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AWGA welcome announcement of former AVA Boss to Mulesing Body.

The AWGA welcomes the recent announcement by the Sheep and Wool Taskforce, in the appointment of Dr Norm Blackman to the role of consultant to the mulesing accreditation program.

“These types of moves by the industry will produce results that are believable and achievable in the mulesing debate”, says Chick Olsson, Chairman of AWGA.

“Dr Norm Blackman is a world class vet, who is deeply respected in and out of the industry”, says Olsson.

“Dr Blackman's recent trip to New York to start dialogue with PETA stands him in an excellent position to understand the importance of dealing with the mulesing issue in a sensible and empathetic scientific way”.

Dr Norm Blackman's new role is a great step forward for the welfare of Australian merino sheep and the industry."

Dr Blackman says that the creation of the position “makes it very clear to everybody that the industry and AWI are taking the issue of mulesing accreditation very seriously”.

He says his priority will be to “put together a program that is credible, with everybody accredited by 2006” and “practical, in terms of the training, assessment and accreditation practices”.

With more than 20 years experience in animal welfare issues management, Dr Blackman’s appointment is seen as a coup for the program.

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