



13 February 2020

## Feedlots finish 2019 on all time high

Cattle on feed finished on a record high of 1,239,563 head for the October – December 2019 quarter, an increase of 120,234 head or 10.7%, according to the results of the latest Australian Lot Feeders' Association (ALFA) and Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) survey.

Increased numbers on feed were recorded in all states, with Queensland, New South Wales and Western Australia having the largest gains. Queensland increased by 59,786 head, or 9%, to 720,055 head, while New South Wales increased by 27,743, or 8.6%, to 349,694 and Western Australia increased by 28,723 to 56,193 head, more than doubling the numbers on feed compared to the September quarter.

South Australia and Victoria experienced more modest increases with South Australia increasing by 3,779 head or 8.9%, to 46,367 head, while Victoria increased by 204 head to 67,255 head on feed.

ALFA President, Bryce Camm, said 2019 was another significant year for feedlot production which continue to play a leading role in managing seasonal variability and enabling the continued delivery of high-quality beef to our global customers.

"Cattle on feed has been above 1 million head during the past eight quarters, culminating with a historical all-time high exceeding 1.2 million and feedlot utilisation reaching 90% at the end of 2019," Mr Camm said.

"The Feedlot industry continues to demonstrate the significant role it plays in helping supply chain business continuity in the face of persistent and widespread drought conditions," Mr Camm said.

"Feedlots play an essential role helping Australian exporters meet demand for high quality Australian beef whilst supporting 1,800 jobs directly and a further 30,000 jobs indirectly in rural communities," Mr Camm said.

Adam Cheetham, MLA's Senior Market Analyst, said African Swine Fever (ASF) reshaped the global meat trade during 2019, with volumes diverted away from traditional markets to China to mitigate protein deficiencies caused by a reduction in domestic pork production.

"Australian grainfed exports totalled 82,520 tonnes shipped weight (swt) through the December quarter, an increase of 5% from year-ago levels and 2% higher than volumes in the September quarter."

"Grainfed exports to China continued to climb, improving 61% year-on-year to 23,989 tonnes swt, up 20% from the previous quarter."

"However, exports to Japan eased 10% from the same quarter last year to 33,565 tonnes swt, while grainfed exports to Korea fell 2% year-on-year to 14,168 tonnes swt," Mr Cheetham said.

For more information:

Bryce Camm

President – ALFA

E: [bryce@cammgroupp.com.au](mailto:bryce@cammgroupp.com.au)

P: (02) 9290 3700

Josh McIntosh

Media Manager – MLA

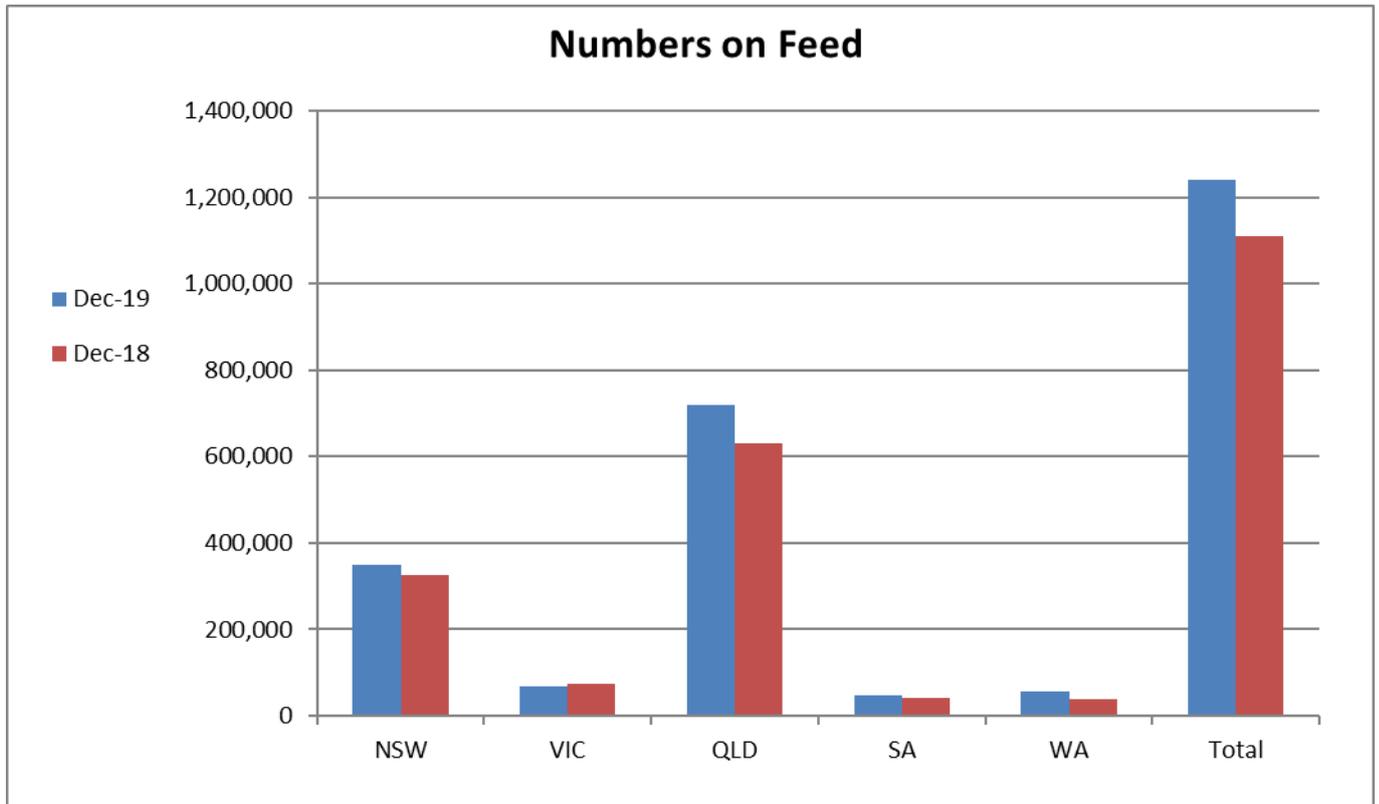
E: [jmcintosh@mla.com.au](mailto:jmcintosh@mla.com.au)

P: (02) 9463 9198

**ALFA / MLA FEEDLOT SURVEY  
Oct - Dec 2019**

**Cattle Numbers on Feed**

<b>Numbers on Feed</b>	<b>NSW</b>	<b>VIC</b>	<b>QLD</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>WA</b>	<b>Total</b>
Dec-19	349,694	67,255	720,055	46,367	56,193	<b>1,239,563</b>
Sep-19	321,951	67,051	660,269	42,588	27,470	<b>1,119,329</b>
Dec-18	326,322	73,173	631,286	40,439	39,469	<b>1,110,689</b>



**Total Cattle Turnoff**

<b>Total Turnoff (quarterly)</b>	<b>NSW</b>	<b>VIC</b>	<b>QLD</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>WA</b>	<b>Total</b>
Dec-19	186,757	49,989	431,375	28,783	16,601	<b>713,505</b>
Sep-19	212,310	59,185	446,772	28,039	24,667	<b>770,973</b>
Dec-18	201,083	51,229	565,278	23,657	7,753	<b>848,999</b>

<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-19	795,164	223,207	1,764,238	123,588	122,028	<b>3,028,226</b>
Dec-18	777,896	173,734	1,845,924	83,845	106,893	<b>2,988,292</b>
Dec-17	809,201	179,603	1,701,244	64,638	139,343	<b>2,894,030</b>

**Cattle Numbers on Feed**

Source: ALFA / MLA, December 2019, National Accredited Feedlot Survey

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**Oct - Dec 2019**

	<b>Numbers on Feed Dec 19</b>	<b>Numbers on Feed Sep 19</b>	<b>Numbers on Feed Dec 18</b>
<b>New South Wales</b>			
Less than 500 head	1,356	743	650
500 -1000 head	20,178	7,993	6,866
1000 - 10000 head	118,720	112,008	108,426
over 10000 head	209,440	201,207	210,379
<b>State Total</b>	<b>349,694</b>	<b>321,951</b>	<b>326,322</b>
<b>Queensland</b>			
Less than 500 head	9,043	9,008	4,281
500 -1000 head	24,749	23,277	18,013
1000 - 10000 head	209,615	204,394	213,119
over 10000 head	476,648	423,591	395,873
<b>State Total</b>	<b>720,055</b>	<b>660,269</b>	<b>631,286</b>
<b>Victoria</b>			
500 -1000 head	3,712	3,988	4,553
1000 - 10000 head	22,368	20,904	28,620
over 10000 head	41,175	42,159	40,000
<b>State Total</b>	<b>67,255</b>	<b>67,051</b>	<b>73,173</b>
<b>South Australia</b>			
Less than 500 head	0	0	1,390
500 -1000 head	1,992	2,170	1,665
1000 - 10000 head	26,875	25,418	21,684
over 10000 head	17,500	15,000	15,700
<b>State Total</b>	<b>46,367</b>	<b>42,588</b>	<b>40,439</b>
<b>Western Australia</b>			
Less than 500 head	2,333	0	2,245
500 -1000 head	5,436	3,643	4,038
1000 - 10000 head	48,423	23,827	33,187
<b>State Total</b>	<b>56,193</b>	<b>27,470</b>	<b>39,469</b>
<b>Australia</b>			
Less than 500 head	12,733	9,751	8,566
500 -1000 head	56,067	41,071	35,135
1000 - 10000 head	426,001	386,550	405,036
over 10000 head	744,763	681,957	661,952
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,239,563</b>	<b>1,119,329</b>	<b>1,110,689</b>

**Total Feedlot Capacity**

<b>Capacity</b>	<b>NSW</b>	<b>VIC</b>	<b>QLD</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>WA</b>	<b>Total</b>
Dec-19	395,038	76,692	780,839	53,614	73,477	<b>1,379,660</b>
Sep-19	391,037	76,692	774,290	50,124	72,977	<b>1,365,120</b>
Dec-18	393,012	76,551	725,911	43,879	68,077	<b>1,307,430</b>

Source: Feedlot Capacity figures are provided by AUS-MEAT Limited (AUS-MEAT). AUS-MEAT owns and administers the National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme (NFAS) on behalf of ALFA and the feedlot sector. Actual Feedlot Capacity figures are reported under the NFAS.

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