

AROUND THE PENS

ISSUE 262 27 AUGUST 2018



ALFA DIARY

27 August 2018

Only 4 weeks left to register for BeefEx 2018.

27 – 31 August 2018

Second round judging workplace interviews for Finalists in Excellence in Feedlot Education Medal 2018

8-10 October

BeefEx 2018 Conference

Grain Fed Finished Standard starts 1 September

The new 'Grain Fed Finished' (GFF) standard is available for use from 1 September 2018.

The minimum standard requires cattle to be produced within the National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme (NFAS) production system, be raised on a specific high energy ration for a minimum 35 days on feed, and successfully achieve Meat Standards Australia (MSA) grading requirements when processed.

Tess Herbert, ALFA President, said the Grain Fed Finished Standard, with its minimum number of days and MSA overlay, enables brand owners and feedlot operators increased flexibility around producing grain fed beef whilst continuing to ensure product integrity and eating quality.

"Introduction of the new GFF Standard is the result of reviews conducted into both the NFAS and the AUS-MEAT Beef Language and follows broad consultation with feedlot operators, beef processors, retailers, brand owners and Industry representative bodies."



TO ALL ACCREDITED AND SUSPENDED FEEDLOTS

NFAS ACCREDITATION RULES AND STANDARDS

PURPOSE:
The purpose of this NFAS Advice is to inform Accredited Feedlots and Feedlots in Voluntary Suspension that the Feedlot Industry Accreditation Committee (FIAC) has approved the introduction of a new Grain Fed Finished (GFF) Standard for the NFAS.

Effective from 1 September 2018, the GFF Standard is an additional standard with separate requirements to the existing Grain Fed (GF) and Grain Fed Young Beef (GFYG) standards.

BACKGROUND
The development of the new Grain Fed Finished Standard by the Australian Livestock Feeders' Association (ALFA) follows recommendations from the 2015 NFAS Review and the 2016 Australian Beef Language Review White Paper.

ALFA conducted extensive consultation with feedlot operators, processors, retailers, brand owners and industry representative bodies, via the Australian Meat Industry Language and Standards Committee (AMISLC), throughout the development of the new Grain Fed Finished Standard.

The new Standard has been adopted into the AUS-MEAT Language with the trade description 'Grain Fed Finished' (GFF), and in turn will be recognised alongside the existing GF and GFYG operators within the Export Meat Legislation.

GRAIN FED FINISHED (GFF) STANDARD

For cattle to be eligible for the Grain Fed Finished (GFF) Standard, they must:

- (i) Be produced in an NFAS accredited feedlot in accordance with the NFAS Rules and Standards;
- (ii) Have been fed for **35** days (MSA¹ and Farnesis²) and for not less than 20 days of that, on a nutritionally balanced ration of a recognised high energy feed of which grain is the highest single component. Rations must have an average metabolizable energy (ME) content greater than 10 megajoules (MJ) per kg of dry matter; and
- (iii) Meet all Meat Standards Australia (MSA) grading requirements at production and meat processing.

Note: ¹MSA and ²Farnesis are MSA terms.

Grain Fed Finished Standard

A NEW GRAIN FED BEEF STANDARD CALLED GRAIN FED FINISHED ON GFF BEGINS OPERATIONAL FROM 1 SEPTEMBER 2018.

The Grain Fed Finished Standard increases health, animal production and feedlot operator profitability to ensure product integrity and eating quality.

What is the Grain Fed Finished Standard?
The Grain Fed Finished (GFF) Standard is a new and better Grain Fed Standard based on the existing GF and GFYG standards, but with separate requirements to the existing GF and GFYG standards.

The Standard includes what was produced under the NFAS production system by an NFAS accredited feedlot, the number of days on feed for a minimum 35 days on feed and successfully meet Meat Standards Australia (MSA) grading requirements after processing.

Why has the Grain Fed Finished Standard been developed?
The GFF Standard is a result of a review of the National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme (NFAS) conducted in 2015. It is also a result of the 2016 Beef Language Review (BLR) and the 2016 Australian Beef Language Review White Paper. Both these reviews concluded that the Australian Livestock Feeders' Association (ALFA) should create a new Grain Fed Standard with an average metabolizable energy (ME) content greater than 10 megajoules (MJ) per kg of dry matter, and a minimum number of days on feed of 35 days.

Who developed the Grain Fed Finished Standard?
ALFA is a voluntary association of feedlot operators, processors, retailers, brand owners and industry representative bodies, via the Australian Meat Industry Language and Standards Committee (AMISLC). The Grain Fed Finished Standard was developed by the ALFA and AMISLC.

What consultation has taken place?
During 2015, ALFA developed proposed technical specifications for a better Grain Fed Standard based on a survey of the NFAS, a high energy ration for a minimum number of days on feed (GFF) and meat processing capability.

ALFA consulted with feedlot operators, processors, retailers and brand owners to refine the proposed Grain Fed Finished Standard. ALFA also consulted with the Australian Meat Industry Language and Standards Committee throughout 2017 before a new standard was introduced.

When will the Grain Fed Finished Standard be introduced?
The GFF Standard is being introduced from 1 September 2018.

Adoption of the new Standard is voluntary and a commercial decision between brand owners, feed processors, retailers, brand owners and industry representative bodies to refine and obtain support from packer operators and MSA accreditation.

What are the benefits of the Grain Fed Finished Standard?
The Grain Fed Finished Standard is a GFF Standard that is designed to be used in a GFF feedlot. It includes health and welfare requirements that are consistent with the NFAS Rules and Standards.

Number of days on feed (Minimum 35 days on feed for MSA and Farnesis)

Feed Ration: The cattle must have been fed for a minimum of 35 days on feed, and for not less than 20 days of that, on a nutritionally balanced ration of a recognised high energy feed of which grain is the highest single component. Rations must have an average metabolizable energy (ME) content greater than 10 megajoules (MJ) per kg of dry matter.

MSA and Farnesis: Meat Standards Australia (MSA) grading requirements at production and meat processing to be eligible for GFF product.

Why are 20 days on feed chosen as the minimum number of days on feed?
A minimum 20 days on feed has been selected for several reasons. Firstly, as a minimum number of processing days to ensure the carcasses are not aged beyond 14 days. Secondly, it is an appropriate time that the processing of cattle will be completed with the Grain Fed Young Beef (GFYG) standard.

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8 August 2018

Dear ALFA Member,

The introduction of Grain Fed Finished (GFF) Standard from 1 September 2018. The Australian Livestock Feeders' Association (ALFA) is pleased to announce the release of a new Grain Fed Standard called Grain Fed Finished (GFF) from 1 September 2018.

This additional minimum standard requires cattle to be produced within the National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme (NFAS) production system, be raised on a specific high energy ration for a minimum 35 days on feed and successfully meet Meat Standards Australia (MSA) grading requirements when processed.

The introduction of the GFF Standard is the result of reviews conducted into both the NFAS and the AUS-MEAT Beef Language. Furthermore, ALFA is engaged in broad consultation with feedlot operators, beef processors, retailers, brand owners and industry representative bodies to refine and obtain support for the technical specifications of the GFF Standard.

The GFF Standard, with its minimum number of days and MSA overlay, enables brand owners and feedlot operators increased flexibility around producing Grain Fed beef whilst continuing to ensure product integrity and eating quality. Adoption of the new standard is voluntary.

ALFA recognises the importance of existing Grain Fed Standards, being the Grain Fed (GF) and Grain Fed Young Beef (GFYG) standards, and their relevance in ensuring and trading Grain Fed beef. It is important to note that the existing standards will not change, with GFF providing an additional feeding option to NFAS Accredited feedlot operators.

Please find attached a Fact Sheet that provides further information on the standard and how you can commence producing Grain Fed Finished beef. Specific advice from AUS-MEAT and the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR) is also being sent directly to NFAS accredited feedlots and Beef Processors. Before commencing to produce GFF higher cattle, feedlot operators are advised to first check with the brand owner, meat processor or retailer before you ready cattle.

The release of the GFF Standard is a significant milestone for the Australian Grain Fed Sector. On behalf of ALFA we look forward to continuing to deliver positive outcomes for our growing and vital Grain Fed beef industry.

Yours sincerely,
Tess Herbert

Tess Herbert
President
Australian Livestock Feeders' Association

¹MSA and ²Farnesis are MSA terms. MSA Terms: MSA 801
Australian Beef Language Review White Paper, 2016

Pictured: A visual example of the information pack sent direct to feedlots.

The Grain Fed Finished Standard is being introduced in addition to the existing Australian grain fed standards, being the Grain Fed (GF) and Grain Fed Young Beef (GFYG) standards.

"The existing grain fed standards are widely recognised for delivering high quality Australian grain fed beef and so the GF and GFYG standards will continue to be available without change, with GFF providing an additional feeding option for NFAS accredited feedlot operators," Mrs Herbert said.

Adoption of the new 'Grain Fed Finished' (GFF) standard will be a voluntary and commercial decision between brand owners, meat processors, non-packer exporters and NFAS accredited feedlot operators who supply them.

EMERGENCY ANIMAL DISEASE WATCH HOTLINE

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All NFAS accredited feedlots and beef processing facilities have been provided information during August about the new standard and how to become involved directly from AUS-MEAT and ALFA.

A comprehensive [Fact Sheet](#) is available from ALFA that answers all your questions on the new standard and how to become involved.

Animal Welfare Officer Training – Limited spots available



There are now only limited spots available for AWO Training locations in NSW, Vic & SA.

Training Locations & Dates

- Quirindi, NSW 30 & 31 August 2018
- Condamine, QLD 4 & 5 September 2018
- Oakey, QLD 6 & 7 September 2018
- Temora, NSW 10 & 11 September 2018
- Geelong, VIC 23 & 24 October 2018
- Burra, SA 25 & 26 October 2018

If you would like to register for any of the above training locations, please register online [here](#) or alternatively click [here](#) to email ALFA's Events Membership Manager to book your spot.

The workshop is proudly supported by Zoetis & Meat and Livestock Australia.

Finalists announced - Excellence in Feedlot Education Medal 2018

Following tough competition, the Excellence in Feedlot Education Medal 2018 Judging Panel has announced the Top 3 Finalists who will now progress to the second-round judging at their workplace this week.

Congratulations to the three Finalists:

- Brooke Flanagan – GUNNEE
- Jane Reid – JINDALEE
- Tegan Brown - GUNDAMAIN

We wish all Finalists luck in the next judging round and look forward to announcing who will be named the overall winner at BeefEx 2018 in October.

The Excellence in Feedlot Education Medal is proudly sponsored by Zoetis.

International collaboration key for Australia's FMD preparedness

Did you know that scientists aren't permitted to work with live foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) virus in Australia?

FMD thankfully doesn't occur in Australia (and our quarantine system is designed to keep it out) so there are strict guidelines around allowing disease agents into Australian research institutions. This means that working with other countries on FMD research is crucial to ensuring Australia is prepared for this emergency animal disease.

Industry levies have helped support research collaborations that prepare our scientists, our laboratories and our country to respond to emergency animal diseases.

Find out what livestock industry funds have contributed to in the FMD space by [clicking here](#).

New resource to tell the story around quality assurance program, NFAS

The Australian Lot Feeders' Association and AUS-MEAT have produced a new video resource on the National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme - or NFAS – which is the quality assurance scheme for the Australian cattle feedlot industry.

NFAS was the first agriculturally based quality assurance program in Australia and its success has seen it provide a framework for subsequent industry schemes. NFAS has helped deliver a quality assurance culture in the sector. It is also the cornerstone of the Australian grain fed beef industry, for both the export and domestic markets.



Find out more on NFAS by watching the YouTube clip [here](#).

Lot feeders leading antimicrobial stewardship

Antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) programs are critical to the future success of Australia's livestock sector in helping to protect access to key antibiotics to treat sick animals, facilitate ongoing consumer support and continue market access.

These are among the key messages from Australian Chief Veterinary Officer, Dr Mark Schipp, who has applauded the release of the Antimicrobial Stewardship Guidelines for the Australian Cattle Feedlot Industry.



The Australian Lot Feeders' Association (ALFA), through Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA), have invested grainfed levies to develop the AMS Guidelines to arm the industry with practical information on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and provide a framework to ensure appropriate use of antimicrobials.

Read the full story [here](#).

Pictured above: Dr Mark Schipp

Lauren McNally part of next crop of industry leaders

The Australian Rural Leadership Program (ARLP) is a 15-month program which takes place over five sessions, across Australia and Asia. Thirty Australian leaders from diverse industries, communities and backgrounds undertook their first session of the iconic program from 23 July to 4 August 2018. Lauren McNally of Mort & Co is currently taking part in the Program on the ALFA sponsored, in conjunction with Meat & Livestock Australia, position on Course 25.

Thirty participants kicked off the ARLP journey in Darwin. With all the resources they needed, the group then ventured to the Kimberley region in WA. Here the participants were challenged by a series of activities in various contexts.

Their experiences included whole group, small team and solo activities in some of the most remote regions of Australia, and under the cultural guidance of local Aboriginal community representatives.

The program is designed to encourage them to understand more about themselves and others, and to accelerate the development of their applied leadership behaviours and skills.



The next ARLP Course 25 session will take place in Toowoomba, QLD from 17-23 November 2018.

Statement responding to Antimicrobial resistance released

A top priority for the Australian Beef Sustainability Framework (ABSF); Antimicrobial Stewardship hit the news again this month, with a statement in response to the resistance, released by members of the Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef.

View the statement [by clicking here](#).

2nd round judging complete in Young Lot Feeder of the Year Award

Last week, the Top 6 Finalists in the Young Lot Feeder of the Year Award 2018 travelled to Sydney to complete the 2nd round judging, an interview with the independent judging panel. The Finalists also presented their essay topics to the ALFA Councillors during their August Council Meeting. The essay topics presented by the Finalists this year were interesting and gave much food for thought for the industry, they were as follows:

- The cost of induction shrink
- Ensuring consumer trust in grain fed beef
- It's time to catch the Camel bug
- Information sharing is key to beef sustainability
- What, how but why. The structure of our relationship.
- Cultures and their influence on social media

The Finalists then had a chance to meet and network with the ALFA Councillors later in the evening at a dinner held to celebrate the Finalists' achievements thus far in the Award process.

The following day, Finalists were invited to a session run by Meat & Livestock Australia on advocacy and marketing in the red meat industry before heading home.

The Top 3 Grand Finalists will be announced in the next Newsletter edition. The overall winner will be announced at BeefEx 2018 in October.



Pictured: YLFY Award 2018 Finalists (L to R) – Fiona MacDiarmid - TERENCE VALE, Shay Pratt – IRANDA, Georgia Birch – SMITHFIELD, Molly Sage - BEEF CITY, Ben Attewell - BRINDLEY PARK, Ricardo Massola – MYOLA.

The Young Lot Feeder of the Year Award is proudly sponsored by Performance Feeds.



Just 4 weeks left to register

With just four weeks until registrations close for BeefEx 2018 we encourage you to check out the exciting speaker and social programs and register for this showcase beef industry event.

A stimulating array of speakers will address a range of topics including big data, consumer trends, and beef industry economics, as well as a focus on markets, production, finance and leadership.

[SEE THE FULL PROGRAM >](#)

[REGISTER FOR BEEFEX TODAY >](#)

Speaker Spotlight:



Stephen Scheeler - Founder, digitalceo.com.au and former CEO, Facebook Australia and NZ

The digital invasion: An insider's guide to the coming revolution

[Click here to view his profile.](#)

Communicate Your Research Student Competition – entries close this week!

The Communicate Your Research Competition, is proudly sponsored by Bovine Dynamics & Quirindi Feedlot Service, and is designed to promote excellence and scientific professionalism for the advancement of communication between tertiary institutions and the Australian cattle feedlot industry. The competition aims to provide students an opportunity to share their research in relevant intensive animal and veterinary science disciplines with the Australian feedlot industry.

The Competition is held at the Australian Lot Feeders' Association premier event, BeefEx Conference 2018, held in Brisbane on 8-10 October, 2018.

There are great cash prizes to be won.

For more information on the Competition go to:

<http://www.feedlots.com.au/events/awards>

Entries close 2 September 2018.



BeefEx Student Scholarships

Do you know of, or are you a student, that wants to attend BeefEx 2018? Australian Lot Feeders' Association & Meat & Livestock Australia are offering a number of student scholarships (valued at \$660) to students interested in attending. It's easy to apply and you just need a genuine interest in the grain fed beef industry!

[Click here](#) to find out more and apply today.

Applications close 2 September 2018.



ALFA thanks its Platinum Members for their ongoing support of ALFA and the Industry



Commodity Market Conditions

ALFA is aware that commodity supply is tightening in those eastern states experiencing rain deficiencies. It's important commodity suppliers work with individual feedlots to meet their cattle feed needs during this time.

ALFA has encouraged its Members to seek advice from their Nutritionists where product substitution is an option, noting that replacing one product for another is not always directly equivalent due to the nutritional value of differing products.

ALFA has also advised its Members to work with their commodity suppliers to understand their trading terms and how that relates to the current trading conditions. ALFA supports use of terms underpinned by Grain Trade Australia's trading standards and rules.

ALFA has met with Minister Littleproud's Office about the current commodity trading conditions and was invited to attend a Fodder Forum held last week held by the Federal Department of Agriculture and Water Resources.

The ALFA delegation of councillors and staff prosecuted the case for more efficient grain importation protocols. ALFA acknowledges the importance of good biosecurity controls in Australia's plant and animal production; however faster risk assessment timeframes are needed for grain imports at times like these so commercial operators can commence grain imports when required.

The current 6-12month risk assessment and approval process is not conducive to commercial reality or responsive enough in times such as these. ALFA will continue to work with the Department to explore options, including looking at the ability to prelist countries/ supply chains in preparation for further deteriorating conditions.