

Topmark™ benchmarking service

Topmark™ is a benchmarking service that enables mills that process Australian wool to monitor and compare the performance of their processing mill against the average performance of other mills from around the globe.

By David Crowe

The Topmark benchmarking service, which is provided by AWTA Ltd free of charge, has grown to include over 20 processing mills and the database now includes more than 1200 mill consignments.

Client reports are generated on a 6 monthly basis and can, as the amount of data increases, be customised so that the benchmarking is based on similar diameter consignments. For example if you are only producing 18 and 19 micron top it is probably more useful to be benchmarked against other mills that produce similar diameter top.

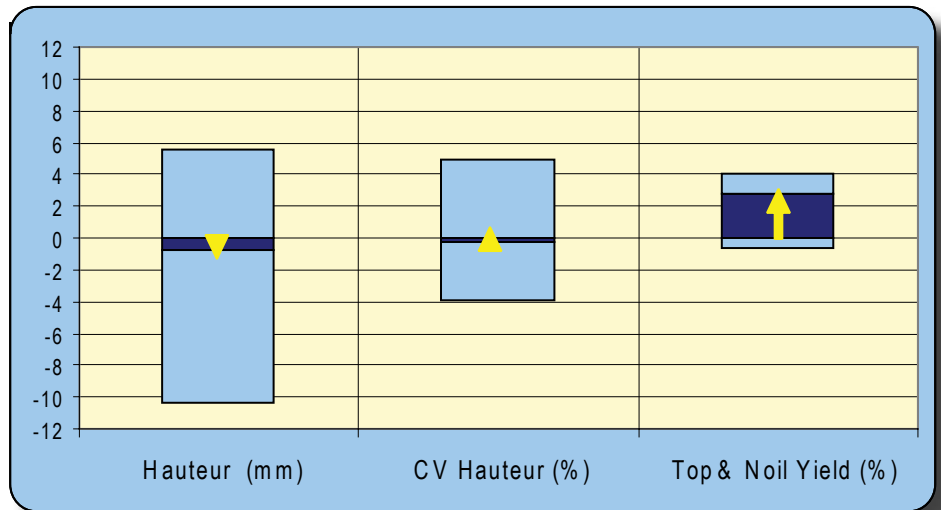
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The three box plots shown in figure 1 quickly summarise the range in differences between actual and predicted performance for Hauteur, CV Hauteur, Top & Noil Yield. The yellow arrow shows whether the results for Mill A are either above or below the industry average while the ends of the boxes are the limits for the best and worst performers in the database. This data indicates that Mill A is close to the average performance for Hauteur and CV Hauteur while significantly above average for Top & Noil Yield.

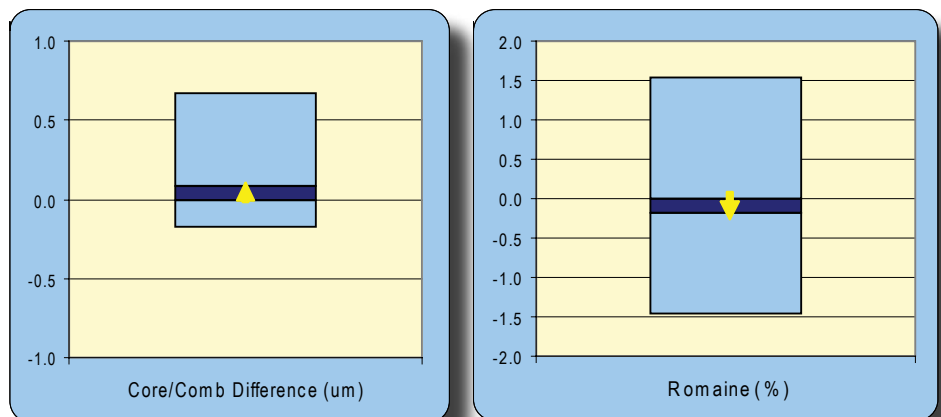
Similar charts also show the benchmarked performance for Core/comb diameter and Romaine is similar to the average.



Figure 1: Benchmarking of Mill A against Other Processing Mills – Hauteur, CV Hauteur and Top & Noil Yield.



Figures 2 & 3: Benchmarking of Mill A against Other Processing Mills – Core/Comb and Romaine



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“Topmark provides key performance indicators for methodical analysis.”

Figure 4: Actual Hauteur - TEAM3 predicted Hauteur for Mill A.

The performance of individual Mills is easily monitored over time and changes in performance can be quickly identified. Figure 4 shows the processing performance of Mill A over a two year period.

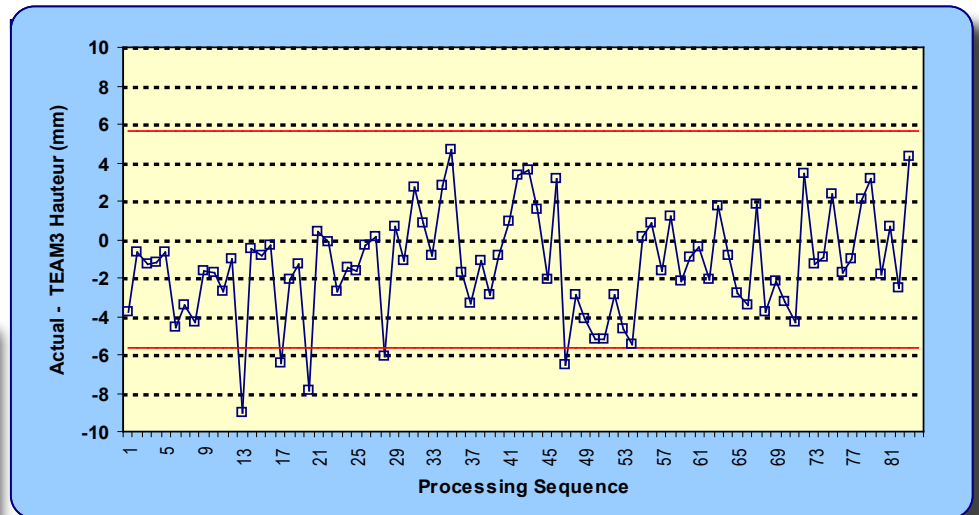
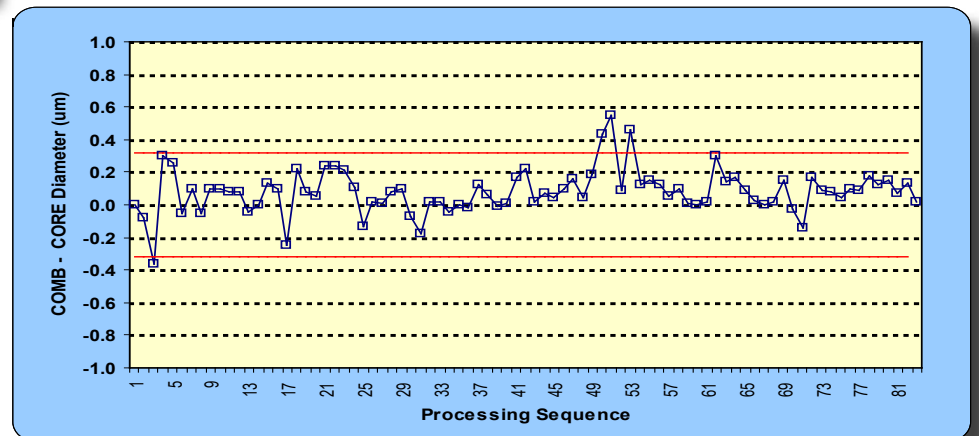


Figure 5: Core/Comb diameter comparison for Mill A.



The data in figure 5 shows that the core/comb diameter difference for Mill A was generally within control limits (red lines) for most of the time. There were a small number of batches that did however, stray significantly above the control limits



Topmark provides:

- Key performance indicators for methodical analysis.
- Performance comparison with other mills while maintaining strict confidentiality of source data.
- The ability to quantify Industry best practice ensuring a competitive edge in the global textile market for processors of Australian wool.
- The ability to identify performance issues and prioritise areas requiring attention.
- The ability to monitor the effects of changes to processing practices.



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