



AUSTRALIAN SUPERFINE WOOL GROWERS' ASSOCIATION INC

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ASWGA Tasmania Region Report

November 2008

Tasmanian growers are facing another failed Spring season with record low rainfall over much of the key superfine growing areas. Coupled with this was a very damaging severe frost in mid October causing the loss of crops of Canola, Wheat, Poppies etc. that were the mainstay of growers who had already heavily destocked.

Many properties have reduced numbers particularly wethers, keeping essential breeding stock. While Exceptional Circumstances relief is available it is proving difficult to access and the State Government grain subsidy is dependent on gaining Exceptional Circumstances so many growers are unable to obtain a subsidy on grain and hence will destock further rather than continue to pay high prices for grain.

Notwithstanding the above areas that are in better rainfall will produce some very high quality sound superfine wool. The Tasmanian clip is the finest ever with a significant increase below 15 .5 microns. Overall production will

decline further with wool receivals down 30% over the past two seasons.

The February Launceston Sale will be held on Friday evening with a minimum of 500 Lots 19.5 microns and finer. With the rest been sold in Melbourne that week. There will be a special function for Buyers and Clients supported by the State Government.

The suspension of the feature Zegna Trophy Competition for the 2009 Campbell Town Show has created considerable disappointment but hopefully will resume in 2010 with non mulesed wool.

Even with the return to more normal rainfall season's superfine production will not return to former levels as production is moving to other more profitable enterprises. With Government plans to drought proof the Midlands with new irrigation projects emphasis will be placed on high value cropping enterprises with wool a secondary income. Much will depend on whether prices for can improve to encourage growers to renew their flocks following the drought.