



*Trade Mark of Excellence*

## Tasmanian Region Report November 2010

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The wool clip from Tasmania will be the best we have seen for a number of years, although it should be noted that there has been a big variation in seasonal conditions.

The Southern Midlands and parts of the East Coast have faced a very dry period since early autumn. It should be remembered that many properties in this area are still very much under stocked because of the recent drought. This lighter stocking rate has enabled most growers to produce a good sound and stylish wool clip.

The season in the Northern Midlands has been one of the best. Heavy rainfall throughout August delayed a lot of ewe shearing, and mud became a problem at shearing time. Further rainfall throughout spring and the subsequent grass growth, has more than compensated for those minor problems. The clip in the north is stylish, well grown, and probably stronger in micron.

Lambing percentages are good this spring with most ewes being in lamb. Apart from the rough weather in August and early September, the conditions have been good for lambing. A lot of the lambs born are to terminal sires.

Growers in Tasmania are continuing to diversify their businesses; cash cropping, cattle and meat sheep have become very popular options. The mutton market has certainly been a positive for wool growers, providing much needed cash flow over the past year.

The National Auction Selling Committee has cancelled the one day February wool sale in Launceston. This has been replaced with a Tasmanian only sale on Tuesday the 15<sup>th</sup> February in Melbourne. Whilst many growers are disappointed to no longer have a sale in Tasmania the general view is to move forward and make the best of our circumstances.

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