

# AROUND THE PENS

ISSUE 270 17 DECEMBER 2018



## ALFA DIARY

### 23 December

Closing date for ALFA Project Officer – Career Development & Training Strategy role

Closing date for EOI for the new Effective Team Communication Workshop Series

### 25 December

Christmas Day

### 26 December

Boxing Day

## ALFA OFFICE HOURS

The ALFA Office will be open over the Christmas period except for public holidays.

For urgent matters, please contact ALFA CEO Christian Mulders on 0427 459 102.

*Wishing you a Merry Christmas and best wishes for a prosperous 2019.*

## EMERGENCY ANIMAL DISEASE WATCH HOTLINE

1800 675 888

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The ALFA Council & Secretariat  
wish all a very Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year!

## ALFA 2019 CALENDAR

The ALFA 2019 Calendar is on its way to all ALFA Members as an additional membership benefit and our gift to you for Christmas. Keep an eye out in your mailbox.

There are a limited number of additional copies available for purchase from the ALFA office. An order form can be found on the [ALFA website here](#).



ALFA wishes to thank Platinum Member, Performance Feeds, for their on-going generous support of this initiative. We are extremely proud of the entries we received from Members this year and the production of the calendar. We look forward to kicking off the 2019 Calendar Photo Competition in the New Year!

## LOOKING FOR A THOUGHTFUL CHRISTMAS PRESENT?

What better gift to give a passionate lot feeder than a copy of the hardback book 'Grain Fed: the history of the Australian cattle lotfeeding industry' written by Jon Condon & Bob Coombs. [Click here](#) to order your copy.



## **LAST CHANCE TO HAVE YOUR SAY ON LOCATION FOR NEW WORKSHOP SERIES**

Following strong feedback received from Members, ALFA will run a brand-new workshop series in July 2019 focusing on building Effective Team Communication skills.

The workshop will aim to upskill your team by building upon your team's interpersonal skills to create effective communication flows and promote a greater team culture.

[Click here to find out more about the proposed workshop.](#)

ALFA is currently calling for expressions of interest from Members to determine the best and most accessible locations to run this workshop next July, which will be determined according to your feedback. But hurry, as expressions of interest will close 23 December 2018 with locations announced and registrations open in May 2019.

[Click here](#) to register your interest and submit your preferred location.

## **FUTURE OF WEATHER FORECASTING**

The ability to predict the risk of heat stress at the individual animal level could be a reality for the feedlot industry within the next decade if ongoing improvements in weather forecasting and animal monitoring continue.

That was among the key messages delivered by Katestone Managing Director, Christine Killip, in her presentation to lot feeders and industry stakeholders at BeefEx in October.

Katestone provides the Cattle Heat Load Toolbox (CHLT), an internet-based service producing targeted forecasts of heat load for feedlot sites in Australia. The service is currently funded by MLA in consultation with ALFA.

The industry's hunger for accurate forecasts to enable heat load management of herds continues to grow and is reflected in the number of users of the CHLT website, which increased 11% from 1,625 during the 2016–17 season to 1,814 during the 2017–18 season.

[Click here to read more.](#)

## **DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE DRINKING WATER QUALITY IS AT YOUR FEEDLOT?**

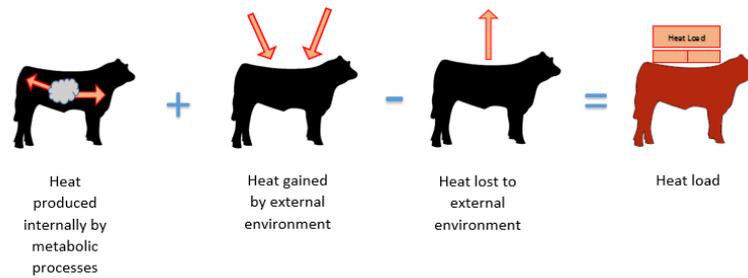
ALFA Feedlot Members are invited to participate in a jointly funded project between University of New England (UNE) and MLA, in consultation with ALFA.

Answer a short survey and have your water sample tested free of charge by a NATA certified laboratory. To take part, contact Janelle Wilkes at UNE Ruminant Research email on [rrg@une.edu.au](mailto:rrg@une.edu.au).

This research has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee of the University of New England (Approval No. HE18-279, Valid to 4/12/19).

## HEAT LOAD IN FEEDLOT CATTLE: ARE YOU PREPARED?

With temperatures soaring throughout Queensland over the weekend and rising in other states as Summer kicks off, now is a timely reminder to ensure you know how to identify and measure heat load.



It is important for all feedlots to be conscious of heat load. ALFA has developed a free member resource that covers what heat load is, how it is caused and what tools and tips you need to mitigate your risk.

[Click here](#) to download the free Heat Load resource.

## LIVESTOCK INCIDENT REPORTING

It is important that all feedlots understand and implement their incident reporting requirements, particularly coming into the warmer months with potential heat load incidents.

Incident reporting requirements are undertaken when an unusual number of sick animals or deaths occur within a 24- hour period and where an emergency animal disease is confirmed not to have caused the deaths/illnesses.

Reporting procedures are implemented according to the trigger levels in Table 1 below.

**TABLE 1 – Morbidity and Mortality Triggers over a 24-hour period for activating Incident Reporting**

Cattle on Feed (head)	Level 1		Level 2	Level 3
	Morbidity (pulls)	Mortality (deaths)	Mortality (deaths)	Mortality (deaths)
50 to 150	20	3	6	15
151 to 500	20	3	7	16
501 to 1000	20	3	8	17
1001 to 3000	30	3	11	20
3001 to 5000	40	4	12	21
5001 to 7500	55	6	30+	60+
7501 to 10,000	70	7	30+	60+
10,001 to 20, 000	140	9	50+	100+
20,001 to 40, 000	280	11	50+	100+
40,001 head or above	350	15	50+	100+

Where the number of morbidities or mortalities exceed trigger Level 1, consult your veterinarian and activate your own internal feedlot review and reporting procedures.

Where the number of mortalities exceed trigger Level 2, the Feedlot or its representative must notify the Australian Lot Feeders' Association (ALFA) of the incident within 12 hours. Notification to ALFA must include telephone contact and then follow up in writing.

The Feedlot or its representative must continue to provide ALFA with situational updates including further mortalities, no less than twice daily, until the incident has been resolved.

Where the number of deaths trigger Level 3, ALFA have reporting requirements and will notify the State Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO), RSPCA, SAFEMEAT and the Feedlot Industry Accreditation Committee (FLIAC).

More detailed information can be found in the NFAS Standards (November 2017) Element LM7 – Livestock Incident Reporting and Appendix 7 - Incident Reporting Decision Diagram.

## **MAJOR INVESTMENT IN FEEDLOT CAREERS & TRAINING – ALFA IS HIRING**

ALFA is currently recruiting for a Project Officer – Career Development & Training Strategy to help deliver an important four-year project; The *Australian Feedlot Sectors Career Development and Training Strategy and Implementation Plan*. [Click here](#) to read more about the project and how it will benefit all of industry.

[Click here](#) to view the job advert. Applications will close 23 December 2018.

## **MANAGING PREGNANT HEIFERS AND NEWBORN CALVES: A GUIDE FOR LOT FEEDERS**

A new best practice management guide to help lot feeders develop and implement their own pregnant heifer and newborn calf management programs will be distributed in early-2019.

The guide, Feedlot Best Practice Management – Pregnant Heifers, has been developed by ALFA and MLA, in collaboration with respected industry veterinarian and feedlot consultant, Dr Enoch Bergman of Swans Veterinary Services based in Esperance, WA.

The National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme (NFAS) requires all accredited feedlots to develop, document, and implement management practices to address the welfare needs of both pregnant livestock and newborn calves within the lot feeding sector.

Copies of the Feedlot best practice management – Pregnant heifers will be distributed to NFAS accredited feedlots in January. Following the January distribution, to obtain a hard copy of the guide, please contact Feedlot Technical Service Officer, Jeff House at [jeff.house@feedlots.com.au](mailto:jeff.house@feedlots.com.au).

[Click here](#) to read more.

## **COTTON TRASH**

From 30 November 2018 Feedlots and beef producers will be able to feed stock cotton trash, as a result of a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Cattle Council of Australia, Australian Lot Feeders' Association, Cotton Australia and Cotton Ginners Association.

The revised MoU has been developed after additional residue testing conducted by the Australian Government indicated a negligible residue threat when cotton trash is fed to livestock in line with an industry agreed protocol.

The protocol requires producers to source cotton trash from approved gins and will result in a 'Accessed cotton trash' status being applied to both the livestock and the property on the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS).

It's important to note that due to historical events relating to cotton trash, some supply chains may choose not to accept cattle that have had access to the product. If you wish to utilise cotton trash in your operation, we strongly suggest contacting your processor or customer to receive confirmation that they are willing to accept livestock which have accessed the product.

[Click here](#) for information surrounding the protocol for accessing cotton trash and approved gins here.

## **JOIN THE BIOSECURITY CONVERSATION IN AUSTRALIA**

The Gold Coast will be abuzz with all things biosecurity on 12-13 June 2019, when government, industry and other interested parties unite for the inaugural Australian Biosecurity Symposium.

Hosted by Animal Health Australia (AHA), the Invasive Species Council (ISC) and the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions (CISS), the theme of the Symposium is preventative biosecurity practices and will focus on research and innovation, outside-of-the-box thinking and the exchange of knowledge and ideas across the biosecurity collective – agriculture (animals and plants), pest animals, weeds, wildlife, aquatics and the environment.

The symposium will provide the ideal platform for diverse cross-sectoral discussion on biosecurity in Australia, said Kathleen Plowman, AHA CEO.

[Click here](#) for more information on the Symposium.

## AUTOMATED FEED BUNK SCANNER TECHNOLOGY NOW AVAILABLE

A new automated feed bunk scanner, a technology developed as a direct result of an industry R&D project into investigating automation of feed bunk management, is now available for adoption by the Australian feedlot industry. See the scanner in action with the below YouTube clip demonstrating how it works.



*Click here* to read more on the technology or *click here* to read the final R&D report.

## CONNECTIVITY GUIDE RELEASED

Australian feedlot operators looking to assess their connectivity requirements and identify potential solutions have a new guide to help them navigate through the often 'grey area' of connectivity.

The 'Getting Connected' technical assessment was produced as part of a connectivity review of the feedlot industry, commissioned by MLA in consultation with ALFA.

The review, 'Getting connected: Pathways for improving connectivity for our feedlot industry' and associated technical assessment were undertaken by Professor David Lamb from the University of New England and Dr Kimberley Wockner from Premise Agriculture.

[Click here to read more.](#)

## INDUSTRY TELLS GOVERNMENT TO HAND AG COLLEGES BACK TO INDUSTRY

Last week, Minister for Agricultural Mark Furner announced Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges would cease operations in 2019.

Queensland's AgForce General President, Georgie Somerset, is calling on the Queensland Government to hand the Longreach and Emerald ag colleges back to industry, as they are too important "to be axed".

ALFA support's AgForce's advocacy on this matter and urges Members to sign Member for Gregory, Lachlan Millar's, Petition to Save Ag Colleges. [Click here](#) for more information on the petition.

[Click here](#) to read more on the story.

[Click here](#) to sign the Petition.

## BREXIT TURMOIL A RISK TO AUSTRALIAN RED MEAT

British Prime Minister, Theresa May's postponement of the scheduled vote on the Brexit withdrawal bill in the House of Commons this week has cast further uncertainty around United Kingdom's (UK) departure from the European Union (EU).

While the Australian government has commenced free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations with the EU and both the UK and Australia have expressed a mutual willingness to pursue an FTA post-Brexit, a disorderly exit poses a range of short-term risks to Australian red meat exports in the interim. Australian exporters and EU-certified producers should be aware of these risks and closely monitor events over coming months when making business decisions.

[Click here](#) to read more.

## OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE HEAVY VEHICLE NATIONAL LAW

ALFA would like to remind and encourage members to understand their obligations under the Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL).

**Basically: Influence = Responsibility = Legal Liability.**

[Click here](#) for more regarding the Chain of Responsibility (CoR) laws that came into effect on the 1st October 2018, which we have included in previous editions of the Around the Pens e-Newsletter.

[Click here](#) for quick access to the CoR Gap Assessment tool.

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**ALFA thanks its Platinum Members for their ongoing support of ALFA and the Industry in 2018**

