

AROUND THE PENS

ISSUE 272 21 JANUARY 2019



ALFA DIARY

January

Registrations Open –
Animal Health & Welfare
Workshops

11 February

Registrations Open –
Antimicrobial Stewardship
Webinar

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

1800 675 888

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BOM CLIMATE OUTLOOKS FOR FEBRUARY TO APRIL 2019



To watch the climate outlook video from BOM, click on the above image.

- The February to April 2019 climate outlook, issued 17 January 2019, indicates a drier than median three months is likely for most of WA, western parts of northern NT and SA, and much of eastern mainland Australia. The rest of the country shows no strong push towards a wetter or drier than median season.
- Warmer than median days and nights are likely for almost all of Australia for February to April. For daytime temperatures, the chances of being warmer than median are very high, greater than 80% for most of the country.
- Tropical Pacific waters are neutral, but near El Niño levels. The atmospheric component of the El Niño–Southern Oscillation has not responded to the warmer waters yet, meaning an El Niño event has not become established. The Bureau's model suggests tropical Pacific sea surface temperatures are likely to reach El Niño levels through early autumn and then return to neutral.
- This outlook is showing little signal from any of the typical Australian climate drivers, with most in a neutral phase. Therefore, local effects, such as the ocean temperatures around Australia, are likely to influence the outlook.

ARE YOU RECEIVING THE CORRECT HEAT LOAD WARNINGS?

Heat Load Alerts (or weather warnings) can be set up by you, your veterinarian or nutritionist, to notify of impending poor heat load conditions. Alerts are available to registered users of the Cattle Heat Load Toolbox (CHLT) site. The alerts are simple to set up and only require an e-mail address or mobile phone number. Once logged into the CHLT website look for the “Manage Alerts” button on the home page to set up or manage your alerts.

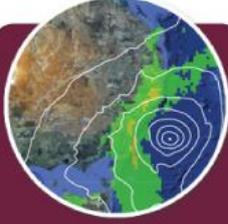
The alerts are sent out every morning and review the forecast conditions for the next seven days. Before you set up your alerts you need to understand which alert level to set.

These are based on the AHLU and the HLI threshold that is important for your site. Once you have assessed all your cattle in your pre-summer check (using the RAP), and determined the highest risk cattle (these will be the cattle with the lowest HLI threshold), you can select alerts for the AHLU level appropriate for your site. Note that if your conditions change through the summer you should think about checking that you have your alerts set on the correct level.

If your alerts have already been set and you are now receiving too many or too few alerts relative to the weather conditions and cattle responses experienced at your site this summer, it may be necessary to fine tune your alerts by either raising or lowering your AHLU alert level.

Cattle Heat Load Toolbox

Helping you proactively manage summer heat.

 <p>Cattle Behaviour</p> <p>What are your cattle telling you?</p> <p>Are they panting? Is feed intake reduced?</p> <p>Use these tools to recognise and record:</p> <p>Download PDFs</p>	 <p>Weather Observations</p> <p>What's happening now?</p> <p>Are your cattle carrying a heat load overnight?</p> <p>Have you had rain recently? Are the pens wet?</p> <p>View Current ></p>	 <p>Weather Forecast</p> <p>Is there an event coming?</p> <p>What can I expect to add to my current situation?</p> <p>Is it getting worse or better?</p> <p>View Forecast ></p>
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WEATHER STATION MAINTENANCE

It's a good time to think about any maintenance that your weather station may require. Katestone are seeing a lot of poor-quality data coming through which can really affect the accuracy of forecasts. Katestone have compiled some notes to help you maintain your weather station, with some key points listed below. You can find their full notes via [clicking here](#).

- Keep the sensors clean: leaves, spider webs, etc. can obstruct ventilation. If you have a black globe temperature sensor (black metal sphere), other foreign enemies (like dust, mud, bird dropping) can have a negative impact.
- Check that wind sensors (the cups and vane) do not make any noise when spinning.
- Use desiccant to remove condensation from the air inside enclosures (mast, booms, electrical cable, and connectors).
- Check cables: they could be attacked by parrots and rabbits!
- Check the battery (it should be close to the nominal battery voltage that is stamped on the battery case)
- Inspect the solar panel cover for cracking or crazing, leakage of rain around the edges and dirt.

DRINKING WATER QUALITY 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 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).



THE ANIMAL HEALTH & WELFARE WORKSHOPS ARE BACK!



Industry Vets, Dr. David Frith and Dr. Kev Sullivan, alongside Feedlot Technical Services Officer, Jeff House, will be delivering ALFA's Animal Health & Welfare workshops across the country this March. The workshops aim to instil and improve animal husbandry practices directly related to animal health and welfare in Australian feedlots.

THE ONE-DAY WORKSHOP WILL COVER TOPICS ON:

- 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

The workshop differs greatly from the recently delivered *Animal Welfare Officer Training* and is not accredited. This workshop was last delivered in 2013. The content has been updated in line with animal health & welfare advancements over the past 5 years.

All feedlot staff, particularly staff members who are handling cattle on a day-to-day basis, will benefit from attending the 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.

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 |

[Click here for more information and to register.](#) Early Bird rates available until 8 February!

*Correction notice - there was an error in the last newsletter, where the dates for the Oakey & the Rockhampton workshops were around the wrong way – the above list is correct.

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 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.

[Click here to read more.](#)

A REWARDING CAREER IN LOTFEEDING

This story first appeared in *The Land here*.

Nicole Radcliffe (pictured top right) is a recent graduate of the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation's TRAIL emerging leaders program on an industry funded scholarship awarded by ALFA, and said it was a valuable learning experience.

"I was approached to apply by my manager Richard Nicholls. He'd done the course previously and said it'd be really good for me.

"It gave me a lot of confidence just knowing that JBS was going to back me all the way."

The TRAIL program brings together emerging leaders from different regions and sectors, with a focus on expanding leadership skills to take back to their workplaces.

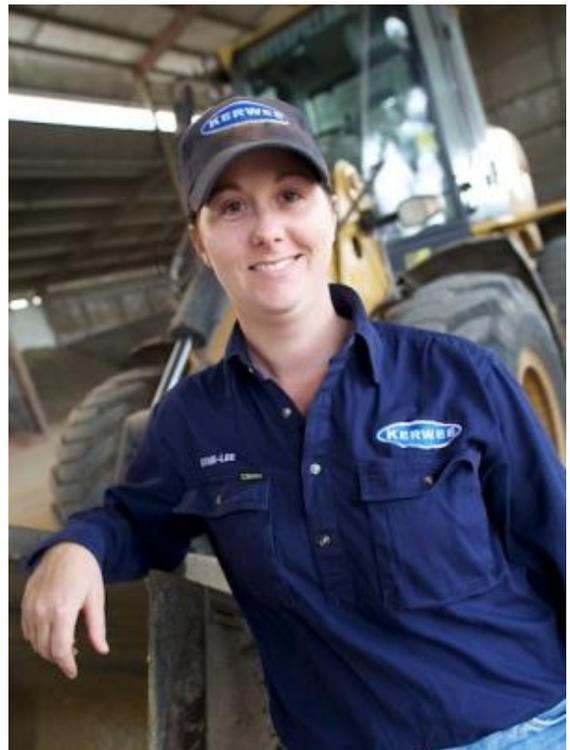
Nicole said the biggest achievement of the program was boosting her confidence.

"There's a lot of self-reflection and looking at yourself which is something that we don't really do that often, and it was an amazing adventure with some awesome and inspiring people," she said.

"We get so caught up in the day-to-day of making everything happen, especially in an intensive industry, but this was about thinking about what we're doing, and how we can make things work better."

Stevie-Lee Wayman, of Kerwee Lot Feeders Pty Ltd (pictured bottom right) was awarded the 2019 Scholarship to attend the next TRAIL program which will run on 27 February – 7 March in Canberra.

ALFA awards a number of Industry Scholarships annually. For more information on current opportunities and to apply head to the *ALFA website here*.



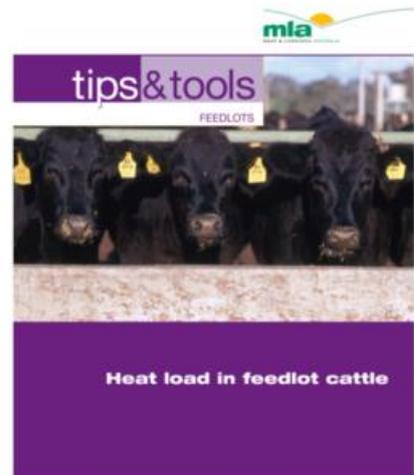
HEAT LOAD IN FEEDLOT CATTLE – TIPS & TOOLS

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)



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.

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 in the New Year!

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

