



17th February, 2014

Media Release

Grain fed cattle numbers rise

Results from the latest ALFA/ MLA December quarter survey showed a 3% increase in grain fed cattle numbers on feed to 810,000 head.

Australian Lot Feeders' Association (ALFA) President Don Mackay commented that the survey outcome was unsurprising given the ongoing dry conditions which had driven higher numbers of grass fed cattle into the feedlot system in order to keep them alive or in marketable condition.

"No-one in agriculture likes drought but it is nonetheless a harsh reality that it occurs. One advantage of the feedlot production system is that cattle health, welfare, productivity, beef supply and eating quality is unaffected during such times".

"Increases in cattle numbers on feed were felt in NSW, Victoria and South Australia as drier conditions began affecting pasture quality in southern Australia".

"Cattle numbers on feed actually reduced by 5.5% in Queensland over the quarter as dry conditions increased grain and roughage prices whilst also negatively impacting upon the quality and quantity of suitable feeder cattle".

"Average feed grain prices were up 9% year-on-year for the Darling Downs while domestic feeder cattle prices declined 4c for the quarter and 16c year-on-year".

Meat & Livestock Australia's Manager for Market Information and Analysis, Tim McRae stated that "grain fed beef exports were up 10% for the calendar year with declines in Japan and Korea offset by significant increases to most other markets, including China, the Middle East and the EU".

"Total grain fed beef exports for 2013 into Japan and Korea declined by 6% and 1% compared to 2012 (to 116,383 and 31,020 tonnes swt respectively)".

"However, grain fed exports into China increased by nearly five times and almost double into the EU and the Middle East (to 20,531, 11,502 and 10,443 tonnes swt, respectively).

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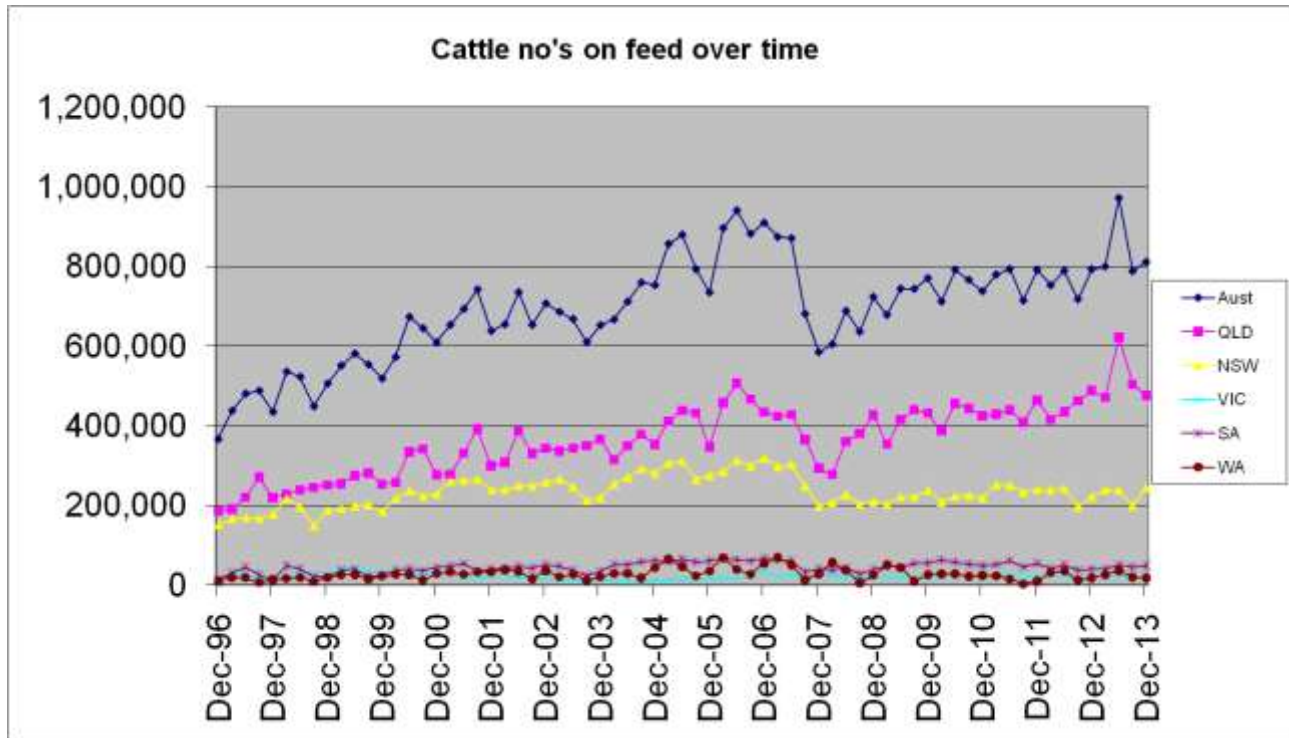
ALFA / MLA FEEDLOT SURVEY
Sep – Dec 2013

Cattle numbers on feed, capacity and capacity utilisation

Numbers on Feed	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	Total
Dec-13	245,229	49,050	476,033	21,726	18,367	810,405
Sep-13	199,555	45,344	504,078	18,198	20,312	787,487
Dec-12	221,380	39,649	488,539	24,879	17,771	792,218

Capacity	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	Total
Dec-13	368,104	74,547	589,005	28,231	76,955	1,136,842
Sep-13	379,226	83,766	589,227	30,741	79,244	1,162,204
Dec-12	396,442	86,494	660,603	31,526	100,272	1,275,337

Utilisation	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	Total
Dec-13	67%	66%	81%	77%	24%	71%
Sep-13	53%	54%	86%	59%	26%	68%
Dec-12	56%	46%	74%	79%	18%	62%

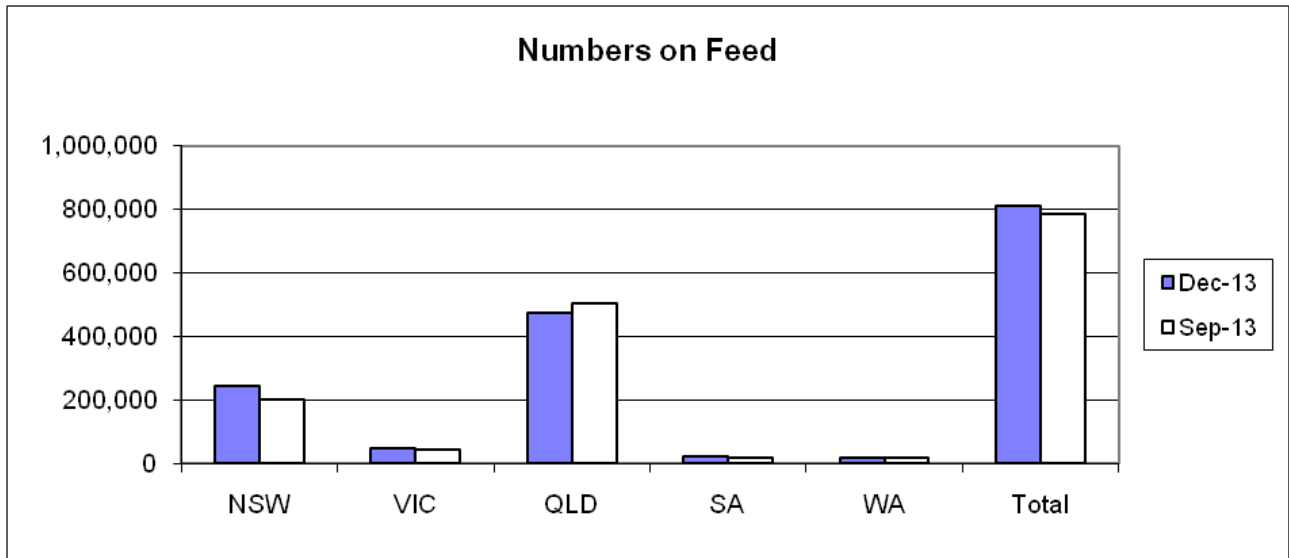


ALFA / MLA FEEDLOT SURVEY
Sep – Dec 2013

Total Cattle Turnoff

Total Turnoff (year ending)	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	Total
Dec-13	675353	161378	1581591	87291	117377	2622990
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

Total Turnoff (quarterly)	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	Total
Dec-13	146528	34090	411703	18269	5883	616473
Sep-13	174237	56737	424699	22265	29893	707831
Dec-12	132717	30177	490443	27952	3122	684411



ALFA / MLA FEEDLOT SURVEY
Sep – Dec 2013

State Breakdown by Feedlot Size

	Capacity Dec 13	Capacity Sep 13	Capacity Dec 12	Numbers on Feed Dec 13	Numbers on Feed Sep 13	Numbers on Feed Dec 12
New South Wales						
Less than 500 head	7,925	4,999	6,409	4,290	599	2,502
500 -1000 head	13,297	16,117	17,864	4,960	3,626	2,244
1000 - 10000 head	82,876	87,751	88,886	46,835	46,150	62,804
over 10000 head	264,006	270,359	283,283	189,144	149,180	153,830
<i>State Total</i>	<i>368,104</i>	<i>379,226</i>	<i>396,442</i>	<i>245,229</i>	<i>199,555</i>	<i>221,380</i>
Queensland						
Less than 500 head	34,407	34,293	38,078	10,475	15,505	6,122
500 -1000 head	34,754	34,987	41,638	10,640	11,906	20,343
1000 - 10000 head	204,023	192,568	259,019	161,579	177,605	201,675
over 10000 head	315,821	327,379	321,868	293,339	299,062	260,399
<i>State Total</i>	<i>589,005</i>	<i>589,227</i>	<i>660,603</i>	<i>476,033</i>	<i>504,078</i>	<i>488,539</i>
Victoria						
Less than 500 head	4,768	820	4,620	2,795	0	2,702
500 -1000 head	999	4,395	1,000	0	3,251	0
1000 - 10000 head	34,551	34,551	24,874	19,438	21,635	12,929
over 10000 head	34,229	44,000	56,000	26,817	20,458	24,018
<i>State Total</i>	<i>74,547</i>	<i>83,766</i>	<i>86,494</i>	<i>49,050</i>	<i>45,344</i>	<i>39,649</i>
South Australia						
Less than 500 head	5,315	5,435	2,068	2,296	1,722	681
500 -1000 head	1,017	1,017	6,664	0	0	3,450
1000 - 10000 head	21,899	24,289	22,794	19,430	16,476	20,748
over 10000 head	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>State Total</i>	<i>28,231</i>	<i>30,741</i>	<i>31,526</i>	<i>21,726</i>	<i>18,198</i>	<i>24,879</i>
Western Australia						
Less than 500 head	8,231	8,393	14,365	964	0	1,673
500 -1000 head	7,300	7,300	9,800	1,862	0	0
1000 - 10000 head	61,424	63,551	76,107	15,541	20,312	16,098
over 10000 head	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>State Total</i>	<i>76,955</i>	<i>79,244</i>	<i>100,272</i>	<i>18,367</i>	<i>20,312</i>	<i>17,771</i>
Australia						
Less than 500 head	60,646	53,940	65,540	20,820	17,826	13,680
500 -1000 head	57,367	63,816	76,966	17,462	18,783	26,037
1000 - 10000 head	404,773	402,710	471,680	262,823	282,178	314,254
over 10000 head	614,056	641,738	661,151	509,300	468,700	438,247
<i>Total</i>	<i>1,136,842</i>	<i>1,162,204</i>	<i>1,275,337</i>	<i>810,405</i>	<i>787,487</i>	<i>792,218</i>