held for an extended period, and inspected by the public, all of which can place additional stress on the sheep.

Sheep must not be yarded for non-essential activities such as public displays, unless they are strong and healthy and in 2 score plus condition. Any stress must not compromise the level of animal care or their effect their evaluation.

If progeny on average are less than 3 score the group must be experiencing the benefits of a rising plain of nutrition that will ensure they are not unduly affected by the activity. Preferably sheep should be in average 3 score condition and on a stable or improving plain of condition at the time of public display.

Sheep must not be yarded for display for more than 24 hours. The sheep must always have adequately feed, water and shade.

Any sick or injured sheep or sheep over 6-monthes of age that are not in excess of 1 score must not be displayed. These sheep must be held and cared for well away from public access to ensure no additional stress on the sheep.

(v) Fly strike

All site evaluations are required to participate in AMSEA's major contribution to the genetic solution to overcome fly strike. All site evaluations are required to score fleece rot and breech traits (7.2 ii). These selection traits are critical to achieve genetic improvement fly strike resistance.

It is preferable not to mules the progeny at a site evaluation, however if this is not achievable in the short term it is essential to score breech cover and breech wrinkle prior to mulesing.

6.2 A "fair go" – progeny to be managed equally

In general the ewes mated to the evaluation rams must be managed as one group and given the same treatments. For the period from 14 days prior to the start of lambing and during the lambing period ewes mated to different rams may be stocked in different paddocks, however they must have access to similar quality and quantity of feed (with exception of scanned ewes as described by 6.3).

Lambs must be tagged while still within their sire groups. Ewes and lambs from different sire groups must be tagged and come together into one management group no more than 14 days from the end of the lambing period. Thereafter, the same sex progeny of all rams must be run together and managed the same until the completion of the site evaluation.

6.3 Management of pregnancy scanned groups

If all ewes mated at a site evaluation have been scanned for single/multiple pregnancy status the ewes can be separated and managed in three groups during the period from scanning up until 14 days after the end of the lambing period. The three groups are;

(a) ewes bearing multiple foetuses, (b) ewes bearing singles, and (c) ewes scanned dry.

Ewes scanned dry must be maintained in the evaluation until the lambing period is completed if at all possible to ensure any lambs can be maintained in the evaluation.

Ewes carrying triplets and quadruplet must be removed from the evaluation unless they can be given the additional care needed for these ewes.

After 14 days after the end of the lambing and up to weaning all ewes in the evaluation rearing a lamb must be in one management group.

6.4 Different management of male and female progeny

After weaning female and male progeny can be managed differently and assessed for different traits as long as the requirements in general are met. After weaning the site evaluation can be based on only the male or female progeny. If only one sex is being evaluated all the progeny of that sex must be used unless progeny are excluded for another reason covered by these requirements, e.g., injury or

fibre pigmentation. If only one sex is primarily being used in the evaluation the other sex can contribute performance records to the evaluation as long as all standards of management and an assessment of these requirements are maintained.

If one sex is going to be used to carry out the site evaluation additional ewes over and above the minimum 50 must be mated. Both sexes must be continued in the site evaluation unless all rams being evaluated have an adequate number of the same sex progeny to reasonably complete the site evaluation with the minimum number of progeny required for reporting (i.e., 20 progeny at 1st Assessment and 15 progeny at 2nd Assessment). This does not apply where a ram that already has less than 15 progeny of both sexes when the decision to only proceed with one sex is made. At weaning a minimum of 30 progeny of the sex to be evaluated must be present for each ram and the progeny must be suitable for evaluation before only one sex can start to be used to carry out the site evaluation.

6.5 Essential birth records

It is essential that the progeny data files sent to AMSEA (1.3) must contain a management group record is essential where there are differences in management of same sex progeny. This refers to management, both before and after weaning. An example is, multiple, single, or dry management groups.

It is essential that when pregnancy scanning takes place the data reported to AMSEA must also contain progeny's pregnancy scan or lambing record, e.g., multiple, or single and management group.

SECTION 7. Assessments and data collection

7.1 Pigmentation

Four pigmentation traits (7.5) must be recorded at 6 to 10 weeks of age and therefore are ideally carried out at lamb marking.

Random spot records must be updated if the appropriate pigmentation is observed at any time during the full assessment period (7.5 and 7.7 iii).

A ram that has bred one or more progeny scored as recessive black or 10% or more progeny scored with fibre pigmentation or random spot (7.5) across all AMSEA site evaluations cannot be reported in an AMSEA Combined Site Report or used as a link sire. A site committee must notify AMSEA in writing at the time their records are transferred to the database (8.2) if any ram is not eligible to be reported due to having progeny scored as recessive black or has 10% or more progeny scored as fibre pigmentation score 5 or random spot score 5.

7.2 Summary of traits to be evaluated

A minimum set of both measured and visually assessed traits must be assessed, recorded, submitted to AMSEA and publicly presented in an approved site report format. Measured trait performance recording and visual trait assessment and recording must be carried out by independent people (not the breeder, owner or their employee) of the rams being evaluated.

(i) Measured traits

Compulsory

Greasy fleece weight (GFW), clean fleece weight (CFW), yield, fibre diameter (FD), coefficient of variation of FD (CVFD), FD curvature (CURV), staple length (SL), staple strength (SS) must be assessed at both 1st Assessment and 2nd Assessment.

Body weight can be assessed at weaning. An additional body weight prior to or shortly after 1st Assessment is required to be made. If a 2nd Assessment is undertaken a body weight close to and preferably off shears is required to be made. A body weight must be taken at the time of muscle and fat scanning if these traits are assessed.

Weaning weight is recorded to allow early environmental influences such as birth type to be accounted by the breeding value analysis when this capacity is available. Weaning weight is not required to be reported in site or across site reports. Yield is not required to be reported directly as a trait but it is reported indirectly via clean fleece weight.

Site evaluations that obtain Extreme Sire funding are required to record the relevant traits even if these traits are normally optional.

Optional

Crimp frequency (CF), worm egg count (WEC), eye muscle depth (EMD), fat depth (FAT).

All site evaluations are strongly encouraged to measure and report these traits.

Accredited OFFM operators

Yield, FD, FDCV, FD <30, CURV and SS must be assessed by an accredited OFFM-QA accredited service provider. OFFM QA applies to fleece measurement systems used for:

- On-farm sampling and on-farm fibre measurement (OFFM Operators); and
- On-farm sampling and off-farm measurement (OFFM Laboratories).

Details of OFFM-QA accredited service providers are located at www.wooloffm.com.au

(ii) Visually assessed traits

Traits must be evaluated relative to the definition to be found in the Visual Sheep Score booklet (7.5) or the AMSEA definition (7.6).

Compulsory (7.5)

Site evaluations must score all progeny for Classers Grade (Top, Flock or Cull grades) and each of the

traits described in the Visual Sheep Scores booklet (see the following list and 7.5 for more definition). Until scored traits can routinely be reported as EBVs they must be reported as each ram's progeny's deviation from the average score of all progeny and the percentage of a ram's progeny that were recorded for each score.

- (i) Wool quality: fleece rot, wool colour, wool character, dust penetration, staple weathering, and staple structure.
- (ii) Pigmentation: fibre pigmentation, non-fibre pigmentation, recessive black, and random spot.
- (iii) Conformation: jaw, legs/feet, shoulder/back, face cover, body wrinkle.

Optional (7.6)

- (i) Conformation: body size, body length, head and horn.
- (ii) Wool: density, coverage, nourishment, evenness, handle, tip hair, topline.
- (iii) Fleece value (7.7 v)
- (iv) Sire's Progeny Group Evenness (7.7 vi)

7.3 Details of assessment and associated events

All progeny of the same sex must be equally managed (6.1) and assessed.

At the discretion of the site committee progeny with score 5 wool pigmentation (fibre pigmentation, recessive black, and/ or random spot) progeny can be recorded for pigmentation and then removed from the site evaluation.

The sire of progeny cannot be disclosed to the trait assessor until the completion of the assessment of all progeny.

More detail is available on trait assessment in the Sheep Genetics Breeder's Quality Assurance Manual (QA Manual). Unless otherwise stated in these AMSEA Requirements the QA Manual procedures are applicable.

(i) Age and wool growth at assessment

In general a site evaluation has two assessments of fleece traits that are recorded and reported.

1st Assessment: 300 days of age or older, 2nd Assessment: 400 days of age or older.

Fleece traits assessed from a fleece sample or visually assessed must be assessed on 5 months or greater wool growth. All other fleece traits must be assessed on 6 months or greater wool growth.

A site evaluation has the option of only having a 1st Assessment. In this case fleece traits must be assessed at a minimum of 330 days of age and must have been previous shorn at or after weaning (6.3).

(ii) Mating of ewe progeny

Ewe progeny must not be mated prior to 3 months before their last assessment. As all ewe progeny must be managed as one group from weaning up until the last assessment ewes cannot be separated into different groups for selective mating.

(iii) Recording performance of 'injured' progeny

Progeny that are considered, after inspection by two or more of the site committee, to be a poddy, have lamb marking/mules arthritis or another permanent injury that will be likely to effect performance for traits being assessed in the site evaluation must be removed from the evaluation. Traits not affected by the 'injury' (e.g., pigmentation, jaw conformation) must be assessed prior to removal of these 'injured' progeny and these records used in the evaluation.

Injured progeny must not have their performance for a trait used by the site evaluation if that performance is likely to be have been affected by the injury. Records taken before the injury must be used in the evaluation. Following the injury all affected assessments must be removed from the records, however if a trait's performance is not affected by the injury it must be used. If an injury is temporary (e.g., dermatitis), performance that is considered not be affected by the injury in the future must be recorded and used in the site evaluation.

7.4 Detailed trait assessment guidelines

(i) Wool growth

Assessment must be based on 5 or 6 months or greater wool growth depending on the trait (7.3 i).

Shearing, crutching or fleece sampling all the sheep that are in a site evaluation sex group must be carried out within a 36-hour period but preferably within an 8-hour period.

Particular emphasis is required to ensure all sheep are shorn evenly and onto the skin.

Chemical defleeceing

If chemical defleeceing (e.g. Bioclip®) is used during a site evaluation, the calculation of age and wool growth at both 1st and 2nd Assessment may be affected. Four different situations where chemical defleeceing has been used need to be accounted for and each of these is described below (a, b, c or d): If a site evaluation is going to use chemical defleeceing they should select the situation from the 4 options below that relates to their site evaluation and use this to calculate the 'age of evaluation' and 'wool growth' they will achieve. Care should be taken that the site evaluation still meets the requirements for 'age of evaluation' and 'wool growth' when they are calculated this way.

- a. When the progeny have previously not been shorn and are now being assessed based on the following chemically defleeced wool. In this situation the 'age of assessment' and 'wool growth' needs to be based on the number of days from the average age of the date of birth of the Management Group up to a date 45 days after injection.
- b. When the progeny have previously been machine shorn and are now being assessed based on the following chemically defleeced wool. In this situation the 'age of assessment' needs to be based on the number of days from the average age of date of birth of the Management Group up to 45 days after injection. 'Wool growth' is based on a calculation of the number of days from the machine shearing up to a date 45 days after injection.
- c. When the progeny have previously been chemically defleeced and are now being assessed based on the following chemically defleeced wool. In this situation the 'age of assessment' needs to be based on the number of days from the average age of date of birth of the Management Group up to a date 45 days after injection. 'Wool growth' is the number of days from injection to injection.
- d. When the progeny have previously been chemically defleeced and are now being assessed based on the following machine shearing or midside sampling. In this situation the 'age of assessment' needs to be based on the number of days from the average age of date of birth of the Management Group up to the evaluation machine shearing – as is the case for conventional shearing calculation. 'Wool growth' is the number of days starting from 45 days after injection up to the date of the evaluation machine shearing or midside sampling.

(ii) Crutching

The type and degree of crutch (wig, ring, crutch or a combination of these) must be the same for all sheep with particular care that all shearers are carrying out the same crutch. The crutch must be as narrow as possible within the constraints of good management.

(iii) Visual trait assessment – Classer's Grade and visual assessed trait scores

Each of the progeny must be graded (Top, Flock and Cull) and scored for each of the compulsory visually assessed trait (7.2) using the visual trait descriptions and scores (7.5 and 7.6). Recording must be to a predetermined tag list or an electronic tag.

(iv) Fleece sampling

Consistency of the location of the fleece sampling and the size of the fleece sample area is critical. If fleece measurement sampling is carried out on the shearing board or while shearing/wool handling, the site of sampling must be clearly marked pre-shearing to allow consistent location of the sample site.

Traits assessed from a fleece sample, such as fibre diameter, can be assessed based on 5 months or greater fleece growth.

(v) Staple length assessment

Staple length and crimp frequency can be assessed by an OFFM accredited provider (7.2 i) using the staple strength mid-side fleece sample (7.4 vii). Alternatively these traits can be evaluated using the following procedure.

When assessing staple length and crimp frequency on sheep use a straight but relaxed staple at the mid-side. Measure staple length in mm using a ruler (a 15 cm steel ruler is recommended) and crimp frequency using a crimp gauge. Measure three staples selected at random but equally distant from each other on the outer edge of an imaginary 100 mm diameter circle around the mid-side. Submit the average of the three measurements to AMSEA. If you use mid-side fleece samples, the three evaluations can be carried out equi-distant from each other on the edge of the sampled area. Evaluate crimp frequency at the base of the staple.

It is best to evaluate staple length and crimp frequency on sheep that have already had a shearing. However, if this is not practical, and staple length is evaluated on unshorn sheep, consider the staple tip as the point where the staple narrows to two thirds the width of the major section of the staple, rather than the end of the staple.

(vi) Crimp frequency (CF) assessment

Measured crimps per cm at the mid-side along a standard length of the staple using a crimp gauge (see staple length assessment 7.4 v) or measured by an OFFM accredited provider (7.2).

(vii) Staple strength assessment

To measure staple strength, a sample of wool, no less than 100mm x 100mm must be taken from the midside of the sheep and submitted to an OFFM-QA accredited service provider for testing (7.2).

(viii) Assessment shearing and fleece weighing

Shearing (time and shearer) of sheep must be carried out at random relative to sire of progeny being assessed. All sheep must be shorn within a 36-hour period. All sheep must be shorn evenly, with particular emphasis on shearing all sheep onto the shin. Fleece weight must include all wool with the exception of the belly and locks. A designated person(s) (not the shearer or shed staff) must read the tag number and record it and read the fleece weight and record it. Recording must be made against a predetermined tag list. Scales accurate to 0.1kg and checked for efficient function each half day must be carried out.

(ix) Body weighing

The time of assessment of body weight is described in 7.2 i.

Scales accurate to 0.1kg and checked for efficient function must be used. All sheep must receive the same empty out (removal from all feed and water) period up to the start of weighing and this be no shorter than 2 hours, with all sheep being weighed on the same day. Weighing of sheep must be carried out at random relative to sire of progeny being assessed. Recording must be made against a predetermined tag list or electronic tags.

(x) Sire's Progeny Group Evenness

Sire's Progeny Group Evenness is an optional assessment. If carried out each ram's total progeny group will be assessed as a group for evenness but not performance or type. The sire of the groups cannot be disclosed to an assessor until the assessment of all sire progeny groups are completed.

Where the percentage of twins, scanned, born or reared is known for each progeny group this information must be provided to the assessor prior to assessment or the sheep presented to the assessor in single and twin groups.

(xi) Eye muscle and fat depth assessment

Eye muscle and fat depth are required to be evaluated by an accredited muscle and fat depth ultrasound scanner (www.sheepgenetics.org.au/lambplan/) and not less than the recommended minimum body weight and fat score range. The recommended minimum average group weight and fat cover are as follows: wether and ewe average 45-50kg and have an average of 2-3mm of measured fat cover at the C site. A minimum Condition or Fat Score 2 can be used to assess the progeny prior to scanning as a guide to meeting the requirement for the average group to have no less than 2-3 mm of fat cover.

Sheep below a weight of 30kg at the time of scanning will not be analysed for muscle or fat depth. Site committees need to know that progeny in general are above 30kg body weight. There should be no more than 1 in 20 progeny (not including 'injured' progeny) below 30 kg at the time of scanning.

(xiii) Worm egg count assessment

Worm egg count (WEC) is required to be assessed by a laboratory that follows protocols defined by Nemesis. There is a strong recommendation, but not a requirement to record each samples faecal consistency score – 1 (hard pellets) to 5 (fluid).

If assessing WEC you must consult a person who has local expertise in carrying out WEC evaluation programs. Animal care is particularly important as sheep health can be jeopardised if the evaluation is not carefully designed and monitored.

The immune system of the sheep needs to be stimulated by a worm challenge before genetic differences can be expressed. The optimum time for faecal sampling is determined by the seasonal rainfall conditions in the region.

Under natural worm challenge, WEC can be measured after infection has built up to the level where there is sufficient variation between individuals. Sheep need to be monitored regularly by obtaining random samples from the flock, until the WEC is high enough for sampling. The critical level of infection will vary between regions, depending upon the worm species present, the condition of the sheep, the environmental conditions and the attitude of the breeder to risk of production losses from the worm burden.

Summer rainfall area

Measure young sheep at least 6 weeks after weaning, so that they have been exposed to a worm challenge and maternal effects have had time to dissipate. The best age to measure WEC is between 6 and 14 months of age. Where Barber's Pole worm is present, the level of infection is 500-1000 eggs per gram (epg).

Winter rainfall area

WEC measurements should be primarily undertaken between June and October to allow for the seasonal larval availability and seasonal variation in heritability. Young sheep, between 9 and 15 months of age, are also preferred. Where Black Scour and Brown Stomach worms predominate, the level of infection for sampling is preferably at an average of 300 epg, and if there is a distinct break of the season, this level of infection is often achieved 6 to 8 weeks after the break. Less than 10% of the mob needs to have zero egg counts in order to more easily identify the more resistant sheep.

7.5 Visually assessed trait definition and scoring system – compulsory traits

Site evaluations are required to score Classers Grade and all the traits listed below and described in the Visual Sheep Scores booklet available from AWI (1800 070 099).

Progeny are also required to be scored ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ for being ‘injured’. If performances for other traits are submitted for progeny scored ‘Yes’ for injury this indicates the trait/s recorded were not affected by the injury.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Classer's Grade: | A sheep classer grades all progeny as either Tops, Flocks or Culls based on their visual assessment of all traits in the site evaluation’s breeding objective and with the relevant emphasis on each. The site report must present the site evaluation’s breeding objective and the deviation from the average rams’ percentage Tops and Culls. |
| Scored Traits - compulsory | |
| ■ Fleece rot: | The severity of fleece rot from 1 (no fleece rot), 2 and 3 (bands of bacterial staining but no crusting), and 4 and 5 (bands of crusty fleece rot). |
| ■ Wool colour: | Greasy wool colour scored from 1 (whitest) to 5 (yellowest). |
| ■ Wool character: | Definition and variation of crimp between and along the staple scored from 1 (well defined and regular along staple) to 5 (undefined and large variation). |
| ■ Dust penetration: | Degree of dust penetration from 1 (only tip <5%) to 5 (80 to 100% of staple). |
| ■ Staple weathering: | The deterioration of the staple due to light and water from 1 (least, <5% of staple) to 5 (most, 30 to 50%) reflect the depth and degree of deterioration. |
| ■ Staple structure: | The size and diameter of each staple from 1 (<5mm) to 5 (30 to 50 mm) |
| ■ Face cover: | Wool cover on the face scored from 1 (open face) to 5 (fully covered face). |
| ■ Feet/Legs: | Conformation of feet and legs scored from 1 (very good) to 5 (very poor). |
| ■ Body wrinkle: | The degree of body wrinkle from 1 (no wrinkle) to 5 (extensive wrinkle). |
| ■ Jaw: | Under- or over-shot lower jaw (and teeth) relative to the top jaw. Three scores 1 (very well aligned), 3 (marginally under or over) and 5 (heavily under or over). |
| ■ Back/Shoulder: | Conformation of the back and shoulder from 1 (very good) to 5 (very poor). |
| ■ Fibre pigmentation: | The percentage of dark fibres on any part of the sheep from 1 (0 pigmented fibres at any site) to 5 (76 to 100% pigmented fibres at one or more sites). This trait does not include random spot or recessive black. |
| ■ Non-fibre pigmentation: | The percentage of pigmentation on the areas not shorn from 1 (0 pigmentation at any site) to 5 (76 to 100% pigmented area on one or more bare skin sites, and/or 76 to 100% of the total hoof area). |
| ■ Recessive black: | Recessive black is identified by relatively symmetrical markings on both sides of the face. There are two scores 1 (no recessive markings) and 5 (recessive markings). This trait does not include random spot or fibre pigmentation. |
| ■ Random spot: | Random spot is identified by rounded wool or hair spot/s, not symmetrical. There are two scores 1 (no spot/s) and 5 (spot/s). If both sides of the face or body are spotted the sheep must be scored as a recessive black. |
| ■ Breech cover | Size of natural bare area around the breech from 1 (large) to 5 (no bare). |
| ■ Crutch cover | Size of natural bare area in the pubic and groin from 1 (large) to 5 (no bare). |
| ■ Breech wrinkle | Degree of wrinkle at the tail set and kind legs from 1 (nil) to 5 (extensive). |
| ■ Dag | Degree of dag adhering to the breech and legs from 1 (nil) to 5 (extensive). |
| ■ Injury/Disease: | Non-genetic effects due to injury, misadventure or infection – Yes or No. |

7.6 Visually assessed trait definition and scoring system – optional traits

The following traits are optional however if assessed they must be assessed relative to the following description and scoring system.

| Scored Traits - optional | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| ■ Body size: | Overall body proportion; including frame, depth, width, spring of rib and bone from 1 (largest) to 5 (smallest). |
| ■ Body length: | Body length in relation to body size from 1 (very long) to 5 (very short). Body length can be included within body size if desired. |
| ■ Head/Horn: | Structure of head and the degree and placement of horns from 1 (very good) to 5 (very poor). |
| ■ Fleece Density: | Density can be follicle density and/or closeness of fibres in the fleece from 1 (very dense) to 5 (very open). |
| ■ Coverage: | The amount of wool growing skin surface area including the extent and amount of wool on the body points and belly from 1 (very little coverage) to 5 (very large amount of coverage). |
| ■ Nourishment: | Quantity and distribution of wax in the fleece wool from 1 (very low quantity) to 5 (very high quantity). |
| ■ Evenness: | The evenness of wool quality characters across the fleece from 1 (very even) to 5 (very uneven). |
| ■ Handle: | The sensory feel of wool that can relate to fibre diameter, both average and variation from 1 (very soft) to 5 (very harsh). |
| ■ Tip hair: | Fibres that extend excessively from the surface of the staple and includes halo from wool fibres as well as true hair from 1 (no tip hair) to 5 (very extended). |
| ■ Topline: | The ability of the fleece on the topline to withstand dust penetration, relative to the remainder of the fleece from 1 (very good topline) to 5 (very poor topline). |
| ■ AWEX-ID: | Subjective appraisal of non-measured wool characteristics. AWEX-ID Standards available from Australian Wool Exchange Ltd. |

7.7 Visual assessment and reporting procedure

Site evaluation reports describe a ram's visual trait performance, both as (i) the ram's average progeny score reported as a deviation from the average of all rams, and (ii) the ram's percentage of progeny recorded for each score.

Progeny in the evaluation must be assessed at random – they must not be assessed in sire groups except in the case of 'Sire's Progeny Group Evenness' (7.4 x). Each trait or Classer's Grade is to be assessed by a person who is experienced in the trait and the procedure for assessing the trait or grade. An assessor must carry out the assessment of all progeny for any one of the traits or Classer's Grade, however different traits maybe assessed by different assessors or more then one assessor.

(i) Classer's Grade

- Classer's Grade is assessed no more then 1 month prior to 1st Assessment and if conducted, 2nd Assessment.
- Individual progeny are assessed in a classing race or box that allows good access and ability to clearly observe each sheep as an individual.
- An experienced assessor must carry out the grading. Assessors should have as a target of 25% of all the progeny in the site evaluation to be graded as Tops and 25% graded as Culls relative to the site committee's breeding objective.
- Each site evaluation will establish their breeding objective and progeny will be graded to this objective. The site evaluation's breeding objective must be described in the site evaluation report.

- Assessor can use a progeny's measured performance information to assist grading.
- Progeny are graded as a Top, Flock or Cull. Site evaluations may wish to report more grades, for example, Tops may be divided into Special Stud and Stud. If additional grades are reported they must be subsets of the Top, Flock and Cull grades and reported so that these three grades can be easily observed.

The Classer's Grades performance sent to AMSEA must be in the form of the three grades - Top, Flock and Cull.

- Reporting format: percentage deviation of a ram's Top and Cull grades in *Merino Superior Sires* and Site Report.

(ii) Scored traits: conformation and fleece traits

- Conformation and fleece traits (not including pigmentation traits) must be scored within a month before or after fleece weight assessment. Scoring can be carried out in conjunction with Classer's Grade evaluation. Body wrinkle and shoulder/back traits are scored post-shearing. Fleece traits must be assessed at a minimum of 9 month of age and 5 months fleece growth.
- One or more experienced and independent assessors must carry out the scoring for each progeny and this must be recorded accurately and be analysed and reported in the site evaluation report. An assessor must evaluate all progeny for any one trait. The one assessor may evaluate one trait, some or all traits.
- Assessment must be made relative to the established standards and/or written description (7.5 and 7.6).
- Site report format: Traits that are scored on a 1 to 5 basis must be reported as,
 - (i) the ram's average progeny score reported as a deviation from the average score of all progeny, and
 - (ii) the percentage of a sire's progeny for each score.

(iii) Scored traits: pigmentation traits

- Individual progeny must be assessed and recorded 6 to 10 weeks of age and therefore is ideally carried out at lamb marking. This is the primary assessment of pigmentation and lambs must be carefully examined around the body.
- Each progeny's record for the random spot pigmentation must be kept on hand and updated throughout the conduct of the site evaluation. If at events such as Classer's Grading, scoring of other visual traits or shearing a sheep is identified as having random spot pigmentation this sheep's record is updated to a **5** score (if it is not already **5** score).
- Four types of pigmentation must be assessed relative to the Visual Sheep Scores booklet (7.5); (i) fibre pigmentation, (ii) non-fibre pigmentation, (iii) recessive black, and (iv) random spot. Progeny scored as **5** for recessive black or random spot must **not** be scored as **1** for fibre pigmentation.
- Recording and reporting:
Each of the four types of pigmentation must be reported as separate traits in the site evaluation report. Fibre pigmentation and non-fibre pigmentation are reported as;
 - (i) the ram's progeny group average score reported as a deviation from the average of all rams,
 - (ii) the percentage of a ram's progeny group recorded for each score.

Recessive black and random spot are only reported as the percentage of a ram's progeny for **5** score.

Any ram that has 1 or more progeny that are **5** score recessive black or 10% or more of **5** score fibre pigmentation or random spot at a site must be reported to the AMSEA in the site data package (8.2). A ram that has 1 or more progeny that are **5** score recessive black or 10% or more **5** score fibre pigmentation across all site evaluations, must not be reported in an across-site evaluation report published by a site committee or *Merino Superior Sires* and must not be used as an official link sire.

(iv) Scored traits: breech scores

- The collection of the breech scores is compulsory for all site evaluations, not only sites evaluating an extreme sire for bare breech. It is preferable to not mules the progeny, however if this is not achievable in the short term it is essential to score breech cover and breech wrinkle prior to mulesing.
- When data is collected it is vital to record the age of the sheep when scores are taken. Scores submitted to AMSEA (8.2) database must only be collected on unmuled progeny.
- Breech traits must be assessed relative to the Visual Sheep Scores booklet (7.5)

(v) Scored traits: AWEX-ID

- It is optional to assess fleece value, however if fleece value is to be calculated each fleece is to be assessed for AWEX-ID at shearing by an accredited AWEX-ID appraiser. ID standards are available from the Australian Wool Exchange Ltd.

(vi) Sire's Progeny Group Evenness

- Sire's Progeny Group Evenness is an optional assessment to describe the evenness for wool and body traits that are exhibited by a ram's progeny when viewed as a group. Evenness is recorded and reported using a brief comment and a score to indicate either evenness or unevenness of performance. This group assessment must not include reference to the actual 'level of performance' as this is recorded under the individual trait descriptions. Evenness is not to be related to a suitable type, e.g., a ram's progeny may receive a score of **1** (very even) but have an unsuitable type of progeny or have progeny that are poor performers.
- If Sire's Progeny Group Evenness is assessed it must be carried out shortly before the shearing of the 1st Assessment or between 1st and 2nd Assessment. The progeny must be 9 months of age or older and have 5 or more months of wool growth at the time of assessment.
- An experienced sheep assessor must carry out the evaluation and provide the required comment and score. Each progeny group must be assessed where all sheep in the group can be effectively viewed for fleece and conformation traits. The assessor may use other performance records to assist their judgement however comments must only relate to evenness, not the level of performance.
- The assessor must be provided with the proportion of progeny in the group that were single and multiple birth status when this is recorded. The status can be based on pregnancy scanning or numbers at tagging.
- When Sire's Progeny Group Evenness is reported it must be presented in two columns in a table in the site evaluation report.
 - (i) score **1** (very even) to **5** (very uneven).
 - (ii) a short comment of the group's evenness (not the standard or level of performance).
- Any trait reported in comments must be assessed relative to the definitions, scoring system and procedures (7.5, 7.6 and 7.7).

SECTION 8. Data management and analysis

This section describes the procedure that an AMSEA site committee must use to transfer information to the AMSEA database.

8.1 Analysis and associated data transfer procedures

Sheep Genetics must calculate the Flock Breeding Value (FBV) and index that are published in a site evaluation report as well as the across-site reports such as *Merino Superior Sires*.

Site evaluations must send their Site Data Package (8.2) to AMSEA (8.6) who will add the data to the AMSEA database and notify Sheep Genetics of a need for a site evaluation analysis. Sheep Genetics will extract the appropriate data, conduct the analysis and return the appropriate results to AMSEA. AMSEA will supply these results back to the site committee for the site committee to incorporate into their site evaluation report.

8.2 Site Data Package

Unless already provided the following items must be sent in a Site Data Package to AMSEA (8.6). Where an item has already been sent to AMSEA this must be noted in the covering letter or email.

- (i) A completed and approved “*Site Accreditation Form*” for a site evaluation (2.2).
- (ii) A completed “*Sire Registration Form*”, together with a blood sample card (as supplied by AMSEA – 8.6), for all rams mated in the site evaluation.
- (iii) A written list of rams which must not be reported and a statement of why relative to the requirements. Each ram in the list must be accurately identified using their 16-digit code and ram identity. If all rams can be reported a notification to this effect is required.

The reasons that a ram can be withheld from publication include;

- (a) a ram that did not have their breeder and owners permission to be reported in an AMSEA across-flock analysis output, e.g., *Merino Superior Sires*,
 - (b) a ram that did not have their breeder and owners permission to be reported in an Sheep Genetics across-flock analysis output,
 - (c) a ram that has been withdrawn by their entrant from a site evaluation report,
 - (d) a ram that is required to be notified due low number of progeny (9.1), and
 - (e) a ram that is required to be notified due the level of pigmentation (7.7 iii).
- (iv) The contact details (name, address, email, phone, mobile, fax) for the person who will send site evaluation data and receive the site evaluations results from AMSEA.
 - (v) Computer files containing only the relevant progeny records of the site evaluation in the AMSEA approved standard format. The standard format is available from AMSEA (8.6). All compulsory traits and associated records at the time a site evaluation was established (7.2) must be reported to AMSEA. Optional traits should also be reported.
 - (vi) A list of indexes (in addition to the 3 AMSEA standard report indexes) the site committee would like to report.

8.3 Approval to publish an accredited site evaluation report

Before a site committee can publish an accredited site evaluation report the report must be approved by AMSEA. To obtain AMSEA accreditation a draft report must be reviewed and approved by AMSEA prior to printing or distribution. A draft report (in Word format) must be emailed by the site committee to AMSEA (8.7) to carry out the review.

Within five working days of the report being received by AMSEA (8.7) the reports accreditation status (accredited, pending, or not approved in current format) and if required any changes will be communicated back to the site committee. To ensure this 5-day turn around AMSEA (8.7) is to be notified not less than three weeks prior to the draft report being sent for review.

Any changes to the content of a report recommended to the site committee must be made by the site committee before distribution of an AMSEA accredited report can take place.

8.4 Publication of AMSEA accredited site evaluation reports

An electronic copy (pdf format) of the site evaluation report will be placed on the *Merino Superior Sires* website after it has been approved by AMSEA (8.7) and submitted as a pdf or Word file to AMSEA (8.6).

8.5 Publication of rams in *Merino Superior Sires*

- (i) AMSEA will notify (in writing and 3 months in advance) all the site committees of the next date of publication of the printed edition of *Merino Superior Sires* to assist them to meet the deadline for Site Data Packages.
- (ii) AMSEA will notify (by email within 5 working days) the site committee's data transfer agent and the site committee representative that the Site Data Package has been received and if any information remains outstanding.
- (iii) All *relevant* rams that have progeny recorded in a Site Data Package must be reported in the next *Merino Superior Sires* as long as;
 - (a) the package is received before the required date, and
 - (b) the site evaluation has adequate linkage.

8.6 AMSEA contact details to assist data transfer

Mr Ben Swain, AMSEA Executive Officer, "Gartmore" Gunnedah NSW 2380
Ph: 02 6743 2306, M: 0427 100 542, Fax: 02 6743 2307,
email: ben_swain@bigpond.com

8.7 AMSEA contact details to assist report accreditation

Allan Casey, NSW DPI, Forest Road, Orange NSW 2800
Ph: 02 6391 3812, Mob: 0428 279 719, e-mail: allan.casey@dpi.nsw.gov.au
and cc'ed to abs@dpi.nsw.gov.au and ben_swainbigpond.com

SECTION 9. Data reporting, site evaluation reports

9.1 Sire performance released publicly

Only rams with 20 or more progeny (1st Assessment) or 15 or more progeny (2nd Assessments) can have results publicly reported. If progeny numbers are below these thresholds the results can be reported to the person who entered the ram.

Any person who entered a ram may withdraw the ram's identity from public release in that evaluation. The withdrawal is not permanent and an entrant who previously withdrew a ram from publication can at some future time elect to report the ram in any of the relevant site evaluation reports, Merino Superior Sires or Sheep Genetics reports.

If a ram is withdrawn from publication in a site evaluation report the ram's performance must still be reported in the site evaluation report with the words "Identity withheld" replacing the rams identity information.

A ram that is withheld from all the site evaluation reports where they have been evaluated is as a result not eligible to be reported in *Merino Superior Sires*.

While an entrant of a ram may withdraw the rams identity and performance from an across-site evaluation report, the data remains in the AMSEA database and all relevant analysis.

9.2 Traits reported in site evaluation reports

A minimum set of both measured and visually assessed traits (7.2) must be evaluated, recorded and publicly presented in an approved site evaluation report format. When a 1st and 2nd Assessment has taken place the resulting measured traits FBVs and Classers Tops and Culls must be reported for both assessments.

The 'number of progeny' as defined by the number assessed for fleece weight at the most recent assessment must be reported.

A site evaluation that has received additional trait funding must also report the traits for which the site evaluation received additional funding.

9.3 Performance analysis

Measured and scored traits will be analysed using procedures approved by AMSEA. Measured traits will be analysed by Sheep Genetics and are to be reported at the site evaluation level as Flock Breeding Values (FBV).

Visual scored traits and Classer's Grade must be analysed by AMSEA to obtain sire group means. If two assessors are used then approved procedures that combine grades and/or scores into sire group means will be used.

Site reports are required to include at least the required indexes (9.4 iv) calculated with a zero NLW FBV value.

FBVs that result from a site evaluation analysis must be used to calculate indexes. FBVs published by a site evaluation must include those calculated by the analysis of the site evaluation data that contains the most complete set of relevant data. In doing this it is recognise that 1st Assessment FBVs will change when 2nd Assessment data is included in the analysis.

Until AMSEA approves the use of '% mid breaks' this assessment must not be published or used to calculate fleece value.

Sire Averages (Least Squares Means adjusted) must be reported for each of the compulsory measured traits (2.7) in a table separate from other performance records. Least Squares Means must adjust for the fixed effects of sex (wether or ewe) and for birth type (single or twin) if this information is collected for individual progeny.

9.4 Presentation of site evaluation reports

A *Site Evaluation Report Template* and *Auto Presenter* are available from AMSEA (1.3) to allow a site committee to easily present a report that meets AMSEA requirements. A *Site Evaluation Report Template* is a Word file that is the recommended layout for a Site Evaluation Report that allows quick preparation of a site-specific report. An *Auto Presenter* is an Excel file that allows analysis results to be quickly, accurately and automatically converted to the required tables and graphs in the site report.

As well as the required performance information a site evaluation report must contain as a minimum, the following information as set out in the Site Report Template.

- Site evaluation description: Location and description of the site evaluation, such soil type, pasture type and as average annual rainfall.
- Site Committee, flock manager, sheep assessor/s and OFFM-QA accredited service.
- Bloodline of ewes mated including average adult fibre diameter of the ewe group or flock of origin.
- A description of the site committee's breeding objective used to assess Classer's Grade.

Fleece Value is not compulsory to report however if reported a wool quality and fleece value summary table should be included in the site report. Fleece values must be generated by NSW DPI Wether Trial Analysis software, using the current version of AWEX-ID (7.7), with the pricing period set to a 3-year rolling average in the selling region the site evaluation is located.

(i) Managers report and calendar of operations

A manager's report providing brief description of the stocking rate, rainfall and other climatic conditions experienced during the assessment period, and an assessment of the condition and body and wool growth pattern of the progeny from birth up to the final assessment is reported. The dates of the major assessment related events and major management events (a minimum of drenching and supplementary feeding) must be reported in the relevant table (Table 9.4).

If an activity listed in Table 9.4 (and replicated in the Report Template) is not carried out the activity must remain in the table and the date column must record 'N/A' to signify it has been considered but is not applicable to the site evaluation.

If any event listed in Table 9.4 is carried out more than currently in the table additional rows must be added to the table in chronological order to allow all events to be fully reported.

(ii) Sire and owner details

Sire and owner details are to be reported in a table showing the following detail.

- Sire's common name (that includes the name of the flock that bred the ram).
- Sires bred in an unregistered flock must be identified in the "Sire and Owners Details" table and Table 1 of the site evaluation report. The unregistered flocks must be identified in these two tables by 'UR' as a superscript following the ram's graph code and have an appropriate foot note to the table.
- All rams bred in unregistered flocks must be identified in Table 1 by 'UR' (as a superscript following the rams name) and have an appropriate footnote to the table.
- Australian Sheep Identification System (ID) 16 digit ID code (Section 4.3).
- The breed of the ram (e.g., Merino, Poll Merino, Dohne, SAMM, Afrino) must be listed below the ID in the "Sire and Owners Details" table.
- Owner's contact details (name, address and phone and fax).

(iii) Graphic Summary

A summary of the results must be reported in 3 graphics.

Figure 1. Combined Measured Traits and Combined Visual Traits.

Figure 2. Clean Fleece Weight and Fibre Diameter.

Figure 3. Classer's Grade: Tops and Culls.

Figure 1 Combined Measured Traits Performance is based on an AMSEA Merino 7% index as described in the template "Calculation of combined information" (page 23).

Table 9.4 **Calender of operations**

| Activity | Date/s | Age (months) | Wool (months) |
|--|--|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Selection of ewes | | | |
| Allocation of ewes for mating and mating | | | |
| Pregnancy scanning | | | |
| Lambing: start – finish | | | |
| Lambing mobs boxed to 1 management group | | | |
| Marking/Tagging/pigment scores (age in days) | | | |
| Weaning (age in days) | | | |
| Weaning body weight (age in days) | | | |
| Pre evaluation (even-up) shearing | | | |
| Crutching | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st: • 2nd: | | |
| Fat and eye muscle scanning and body weight | | | |
| Fleece sampling | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st Evaluation: • 2nd Evaluation: | | |
| Staple length assessment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st Evaluation: • 2nd Evaluation: | | |
| Classer’s Grade | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st Evaluation: • 2nd Evaluation: | | |
| Pre shearing scoring | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st Evaluation: • 2nd Evaluation: | | |
| Assessment shearing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st Evaluation: • 2nd Evaluation: | | |
| Post shearing scoring | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st Evaluation: • 2nd Evaluation: | | |
| Body weigh | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st Evaluation: • 2nd Evaluation: | | |
| Worm egg count sampling | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st Evaluation: • 2nd Evaluation: | | |
| Progeny Group Evenness assessment | | | |
| Vaccination | | | |
| Drench | | | |
| Supplementary feeding: start - finish | | | |
| Field day or public display of sheep | | | |

(iv) Index Values

Site evaluation reports must present index performance in Table A (along with Classer's Grade) for the following three AMSEA standard report indexes;

(i) Merino 14% +SS, (ii) Fine 10% +SS, and (iii) Dual Purpose 7%.

Index REV's used to calculate the index values are the same as that used for the MERINOSELECT indexes of the same name however for site evaluation reports the index must be calculated with a zero NLW FBV value. As a group the indexes must be called "AMSEA Indexes" and individual indexes must be called, for example, "Fine14% +SS".

Site reports can include additional indexes in Table A. The report must provide the brief description of the indexes presented in the report.

(v) Measured

Table 1 in site evaluation reports must present 1st Assessment (and 2nd Assessment where appropriate) of the FBVs for GFW, CFW, FD and WT as well as Classer's Grade (shown so that these major results are prominently displayed and used in other public reporting). Table 2 presents 1st Assessment (and 2nd Assessment where appropriate) for the other measured traits reported as FBVs. Table 4 presents measured trait ram averages.

(vi) Visual assessments

Table 3 must present the compulsory scored visual traits performance in the required report format (7.7) for the 1st or 2nd Assessment, which ever is the most recent.

9.5 Across-site evaluation report

A site committee that has conducted more than one site evaluation can report all or some of the evaluations into an across-site evaluation report. The across-site evaluation report must be a subset of the most recent *Merino Superior Sires* output for the relevant site evaluations and the report tables must be presented in the same format as the *Merino Superior Sires* booklet.

While a site committee can submit a site evaluation's data to AMSEA prior to completion of 1st Assessment AMSEA cannot report a ram in *Merino Superior Sires* unless that ram has had 20 or more progeny evaluated for a minimum of greasy fleece weight, fibre diameter and body weight at the yearling age.

SECTION 10. Appendix

AMSEA administration forms are presented on the following pages in the order described below. The Site Report Template that has in the past been included in the Appendix is now a stand alone publication.

10.1 Site Accreditation Form

10.2 Sire Registration Form

10.3 Assisted Sire Funding

10.4 Additional Trait Funding

10.5 Young Sire Funding

Site Evaluation Accreditation Form



Site Name: Year of drop:

Evaluation 1st or 2nd: Age (mths) at shearing: Wool growth (mths) at shearing:

Contact details:

First name: Surname:

Address:

Town: Postcode :

Phone: Mobile:

Fax: Email:

Number of rams mated (including link sires): Number of link sires:

Note: Attach a Ram Registration Form for each ram joined.

Details of the evaluation and the signature of the committee person who was present at each activity

| Activity | Date(s) | Committee person's signature |
|---|------------|-------------------------------|
| • Selection of ewes: | | |
| • Ewe base: | Wool Type: | FD: GFW: |
| • Allocation of ewes and mating: | | |
| • Lambing – start and finish: | | |
| • Tagging and scoring: | | |
| • Weaning: | | |
| • Weaning body weighing: | | |
| • Even up shearing/crutching: | | |
| • Pre shearing scoring: | | |
| • Classer's Grade: | | |
| • Progeny Group Evenness: | | |
| • Names of classer: | | |
| • Name of scorer: | | |
| • Fleece sampling: | | |
| • Assessment shearing: | | |
| • Post shearing scoring: | | |
| • Body weighing: | | |
| • Muscle, fat scanning and body weighing: | | |
| • WEC sampling: | | |
| • Data manager: Name: | | Sign: |

Declaration:

I declare that the AMSEA "Requirements for an Accredited Site" have been followed in the conduct of this evaluation and as a group the progeny met the management standards (Section 6) as set out in the AMSEA Requirements. I therefore seek accreditation of this evaluation.

Site chairperson: **Sign:** **Date:**

Ram Registration Form



1. Site Evaluation details for the ram being entered

- 1a. Location & year being entered Location: Year of drop:.....
1b. Other locations & years the ram has been entered:

2. Ram details

- 2a. Ram's flock and common name:
2b. Ram's ear tag or on-farm record number:.....
2c. Ram's year of drop:.....
2d. Ram's 16 digit code:
2e. Breed of flock (e.g. Merino or Poll Merino. If other breed give details):
2f. Flock Code:.....
2g. Sire of ram (16-digit code):.....
2h. Sire of sire of ram (16-digit code):
2i. Is the ram currently alive (circle): Yes / No
2j. Is semen available for sale (circle): Yes / No
2k. Has a blood sample been taken for DNA (circle): Yes / No If No, Why?.....
2l. Ram's wool type (circle): Superfine / Fine / Medium / Broad

3. Owner details - Owner and contact for inquiries about the ram, plus owner(s) permission

- 3a. Owner:.....
3b. Contact: First name:..... Surname:
3c. Address:
3d. Town: Postcode :.....
3e. Phone:..... Mobile:.....
3f. Fax:..... Email:.....
3g. Does the owner of the ram give permission to enter the ram into this sire evaluation site:
Yes / No (circle) Owner signature: Date:
3h. Does the owner of the ram give permission to publish the rams results in *Merino Superior Sires*:
Yes / No (circle) Owner signature: Date:
3i. Does the owner of the ram give permission to publish the rams results in Sheep Genetics reports:
Yes / No (circle) Owner signature: Date:

4. Breeder details - only fill in points (4g) to (4i) if the breeders details are the same as the owners details above.

- 4a. Breeder:
4b. Contact: First name:..... Surname:
4c. Address:
4d. Town: Postcode :.....
4e. Phone:..... Mobile:.....
4f. Fax:..... Email:.....
4g. Does the breeder of the ram give permission to enter the ram into this sire evaluation site:
Yes / No (circle) Breeder signature: Date:
4h. Does the breeder of the ram give permission to publish the rams results in *Merino Superior Sires*
Yes / No (circle) Breeder signature: Date:
4i. Does the breeder of the ram give permission to publish the rams results in Sheep Genetics reports:
Yes / No (circle) Breeder signature: Date:

Note: Sires entered will be included in the AMSEA database and managed by AMSEA.

5. Signature of entrant

I believe all the above details to be true: Date:

6. Signature of site evaluation committee representative

I have checked all required details are listed: Date:

Chairperson
Mr Knox Heggaton
Serve-Ag Pty Ltd
PO Box 214
LONGFORD TAS 7301
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F: (03) 6391 3156
M: 0418 125 253
E: kheggaton@serve-ag.com.au

Executive Officer
Mr Ben Swain
BCS Agribusiness Solutions
"Gartmore"
GUNNEDAH NSW 2380
T: (02) 6743 2306
F: (02) 6743 2307
M: 0427 100 542
E: ben_swain@bigpond.com



APPLICATION FORM

ASSISTED SIRE FUNDING

(Link Sires, Extreme Sires and Show Ring Sires)

| |
|--|
| 1 SITE DETAILS |
| SITE NAME _____ |
| ADDRESS _____ |
| _____ POSTCODE _____ |
| PRIMARY CONTACT _____ |
| TELEPHONE _____ FACSIMILE _____ |
| EMAIL _____ |
| 2 MATING DETAILS |
| YEAR OF DROP _____ |
| DATE(S) OF MATING _____ |
| ENTRY FEE (EX GST) _____ |
| NUMBER OF SIRES MATED (Including Link, Extreme, Young and Show Ring Sires) _____ |
| 3 LINK SIRE DETAILS (IF YOU REQUIRE MORE SPACE PLEASE COPY THIS PAGE) |
| LINK SIRE 1 _____ |
| 16 DIGIT ID _____ |
| REASON FOR USE (see funding criteria) |
| LINK SIRE 2 _____ |
| 16 DIGIT ID _____ |
| REASON FOR USE (see funding criteria) |
| LINK SIRE 3 _____ |
| 16 DIGIT ID _____ |
| REASON FOR USE (see funding criteria) |

Funding Criteria

Link Sires

Link sires are rams that must be mated at each site evaluation to allow results from different site evaluations to be combined. At the time a ram is mated by a site evaluation as a link sire the ram must have been previously mated at an accredited site evaluation and must have 25 or more progeny reported at another site evaluation at their 1st Assessment.

At least two link sires must be mated at a site evaluation. At least three link sires are required when the number of tested rams (not including links) exceeds 14. At least four link sires are required when the number of evaluated rams (not including links) exceeds 21.

Two types of link sire are required;

- (i) **Link across the site evaluations conducted by a site committee.**
At least one link sire must provide a link across the site evaluations conducted by a site committee (or the committee's predecessor in the region).
- (ii) **Link between the site evaluations conducted by different site committees.**
At least one link sire must provide linkage between the site evaluation being conducted and a previous site evaluation that was conducted by a site committee in a different region.

| |
|--|
| Level of Funding: \$1,500 per Link Sire |
|--|

GST exclusive

Extreme Sires

Extreme sires are rams that demonstrate exceptional performance in particular areas such as meat traits, worm resistance, plain bodied combined with high productivity, or breech cover. Extreme sires must also perform well on a relevant standard index or offer industry value.

The procedure for selecting an extreme sire is available from AMSEA.

Once an extreme sire is mated at a site evaluation, the site committee must measure all the progeny of all the rams mated in the site evaluation for the extreme trait(s) that the ram has been approved for by AMSEA.

| |
|---|
| Level of Funding: \$2,000 per Extreme Sire |
|---|

GST exclusive

Show Ring Sires

Show Ring sires are rams that have been successful at major Sheep Shows. A list of Show Ring Sires is available from AMSEA.

| |
|---|
| Level of Funding: \$2,000 per Show Ring Sire |
|---|

GST exclusive

For further information or assistance please call Ben Swain on (02) 6743 2306 or email
ben_swain@bigpond.com

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 Mr Knox Heggaton
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Executive Officer
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 F: (02) 6743 2307
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 E: ben_swain@bigpond.com



APPLICATION FORM

ADDITIONAL TRAIT FUNDING

| |
|---------------------------------|
| 1 SITE DETAILS |
| SITE NAME _____ |
| ADDRESS _____ |
| _____ POSTCODE _____ |
| PRIMARY CONTACT _____ |
| TELEPHONE _____ FACSIMILE _____ |
| EMAIL _____ |

| |
|--|
| 2 MEASUREMENT DETAILS |
| DROP OF PROGENY BEING MEASURED _____ |
| NUMBER OF SIRE GROUPS BEING MEASURED _____ |
| NUMBER OF MEASUREMENTS UNDERTAKEN _____ |
| Weaning Weight (WW) _____ Date of measurement _____ |
| Worm Egg Count (WEC) _____ Date of measurement _____ |
| Staple Strength (SS) and Length (SL) _____ Date of measurement _____ |
| FAT and EMD _____ Date of measurement _____ |

| |
|---|
| 3 FUNDING REQUIREMENTS |
| HAS THE SITE MET THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS FOR FUNDING (Please tick) |
| The site report has been approved by NSW DPI (Allan Casey) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| An electronic copy of the approved site report has been forward to the Executive Officer (Ben Swain) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The traits have been collected to the AMSEA requirements for site accreditation Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| All site data has been supplied to the Executive Officer (Ben Swain) for inclusion in MSS Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |

| |
|--|
| 4 OTHER INFORMATION |
| When was the last site field day held? _____ How many people attended? _____ |
| Does the site distribute a newsletter? _____ If so, how often? _____ How many? _____ |
| How many copies of the site report have been distributed? _____ |
| Has there been any local media coverage of the site? _____ If yes, please attach copies or summary |
| Has there been involvement with other field days? _____ If yes, please attach details |

Measurement Funding

The amount of funding available for each measured trait is:

| | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Staple strength measurements | \$4.50 per progeny | GST exclusive |
| FAT and EMD | \$2.75 per progeny | |
| Worm egg count | \$3.50 per progeny | |

Labour Funding

The labour funding available for each measured trait is:

| | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| Staple strength measurements | \$5 per sire group | GST exclusive |
| FAT and EMD | \$20 per sire group | |
| Worm egg count | \$20 per sire group | |
| Weaning weight | \$20 per sire group | |

Please note: Funding is available on a per progeny basis. It is not available for each measurement if progeny are measured more than once.

Invoicing Procedures

A Tax Invoice, together with individual tax invoices for measurements undertaken by service providers, and this form and when completed should be forward to:

MAIL: **Australian Merino Sire Evaluation Association**
“Gartmore”
GUNNEDAH NSW 2380

Please note: GST amounts must be shown separately on all Tax Invoices for those sites that are GST registered. The funding levels shown above are all GST exclusive.

For further information or assistance please call Ben Swain on (02) 6743 2306 or email ben_swain@bigpond.com

Chairperson
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E: kheggaton@serve-ag.com.au

Executive Officer
Mr Ben Swain
BCS Agribusiness Solutions
"Gartmore"
GUNNEDAH NSW 2380
T: (02) 6743 2306
F: (02) 6743 2307
M: 0427 100 542
E: ben_swain@bigpond.com



APPLICATION FORM YOUNG SIRE FUNDING

| |
|---|
| 1 SITE DETAILS |
| SITE NAME _____ |
| ADDRESS _____ |
| _____ POSTCODE _____ |
| PRIMARY CONTACT _____ |
| TELEPHONE _____ FACSIMILE _____ |
| EMAIL _____ |
| 2 MATING DETAILS |
| YEAR OF DROP _____ |
| DATE(S) OF MATING _____ |
| ENTRY FEE (EX GST) _____ |
| NUMBER OF SIRES TO MATED (Including Link, Extreme, Young and Show Ring Sires) _____ |
| 3 YOUNG SIRE DETAILS (IF YOU REQUIRE MORE SPACE PLEASE COPY THIS PAGE) |
| YOUNG SIRE 1 _____ |
| 16 DIGIT ID _____ |
| YOUNG SIRE 2 _____ |
| 16 DIGIT ID _____ |
| YOUNG SIRE 3 _____ |
| 16 DIGIT ID _____ |
| YOUNG SIRE 4 _____ |
| 16 DIGIT ID _____ |
| YOUNG SIRE 4 _____ |
| 16 DIGIT ID _____ |
| YOUNG SIRE 5 _____ |
| 16 DIGIT ID _____ |

Funding Criteria and Invoicing Procedures

Young sires are rams whose year of drop is no more than 2 years earlier than the year of drop of the site evaluation where he is mated. Any ram that fits this description qualifies for Young Sire funding.

Unlike other funded sires, there is no fixed funding amount for each Young Sire. Likewise, there is no limit as to the number of Young Sires a site may mate.

The amount that each Young Sire is funded is determined by the number of sites that mate Young Sires each year and the number of Young Sires each site mates.

The total funding available for the Young Sire Program will be equally divided by the number of sites that mate Young Sires each year. In 2009 (which covers the 2008/2009 financial year), there is a total of \$16,000 available for the Young Sire program.

For example, if 8 sites mate Young Sires in 2009, each site will receive a maximum of \$2,000.

Each site then divides their share of the funding equally between the Young Sires that are mated. A maximum of 25% of the entry fee is payable for each Young Sire.

For example:

If Site A mates 4 Young Sires in 2009 (assuming 8 sites mate Young Sires), each Young Sire would receive \$500 (assuming the entry fee is \$2,000 or more).

If Site B mates 1 Young Sire in 2009 (assuming 8 sites mate Young Sires), that Young Sire would receive 25% of the normal entry fee (\$500 assuming the entry fee is \$2,000).

If Site C mates 5 Young Sire in 2009 (assuming 8 sites mate Young Sires), each Young Sire would receive \$400 (assuming the entry fee is \$2,000).

Given the method of calculating the funding level for each Young Sire, it will not be possible to advise exact funding levels and make payments until all matings are finalised.

Page 1 of this form should be forward to the below address as soon as matings are finalised. Forms received after 30 June will not be considered for Young Sire Funding.

MAIL: **Australian Merino Sire Evaluation Association**
"Gartmore"
GUNNEDAH NSW 2380

FAX: **02 6743 2307**

Once funding levels are determined, each site will be notified and a Tax Invoice can be prepared.

For further information or assistance please call Ben Swain on (02) 6743 2306 or email ben_swain@bigpond.com

AMSEA

**Requirements for an
Accredited Site**

Edition 3.3

