AWI Wool Harvesting Training & Development Timetable

The following is a summary timetable of AWI projects and initiatives relating to Wool Harvesting Training, research and development. This information has been predominantly sourced through AWI Annual Reports – available at <https://www.wool.com/about-awi/shareholder-information/annual-reports/>

| **YEAR** | **TRAINING** | **RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **2001/02** | No Shearer Training undertaken | Commercial development of the ShearExpress system |
| **2002/03** | Pilot program commenced in June 2003 to evaluate the shed hand training program. shearer and wool handler rebate scheme, explore the feasibility of a national group training company and design through state education systems | Shear Express terminated |
| **2003/04** | Pilot completed in Jan 2004 January. New training strategy included under Wool Harvesting Program  AWI undertakes new RDI initiative aimed at reducing the cost of training and making it more attractive as a profession | Harvesting Technology Expert Advisory Group established and interim updated technology market survey completed.  An AWI investigation assessed more than 80 potential harvesting technologies and potential areas for development including handpieces and parallel, modular and upright shearing platforms. AWI funded the development of five (5) of these platforms. |
| **2004/05** | Action plans in place for each state involving 11 different training organisations. In-shed training was delivered to 1,750 shearers and 778 wool handlers in five states | Two platforms in field trials. Peak Hill UPSP due for commercial release December 2005. SLAMP and Western UPSPs start field trials in October 2005. |
| **2005/06** | An Improver/Professional shearing DVD and a Wool Handler DVD were produced and distributed to help raise the standard of training. | Shearing shed guidelines available through the AWI website. |
| **2006/07** | A set of six interactive DVDs, covering all aspects of wool harvesting, was completed and released to help improve skills in shearing sheds. | All field trails of AWI developed UPSP completed. The productivity of the Peak Hill ShearEzy now approaches on the board shearing in large and difficult to shear sheep. |
| **2007/08** | An increase in the number of novice shearers and wool handlers trained by all funded sources.  AWI has worked hard over the last twelve months to increase the Federal and State contributions to training delivery. The promotion of traineeships has been at the heart of this work. During 2007/08 AWI contributed $834,000 to training delivery. | Two UPSPs are now commercially available in Australia – the ShearEzy UPSP from Peak Hill Industries and the Hecton Highlander.  Fund fundamental and applied research into biological harvesting methods that show potential for a cost effective alternative to mechanical severance for all sheep types. |
| **2008/09** | 1,555 shearers were trained in 2008/09 to improve shearing efficiency and quality.   * 1,231 individuals completed an AWI-Skilled Wool Handler regional coaching program in 2008/09. * 129 individuals underwent skills development through AWI’s Shear$marter workshops. * Five workshops were held to provide training to coaches, trainers and Registered Training Organisation (RTO) managers (through National Consistency Workshops held in July-Aug 2008) | AWI made available a free DVD ‘Pick of the Draft’ to help woolgrowers save money by making small changes in their clip preparation. The DVD was produced by AWI and the Australian Wool Exchange (AWEX).  Shearing Shed Guidelines are updated with five case studies (complete) demonstrating the practical implementation of improved design features in shearing sheds. |
| **2009/10** | Shearers and wool handlers trained 1,392 shearers and 976 wool handlers have been trained directly through the AWI shearer and wool handler training program in 2009/10. An additional 251 participants attended a shearing or wool  handler workshop. | Alternatives to Shearing: Project terminated as part of re prioritising of projects to meet lower on-farm expenditure targets for 2009/10. |
| **2010/11** | 1,357 shearers and 912 wool handlers were trained directly through AWI funded programs in 2010/11, with an additional 239 participants who attended crutching and other introductory workshops |  |
| **2011/12** | 1,304 shearers and 886 wool handlers were trained directly through AWI funded programs across Australia in 2011/12, with an additional 372 participants who attended crutching and other introductory shearing and woolhandling workshops. |  |
| **2012/13** | 1,571 shearers and 983 wool handlers were trained directly through AWI-funded programs across Australia in 2012/13, with an additional 786 participants who attended crutching and other shearing and woolhandling workshops  Consistency workshops for trainers were conducted in August 2012 at Dubbo (NSW); Ballarat (Vic) and Narrogin (WA) Planning was undertaken for consistency workshops conducted in July/August 2013 at Wagga Wagga (NSW) and Katanning (WA). | Shearing Shed Safety Signage Kits launched and available for growers |
| **2013/14** | 2,269 training visits were made by shearers (a 44% increase from 2012/13) and 1,320 training visits were made by wool handlers (a 34% increase from 2012/13) directly through AWI-funded programs across Australia. An additional 781 training visits were made by participants in crutching and other shearing and woolhandling workshops |  |
| **2014/15** | AWI shearing and wool handling DVDs converted to a format suitable for release on YouTube.  2,490 training visits were made by shearers (a 10% increase from 2014/15) and 1,127 training visits were made by wool handlers (a 15% decrease from 2014/15) directly through AWI-funded programs across Australia in 2014/15, with an additional 350 training visits by participants in crutching and other shearing and woolhandling workshops | Future Wool Harvesting Automation (Ranken) experimentation investment/scoping funded |
| **2015/16** | 2,478 shearers 1,028 wool handlers trained in-shed. 760 attended novice schools and workshops  AWI’s shearing and wool handling digital format tutorials available on USBs and also on You Tube. | 37,000 Shearing Shed ‘Code of Conduct’ posters distributed through AWI’s Beyond the Bale magazine  AWI meets with Andrew Wytkin and purchases his remaining Upright Shearing units, engineering drawings/instructional videos and Deed of Assignment for the Wytkin Upright Shearing set-up. Wytkin concept also (separately) adopted by Grant Burbidge. |
| **2016/17** | 2,461 shearers 1,379 wool handlers trained in-shed. 1,184 attended novice schools and workshops | AWI held a shearing industry day in June to help guide the future of wool harvesting.  AWI provides Wytkin design drawings and Swinging Evo arm set-up to Burbidge. AWI trainers also meet with Burbidge and assist with blow patterns & staff training.  AWI staff member (Stuart Hodgson) attends Burbidge/UPSP demonstration at ‘Wangellic’ Woolshed in Jincumbilly. |
| **2017/18** | 3,143 shearers 1,359 wool handlers trained in-shed. 1,703 attended novice schools and workshops | AWI begins taking a new look at automated shearing.  AWI held a shearing shed design (start of Arrow Park shed design project) and consultation tour in May where a total of six shearing sheds were visited.  Fully Automated Wool Harvesting (RoboShear) project funded (Ranken) |
| **2018/19** | 2,981 shearers 1,112 wool handlers trained in-shed. 593 attended novice schools and workshops | A scoping study to assess semi-autonomous shearing was completed by the University of Technology Sydney with funding from AWI. The project formally catalogued existing robotics’ algorithms and commercially available hardware with respect to the technical challenges of automated shearing.  The ‘best practice shed design’ (Arrow Park) project developed with open days for growers to investigate opportunities to improve the efficiency of their shearing operations. |
| **2019/20** | 2,683 shearers 796 wool handlers trained in-shed. 634 attended novice schools and workshops  WASIA/DPIRD Indigenous Training program in WA introduced. Sheep/WASIA Esperance Shearing school piloted  Short ‘social media’ training video series developed as COVID restricted face-to-face training. Videos received over 57,000 views | Smart Shearing Handpiece: Utilising current technologies and materials, the researchers aim to design a smart shearing handpiece  Autonomous Wool Handling System: A three-year project initiated to design, build and test components of a semiautonomous wool handling system, covering steps from the wool table through to baling  Muscle Fatigue Sensing: The project, undertaken by the University of Melbourne, involved shearers in shearing sheds wearing sensors that enabled the researchers to monitor the motion and the muscle activities of the shearers in a real-life setting.  ‘RoboShear’ terminated due to non-delivery |
| **2020/21** | 1,715 shearers 675 wool handlers trained in-shed. 1,753 attended novice schools and workshops (increase in novice workshops due to shortage) | A new shearing shed safety program SafeSheds, which includes a best practice guide and checklists, was launched in November 2020 to improve safety in shearing sheds. |
| **2021/22** | Further increase in Novice & Improver Workshops  ‘Breaking Down the Barriers’ project commences. Tool kits and Training Wage Support to encourage Novice retention  Re-introduction of NSW High School/Careers Program for wool harvesting. | Modular Race Delivery project commences, with pneumatic unit under trail and manual unit commercialised (Haynes Engineering) |