

# Australian woolgrowers have proven they are world leaders in animal welfare.

While longer term breeding programs are under way, more farmers are using pain relief at mulesing to reduce the impact of flystrike on productivity, profit and animal welfare. Last month, the number of wool bales offered originating from sheep treated with pain relief increased by 70% on previous year (see Figure 1).



Figure 1. Mulesing Status – Bales Offered, [www.awex.com.au](http://www.awex.com.au)

## International fashion retailers endorse pain relief

In support of the shift towards pain relief at mulesing, the *USA National Retail Federation* wrote “... we believe that use of post procedure analgesia should now be adopted as an industry best practice and required of all growers who continue to mules their animals.”

## Trials show effective pain relief and improved recovery

In a recent trial conducted by Sydney University, Professor Peter Windsor concluded that:

“Topical anaesthesia is effective at alleviating wound pain in lambs and improving recovery up to 24 hours post mulesing”.

Annie Hutchison from the New England region in NSW says: “As woolgrowers, the long-term wellbeing of the flock is the single most important management issue. Pain relief has been an extra tool in keeping the lambs stress free and improving the general health of the sheep.”

