

Media Release

12 August 2016

Cattle numbers on feed hold steady

Cattle on feed for the June 2016 quarter held steady on the previous quarter, recording only a 0.43% (or 3,935 head) decrease, to 910,967 head, according to the results of the ALFA/MLA June quarterly survey.

Decreased numbers on feed were seen in all states apart from Queensland, which increased 3.9%, and Victoria, which experienced an increase of 0.8% from the March quarter. South Australia experienced the largest drop of 32% (8,157 head).

The Eastern Young Cattle Indicator (EYCI) has continued to climb and break existing records, reaching 659.25c/kg cwt by the end of June.

Damon Holmes, Operations Manager, National Livestock Reporting Service at MLA, said feeder prices have been driven higher by increased competition from restockers, following the improvement in seasonal conditions.

"The eastern states domestic paddock feeder steer indicator averaged 311c/kg lwt during the June quarter, up 56c/kg lwt from 2015," Mr Holmes said.

ALFA President, Tess Herbert said that the high cattle prices continued to be partly offset by the decrease in prices of feed.

"High global grain availability has resulted in lower feed grain prices," Ms Herbert said. "And lower fodder prices have been triggered by widespread rain."

June quarter grainfed turnoff increased 3% year-on-year, achieving a total turnoff for 2015/16 of over 2.8 million head.

The 5% increase in grain fed beef exports upshot another beef market record breaker, with an additional 2,974 tonnes swt shipped in the June 2016 quarter than in the corresponding period last year, resulting in the 2015/16 year reaching a record volume.

"Australian grainfed beef exports were 268,504 tonnes swt in 2015/16, which is up 7% year-on-year," Mr Holmes said. "It's 5,545 tonnes swt higher than the previous record in 2006/07."

"Given the low turnoff in the first quarter, relative to the record high number on feed at the end of 2015, it is not surprising there was a lift in grainfed cattle slaughter and a subsequent increase in grainfed exports in the June quarter," Mr Holmes said. "It appears a greater number of cattle were rolled over into the second quarter."

-Ends-

For more information:

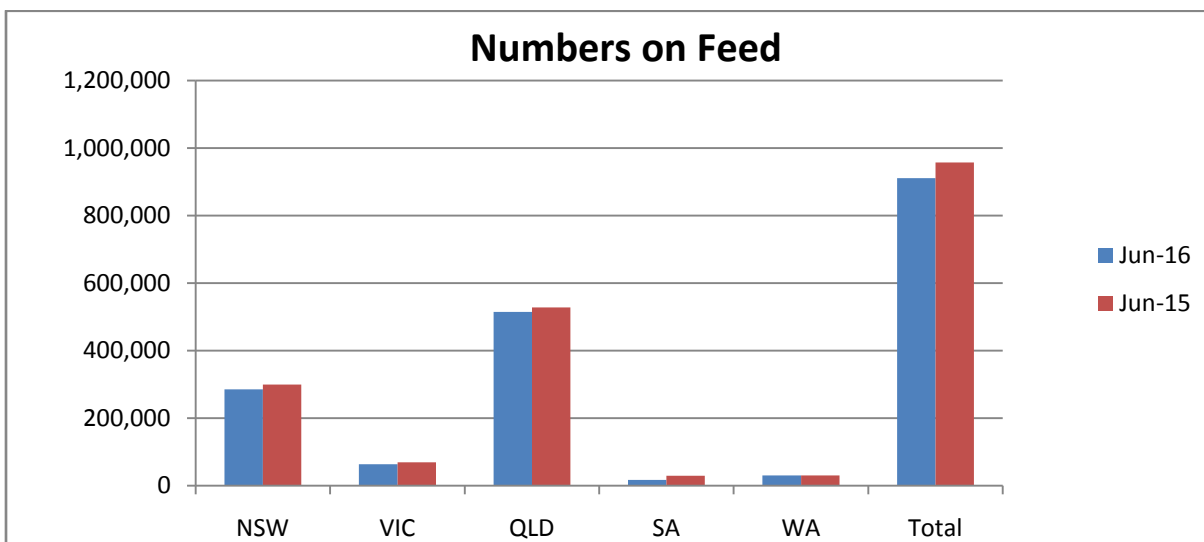
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ALFA / MLA FEEDLOT SURVEY
Apr – Jun 2016

Cattle numbers on feed

Numbers on Feed	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	Total
Jun-16	285,128	63,368	515,088	16,990	30,393	910,967
Mar-16	291,312	62,888	495,578	25,147	39,976	914,902
Jun-15	299,505	69,371	528,164	29,466	30,422	956,928



Total Cattle Turnoff

Total Turnoff (quarterly)	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	Total
Jun-16	231,453	58,383	350,577	28,031	44,060	712,504
Mar-16	206,195	43,549	329,172	19,845	32,965	631,726
Jun-15	208,904	65,401	360,597	23,098	32,630	690,630

Total Turnoff (year ending)	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	Total
Dec-15	846,299	216,859	1,672,053	85,854	79,424	2,900,488
Dec-14	783,132	183,510	1,577,009	85,406	66,938	2,695,995
Dec-13	675,353	161,378	1,581,591	87,291	117,377	2,622,990
Dec-12	610,687	156,573	1,566,232	104,681	67,077	2,505,250
Dec-11	665,278	220,082	1,402,924	101,822	55,026	2,445,132

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	Numbers on Feed Jun 16	Numbers on Feed Mar 16	Numbers on Feed Jun 15
New South Wales			
Less than 500 head	2,951	3,418	3,877
500 -1000 head	10,424	12,602	14,524
1000 - 10000 head	96,988	104,296	91,063
over 10000 head	174,765	170,996	190,041
State Total	285,128	291,312	299,505
Queensland			
Less than 500 head	17,014	6,113	12,056
500 -1000 head	9,026	18,349	13,235
1000 - 10000 head	163,363	156,361	173,344
over 10000 head	325,685	314,755	329,529
State Total	515,088	495,578	528,164
Victoria			
Less than 500 head	0	0	0
500 -1000 head	8,498	8,765	7,245
1000 - 10000 head	29,556	24,604	28,888
over 10000 head	25,313	29,520	33,238
State Total	63,368	62,888	69,371
South Australia			
Less than 500 head	778	1,221	714
500 -1000 head	630	2,318	2,427
1000 - 10000 head	15,582	21,607	26,325
over 10000 head	0	0	0
State Total	16,990	25,147	29,466
Western Australia			
Less than 500 head	2,158	1,466	1,976
500 -1000 head	3,898	4,843	9,503
1000 - 10000 head	24,337	33,667	18,943
over 10000 head	0	0	0
State Total	30,393	39,976	30,422
Australia			
Less than 500 head	22,902	12,219	18,623
500 -1000 head	32,475	46,877	46,934
1000 - 10000 head	329,826	340,534	338,563
over 10000 head	525,764	515,271	552,808
Total	910,967	914,902	956,928

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