

AROUND THE PENS

ISSUE 274 19 FEBRUARY 2019



ALFA DIARY

20 & 21 February

ALFA Council Meeting,
Brisbane

22 February

Registrations Close –
Animal Health & Welfare
Workshops

27 & 28 February

MPM Program Session
One, Sydney

5 March

Wagga AHW Workshop

6 March

Tamworth AHW Workshop

12 March

Oakey AHW Workshop

13 March

Rockhampton AHW
Workshop

EMERGENCY ANIMAL DISEASE WATCH HOTLINE

1800 675 888

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PREVENTING FURTHER STOCK LOSSES FOLLOWING FLOODS

In the aftermath of the North Queensland flood disaster last month, surviving livestock can be impacted by compromised immune systems from metabolic disruption, trauma and exhaustion, which makes them more vulnerable to disease and infection of exposed wounds.

Animal Health Australia (AHA) have compiled a very handy list of the most critical points of biosecurity in the coming weeks for livestock health along with other resources including links to contacts for fodder drops, financial assistance, and support services.

[Click here to access these resources via AHA](#)

AVOIDING ZONOTIC DISEASES IN FLOOD RECOVERY EFFORTS

If you are making plans to help with the North Queensland flood recovery efforts, first make plans to look after yourself. Due to the large changes in the environment in the wake of the North Queensland flood event, it's important that you protect yourself during recovery efforts. Soil borne pathogens, such as melioidosis, may become dispersed into new areas. Diseases spread by biting insects may also become problematic, as warmer periods after weather events provide favourable conditions for a population boom. Handling deceased livestock can also have human health impacts.

[Click here for more information.](#)

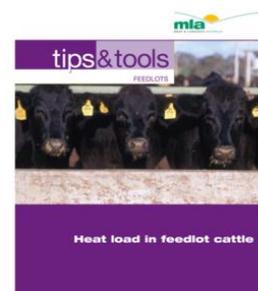
HEAT LOAD IN FEEDLOT CATTLE – TIPS & TOOLS

Excessive heat load (EHL), or heat stress, describes the situation where lotfed livestock, primarily cattle, are not able to dissipate body heat effectively and their body temperature rises above normal. EHL initially leads to reduced feed intake and production losses but can, in extreme cases, lead to tissue organ damage and death.

The factors that contribute to body heat load in cattle are complex and include environmental conditions and animal characteristics.

ALFA & MLA have developed and made available for lot feeders a book that contains a series of six Tips & Tools designed to provide a comprehensive guide to understanding, recognising and managing heat load in feedlot cattle.

[Click here to download the Heat Load in Feedlot Cattle - Tips & Tools book](#) (You will need to scroll to the bottom of the page and the first dot point under 'More Information' is the download link)



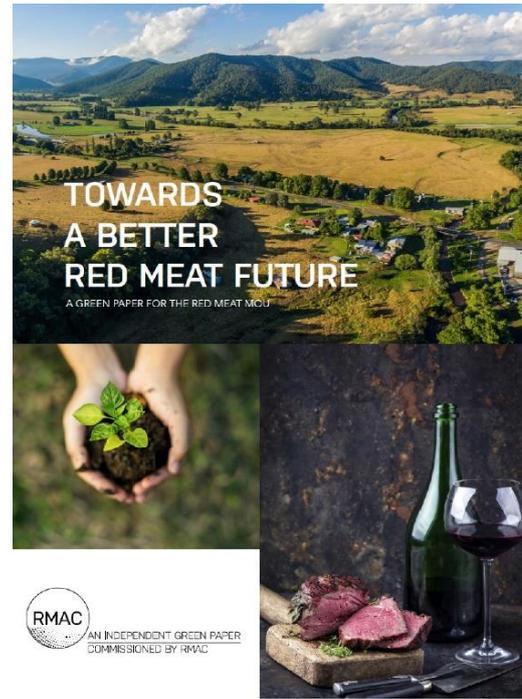
RED MEAT MOU GREEN PAPER: YOUR CHANCE TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON BOLD INDUSTRY REFORM

An independent Taskforce appointed to review [the Red Meat Memorandum of Understanding \(Red Meat MoU\)](#) has just released its Green Paper into options to reform how the entire red meat industry is coordinated.

As a signatory to the Red Meat Advisory Council (RMAC), ALFA remains supportive of the Red Meat Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) review.

The Green Paper released by the Red Meat MoU Review Taskforce provides a series of future options that have been formulated through extensive consultation with industry. These will be taken into consideration by the Red Meat MoU independent taskforce.

Over the coming weeks, ALFA will review the options in consultation with our membership and provide feedback to the Review Taskforce. Ensuring a sustainable and prosperous grain fed beef industry remains the priority for ALFA as we commit to delivering tangible outcomes for the sector.



Background: The Red Meat MoU was signed in 1998 to guide roles, responsibilities and funding between the Commonwealth Government and CCA, SPA, GICA, AMIC, ALEC, ALFA, MLA, AMPC and LiveCorp. An independent Taskforce has been appointed to take a critical look at it to ensure it the MoU is fit for purpose to guide the red meat industry through future challenges.

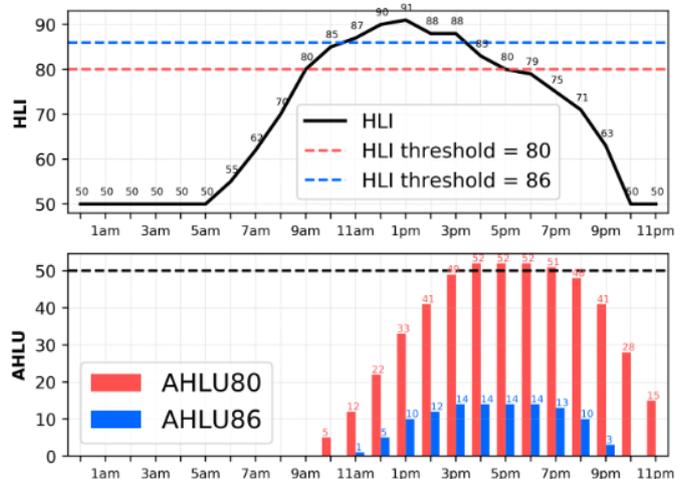
HEATLOAD CALCULATIONS EXPLAINED

As parts of Australia continue to experience extremely high temperatures for consecutive days, heatload conditions continue to worsen. Thankfully, the humidity has been relatively low and, in most parts, there has also been enough wind to keep the heat load down. Unfortunately, the seasonal forecast for the next three months (Feb-Apr) is worrying: warmer than average conditions are likely for almost all of Australia.

Katestone has received increased feedback surrounding alerts and in response has published some general responses:

“The HLI is forecast to be higher than 87 for today, I set up my alerts for AHLU83 and I didn’t get an alert”

Although AHLU is based on HLI, they are different indexes. The AHLU is calculated every hour using the HLI for that hour and the HLI threshold. The HLI threshold is the level at which cattle will begin to accumulate heat. Then, for every hour that the HLI is above the HLI threshold, heat load increases at a rate that is equal to the difference between HLI and the HLI threshold.



Let us suppose that we have the forecast HLI values shown in the top panel. Up until 9am the HLI is lower than 80, so both AHLU80 and AHLU86 will remain at 0. At 10am the HLI is up to 85, therefore AHLU80 will be $(85-80)=5$ whereas AHLU86 will still be 0. At 11am, $HLI=87$ and therefore $AHLU80 (87-80+5)=12$ and

REGOS CLOSE THIS WEEK – ANIMAL HEALTH & WELFARE WORKSHOPS

Registrations for ALFA's Animal Health & Welfare Workshops will close this Friday, 22 February. Limited spots remain.

WORKSHOP LOCATIONS & DATES:

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| • WAGGA WAGGA, NSW | 5 MARCH 2019 |
| • TAMWORTH, NSW | 6 MARCH 2019 |
| • OAKEY, QLD | 12 MARCH 2019 ** SOLD OUT |
| • ROCKHAMPTON, QLD | 13 MARCH 2019 |
| • SHEPPARTON, VIC | 19 MARCH 2019 |
| • HAHNDORF, SA | 20 MARCH 2019 |
| • NARROGIN, WA | 26 MARCH 2019 |

TOPICS:

- Internal Animal Welfare Audits
- Managing Cattle into the Feedlot – Backgrounding, Induction, Managing New Cattle
- Pregnancy & Calving Management
- Biosecurity
- Heat Load – Enacting your Action Plan in a Heat Load Event
- Hospital System: Structure & Protocols
- Antimicrobial Stewardship
- Cattle Euthanasia – Making Effective Decisions
- Post-Mortems – Procedures & Sampling
- Cattle Bedding
- New Technologies

[Click here for more information and for last minute registrations.](#)

This workshop series is proudly sponsored by Coopers and Meat & Livestock Australia.



SMARTBEEF 2019 – HAVE YOUR SAY

ALFA's technical-focused conference, SMARTBEEF 2019, incorporates both theoretical and practical elements and is taking place on 2-4 October 2019. The ALFA Events Committee are in full swing planning the event and we'd like to take this opportunity to allow you, our valued ALFA Members, to have your say on what topics you're interested in or speakers you'd like to hear from!

ALFA is committed to bringing you the best in the business in terms of technology and research and development, so why not take this chance to tell us what and who you're interested in. This year the Committee are exploring a property tour as part of the program too. If you know of a property worth visiting near Dalby QLD, we also want to hear from you!

To let us know who and what you want to hear at this year's SMARTBEEF conference, now's the time! Email events@feedlots.com.au with your suggestions.



ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP WEBINAR

ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP WEBINAR - **REGOS NOW OPEN**

ALFA will be running a webinar next month that will provide lot feeders and associated industry professionals practical information on antimicrobial resistance and deliver an industry specific framework to ensure appropriate use of antimicrobials to reduce the risk of antimicrobial resistance and safeguard the use of these important animal health tools well into the future.

The two-part webinar will cover:

- What is Antimicrobial Resistance & Stewardship
- Introduce the Australian Cattle Feedlot Industry Antimicrobial Stewardship Guidelines
- 5R Framework of Antimicrobial Stewardship
- How to Develop an Antimicrobial Stewardship Plan for your Feedlot
- Launch and Live Demonstration of New Industry e-Learning Tool
- Antimicrobial Stewardship and Grain Fed Beef Integrity Systems
- What it all means for your business

The webinar will run over two 1-hour sessions on 28 March and 4 April 2019 and will be suitable for feedlot managers, supervisors, training managers, quality assurance officers and veterinarians. Additionally, nutritionists, feed company representatives, veterinary product representatives will benefit from the information delivered.

[Click here for full information on the webinar.](#)

[Click here to download a registration form.](#)

This webinar is proudly sponsored by Zoetis and Meat & Livestock Australia.

LAST CHANCE - FREE WATER QUALITY TEST AVAILABLE FOR 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 rjq@une.edu.au ASAP.

This research has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee of the University of

LOT FEEDER IMPARTS WISDOM AS GUEST SPEAKER AT NSW FARM WRITERS ASSOCIATION AGRIBUZZ EVENT

ALFA's immediate past president, Tess Herbert of Gundamain and Ladysmith Feedlots in NSW, addressed the audience at NSW Farm Writers Association's first Agribuzz event for the year last week as their guest speaker. Tess reflected how various "sliding door moments" took her on her a "purposeful life" journey to become a proud protein and fibre producer with a "strong sense of place" in agriculture and loyalty to her rural community.



Pictured: Andrew and Tess Herbert, Gundamain Feedlot, Eugowra with Farm Writers Association of NSW president, Kaaren Latham, Sydney. Image: The Land.

Agribuzz was hosted by National Australia Bank's agribusiness division in Sydney, drawing more than about 150 people involved in agriculture and its support services.

[Click here to read more about Tess' story as told at the event and published by The Land](#)

AUSTRALIA'S PLACE IN THE GLOBAL BEEF TRADE

In recent years, Australia has grown and diversified its beef exports, which are now enjoyed in more than 100 countries around the world. A new report released by MLA highlights Australia's place in the global beef market, accompanying the recently released Cattle Industry Projections and Global agri-benchmark Network Results.

[Click here to find out more via MLA](#)

FEED TEST KEY TO MANAGING PRUSSIC ACID POISON POTENTIAL

NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) has advised graziers that drought-stressed sorghum crops could pose a risk to cattle and sheep, with recent feed sample tests showing unsafe levels of prussic acid.

NSW Department of Primary Industries analytical chemist, Richard Meyer, said close to 50 per cent of sorghum samples tested by the DPI Feed Quality Service this year had significant levels of prussic acid, which could cause serious poisoning and death if grazed by stock.

[Click here to read more](#)

ALFA 2019 CALENDAR

There are a limited number of copies of the ALFA 2019 Calendar 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 April 2019!

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



PERFORMANCE
FEEDS



GrainCorp

