

Media Release

17th May, 2013

Grain fed cattle numbers rise slightly

Results from the latest ALFA/ MLA feedlot survey showed a 1% rise in cattle numbers on feed over the quarter.

Australian Lot Feeders' Association (ALFA) President Don Mackay commented that the March quarter survey outcome was predominantly the result of a decline in feeder cattle prices.

"Domestic feeder steers (C2 0-330/kg lwt) averaged 179¢/kg lwt or 19% lower year-on-year".

"The decline in feeder cattle prices reflected higher cattle turnoff figures due to drier than average seasonal conditions across parts of Australia".

"Whilst the March quarter declines in feeder cattle prices were mainly felt in Queensland, the significant increases in grain prices on the Darling Downs largely offset any potential gains to lot feeders in that state".

"Barley, sorghum and wheat prices on the Downs rose 52%, 48% and 45%, respectively, year-on-year".

Meat & Livestock Australia's Manager for Market Information and Analysis, Tim McRae stated that "grain fed exports for the quarter were up 10% compared to the corresponding quarter last year, with the slight declines to Japan and Korea more than offset by increases to Europe, the Middle East and China".

"Whilst grainfed beef exports to Japan fell 2% year-on-year, and Korea 1%, they increased in Europe (94%), China (1427%) and the Middle East (107%), all albeit from a low base".

"Given seasonal conditions have continued to deteriorate in the June quarter, and further declines in feeder cattle prices experienced, it is expected that cattle numbers on feed will increase again over this period, despite additional increases in feed grain prices, Mr Mackay concluded".

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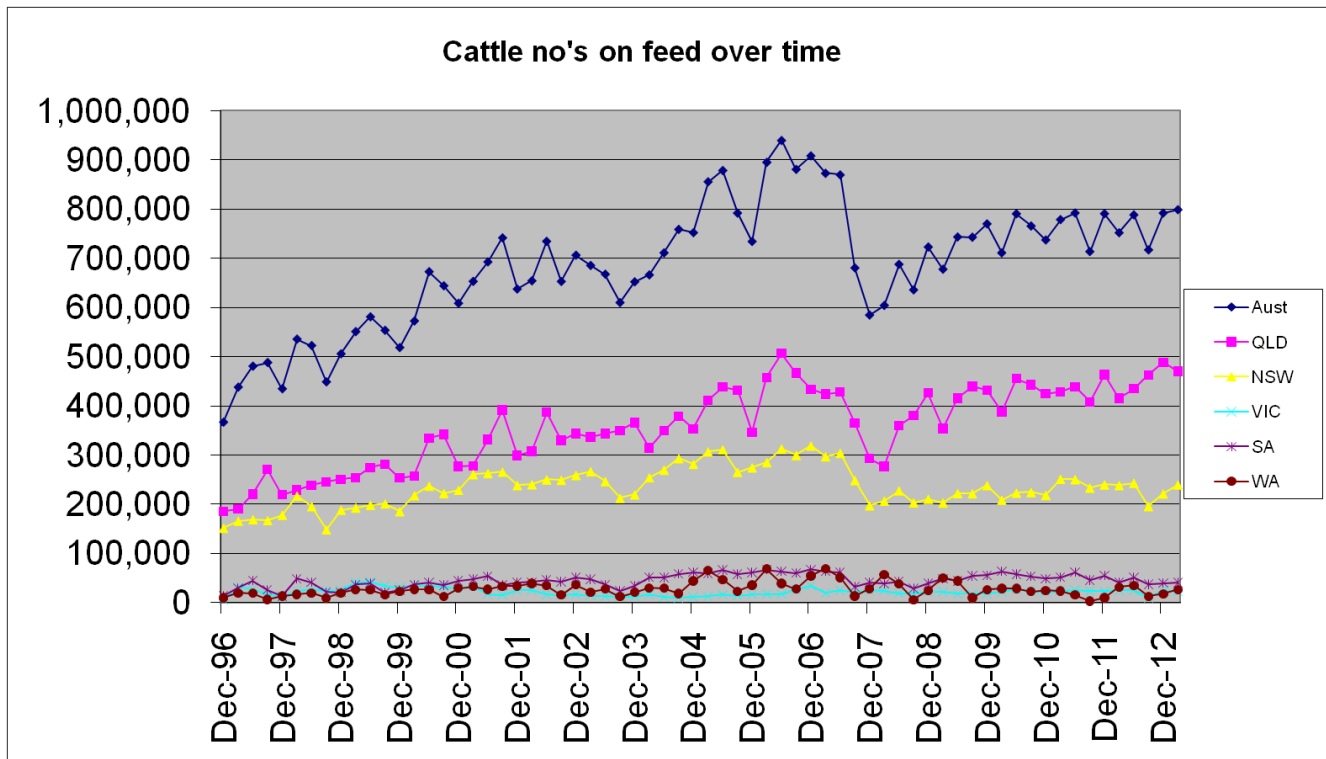
ALFA / MLA FEEDLOT SURVEY
Jan – Mar 2013

Cattle numbers on feed, capacity and capacity utilisation

Numbers on Feed	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	Total
Mar-13	239,846	40,373	470,212	22,360	26,243	799,034
Dec-12	221,380	39,649	488,539	24,879	17,771	792,218
Mar-12	238,703	41,109	415,508	25,440	31,353	752,113

Capacity	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	Total
Mar-13	331,182	75,356	662,856	30,195	89,226	1,188,815
Dec-12	396,442	86,494	660,603	31,526	100,272	1,275,337
Mar-12	388,749	107,645	631,598	28,733	101,404	1,258,129

Utilisation	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	Total
Mar-13	72%	54%	71%	74%	29%	67%
Dec-12	56%	46%	74%	79%	18%	62%
Mar-12	61%	38%	66%	89%	31%	60%

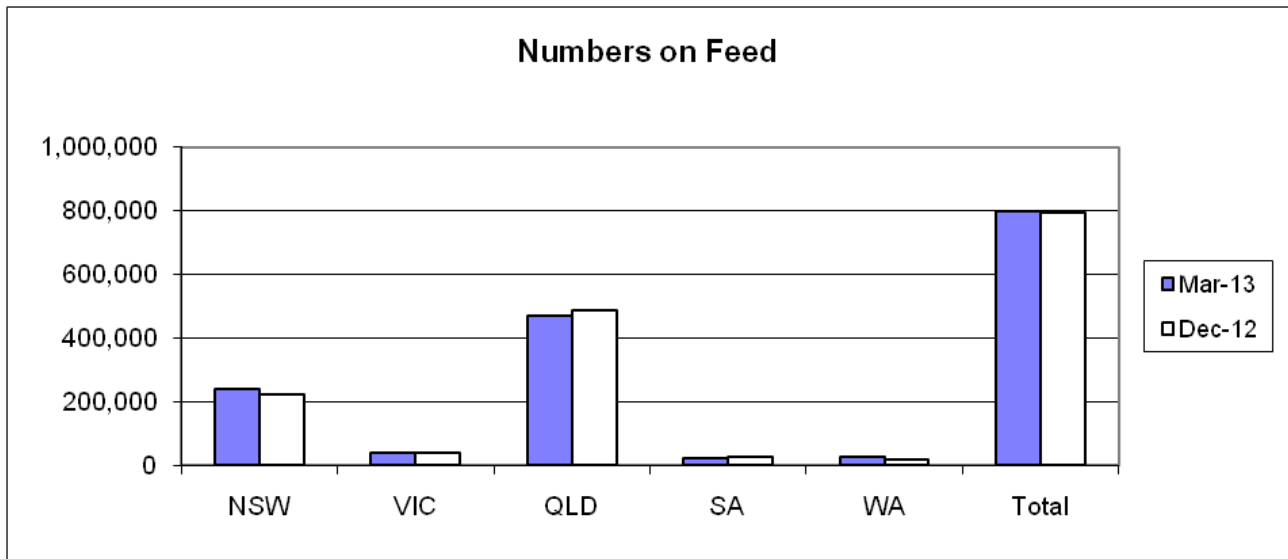


ALFA / MLA FEEDLOT SURVEY
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Total Cattle Turnoff

<i>Total Turnoff (year ending)</i>	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	Total
Dec-12	610687	156573	1566232	104681	67077	2505250
Dec-11	665278	220082	1402924	101822	55026	2445132
Dec-10	634526	207305	1468631	110831	112318	2533611
Dec-09	587444	161614	1374959	77281	130601	2331899
Dec-08	570099	150271	1212738	76910	124485	2134503
Dec-07	717243	197930	1261965	79036	148021	2404195

<i>Total Turnoff (quarterly)</i>	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	Total
Mar-13	173756	31016	365008	18885	26697	615362
Dec-12	132717	30177	490443	27952	3122	684411
Mar-12	158565	31327	358045	32179	12083	592199



**ALFA / MLA FEEDLOT SURVEY
Jan – Mar 2013**

State Breakdown by Feedlot Size

	Capacity Mar 13	Capacity Dec 12	Capacity Mar 12	Numbers on Feed Mar 13	Numbers on Feed Dec 12	Numbers on Feed Mar 12
<i>New South Wales</i>						
Less than 500 head	7,006	6,409	7,209	895	2,502	4,458
500 -1000 head	17,844	17,864	21,754	5,876	2,244	3,898
1000 - 10000 head	90,029	88,886	117,174	62,999	62,804	67,393
over 10000 head	216,303	283,283	242,612	170,076	153,830	162,954
<i>State Total</i>	<i>331,182</i>	<i>396,442</i>	<i>388,749</i>	<i>239,846</i>	<i>221,380</i>	<i>238,703</i>
<i>Queensland</i>						
Less than 500 head	39,113	38,078	38,403	5,937	6,122	4,672
500 -1000 head	45,910	41,638	48,260	12,431	20,343	14,453
1000 - 10000 head	273,629	259,019	222,529	217,801	201,675	128,654
over 10000 head	304,204	321,868	322,406	234,043	260,399	267,729
<i>State Total</i>	<i>662,856</i>	<i>660,603</i>	<i>631,598</i>	<i>470,212</i>	<i>488,539</i>	<i>415,508</i>
<i>Victoria</i>						
Less than 500 head	4,412	4,620	16,146	4,236	2,702	13,885
500 -1000 head	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0	0
1000 - 10000 head	26,499	24,874	28,499	12,073	12,929	14,648
over 10000 head	43,445	56,000	62,000	24,064	24,018	12,576
<i>State Total</i>	<i>75,356</i>	<i>86,494</i>	<i>107,645</i>	<i>40,373</i>	<i>39,649</i>	<i>41,109</i>
<i>South Australia</i>						
Less than 500 head	1,918	2,068	2,896	1,209	681	2,046
500 -1000 head	6,312	6,664	25,837	2,453	3,450	23,394
1000 - 10000 head	21,965	22,794	0	18,698	20,748	0
over 10000 head	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>State Total</i>	<i>30,195</i>	<i>31,526</i>	<i>28,733</i>	<i>22,360</i>	<i>24,879</i>	<i>25,440</i>
<i>Western Australia</i>						
Less than 500 head	13,488	14,365	8,844	2,526	1,673	1,645
500 -1000 head	12,800	9,800	14,160	2,400	0	2,540
1000 - 10000 head	62,938	76,107	78,400	21,317	16,098	27,168
over 10000 head	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>State Total</i>	<i>89,226</i>	<i>100,272</i>	<i>101,404</i>	<i>26,243</i>	<i>17,771</i>	<i>31,353</i>
<i>Australia</i>						
Less than 500 head	65,937	65,540	73,498	14,803	13,680	26,706
500 -1000 head	83,866	76,966	111,011	23,160	26,037	44,285
1000 - 10000 head	475,060	471,680	446,602	332,888	314,254	237,863
over 10000 head	563,952	661,151	627,018	428,183	438,247	443,259
<i>Total</i>	<i>1,188,815</i>	<i>1,275,337</i>	<i>1,258,129</i>	<i>799,034</i>	<i>792,218</i>	<i>752,113</i>