

# MEDIA RELEASE

19 November 2019

## Strong demand continues to drive feedlot industry

Cattle on feed for the July – September 2019 quarter dropped slightly from the record high in June to 1,119,329 head, a reduction of 28,064 head or 2.5%, according to the results of the latest Australian Lot Feeders' Association (ALFA) and Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) survey.

An increase in the numbers on feed was recorded in both Queensland and New South Wales. Queensland increased by 7,440 head, or 1.1%, to 660,269 head, while NSW increased by 5,139, or 1.6%, to 321,951 head compared to the June quarter.

Gains in numbers on feed were offset by decreases in Victoria and South Australia, down 12.4% to 67,051 head, and 10.8% to 42,588 head from the June quarter respectively. In line with seasonal trends, Western Australia reduced numbers on feed, recording a 48.6% decline from June levels to reach 27,470 head.

ALFA President, Bryce Camm, said strong global demand for high quality protein continued to drive the feedlot industry and help Australia meet its customers' needs despite challenging production conditions.

"Feedlots have helped sustain beef production and Australian supply chains meet demand for high quality Australian beef despite persistent east coast drought conditions," Mr Camm said.

"Strong global demand for protein, and in particular high-quality grain fed beef, has certainly helped the feedlot industry sustain production levels through these challenging times," Mr Camm said.

Adam Cheetham, MLA's Senior Market Analyst, said that demand for high quality Australian grain fed beef in export markets has remained robust; especially in China.

"Grain fed exports to China have increased 45% year on year to 19,990 tonnes shipped weight (swt) for the September quarter, largely fuelled by the impact African Swine Fever (ASF) was having on protein availability," Mr Cheetham said.

"In line with robust demand the Queensland 100-day grain fed steer OTH indicator rose 11% year-on-year to average 589¢/kg cwt in the September quarter and steadily increased to be in line with record prices set in October 2016," Mr Cheetham said.

"Feedlot operators also experienced a reprieve in grain prices albeit from historical highs, with wheat ex-Darling Downs averaging \$401/tonne and barley \$400/tonne, representing a decline of 7% and 6% year-on-year, respectively."

## ALFA / MLA FEEDLOT SURVEY

Jul - Sep 2019

“The Feeder steer indicator averaged 294¢/kg live weight (lwt) in the September quarter, an increase of 4% from the previous quarter and 5% above year-ago levels,” Mr Cheetham said.

-Ends-

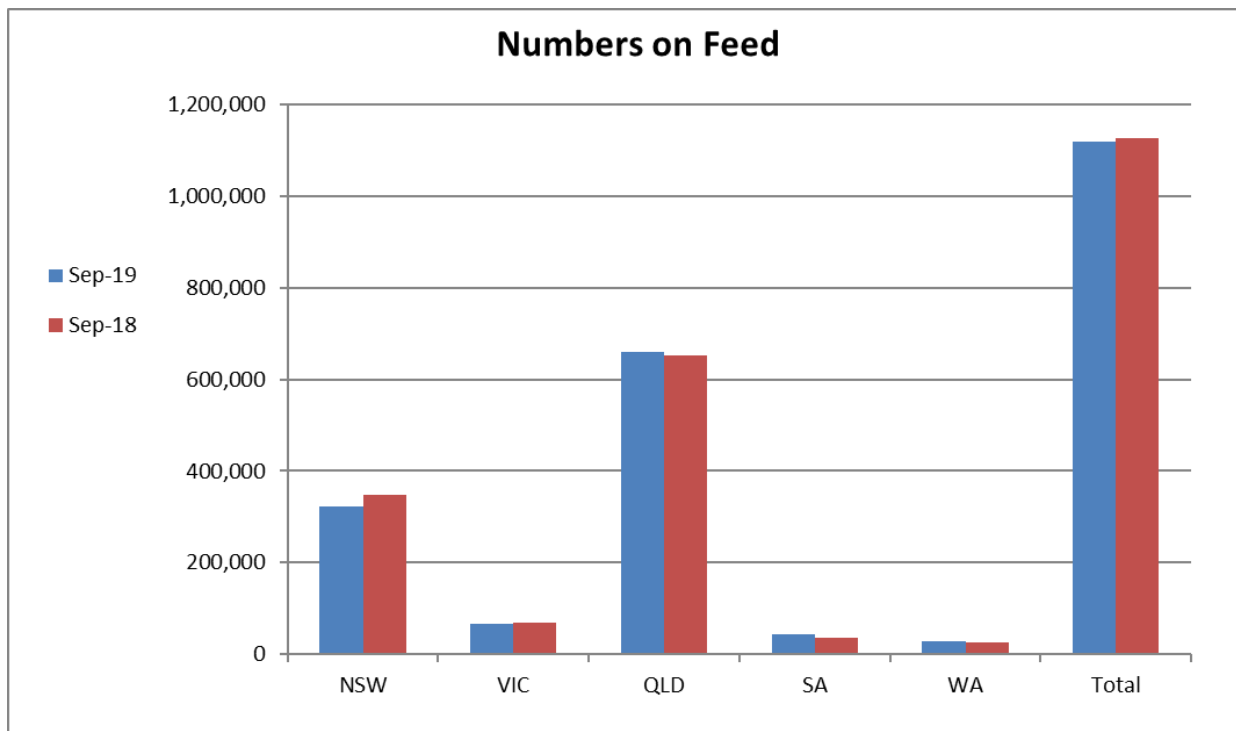
For more information:

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

### 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>
Sep-19	321,951	67,051	660,269	42,588	27,470	<b>1,119,329</b>
Jun-19	316,812	76,552	652,829	47,747	53,454	<b>1,147,393</b>
Sep-18	346,958	68,512	652,074	34,526	24,596	<b>1,126,666</b>



## ALFA / MLA FEEDLOT SURVEY

Jul - Sep 2019

### 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>
Sep-19	212,310	59,185	446,772	28,039	24,667	<b>770,973</b>
Jun-19	196,255	58,526	457,474	37,584	41,159	<b>790,996</b>
Sep-18	194,346	35,612	468,746	20,431	29,444	<b>748,579</b>

### Cattle Numbers on Feed

	<b>Numbers on Feed Sep 19</b>	<b>Numbers on Feed Jun 19</b>	<b>Numbers on Feed Sep 18</b>
<b><i>New South Wales</i></b>			
Less than 500 head	743	693	1,156
500 -1000 head	7,993	5,235	10,135
1000 - 10000 head	112,008	106,415	121,544
over 10000 head	201,207	204,469	214,124
<b><i>State Total</i></b>	<b>321,951</b>	<b>316,812</b>	<b>346,958</b>
<b><i>Queensland</i></b>			
Less than 500 head	9,008	7,103	8,327
500 -1000 head	23,277	20,938	23,034
1000 - 10000 head	204,394	200,900	225,050
over 10000 head	423,591	423,888	395,663
<b><i>State Total</i></b>	<b>660,269</b>	<b>652,829</b>	<b>652,074</b>
<b><i>Victoria</i></b>			
500 -1000 head	3,988	3,395	4,762
1000 - 10000 head	20,904	26,989	25,250
over 10000 head	42,159	46,168	38,500

## ALFA / MLA FEEDLOT SURVEY

Jul - Sep 2019

<b>State Total</b>	<b>67,051</b>	<b>76,552</b>	<b>68,512</b>
<b>South Australia</b>			
Less than 500 head	0	1,072	1,306
500 -1000 head	2,170	3,142	1,665
1000 - 10000 head	25,418	27,730	17,556
over 10000 head	15,000	15,802	14,000
<b>State Total</b>	<b>42,588</b>	<b>47,747</b>	<b>34,526</b>
<b>Western Australia</b>			
Less than 500 head	0	1,209	717
500 -1000 head	3,643	4,664	4,590
1000 - 10000 head	23,827	47,581	19,289
<b>State Total</b>	<b>27,470</b>	<b>53,454</b>	<b>24,596</b>
<b>Australia</b>			
Less than 500 head	9,751	10,078	11,505
500 -1000 head	41,071	37,374	44,186
1000 - 10000 head	386,550	409,615	408,688
over 10000 head	681,957	690,326	662,287
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,119,329</b>	<b>1,147,393</b>	<b>1,126,666</b>

### Total Feedlot Capacity

<b>Total Capacity</b>	<b>NSW</b>	<b>VIC</b>	<b>QLD</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>WA</b>	<b>Total</b>
Sep-19	391,037	76,692	774,290	50,124	72,977	<b>1,365,120</b>
Jun-19	402,641	76,792	779,797	51,734	71,477	<b>1,382,441</b>
Sep-18	392,763	76,551	724,660	43,879	72,052	<b>1,309,905</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.*

# ALFA / MLA FEEDLOT SURVEY

Jul - Sep 2019

