



31 March 2020

## GENERAL MESSAGE: COVID-19 Saleyard procedures

Dear Feedlot Stakeholders,

The Australian Lot Feeders' Association has been working closely with the Saleyard and Agent Industry to ensure livestock auctions can continue to operate, keeping in mind the need to ensure social distancing and hygiene protocols are in place.

The note below from the Australian Livestock & Property Agents Association (ALPA) outlines guidance on how saleyards are to operate taking into account social distancing requirements.

Please share this with your livestock buyer.

Regards  
ALFA Secretariat



### AUSTRALIAN LOT FEEDERS' ASSOCIATION (ALFA)

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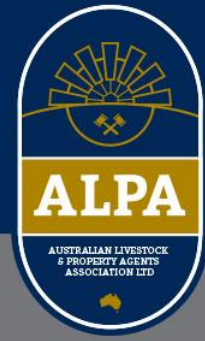
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## A message from the CEO

Now, more than ever before is your role more critical in the conduct of the livestock auction during the COVID -19 pandemic.

We cannot emphasise the point more strongly. In sheep and lamb auctions and cattle auctions the health and safety of BUYERS who are supporting the sale and buying the livestock **MUST** be paramount. The buyers deserve this and we must return their courtesy in attending the sale by safeguarding their health.

You **MUST** when conducting the auction ensure that physical and social distancing protocols as prescribed by the Prime Minister are enforced at all times.

This means taking a more **CLINICAL** approach to your selling and a **100% NON NEGOTIABLE STANCE** on any breach of protocols.

If it means stopping the sale, halting the bidding or identifying participants who are skating on thin ice then do it. Everyone, from Pen 1 to Pen 1001 at all times, no matter what they are doing **MUST** maintain these social distancing parameters. And that means, no standing about amongst others having a conversation and if people are getting in the road tell them to move on. In a ring-selling facility be sure to monitor spacing of seated participants.

As Agents we **MUST** develop a workable and enforceable plan with saleyard operators as to how your sale will be conducted. ALPA recommends that the Auctioneer announces the Plan at the beginning of the auction all essential participants are aware of their responsibilities and obligations for proper, unwaveringly consistent spacing at all times. Your plan might involve 3 people maximum on the catwalk or standing over the pen spaced accordingly, who include the Auctioneer, the booking clerk and the saleyard operator booking the sale. No-one else. Keep one separate pen distance between the current selling agents and the next Auctioneer who might be following the sale for market analysis and who should be the only person on the catwalk up the way. At the end of your run, maintain this one separate pen distance. Have a plan for the placement of buyers. Only have the willing and able accredited buyers spaced accordingly at the particular pen being offered. Competition must be encouraged, but instruct other people not bidding on that particular pen to stay well clear and within social distancing parameters. Sale day agents who are not accredited buyers should operate in their designated space, applicably socially and physically distant. Drovers should be positioned at least another lane away.

**SHEEP AND LAMB AUCTIONS**, The standard practice of an Auctioneer and Spotters shoulder to shoulder must stop. The propensity to crowd around pens **MUST STOP** irrespective of pen densities. Keep the numbers around the pen area to the barest minimum. In Victoria where the use of tablets for booking auctions is the norm try to lessen the density of people around pens. Remember, we as Auctioneers are adaptable beings, we need to adjust to the times and put the plan into place to co-operate with our buyers. If it takes longer to sell because you have to start and stop then this is better than having no sale at all.



PRACTISE SOCIAL DISTANCING

