

A message from major wool processors to Australian woolgrowers

We, the undersigned, the major processors of Australian wool, are concerned at the continuing decline of Australian wool production, which is the lifeblood of our businesses. We understand that many of you are considering a further reduction, or to stop altogether.

The Australian Wool Industry Taskforce has announced that mulesing will cease by the end of 2010, even though no commercial alternative is available to save sheep from deadly flystrike.

We sympathise with those of you who are caught between the PETA-driven demands of certain retailers and the potential death of your sheep and livelihoods. It appears that either way risks the end of the wool industry.

We will not allow this to happen. We believe there are solutions.

The long-term solution is to breed sheep which produce beautiful wool, yet which are naturally resistant to flystrike. This will take many years and we strongly encourage all of you to follow this course of action.

In the meantime we believe that growers should have the right to continue mulesing any sheep that are at high risk of flystrike, on condition that pain relief, as approved by the Australian Veterinary Association and other animal welfare groups, is applied.

We cannot understand how any retailer or its customer would object to the humane treatment of your animals, especially if your intention is to save their lives.

We therefore call upon you to intensify your efforts to breed sheep that are resistant to flystrike as soon as it is possible to do so, and to adopt the use of pain relief in the interim.

We also call on retailers to drop any and all boycotts of Australian wool from farmers who are undertaking this process and continue to support them beyond 2010 if necessary - for as long as it takes to eliminate the need for mulesing.

Without Australia there is no meaningful world wool industry. We must allow common sense and courage to prevail!

In no particular order:

CHINA

Reward (Ningbo) Wool Industry Co.,Ltd.
Heilan Group
Jiangsu Australia Harvest Group Co.,Ltd.
Zhangjiagang Free Trade Zone Concord Woollen Industrial Co.,Ltd.
Fine Wool Spinning Factory of Jiangsu Nijiaxiang Group
Tianyu Wool Industry (Zhangjiagang Free Trade Zone) Co.,Ltd.
Zhejiang Redsun Wool Textile Co.,Ltd.
Zhangjiagang Free Trade Zone, Zhongao Wool Combing Industry Co.,Ltd.
Zhejiang New Chuwa Wool Co.,Ltd.
Changzhou Wool-Top Factory
Zhangjiagang Aoyang Group
Changzhou Yuyang Wool Textile Industry Co.,Ltd.
Hebei Sanli Group
Kunshan Hengyi Top making Mill
Shanghai Hengyuanxiang Group
Zhangjiagang Golden Sun Wool-Spinning Co.,Ltd.
Tianjin Tianyang Wool Textile Group.(Tianjin No.2 Top Making Mill)
Zhangjiagang Free Trade Zone Xinle Wool Co.,Ltd.

INDIA

OCM India Limited

GERMANY

Suedwolle GmbH & Co Kg
Bremer Woll-Kaemmerei A.G.
Schoeller GmbH & Co KG
Gaenslen & Völter GmbH + Co KG
Zwickauer Kammgarn GmbH

ITALY

Associazione Nazionale del Commercio Laniero
Lanificio Policarpo S.p.A.
Lora e Festa S.p.A.
Filatura Botto Poala S.p.A.
E.ca.fil Best S.p.A.
Filatura e Tessitura di Tollegno S.p.A.
Pettinatura Italiana S.p.A.
Pettinatura Biellese S.p.A.

SWITZERLAND

G. Schneider S.A.

FRANCE

Segard Masurel S.A.
A. Dewavrin Fils & Cie.

UK

G. Modiano Ltd.

TURKEY

Aksu Iplik A.S. Istanbul
Altinyildiz Mensucat A.S.
Bahariye Mensucat A.S.
Boyner Sanayi Mensucat A.S.
Ormo Yun Iplik A.S.

BULGARIA

E. Miroglio AD