



## THE AUSTRALIAN FEEDLOT INDUSTRY – COMMITTED TO RESPONSIBLE USE OF ANTIMICROBIALS

Just like people, when an animal's immune system is overwhelmed, they can become ill. When this occurs in livestock, a veterinarian can prescribe medicines called antimicrobials to treat the infection and aid the immune system to heal the animal. Antimicrobials are important tools available to veterinarians, feedlot managers and livestock producers to help ensure the health of animals in their care.

The emergence of antimicrobial resistance is a relatively new global frontier but one that the feedlot industry recognised some time ago. Antimicrobial resistance has become a concern of both medical and livestock policy makers, medical professionals, veterinarians, producers, and the general community.

The Australian Lot Feeders' Association (ALFA) is dedicated to helping minimise the risk of antimicrobial resistance, to preserving the effectiveness of antimicrobials, and to protecting human and animal health by promoting responsible antimicrobial use.

### GLOBAL LEADERS IN ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP GUIDELINES



Antimicrobial stewardship guidelines for the Australian cattle feedlot industry



The Australian cattle feedlot industry was one of the first globally to release stewardship guidelines. In 2018 ALFA and Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) invested grain fed levies to develop the [Antimicrobial stewardship guidelines for the Australian cattle feedlot industry](#).

The guidelines provide a continuous improvement framework that help lot

feeders understand, and continue to ensure, appropriate use of antimicrobials and therefore reduce the risk of antimicrobial resistance. At its core, the guidelines involve five stewardship principles which are collectively termed the '5Rs' - **R**esponsibility, **R**eview, **R**educe, **R**efine and **R**eplace.

Stewardship is a key action industry can take to preserve the efficacy of these medicines and help prevent the emergence of resistance and importantly ensure producers can continue to access these important tools into the future.

The industry has responded well with most feedlot operators - in fact two out of every three by 2021 - having indicated that they have implemented a stewardship plan in their business since the release of the guidelines.

### COMMITMENT TO ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP

In July 2021, the Australian cattle feedlot industry stepped up its commitment to antimicrobial stewardship by announcing that its world leading antimicrobial guidelines will become mandatory from in 2022.

From 1 January 2022, the guidelines will become an auditable requirement of the [National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme \(NFAS\)](#), which is the cattle feedlot industry's critical oversight and compliance program independently managed by AUS-MEAT, Australia's leading agricultural auditing and certification body.

### COMMITMENT TO MONITORING AND SURVEILLANCE



In 2015, the Australian Government released Australia's first National Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy 2015–2019. It was closely aligned with the World Health Organization's Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance and provided a national framework for a coordinated cross-sectoral response to the risk of antimicrobial resistance.

[Australia's National Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy – 2020 and Beyond](#) presents a 20-year vision and seeks to further embed the One Health approach through a coordinated and sustained cross-sectoral response to antimicrobial resistance.





In recognition of the sector's ongoing commitment to the responsible use of antimicrobials, ALFA supports the implementation of a national Antimicrobial Usage Monitoring Program (AUMP) in addition to the implementation of a more consistent national Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring Program (ARMP).

Australia does not currently have a national surveillance program for the monitoring of AMR in the livestock sector.

In lieu of this Industry has invested levies to undertake antimicrobial resistance periodic assessments in 2013 and in [2020](#). These previous assessments reported levels of antimicrobial resistance in Australian cattle as nil or low.

### WORKING WITH OTHER INDUSTRIES

The Australian red meat, dairy, pork and poultry industries have formed strong links to share information, opportunities and experiences related to progressing AMS in Australian animal industries.

These industries collaborate on antimicrobial stewardship research, development and extension (RD&E) activities of mutual interest and benefit under the '[Animal Industry Antimicrobial Stewardship Research, Development and Extension Strategy](#)' (AIAS).

The consortium work collaboratively to produce a report on [Antimicrobial Stewardship \(AMS\) within Australian livestock industries](#) which outlines the historical and current practises relevant to stewardship in each of the contributing industries.

### MORE INFORMATION



ALFA is committed to assisting feedlot operators implement the guidelines and has provided guidance material via AUS-MEAT and NFAS and facilitated a webinar in August 2021. These materials can be found [here](#).

Jeff House, ALFA-MLA Technical Services Officer, is also available to assist lot feeders.

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