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Ararat-Barunah Region Report

November 2011

At the business end of the year we are now confronting mixed circumstances, both positive & negative. Seasonal conditions continue to please, with the current outlook predicting a greater than average chance of above average rainfall in the short to medium term. Stock numbers; although low seem to have stabilized. Rebuilding of the flock will take a number of years, longer if we return to poor seasonal or market conditions.

As in the past, we are witnessing the greatest volatility in price & demand within the superfines. Economic turmoil, particularly involving our European customers has put a real dampener on competition. Some producers are taking on a sit & wait approach, hoping for future improvement within the market.

Here in Western & Central Victoria the clips that have been presented are of the highest quality seen for many years. It is a true pleasure to produce bulk lines containing clean, sound wool of good length. Combine this with an increase in wool cut & strong market enquiry for surplus stock, the situation seems positive despite all the problems.