



South Africa

Eco-wool

*ethical & sustainable*

# Self assessment for the wool industry

*a road map for ethical, sustainable wool production*



*Edition 1: 2008*

This document paves the way. More so it is a combined effort by prominent role-players in the industry.

## Wool Production Standards Assessment Project

### Foreword

In a world where consumers increasingly value products that are natural, produced with social responsibilities and with environmentally friendly production standards it becomes important that the meaning of these concepts are understood. For the producer it is important to understand the meaning of words like 'organic', 'animal friendly', 'environmental friendly' and 'social responsibilities' in practice. What is acceptable and what is not? For the consumer it is important that there is a responsible 'watchdog' organisation that sets the necessary guidelines and monitors the application thereof. For the processors and marketers this 'image of the industry' is essential to any promotion that focusses on new consumer values. This document paves the way. More so it is a combined effort by prominent role-players in the industry. It can therefore be expected that it will develop into a responsible instrument forming the basis for the further development of the sheep and wool industry.



*Almero de Lange*  
Chairman: Wool Forum of South Africa



### Summary

The EU Eco Label, Global GAP, Fair Trade and Organic standards are international standards measuring the quality of wool and livestock production systems. Best practice production systems are common to the South African livestock farmers but care should be taken to adhere to specific requirements when market forces bring them to the fore. The purpose of this document is to highlight relevant standards against which producers can benchmark. Producers are as such encouraged to comply to animal health and well being, natural resource protection and social responsible standards. The long term ideal is to develop a form of recognition for participating producers. This may have advantages as it will uplift the image of participating producers and increase the marketability of the South African wool clip.

The logo symbolizes the development cycle and the footprint result of best practices on the environment.

The standards reflected in this document are supported by a best practice manual for wool sheep farming. This manual was developed in partnership with Elsenburg, Woolworths, the Livestock Health and Production Group of the South African Veterinary Association, the National Department of Agriculture, the ARC Animal production Institute and the NSPCA (Prevention of cruelty to Animals)

### Background

Eco-labels are intended to increase awareness of the environmental impacts of the product and to bring about environmental protection by encouraging consumers to buy products with a lower environmental impact. Consumers include individual retail consumers, as well as the procurement officers of governments and large corporations. Consumers' purchasing decisions can provide a market signal to producers about product preferences. Under effective Ecolabelling regimes, producers and sellers have an incentive to compete by improving the



products, perhaps by changing inputs or adopting different technologies to lower the environmental burden of the product. Producers of environmentally superior products have an incentive to use environmental marketing techniques such as Ecolabelling to differentiate their products. Firms may be motivated by gaining extra market share, improving their public image or pre-empting mandatory labelling requirements.

**The following institutions and role-players were involved in the development of the assessment initiative that is coordinated by the Advisory Service of the National Wool Grower's Association.**

**Cape Wools**

Mr. Andre Strydom

**Elsenburg - Provincial Department of Agriculture of the Western Cape**

Ms. Ansie Scholtz, Prof. Schalk Cloete, Ms. Plot du Toit, Dr. Dirk Troskie, Ms. Liesl Muller and Dr Kobus Loubser

**The National Cleaner Production Center of South Africa**

Me. Budu Manaka, Mr. Andre Page en Me. Fathima Boltman

Me. Claire Janisch (Ecolabelling consultant)

Me. Aletta Venter (BDASA)

**The Livestock Health and Production Group of the South African Veterinary Association**

Dr. Danie Odendaal

**Woolworths**

Mr. Hugo Lemon

**The University of Pretoria**

Prof. Gustaf Duvel, Dr. Fanie Terblanch en Dr. Joe Stevens

**The ARC Animal production Institute**

Dr. Johann van Heerden

**This development will be guided by the following advisory committee.**

Product Quality	Dr. Francois Barkuysen - CSIR
Animal wellbeing	Dr. Danie Odendaal – South African Veterinary Association
Networking	Me. Sophie Susman - Green Choice (Conservation International)
Trade and Industry	Me. Marba Visagie - DTI
Cleaner Production systems	Mr Andre Page NCPC, DEAT
Retail	Mr. Hugo Lemon - Woolworths
Industry Representation	Mr. Andre Strydom - Cape Wools
Producer	Mr. Pieter Steyn, Silwermyl Malmesbury
Project Manager	Mr. EF (Smiley) de Beer - NWGA

The Best Practice Manual and Assessment documents will annually be reviewed and when necessary be upgraded.



These documents will be available on the following websites.

[www.nwkv.co.za](http://www.nwkv.co.za)

[www.capewools.co.za](http://www.capewools.co.za)

[www.elsenburg.com](http://www.elsenburg.com)

### **What is involved and how you can become part of the Eco-Wool Initiative**

It is important that as many producers as possible partake in this quality monitoring process. It will determine the level of further development as marketing opportunities may arise. For the necessary recognition producers can get involved through participating in a well coordinated self-assessment programme. This development can also be seen as an information dissemination tool ensuring the equitable development of the sheep and wool industry on a national basis. Participation involves the answering of questions in the presence of a person with the necessary knowledge and accredited for this purpose. The document will then be analyzed electronically. Each participant will be measured against EU Eco-label, Global GAP, Organic and Fair Trade production standards. A compliance report with a Bronze, Silver, Gold or Platinum status will subsequently be issued. The compliance standard will indicate your readiness for participating in certification processes that may become a future marketing requirement. A simple method to develop area and regional production norms will form part of this process. You are welcome to work through this document in your own and to participate formally when ready. compliance certificate will be issued. The compliance standard will indicate your readiness for participating in certification processes that may become a future marketing requirement.

A simple method to develop area and regional production norms will form part of this. You are welcome to work through this document in your own and to participate formally when ready.

**Contact your nearest NWGA office for the necessary assistance.**



CAPE WOOLS SA



Answer the following questions by ticking off the correct blocks:

## Product Quality and Traceability

### 1 Contamination

#### 1.1 How do you judge your general compliance to the prescribed integrated quality management system in regards to contamination?

*Yards, kraals and shearing shed must be free from bailing twine  
Shearing shed is tidied before shearing  
Dogs are not allowed in the shearing shed  
Crossbreds are shorn last etc.*

- Very Good
- Good
- Average
- Poor
- Very Poor

#### 1.2 What type of foreign matter may be found in your clip?

- Hair
- Kemp
- Forbidden seeds
- Twine
- Oil
- Paint - coloring
- Other
- None

#### 1.3 What material do you use when you partition wool?

- Paper/carton
- Other

#### 1.4 What records do you keep of inputs used in the production of wool?

- Computer files
- Data files (Cabinet)
- Informal
- None



**1.5 What type of records do you keep of products sold?**

- Computerised
- Data files
- Informal
- None

**1.6 What do you do to ensure shearing shed hygiene?**

- Sick sheep are never housed in there
- Skins are not stored in there
- Poison is not stored or mixed in there

## **2 Pesticide Residue**

**2.1 What records do you keep of agro chemicals on the farm?**

- Stock list
- Dates purchased
- Products used
- Dates used
- Expiry dates
- None

**2.2 Do you observe chemical withholding periods in the marketing of wool?**

*A two months withholding period are recommended for external parasiticides to theoretically qualify for maximum allowed residue levels as permitted by EU legislation.*

- Yes
- Uncertain
- No

**2.3 Do you observe the required withholding period for sheep on pastures treated with pesticides and herbicides?**

- Yes
- Uncertain
- No

**2.4 Will you support a compulsory test for chemical residue levels in your wool?**

*The CSIR has a testing facility in operation. Tests are expensive at ± R1000 per analysis. This will be enforced when product certification becomes necessary*

- Yes
- Uncertain
- No

### 3 Stock Identification and control

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#### 3.1 Are sheep individually identified?

- Yes
- Group
- No

#### 3.2 When do you tattoo your sheep?

- As lambs
- When marketed
- None

#### 3.3 Do you report stock theft?

- Yes
- Sometimes
- No

### 4 Animal Health and Well being

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#### 4.1 How do you manage the health of your flock?

*Knowledge of common and sporadic diseases in your area. Preventative, control and monitoring procedures.*

- Formal plan
- Informal plan
- No plan

#### 4.2 What do you do in regards to the management of internal parasites?

*Use selection methods like FAMACHA, drench sheep in weaker conditions, retain genetic gene pool of parasites to prevent build-up of worm resistance against synthetic products.*

- Select against
- Strategic drenching
- Preventative drenching
- Records

#### 4.3 What measures do you employ to control external parasites?

*Lice contamination increases the need for chemical usages. This can be limited by employing good agricultural practices*

- Knowledge of diseases
- Records (traceability)
- Quarantine purchased sheep
- Correct treatments
- Records of treatments

#### 4.4 What inoculation procedures do you follow?

- Knowledge of diseases
- Knowledge of the product
- Retain cooling chain
- Preventative treatment
- Records

**4.5 Is the stock water on your farm regularly tested for consumption suitability?**

- Water tested
- Water not tested
- Records

**4.6 How do you make provision for the protection of livestock against extreme weather conditions?**

- Shelter
- Shade
- None

**4.7 How do you provide for drought years?**

- Rest camps
- Feed bank
- Conservative stocking rate
- Adaptable system (Flock composition)

**4.8 Which of the following ingredients do you use?**

- Urea
- Coccidiates
- Hormones
- Antibiotics
- Growth stimulators

- Synthetic appetisers
- Animal derived products
- None of the above

**4.9 Are any of your animals fed components derived from genetically modified organisms?**

- Yes
- Do not know
- No



**4.10 How do you control rodents in feed stores?**

- Plan layout
- Selective catching methods
- Monitoring
- Records
- Not applicable

**4.11 What percentage of animal feed do you produce on-farm?**

- 100%
- 80-100%
- 50-80%
- Less

**4.12 Do you fatten sheep in a feedlot?**

- Yes
- Sometimes
- No

**4.13 Do you use homeopathic and natural products as remedies to disease and parasites?**

- Yes
- In combination
- No
- Records

**4.14 How often do you treat your sheep on an annual basis against internal parasites?**

- Twice and less
- More than twice
- Records

**4.15 Which of the following practices do you follow after dipping sheep?**

- 2 months withholding period
- 4 months withholding period
- None
- Records

**4.16 What do you do, excluding pasture management, to manage your sheeps' susceptibility to ecto-parasites**

- Biological control methods (Luci-Trap)
- Maintain fences
- Monitor shearers for spreading diseases
- Quarantine sheep
- Request treatment records with purchases
- None
- Not applicable

**4.17 Which of the following describe your veterinary storage facility**

- Stored in accordance with label instructions
- Secured and locked
- Well lit
- Separate from other materials
- Refrigerated where applicable
- Emergency information in case of accidents
- Clean water for e.g eyewasy
- Medicines are stored in their original containers

**4.18 What do you do when you identify sick or injured sheep?**

- Isolate when necessary
- Treat
- Monitor
- Records
- None

**4.19 What is your attitude towards animal wellbeing principles?**

- Provide adequate nutrition for maintenance, growth and re-production
- Prevent pain, injury and disease by good animal health practices
- Provide the environment for sheep to express natural behaviour
- Protection from fear and distress

- Protection from predation
- Protection when exposed to life threatening weather conditions
- Controlled use of animal health remedies and prevention of exposure to unnecessary or illegally imposed toxins
- Do not care

**4.20 Do you mules your sheep?**

- Yes
- No



## Natural resource protection and Management

### 1 How do you manage the environment on your farmland?

*Planning for sustainable farming: A plan and records must be available for the conservation of fauna and flora. Sensitive areas must be zoned off, erosion must be managed, soils must be improved, water contamination must continuously be addressed and alien plants must be eradicated.*

- Very supportive
  - Supportive
  - Uncertain
  - Not supportive
  - Objection
- 

### 2 Which of the following do you consider to evaluate the impact of your farming operation on the environment?

- Soil improvement plan
- Sustainable veld and/or pasture management plan
- Water conservation plan
- None

## 3 Soil

### 3.1 What practices do you use to maintain the structure and the fertility of the soil with regards to combating soil erosion on cultivated lands?

#### 3.1.1 Contours

- Efficient contouring
- Some not functional
- No contours
- Not applicable

#### 3.1.2 Crop rotation

- Rotation
- Monoculture

#### 3.1.3 Waterways

- Well maintained
- Bad condition
- None
- Not applicable

#### 3.1.4 Tillage

- Minimum
- Conventional/rotate
- None
- Not applicable

**3.1.5 Monitoring soil fertility**

- Regular soil analysis
- Regular leaf analysis
- Sometimes
- None

**3.1.6 Fertilisation Practices**

- Organic manure
- Organic and synthetic
- Synthetic (prescribed and less)
- Synthetic (Maximum potential)
- Not applicable

**3.1.7 Controlled traffic (Tramlines)**

- Applied
- Partly
- Not applied
- Not applicable

**3.2 What practices do you use to maintain the structure and the fertility of the soil and veld and to prevent soil erosion on veld and pastures?**

**3.2.1 Stocking capacity of soils**

- As prescribed and less
- More than prescribed
- Not applicable

**3.2.1 Resting policy**

- Seasonal rest 20%
- Seasonal rest less than 20%
- No plan
- Not applicable

**3.2.2 Camps**

- Sufficient camps
- Insufficient camps
- Not applicable

**3.2.3 Bush encroachment/invader species control**

- Systematic management plan
- Sporadic control
- No plan
- Not applicable

### 3.2.4 How do you monitor the condition of your veld

- Scientific technique
- Subjective
- None
- Not applicable

### 3.2.6 Which of the following represent your attitude regarding organic farming?

- Farm accordingly
- Transformation is important
- Organic farming is impractical
- Organic farming is not possible

## 4 Recycling

### 4.1 What practices are followed to improve soil structure and fertility involving earthworms, dung beetles and other recycling practices?

- Minimum tillage
- Green manure
- Compost fertilising
- None
- Not applicable

## 5 Water

### 5.1 Are you a member of a water consumption society/organisation in your area?

- Yes
- No
- Do not exist
- Not applicable

### 5.2 How important is the role of a water user organisation regarding sustainable farm use?

- Important
- Dubious
- Not important
- Not applicable



**5.3 Which practices are implemented to ensure that irrigation water is conserved?**

- Water is scheduled according to evaporation indicators, etc.
- Controlled run-off
- Correct application to limit run off
- Not applicable

**5.4 Which practices are implemented to ensure the conservation of farm water?**

- Maintain veld cover
- Maintain contours and waterways
- Re-use waste water
- None
- Not applicable

**5.5 How often do you test the quality of irrigation water for farm use?**

- As conditions require
- Never
- Not applicable

**5.6 What practices do you implement to ensure that the right amount of irrigation water is applied?**

- System according to soil type
- System according to plant type
- Regular efficiency tests
- Regular maintenance (leaks, nozzles, etc)



- None
- Not applicable

**5.7 Do you have sufficient water resources for your farming requirements?**

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

## 6 Fire

**6.1 Do you belong to a fire management association?**

- Yes
- No
- Do not exist
- Not applicable

**6.2 How do you plan against unplanned fires that may cause damage to soil and property?**

- Firebreaks
- Equipment
- Trained workers
- None
- Not applicable

## 7 Agrochemicals

*The following questions refers to control measures with registered harmful synthetic chemical products*

**7.1 How do you manage the use of herbicides and pesticides on pastures and the influence this may have on sheep?**

- Grazing/spray plan
- Withholding period
- No withholding periods
- Not applicable

**7.2 How do you manage the use of herbicides, plant health products and pesticides on pastures with regards to the sustainable use thereof?**

- Chemical groups are rotated
- Apply correct doses
- No plan
- Not applicable

**7.3 What do neighbouring farms do to control pests and weeds?**

- Use chemical control methods
- Restricted use of chemicals
- No chemicals used
- Not applicable

**7.4 What do you do to minimize your reliance from herbicides and pesticides on pastures?**

- Pasture management through grazing system - cattle then sheep
- Grazing system for weed control
- Weeding control plan
- Make use predators
- Tilling practices
- Other (name) \_\_\_\_\_
- None
- Not applicable

**7.5 Do you only use registered chemical products?**

- Yes
- Not always
- No
- Not applicable

**7.5 Which of the following describe your chemical storage facility?**

- Locked with a danger sign
- Controlled entry
- First Aid
- Store products according to lable
- Well lit
- Water to wash
- Mixing zone
- Protective clothing
- Safe disposal
- Record book
- None

**7.6 Do you adhere to dosage prescriptions on products?**

- Yes
- Not always
- No
- Not applicable

**8 Biodiversity**

**8.1 How do you promote and maintain biodiversity on your farmland?**

- Protect indigenous animals and plants
- Apply correct grazing practices

- Maintain sensitive areas (vleiland, etc)
- Apply holistic predator management
- None
- Not applicable

**8.2 Do you control damage causing predators?**

- Yes
- Not always
- No
- Not applicable

**8.3 What practices are used to control damage causing predators?**

- Target damage causing animals
- Keep records (age, sex, stomach content)
- Communicate with Nature Conservation authority
- Aply deterrents (lights, etc)
- Use Anatolian dogs, alpacas, etc.
- None
- Not applicable

**8.4 Do you use poison to control damage causing animals?**

- Yes
- Not always

- No
- Not applicable

**8.5 Do you use gin traps to control damage causing animals?**

- Yes
- Not always
- No
- Not applicable

**8.6 Do you use genetically modified organisms on your farm?**

- Yes
- Not always
- No
- Don't know
- Not applicable

## 9 Energy

**9.1 Name examples of energy saving systems on your farm?**

*Practices like minimum till, crop rotation to limit the need for synthetic nitrogen, buy and sell locally, use of packing material and correct vehicle for purpose usage are examples.*

**Examples:**

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- Uncertain
- No examples



**9.2 Which of the following are examples of how renewable energy is used on your farm?**

- Sun
- Wind
- Water
- Bio fuel
- Other
- Not applicable

**10 Waste**

**10.1 How is degradable and non-degradable waste managed on your farm?**

- Prevent effluence of chemicals
- Prevent the effluence of synthetic fertilisers
- Wash empty containers 3x and punch holes
- None
- Not applicable

**10.2 How do you recycle waste on your farm**

- Recycle products
- No recycling
- No formal recycling facility available

**Social and Cultural Responsibilities**

**1 Heritage and Culture**

**1.1 Are culturally sensitive areas identified on your farm area?**

*Graveyards etc*

- Yes
- Do not know
- No
- Not applicable

**1.2 Are culturally sensitive areas respected on the area you farm?**

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable

**2 Black economic empowerment (BEE)**

**2.1 What is done on your farm to promote training and skills development in the workplace?**

- Skills development plan and career prospects
- Short courses (formal)
- Informal training
- Develop by do and learn
- Records are kept
- None
- Not applicable

**2.2 Which of the following statements describe your attitude towards BEE**

- It must be supported
- I will comply with minimum requirements
- I am opposed to it
- Not applicable



**2.3 Which of the following BEE requirements do you comply with?**

*Requirement for >5 million rand + turnover*

- Equity scheme (shares, etc)
- Management representation
- Employment equity
- Formal skills development programmes
- Preferential procurement
- Enterprise development
- Social investment (support on all levels)
- None
- Not applicable

### 3 Contracting skills

**3.1 To which skill standards do sheep shearers that render the service to you comply?**

- Formally trained
- Informally trained
- Don't know

**3.2 To which skill standards do wool classers that render the service to you comply?**

- Formally trained
- Informally trained
- Don't know

### 3 Labour Standards

#### 3.1 Which of the following labour legislation do you comply with?

- YES  NO Workers understand the basic conditions of the employment act.
- YES  NO Records relating to employees are kept
- YES  NO Workers have accommodation, water, power and sanitation
- YES  NO You have a disciplinary code
- YES  NO The Occupational Health and Safety Act is supported
- YES  NO Workers have signed a work contract
- YES  NO Workers are registered for unemployment and workmen's compensation benefits
- YES  NO Are you registered as an employer at the receiver of revenue?
- YES  NO All workers get leave according to the basic conditions of employment

#### 3.5 Do you have sufficient housing for contract workers

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable

#### 3.2 Health and safety

*Which of the following health and safety regulations do you comply with?*

- YES  NO Health and safety appointment
- YES  NO Hazardous areas identified

- YES  NO Protective clothing and equipment is available
- YES  NO Sufficient light where necessary
- YES  NO Good ventilation where necessary
- YES  NO Equipment and clothing for fire control is available
- YES  NO Hygiene is managed
- YES  NO Records are kept

#### 3.3 Do you have a first aid kit on the farm?

- Yes
- Uncertain
- No

#### 3.4 Do you have a staff member who is trained in first aid?

- Yes
- Uncertain
- No
- Training service is not available

## Participant Particulars

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<b>Contact Person</b>	
<b>Trading name</b>	
<b>Producer number</b>	
<b>Postal address</b>	
<b>Email</b>	
<b>Phone</b>	
<b>Signature</b>	

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