



AUSTRALIAN LOT FEEDERS ASSOCIATION



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## Media Release

### Lot feeders urged to be cautious regarding sorghum

The Australian Lot Feeders Association (ALFA) is urging lot feeders to take additional precautions regarding the presence of synthetic pyrethroid insecticide and ergot in sorghum used for animal feed.

ALFA Vice President, Jim Cudmore stated that “the presence of Rutherglen bug and the fungal disease ergot in this year’s sorghum crop has potential risks for cattle fed with contaminated grain”.

“For instance, the use of synthetic pyrethroid (SP) insecticide to control Rutherglen bug in this year’s sorghum crop increases the potential for beef residue issues”.

“Importantly, if alpha-cypermethrin and deltamethrin SP are present in sorghum grain fed to cattle, provided that label directions and withholding periods are observed, adherence to Export Slaughter Intervals<sup>1</sup> (ESI’s) in this instance is not considered necessary”.

“However if alpha-cypermethrin and deltamethrin SP sprayed sorghum is foraged or used as silage, an Export Animal Feed Interval<sup>2</sup> of 28 days applies as well as an ESI of 21 and 42 days for these chemicals respectively”.

“ALFA is recommending that lot feeders determine the existence of the chemical through the use of Commodity Vendor Declarations when purchasing grain and routine product testing”.

“Lot feeders should also be aware of the presence of the fungal disease ergot in this year’s sorghum crop”.

“Research has shown that cattle fed with even small amounts of ergot infected sorghum have marked reductions in feed intake and growth rates”.

“Consumption of ergot infected sorghum also increases the internal temperature of cattle during digestion, thereby potentially leading to cattle distress in periods of high heat load”.

“While state legislation stipulates maximum ergot tolerances of 0.3% in sorghum, lot feeders are encouraged to use the National Agricultural Commodities Marketing Association ‘CSG-2’ grain receival standard which has a 0.1% threshold”, Mr Cudmore concluded.

<i>For further information:</i>	
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<sup>1</sup> The ESI is the minimum period of time allowed between the exposure of an animal to a chemical, whether it be by direct treatment (antibiotics, insecticides, anthelmintics etc.), or access to feed that has been treated or contaminated with a chemical, and the slaughter of that animal.

<sup>2</sup> The EAFI is the minimum period that must elapse between the application of a chemical and the grazing or harvesting the crop/pasture for animal feed for export animals.