

# AROUND THE PENS

ISSUE 275 4 MARCH 2019



## ALFA DIARY

- 5 March**  
Wagga AHW Workshop
- 6 March**  
Tamworth AHW Workshop
- 12 March**  
Oakey AHW Workshop
- 13 March**  
Rockhampton AHW Workshop
- 19 March**  
Shepparton AHW Workshop
- 20 March**  
Hahndorf AHW Workshop
- 26 March**  
Narrogin AHW Workshop
- 28 March**  
AMS Webinar Part-One
- 4 April**  
AMS Webinar Part-Two

## EMERGENCY ANIMAL DISEASE WATCH HOTLINE

1800 675 888

## CONTACT

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## ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP WEBINAR

### ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP (AMS) WEBINAR - REGOS NOW OPEN

ALFA will be running a two-part webinar this 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.

The webinar is only \$50pp exc. gst for ALFA Members and covers registration for both webinars, pre-read materials, and access to post-webinar recordings. The webinars will also be a chance to be one of the first to access the new industry e-learning platform that will deliver AMS learning tools for lot feeders.

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

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

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

## RESOURCE MANUALS FOR LOT FEEDERS

Lot feeders are encouraged to download the below MLA / ALFA resources to help guide operations:

- [Euthanasia Manual](#)
- [Pregnancy Best Practice Manual](#)
- [Feedlot waste handbook: Handling and utilisation of effluent and manure](#)

## FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE COULD HARM AUSTRALIAN LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY

Australia's livestock industry could be facing a large-scale bio-security outbreak with multiple traces of foot and mouth disease being detected in Australian airports from December 2018.

The Australian Animal Health Laboratory along with Australian Agriculture minister David Littleproud has confirmed two detections of foot and mouth disease found meat products in Australian airports.

The impact of foot and mouth disease could be catastrophic for the welfare and livelihood of Australian farmers across the nation.

The United Kingdom dealt with a similar epidemic in both 2001 and 2007, this led to the mass culling of millions of livestock and the loss of billions of pounds for the industry.

[Click here to listen to the radio segment](#) for more information via The Wire (5mins).

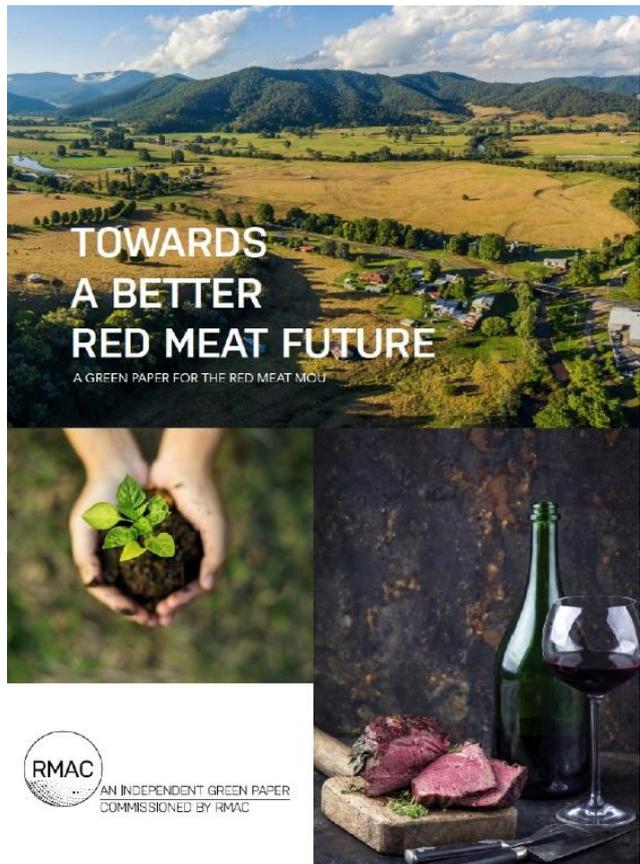
## RED MEAT MOU GREEN PAPER: YOUR CHANCE TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON BOLD INDUSTRY REFORM

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.*

## MPM PROGRAM - CLASS OF 2019

Last week, ALFA welcomed a new cohort of talented lot feeders and industry professionals into the Margin & People Management (MPM) Program. The group came together in Sydney for their first of four two-day sessions as part of the professional development program.



Day one saw the group understand their behavioural styles through DiSC profiling, facilitated by ALFA Platinum Member and MPM partner, Zoetis. Day two had the group thinking about their team back on the feedlot and learning new techniques to help build their team's performance. This session was facilitated by the Australian Institute of Management.

### The MPM Program Class of 2019:

- Amy Wythes, Ladysmith
- Ben Hart, Yarranbrook
- Brooke Flanagan, Gunnee
- Caela Dye, Smithfield
- David Duncan, Condamine
- Emily Chandler, Grassdale
- Emma Brown, Pakaderinga
- Georgia Sloss, Wonga Plains
- Kate Meadows, Rangers Valley
- Lachlan Drury, Condabri
- Luke Gaske, Kerwee Lot Feeders
- Mark Walton, Jindalee
- Megan Bayles, Aronui
- Rebecca O'Reilly, Goonoo
- Toby Pitt, MLA



Keep an eye out for these future industry leaders as they journey through the MPM Program. Their next session will take place in Sydney on 15 & 16 May. The group will graduate in September and join a strong alumni of over 110 lot feeders and industry professionals.

## AUS GOVERNMENT DIVIDED ON REFORMS TO TACKLE FARM TRESPASS

Agriculture ministers across the country are joining farmers in the call for tougher legal protections from animal activist trespassers, but that doesn't mean the chief lawmaker agrees.

In the same week a repeat farm trespass offender received a second slap on the wrist, Attorney General Christian Porter says there are already "substantial protections" in place.

"Australian law currently provides substantial avenues for individuals to seek redress for interferences..."

with their privacy – for example torts such as trespass, nuisance, defamation and breach of confidence,” Mr Porter said.

That’s out of step with the federal and state agriculture ministers who included the issue as an urgent matter in discussions at the Agriculture Ministers Forum recently.

Federal Agriculture Minister David Littleproud said all options would be considered, including state and federal reforms.

[Click here to read the full article](#) via The North Queensland Register.

### 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.

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](mailto:events@feedlots.com.au) with your suggestions.

### NEW TO LOT FEEDING? YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND THE NORTHERN ICMJ CONFERENCE

Feedlot employees are encouraged to register for the Northern Intercollegiate Meat Judging Competition (ICMJ) conference running from 25th to 27th April in Rockhampton, QLD. It’s a great opportunity for any lot feeder starting out in the industry or has had a few years’ experience to take the next step in preparing for a great career in the Northern Beef industry.

The event is the perfect vehicle for both agriculture students, pastoral company and agribusiness staff to enhance their knowledge of the factors affecting beef eating quality at every point from farm through to abattoir and on to the end consumer.

The registration fee is priced competitively at only \$120 for the entire conference; which covers meals and accommodation for three days.

The banner for the ICMJ Northern Conference features a central image of several people in white lab coats and hard hats examining meat carcasses in a processing facility. The ICMJ logo, a stylized head profile in a circle, is on the left. The text 'ICMJ AUSTRALIAN INTERCOLLEGIATE MEAT JUDGING ASSOCIATION' is prominently displayed in the center. Below the main image, the text 'Inspiring and developing future professionals in the global red meat industry' is written in a cursive font. At the bottom, a dark blue bar contains the text 'ICMJ Northern Conference' in large, bold, orange letters. Below this bar are three smaller images: a herd of cattle in a field, a person at a table with a laptop, and a person presenting at a conference. The dates 'Thursday 25 - Saturday 27 April 2019' are printed in orange at the very bottom of the banner.

[Click here for more information](#) on the conference via their website.

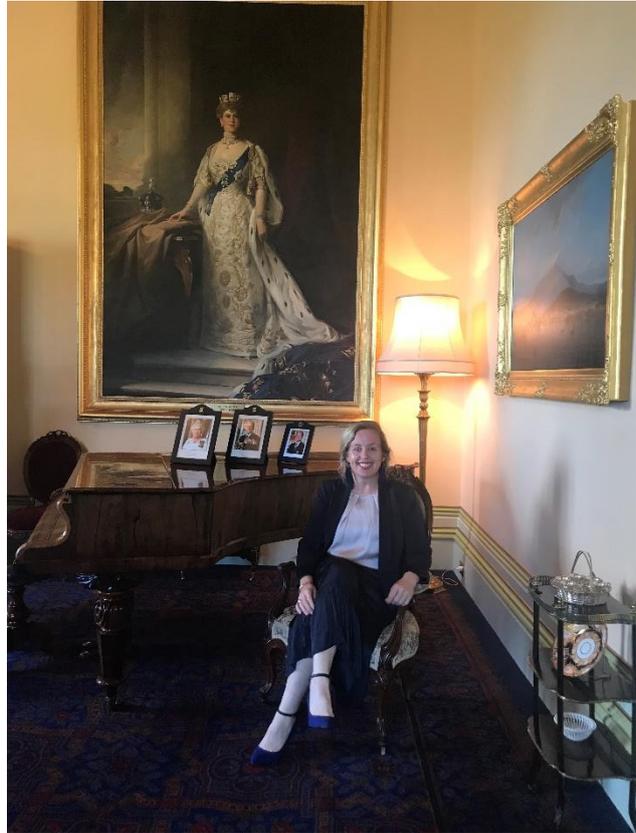
[Click here to register](#) for the ICMJ Conference – Rockhampton.

## ARLP GROUP TRAVEL TO TASMANIA

Industry sponsored participant, Lauren McNally of Mort & Co (pictured to right at Tasmanian Parliament House), last month travelled to Tasmania as part of their journey on Course 25 of the Australian Rural Leadership Program (ARLP) – the trip was organised by the Tasmanian ARLP Alumni.

“The Tasmanian alumni put a fantastic program together. We had the opportunity to travel through the state being welcomed by and learning from the local indigenous community, government house, various small business ventures and much needed non for profit organisations,” said Lauren.

“It was a great exhibition of what Tasmania is truly offering in terms of leadership through innovation, collaboration, determination and resilience. It was truly humbling, and It has really propelled me into thinking globally and acting locally!”



If you are interested in applying for an industry sponsored position on the next ARLP, visit the [ALFA Awards page](#) for more information on the Course and how to apply.

## COSTA GEORGIADIS TO LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR BIOSECURITY CONVERSATION

Animal Health Australia (AHA), the Invasive Species Council (ISC) and the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions (CISS) are excited to announce that long-time host of ABC's Gardening Australia, Costa Georgiadis, will be the official MC of the inaugural 2019 Australian Biosecurity Symposium.

Bringing with him a wealth of knowledge, charisma and passion for plants, people and food security, Costa is looking forward to joining the delegates at the Symposium, which is the first to bring together all of the different sectors working on biosecurity in Australia.

“Biosecurity is not an ‘us and them’ mentality. We are all in this together. Be a part of it,” said Mr Georgiadis.

Andrew Cox, ISC CEO, said the Symposium is an important step in addressing the unprecedented pressure facing Australia's biosecurity system.

“With the volume of people, mail and cargo entering Australia predicted to double in the fifteen years to 2030, we will need to do things differently. Our Symposium provides the ideal platform to explore how to transform Australia's biosecurity systems to better protect our economy, environment and way of life,” said Mr Cox.

“We encourage anyone interested in biosecurity to come along and get involved in this important conversation.”

[Click here to read more.](#)



## TECHNOLOGY AT THE FOREFRONT OF AUSTRALIA'S FMD PREPAREDNESS

Response strategies for foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) are being tested by an Australian research project.

The Outbreak Decision Support Tools subproject is part of the FMD Ready Project. Computer simulation software, known as the Australian Animal Disease Spread model (AADIS), is used to model possible FMD outbreak scenarios and compare the impact of different response strategies.

The project aims to help decision-makers understand the social and economic impacts of alternative response strategies during and after an outbreak of FMD, said Dr Tim Capon, Economist at CSIRO and leader of the Outbreak Decision Support Tools subproject.

"We want to identify the advantages and disadvantages of using vaccination as part of an FMD response strategy and how these might vary depending on the outbreak, such as location and what species of susceptible livestock is affected. To do this, we've collected information from state and territory response staff and industry stakeholders, allowing us to update the model and inform the selection of outbreak scenarios and control strategies to be tested using AADIS."

AADIS will also analyse the costs of different vaccination control strategies and the implications of using vaccination on proving that Australia is free of FMD after the outbreak is controlled.

"The most relevant outbreak scenarios where vaccination appears to be of benefit will be further assessed for economic impacts, particularly those related to international trade," said Dr Capon.

The subproject is one of four under the FMD Ready Project, which commenced in 2016 and aims to strengthen preparedness for an emergency animal disease outbreak and facilitate an earlier return to trade for Australia following control of such a disease, using FMD as a model.

"This project is supporting really important work that will help boost Australia's FMD preparedness. However, this work simply wouldn't be possible without the participation of our industry and jurisdictional stakeholders, so we'd like to thank them for all the time and information they have provided," said Dr Capon.

The FMD Ready project is supported by Meat & Livestock Australia, through funding from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources as part of its Rural Research & Development for Profit program, and by producer levies from Australian FMD-susceptible livestock (cattle, sheep, goats and pigs) industries and Charles Sturt University (CSU), leveraging significant in-kind support from the research partners.

The research partners for this project are the CSIRO, CSU through the Graham Centre for Agricultural Innovation, the Bureau of Meteorology and the Australian Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, supported by Animal Health Australia.

[Click here for more information regarding the FMD Ready Project.](#)

## ATTN QLD MEMBERS - LIVESTOCK LOADING EXEMPTION NOTICE 2019

After three long years the Livestock Loading Review has concluded and the Queensland Class 3 Livestock Loading Exemption Notice 2019 is now official as of the 10.02.19. [Click here to view a copy of the notice.](#)

Transport and Main Roads have also produced a document "Operators Guide to Livestock Loading" for which they have requested industry feedback. [Click here to access the guide.](#)

If you wish to provide feedback please email the Livestock and Rural Transporters Association of Queensland Inc. (LRTAQ) Secretariat at [admin@lrtaq.com.au](mailto:admin@lrtaq.com.au)

## **RISK FACTORS, TREATMENT AND PREVENTION FOR PINKEYE DISEASE IN CATTLE – RESEARCH SURVEY OPEN**

A group of researchers working at the Sydney School of Veterinary Science and School of Veterinary and Life Sciences, Murdoch University are currently conducting research into pinkeye of beef cattle, also known as blight, and infectious bovine keratoconjunctivitis as a part of a Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) project.

Pinkeye is a well-known, important eye disease of cattle, but despite many years of research questions remain about its cause, impact and treatments. A survey is being conducted to find out how common pinkeye is in different regions of Australia, its importance, and any predisposing factors. The information supplied will be used to help improve prevention, control and management of pinkeye.

If you are interested in taking part in the research, you are invited to participate in the survey via the below link.

[Click here to take the survey.](#)

The survey may take about 10-15 minutes to complete. Your name will go into a draw to win one of the ten \$100 gift vouchers. Prize winners will be selected without their responses to the online survey being identifiable.

## **NFAS FEEDING REQUIREMENTS DURING NATURAL DISASTERS**

Please refer to the below information for NFAS provisions in regards to the circumstances when feeding of a prescribed Feed Ration may be unavoidably interrupted.

As a result of the natural disasters in Qld in 2011, the Feedlot Industry Accreditation Committee (FLIAC) determined that, on animal welfare grounds, there are two circumstances when feeding of a prescribed Feed Ration may be unavoidably interrupted before eligibility of the initial feeding period (to be counted in the total “Days on Feed”) of the cattle to be described as GF or GFYG (as applicable) would be invalidated:

1. Cattle in a feedlot may be taken off a prescribed Feed Ration because of a Natural Disaster such as flooding; cyclone; earthquake; prolonged loss of power and/or an unavoidable inability to access commodities necessary to maintain a prescribed Feed Ration, and
2. The need for an extension of an NFAS Delivery Docket Expiry Date due to unforeseen circumstances in transit.

Under these circumstances NFAS accredited members may request written approval from FLIAC to take cattle off a prescribed Feed Ration for no longer than seven (7) days; and/or request an extension of the Expiry Date of no more than seven (7) days on an individual NFAS Delivery Docket pertaining to specified cattle. Notably, carcasses of cattle identified on an individual NFAS Delivery Docket that has been granted an extension must comply with the AUS-MEAT Minimum Standard for Grain Fed Beef when assessed at the Processing Enterprise.

In the first instance, a copy of the written approval from FLIAC for the allowed interruption period off a Feed Ration must be maintained by the Enterprise and in the second example, a copy of the written approval from FLIAC must be provided to the receiver of the cattle along with the original NFAS Delivery Docket and a copy must be maintained by the Enterprise.

Note that these amendments do not apply to cattle being fed for eligibility for the EU Grain Fed High Quality Beef market where the feeding period on the ration of ME of 12.26MJ/kg must be for the last 100 days without interruption.

For further information in regards to these issues, please contact Craig Firrell at AUS-MEAT on 1800 621 903.

## PRIMARY PRODUCER ASSISTANCE DURING & POST NATURAL DISASTERS

**Freight subsidies** - Primary producers in affected areas can apply for freight subsidies of up to \$5,000. Phone 13 25 23 to find out if you are eligible.

### Rural Assistance

- **NSW** - DPI Rural Assistance Authority <https://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/>
- **QLD** - Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority <http://www.qrida.qld.gov.au/homepage>

### Leasehold rent relief

Landholders can apply to have their next leasehold rental payment deferred. [click here to find out more about deferring your rent or instalment.](#)

### Support services for primary producers

If your farm has been affected by a natural disaster, find out:

- [what primary producers should do after a natural disaster](#)
- about [disaster recovery for livestock farms](#), including animal welfare
- about [disaster recovery for crop farming](#)
- about [freight subsidies](#) and the [provision of fodder and fodder drops](#)
- how to [prepare for winter crops following floods](#)
- about [clearing activities before and after natural disasters](#)
- about [natural disaster preparation and recovery](#) on your property
- more information on [rural disaster recovery](#)

## BIOSECURITY & ANIMAL HEALTH POST-NATURAL DISASTERS

Surviving livestock post a natural disaster can be impacted by comprised immune systems from metabolic disruption, trauma and exhaustion, which makes them more vulnerable to disease and infection of exposed wounds, according to Animal Health Australia (AHA).

Click here for a list of critical points of biosecurity for livestock health post a flooding event via AHA.

If you notice symptoms of illness in surviving cattle contact your local veterinarian or Biosecurity Queensland Stock Office (DAF office). More information: Disaster recover for livestock.

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

