



# AUSTRALIAN SUPERFINE WOOL GROWERS' ASSOCIATION INC

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## **ASWGA New England Region Report**

### **March 2009**

The New England region has seen a generally favorable season over the summer months, with good rainfall during the spring, a warm dry summer and good rainfall ranging from 50 to 200mm over the region in the last 6 weeks. This should allow for good wool growing conditions with reasonable lengths and strengths this season. Microns may be a little broader but it is a little early to tell.

Internal parasites such as barbers' pole worm are expected to spike in numbers this autumn after the high rainfall event.

The world economic crisis has seen a rapid decrease in fine and superfine wool prices to the despair of New England woolgrowers. This has led to a reasonably poor Merino Ram selling season with most average prices well down on last year. In contrast, British breed Rams are selling very well. It has been noted that lamb and cattle prices have not fallen anywhere near as far as wool prices over the past few months. Concerns are that there could be an even larger move away from merinos, unless wool prices recover.

Another issue greatly concerning superfine woolgrowers is another move to centralize wool selling in Australia. Options include the closure of Newcastle and Sydney. Sales would then be centralized in Melbourne. New England region members believe that the closure of Newcastle is not an option for the long term viability of the industry in the New England region. Sydney has higher bale storage costs and container haulage out of Newcastle make it the best option for the long term in NSW. Sellers, buyers and agents, are all against rationalization of sales to Melbourne, with comment that it would kill the industry in the New England.

