

## **Core Sampling in the Wool Warehouse**

As most of you know, the D.o.A, supervises core sampling in the Falkland Islands for the New Zealand Wool Testing Authority (NZWTA).

The process has been modified since the 2008/9 season with the aid of the FIDC funded semi-automatic core/grab machine. Farmers wishing to core sample their bales in the islands now have the option to put their bales through the coring machine or use the laborious manual method.

The processes for both options are:

**1: Machine core or core and grab:** contact Rodney Lee of Falklands Wool Cooperative.

**2: Manual coring:**

Once you have decided to have some or all of your bales sampled, phone myself or Teenie Ross if I'm not available, at the D.o.A to inform us of your decision. We will then need to know when your bales will be in the wool warehouse, how many bales, how many you require to be sampled and the break up of Lots.

You will need to send us a copy of your bale specifications beforehand so we can sort out Lots to be core sampled with you, if not already done by yourselves, or if you have not done this before and are unsure of the process. To have a copy of the bale specs on hand on the day of sampling is necessary as any problems arising i.e. duplicated numbers, different descriptions on the bale to the specs etc can be discussed and sorted out with you on the day.

Once we have all of the above information we can set a date to meet at the wool warehouse and do the core sampling.

Requirements:

The D.o.A provides a person accredited to supervise the entire sampling operation plus associated paperwork.

The farmer is required to provide a minimum of two (more if there are 50+ bales to be sampled) fit and reasonably strong individuals to move bales and do the coring (coring is a lot more strenuous than you might think – ask someone who's had a go!). One person must be an experienced forklift driver. Please remember to bring your own bale hooks and something to drink as the work is strenuous and the wool warehouse tends to get very hot in good weather.

The coring operation itself runs like this: the scales are set up and tested for accuracy; the relevant paperwork is checked and laid out ready for use. The bales for a Lot are identified and brought to the scales, either by rolling or with the forklift. Each bale is rolled onto the scales where its' weight and Lot No are written on to it, also the bale No and weight is recorded on the paperwork. Once all bales in that Lot are weighed and recorded then they are cored.

With a tool, designed for the job, a circular hole is cut out of the tops or butts, or both ends if required, of each bale. This is to reduce contamination of the sample. Then the core tube, which is a two foot steel tube with a very sharp replaceable tip, is pushed into the bale right to the handle. It is then removed, and the sample is pushed down the tube, with another special tool, and into the sample bag which is affixed to the tube handle.

Once the required amounts of cores have been taken from each and every bale in that Lot the sample bag is removed from the handle. A card describing all Lot details, bales No's, weights, farm name etc is placed in it, sealed and all samples go to the D.O.A for the rest of the paperwork to be finalised. All samples are then parcelled up following precise guidelines and sent to NZWTA for testing.

Within two weeks we receive an e-mail of your test results, which will be forwarded straight away to you, likewise with the core test certificates which usually arrive a week later.

If you would like to discuss any aspect of core sampling or require more information, please do not hesitate to contact Lucy Ellis on Tel: 27355 Fax: 27352 E-mail: [lellis@doa.gov.fk](mailto:lellis@doa.gov.fk)