



# Media Release

19 May 2016

## Cattle numbers on feed ease

Cattle on feed for the March 2016 quarter has seen a decline of 8.3% (or 82,862 head) from the previous quarter, to 914,902 head, according to results from the ALFA/MLA quarterly survey.

Decreases in cattle on feed were seen across all states, apart from Western Australia.

Australian Lot Feeders' Association (ALFA) President, Tess Herbert said that the decline in numbers for this quarter was expected due to the high cattle prices, "Paddock purchased feeder steer prices increased 32% year-on-year averaging 323.13/kg lwt" Ms Herbert said.

"We also saw a record breaking Eastern Young Cattle Indicator (EYCI) in February, reaching 605.75c/kg," Ms Herbert said.

The high cattle prices were however offset by the decrease in feed prices, "Darling Downs fodder prices declined 22% year-on-year, dropping to \$285/tonne," Ms Herbert said.

Average prices ex-Darling Downs averaged cheaper year-on-year due to high global availability, with wheat prices easing 15% to \$363/tonne for the March quarter.

Though turnoff also eased across most states, decreasing 9.6% since December 2015, MLA Manager of Market Information, Ben Thomas observed that the grainfed beef exports for the March 2016 quarter reached 62,282 tonnes swt, and was up 3% compared to the 2015 March quarter.

"There was a large volume shipped to Korea, which jumped 63% from last year to 13,187 tonnes swt, while 5,154 tonnes swt were exported to China," Mr Thomas said.

"On the other hand, there was an 18% decline in grainfed shipments to Japan, to 29,208 tonnes swt," Mr Thomas said. "Despite the fall, Japan still accounted for 47% of the quarter's total grainfed exports."

Mr Thomas said he attributed the increase overall exports to the high numbers on feed in the December 2015 quarter.

-Ends-

For more information:

Tess Herbert  
President – ALFA  
E: [tess\\_herbert@gundamain.com.au](mailto:tess_herbert@gundamain.com.au)  
P: (02) 6859 2784

Ben Thomas  
Manager, Market Information – MLA  
E: [bthomas@mla.com.au](mailto:bthomas@mla.com.au)  
P: (02) 9463 9283

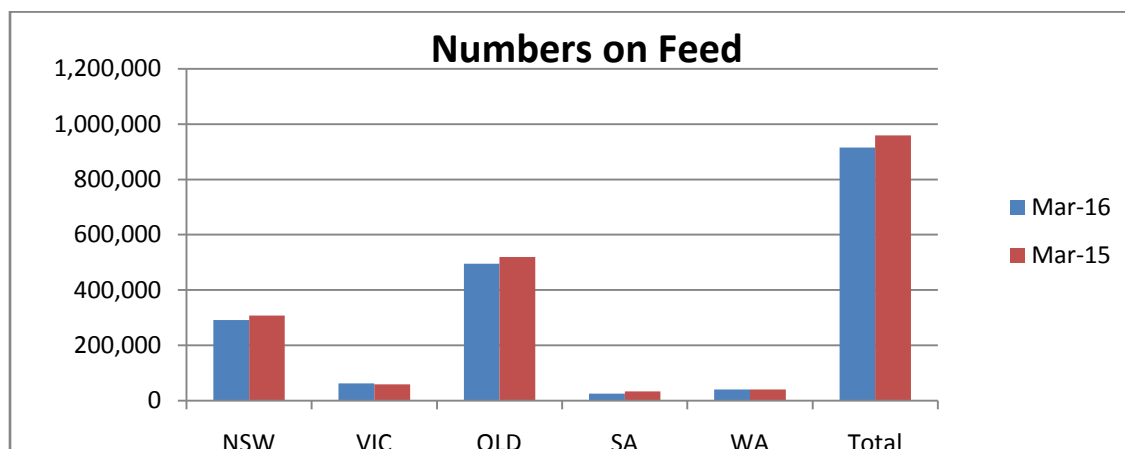
**ALFA / MLA FEEDLOT SURVEY**  
Jan – Mar 2016

**Cattle numbers on feed, capacity and capacity utilisation**

<b>Numbers on Feed</b>	<b>NSW</b>	<b>VIC</b>	<b>QLD</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>WA</b>	<b>Total</b>
Mar-16	291,312	62,888	495,578	25,147	39,976	<b>914,902</b>
Dec-15	358,068	75,387	513,969	30,738	19,603	<b>997,764</b>
Mar-15	308,274	58,582	519,248	33,108	39,929	<b>959,141</b>

<b>Capacity</b>	<b>NSW</b>	<b>VIC</b>	<b>QLD</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>WA</b>	<b>Total</b>
Mar-16	352,274	115,791	662,243	28,382	60,824	<b>1,219,513</b>
Dec-15	409,571	85,344	658,510	39,619	45,694	<b>1,238,739</b>
Mar-15	365,483	71,272	614,786	40,130	55,324	<b>1,146,995</b>

<b>Utilisation</b>	<b>NSW</b>	<b>VIC</b>	<b>QLD</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>WA</b>	<b>Total</b>
Mar-16	83%	54%	75%	89%	66%	<b>75%</b>
Dec-15	87%	88%	78%	78%	43%	<b>81%</b>
Mar-15	84%	82%	84%	83%	72%	<b>84%</b>



**Total Cattle Turnoff**

<b>Total Turnoff (year ending)</b>	<b>NSW</b>	<b>VIC</b>	<b>QLD</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>WA</b>	<b>Total</b>
Dec-15	846,299	216,859	1,672,053	85,854	79,424	<b>2,900,488</b>
Dec-14	783,132	183,510	1,577,009	85,406	66,938	<b>2,695,995</b>
Dec-13	675,353	161,378	1,581,591	87,291	117,377	<b>2,622,990</b>
Dec-12	610,687	156,573	1,566,232	104,681	67,077	<b>2,505,250</b>
Dec-11	665,278	220,082	1,402,924	101,822	55,026	<b>2,445,132</b>

**ALFA / MLA FEEDLOT SURVEY**  
Jan – Mar 2016

<b>Total Turnoff (quarterly)</b>	<b>NSW</b>	<b>VIC</b>	<b>QLD</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>WA</b>	<b>Total</b>
Mar-16	206,195	43,549	329,172	19,845	32,965	<b>631,726</b>
Dec-15	210,286	60,765	399,377	21,946	6,693	<b>699,066</b>
Mar-15	214,949	37,489	419,993	32,525	20,255	<b>725,211</b>

**State Breakdown by Feedlot Size**

	<b>Capacity Mar 16</b>	<b>Capacity Dec 15</b>	<b>Capacity Mar 15</b>	<b>Numbers on Feed Mar 16</b>	<b>Numbers on Feed Dec 15</b>	<b>Numbers on Feed Mar 15</b>
<b>New South Wales</b>						
Less than 500 head	5,975	4,777	5,442	3,418	3,514	4,251
500 -1000 head	25,848	25,871	24,749	12,602	11,248	15,071
1000 - 10000 head	116,248	122,529	104,179	104,296	113,575	88,601
over 10000 head	204,202	256,394	231,113	170,996	229,730	200,351
<b>State Total</b>	<b>352,274</b>	<b>409,571</b>	<b>365,483</b>	<b>291,312</b>	<b>358,068</b>	<b>308,274</b>
<b>Queensland</b>						
Less than 500 head	22,271	22,529	27,754	6,113	5,492	11,653
500 -1000 head	112,017	64,358	37,736	18,349	9,468	18,770
1000 - 10000 head	205,058	212,144	206,950	156,361	157,935	169,969
over 10000 head	322,897	359,479	342,345	314,755	341,074	318,856
<b>State Total</b>	<b>662,243</b>	<b>658,510</b>	<b>614,786</b>	<b>495,578</b>	<b>513,969</b>	<b>519,248</b>
<b>Victoria</b>						
Less than 500 head	0	0	0	0	0	0
500 -1000 head	9,024	9,051	7,918	8,765	7,518	7,543
1000 - 10000 head	58,767	28,293	23,354	24,604	26,937	20,193
over 10000 head	48,000	48,000	40,000	29,520	40,932	30,846
<b>State Total</b>	<b>115,791</b>	<b>85,344</b>	<b>71,272</b>	<b>62,888</b>	<b>75,387</b>	<b>58,582</b>
<b>South Australia</b>						
Less than 500 head	1,735	1,749	1,992	1,221	757	1,410
500 -1000 head	5,040	5,040	4,540	2,318	1,680	2,300
1000 - 10000 head	21,607	32,830	33,599	21,607	28,301	29,398
over 10000 head	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>State Total</b>	<b>28,382</b>	<b>39,619</b>	<b>40,130</b>	<b>25,147</b>	<b>30,738</b>	<b>33,108</b>
<b>Western Australia</b>						
Less than 500 head	2,346	3,797	8,194	1,466	2,088	2,546
500 -1000 head	5,800	5,800	6,930	4,843	2,909	4,495
1000 - 10000 head	52,678	36,097	40,200	33,667	14,607	32,888
over 10000 head	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>State Total</b>	<b>60,824</b>	<b>45,694</b>	<b>55,324</b>	<b>39,976</b>	<b>19,603</b>	<b>39,929</b>
<b>Australia</b>						
Less than 500 head	32,327	32,851	43,381	12,219	11,851	19,860
500 -1000 head	157,730	110,120	81,874	46,877	32,822	48,179
1000 - 10000 head	454,358	431,894	408,282	340,534	341,356	341,048
over 10000 head	575,099	663,873	613,458	515,271	611,736	550,053
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,219,513</b>	<b>1,238,739</b>	<b>1,146,995</b>	<b>914,902</b>	<b>997,764</b>	<b>959,141</b>

ALFA / MLA FEEDLOT SURVEY  
Jan – Mar 2016

