

# AROUND THE PENS

ISSUE 271 7 JANUARY 2019



## ALFA DIARY

### 7 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

## CONTACT

GPO Box 149, Sydney NSW 2001  
P: (02) 9290 3700  
F: (02) 9290 2808  
E: [info@feedlots.com.au](mailto:info@feedlots.com.au)

## Happy New Year!

### 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](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).

### VALE TREVOR SCHOORL

Lallemand Animal Nutrition's Trevor Schoorl tragically passed away at the aged of 47 over the Christmas period whilst loading a ride-on mower onto a trailer. Trevor was one of the Australia's leading silage production and nutrition consultants and was highly respected amongst the feedlot industry.

A funeral service was held in Toowoomba last Saturday. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Trevor's family and friends. He will be deeply missed by all at ALFA.

To read more about Trevor's life and achievements [click here \(Beef Central Article\)](#).



### 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.](#)

## INTRODUCING THE MPM PROGRAM CLASS OF 2019

We are excited to announce the MPM Program Class of 2019, who will kick off the Program at their first session in Sydney on 27 & 28 February 2019. The MPM Program is designed to provide lot feeders and industry professionals with a deeper understanding of how to manage a modern feedlot business.



The MPM Program was established in 2008 and once graduated the Class of 2019 will join the over 100-strong alumni network of lot feeders and industry professionals, many of whom are now prominent industry leaders.

- **Amy Wythes** - Trainee Manager at Ladysmith Feedlot
- **Ben Hart** - Feed Team Member at Yarranbrook Feedlot
- **Brooke Flanagan** - Livestock Supervisor at Gunnee Feedlot
- **Caela Dye** - Trainee Manager at Smithfield Feedlot
- **David Duncan** - Livestock Manager at Condamine Feedlot
- **Emily Chandler** - Administration Supervisor at Grassdale Feedlot
- **Emma Brown** - Administration at Pakaderinga Feedlot
- **Georgia Sloss** - Wonga Plains
- **Jessica McGrath** – Graduate at Jindalee Feedlot
- **Kate Meadows** - Leading Hand Livestock at Rangers Valley
- **Lachie Drury** - Condabri Feedlot
- **Luke Gaske** - Feed Team Supervisor at Kerwee Lot Feeders
- **Megan Bayles** - Livestock Manager at Aronui Feedlot
- **Rebecca O'Reilly**- Livestock Manager at Goonoo Feedlot
- **Toby Pitt** – Analyst at Meat & Livestock Australia

ALFA wishes to thank the businesses who are supporting and investing in their staff through the MPM Program this year and we look forward to sharing the MPM Journey with our Members via the Newsletter across the year.

The MPM 2019 Program Sessions are as follows:

- **27 & 28 February** – DiSC Profiling & Building Team Performance
- **15 & 16 May** – Finance Fundamentals & Professional Presentation Skills
- **3 & 4 July** – Behaviour Styles/People Management Tips & Commodity Management & Advocacy Training
- **4 & 5 September** – Feedlot & Processing Facility Tour

ALFA had such an overwhelming response for the Program this year that we expended the group size from 10 to 15. We now hold a waitlist for the MPM 2020 Program. If you are interested in reserving a position, please email [madeleine.hamilton@feedlots.com.au](mailto:madeleine.hamilton@feedlots.com.au).

## 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.

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

## 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.

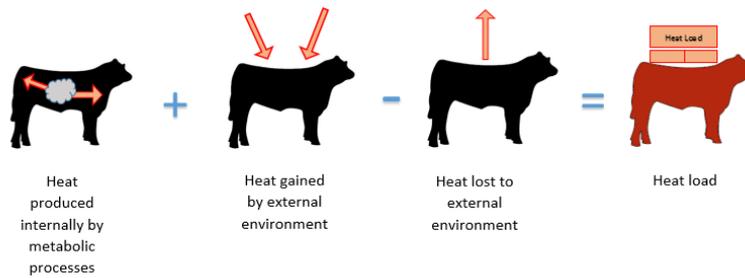
### LOCATIONS & DATES

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

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

## 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.

## **NATIONAL TRACEABILITY FRAMEWORK**

The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources is developing a National Traceability Framework to:

- enhance Australia's agricultural traceability systems
- improve competitiveness
- provide assurance for customers both domestically and abroad.

The Australian beef industry is undoubtedly well positioned to help support the Department's goals since we have a well-established national traceability system. Protecting Australia's reputation as a producer of high quality, clean, green, safe food is crucial and ensuring that other industries and commodity groups meet a minimum standard of traceability is an important first step.

Ultimately, the Project aims to further enhance the integrity of our traceability systems, allowing Australia to continue to trade with a competitive edge.

The Department, alongside industry stakeholders, have developed a set of principles which aim to shape the National Traceability Framework. These principles have now been released for public consultation. We invite any interested parties to supply feedback on the principles.

[Click here](#) to provide feedback on the principles. Please ensure you [review the new principles](#) before making a submission. Submissions close 23 January 2019.

## **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.

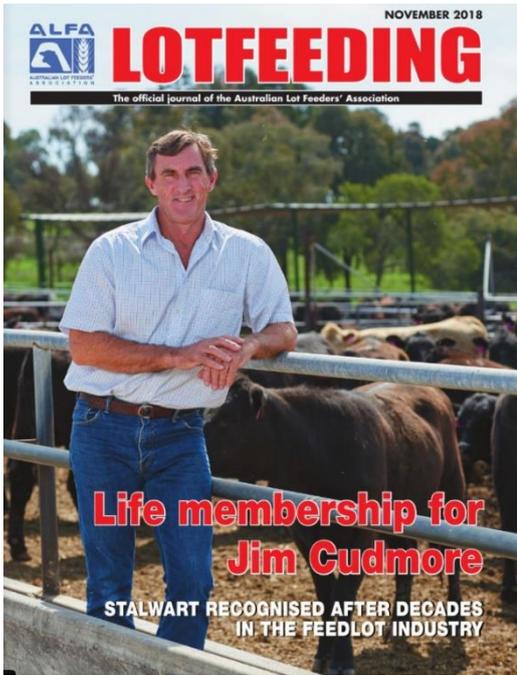
The revised MoU has been developed after additional residue testing conducted by the Australian Government indicated a negligible residue threat when cotton trash is fed to livestock in line with an industry agreed protocol.

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.

## HAVE YOU CAUGHT UP ON THE LATEST LOTFEEDING JOURNAL?



The next edition of the ALFA Lotfeeding Journal is due out on 24 January. Before it 'hits the stands' make sure you catch up on the latest edition!

[Click here](#) to access the latest edition of the Journal via the ALFA website.

All ALFA Members, as part of their membership benefits, receive a copy in the mail.

If you need to update your address or enquire about your copy – please contact [madeleine.hamilton@feedlots.com.au](mailto:madeleine.hamilton@feedlots.com.au) to update your details.

## 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.

## 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*



PERFORMANCE  
FEEDS



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