

AROUND THE PENS

ISSUE 273 5 FEBRUARY 2019



ALFA DIARY

5 February

Registrations Open –
Antimicrobial Stewardship
Webinar

8 February

Early Bird Registrations
Close – Animal Health &
Welfare Workshops

20 & 21 February

ALFA Council Meeting,
Brisbane

22 February

Registrations Close –
Animal Health & Welfare
Workshops

27 & 28 February

MPM Program Session
One, Sydney

EMERGENCY ANIMAL DISEASE WATCH HOTLINE

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SMARTBEEF 2019 – SAVE THE DATE

ALFA is pleased to announce that SMARTBEEF 2019 will take place from 2-4 October 2019 and will be held at the Dalby Showgrounds, Queensland.

Stay tuned for more details on our speaker program and networking events – but make sure you put the date in your diary now!

ALFA Members will be kept in the loop about any news on SMARTBEEF 2019, however, if you would like to sign up for any additional direct communications that might be provided regarding Sponsorship & Exhibition opportunities you can register your interest via the ALFA webpage here: <http://www.feedlots.com.au/events/smartbeef-2019>

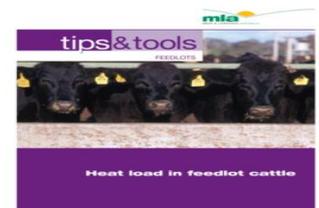
HEAT LOAD IN FEEDLOT CATTLE – TIPS & TOOLS

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)



HEATLOAD CALCULATIONS EXPLAINED

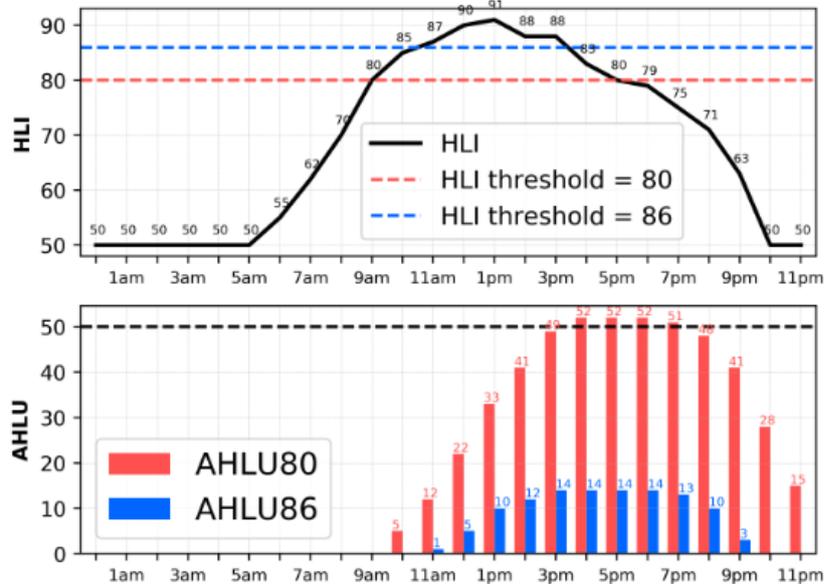
As parts of Australia continue to experience extremely high temperatures for consecutive days, heatload conditions continue to worsen. Thankfully, the humidity has been relatively low and, in most parts, there has also been enough wind to keep the heat load down. Unfortunately, the seasonal forecast 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 AHLU86 $(87-86)=1$, and so on.



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 rrg@une.edu.au ASAP.

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).

MLA CATTLE PROJECTIONS 2019

MLA have recently released their outlook for 2019 cattle markets indicating that cattle slaughter is forecast to drop 3% to 7.6 million head in 2019. Persistent dry conditions in many key cattle producing regions have heavily reduced the size of the breeding herd and potential pool of available finished cattle. (cont. overleaf)

The national herd is now expected to fall to its lowest levels since the mid-1990s – the dry conditions that swept across NSW and south-west Queensland have undone much of the rebuild achieved since the 2013–2015 drought.

Given the recent difficulty in finishing cattle on grass, the nation's feedlots continue to play a crucial role in mitigating production variability. While a reasonable sorghum harvest will go some way to alleviating the supply shortage of stock feed, preferred feedlot grains such as barley and wheat will likely remain expensive for the foreseeable future.

For this reason, lot feeders will closely monitor the development of the winter cereal cropping season in 2019. Rain could potentially provide some relief as crops are harvested, but would likely mean a sharp short-term increase in the price of feeder cattle. Lot feeders, like the rest of industry, will be hoping for rain, but it is unlikely to provide any short-term margin relief.

Despite cost pressures, lot feeders appear intent on maintaining valuable relationships with their customers, particularly those in Asian markets such as Japan and Korea. Factoring in solid international demand and a lack of finishing alternatives, cattle on feed will likely remain historically high throughout 2019 but MLA predict that this will revert to levels closer to one million head.

[Click here for the full MLA Cattle Projections report.](#)

Source: MLA.

ANIMAL HEALTH & WELFARE WORKSHOPS

EARLY BIRD REGOS CLOSE THIS WEEK

Early Bird rates close this Friday, 8 February so if you want to save, now is the time to get your registrations in!

All feedlot staff, particularly staff members who are handling cattle on a day-to-day basis, will benefit from attending this one-day workshop. It will also benefit suppliers to the feedlot industry. For example, feeder cattle suppliers will gain an insight as to why feedlots pay premiums for well-prepared cattle and how to achieve these premiums.

WORKSHOP LOCATIONS & DATES:

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

TOPICS COVERED:

- 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 to register.](#)

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



ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP WEBINAR

ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP WEBINAR RUNNING SOON

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.

MLA'S LATEST 'AUSTRALIAN BEEF. THE GREATEST' CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED OVER WEEKEND

MLA's latest consumer targeted Beef campaign launched over the weekend and aims to demonstrate why Australian Beef is the greatest and raise consumer awareness around the quality and provenance of Australian Beef. In addition to the provenance focus, the campaign will reinforce and demonstrate greatness with Beef's versatility and ease by positioning Beef recipes as a solution for quick and easy mid-week meals. The integrated campaign will appear across TV, print, digital, social and radio from launch day, while PR will amplify and spread the message across earned media in the coming weeks.



[Click here to check out the new video campaign](#) or [click here to visit the campaign Facebook page](#) to join in the conversation.

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

