

25th November, 2013

Media Release

Grain fed cattle numbers fall

Results from the latest ALFA/ MLA quarterly feedlot survey showed a 10% fall in cattle numbers on feed to 787,000 head.

Australian Lot Feeders' Association (ALFA) President Don Mackay commented that the September quarterly survey results were predominantly driven by a rise in feeder cattle and grain prices.

"The yearling steer (C2 330-400 kg lwt) category averaged 179¢/kg lwt, up 8% from the June quarter as the demand for good quality feeder cattle outstripped supply".

"The proliferation of drought affected cattle into south east Queensland feedlots remained strong for most of the quarter but tailed off towards the end of September when the survey was undertaken".

"Feed grain prices similarly increased over the quarter with Darling Downs barley, sorghum and wheat increasing by 1%, 6% and 4% respectively".

"The highest numerical quarterly decline in cattle numbers on feed was experienced in Queensland (4%) followed by NSW (16%), WA (44%), Vic (11%) and SA (25%)."

Meat & Livestock Australia's Beef Market Analyst, Ben Thomas stated that grainfed beef exports totalled 54,876 tonnes swt for the quarter, up 8% on last year – taking the January-to-September export volume to 151,075 tonnes swt, up 9% year-on-year."

"Reductions in exports to Japan were again offset by greater shipments to the EU, China and the Middle East."

"Grain fed beef shipments to Japan declined 12% year-on-year, with the January-to-September period totalling 87,157 tonnes swt, back 7% on year-ago levels."

"Grain fed beef exports to Korea were steady with last year's levels, taking the January-to-September volume to 21,815 tonnes swt, up 3% year-on-year".

The January-to-September grain fed beef shipments to developing markets increased significantly, with China (13,059 tonnes swt) up more than eight-fold, while volumes to the EU (8,273 tonnes swt) and the Middle East (7,593 tonnes swt) rose 107% and 100%, year-on-year, respectively."

For further information:

Don Mackay
President - ALFA
Mob: 0408-482-737

Dougal Gordon
CEO - ALFA
Ph: (02) 9290-3700
Mob: 0414-495-368

Ben Thomas
Beef Market Analyst
- MLA
Ph: (02) 9463 9283

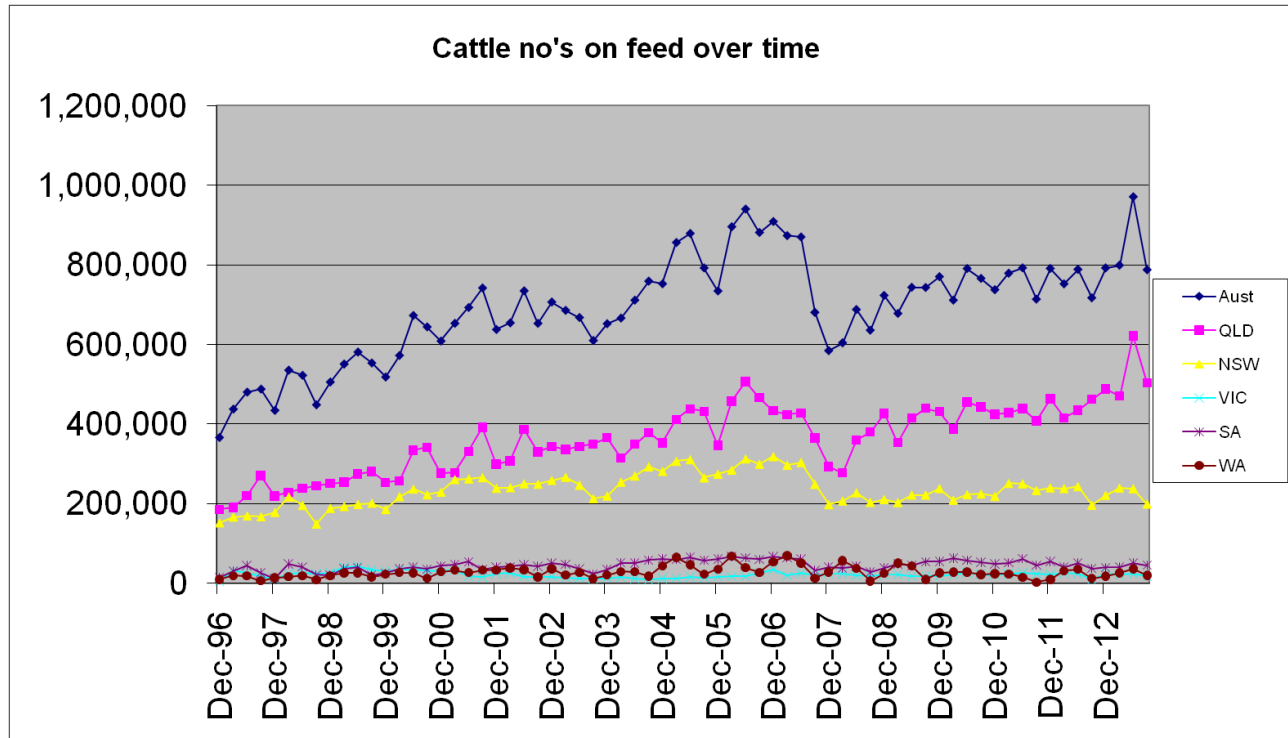
**ALFA / MLA FEEDLOT SURVEY
Jul – Sep 2013**

Cattle numbers on feed, capacity and capacity utilisation

Numbers on Feed	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	Total
Sep-13	199,555	45,344	504,078	18,198	20,312	787,487
Jun-13	238,186	50,907	523,403	24,140	36,356	872,992
Sep-12	196,073	36,906	462,510	9,036	12,620	717,145

Capacity	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	Total
Sep-13	379,226	83,766	589,227	30,741	79,244	1,162,204
Jun-13	334,543	74,229	632,655	31,524	118,901	1,191,852
Sep-12	418,412	94,814	634,163	32,926	99,383	1,279,698

Utilisation	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	Total
Sep-13	53%	54%	86%	59%	26%	68%
Jun-13	71%	69%	83%	77%	31%	73%
Sep-12	47%	39%	73%	27%	13%	56%

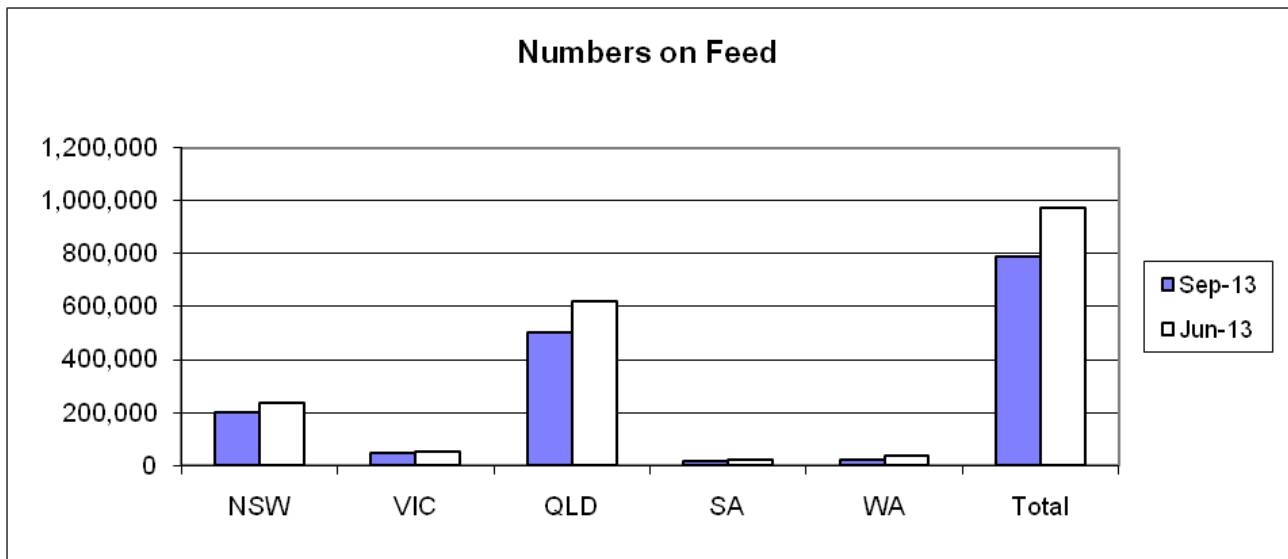


**ALFA / MLA FEEDLOT SURVEY
Jul – Sep 2013**

Total Cattle Turnoff

<i>Total Turnoff (year ending)</i>	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	Total
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
Dec-07	717243	197930	1261965	79036	148021	2404195

<i>Total Turnoff (quarterly)</i>	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	Total
Sep-13	174237	56737	424699	22265	29893	707831
Jun-13	180832	39535	371321	27872	54904	674464
Sep-12	157431	35303	358319	14668	18643	584364



**ALFA / MLA FEEDLOT SURVEY
Jul – Sep 2013**

State Breakdown by Feedlot Size

	Capacity Sep 13	Capacity Jun 13	Capacity Sep 12	Numbers on Feed Sep 13	Numbers on Feed Jun 13	Numbers on Feed Sep 12
New South Wales						
Less than 500 head	4,999	6,409	7,409	599	2,258	3,525
500 -1000 head	16,117	17,176	20,354	3,626	5,038	1,722
1000 - 10000 head	87,751	93,070	106,076	46,150	59,780	56,585
over 10000 head	270,359	217,888	284,573	149,180	171,110	134,241
<i>State Total</i>	379,226	334,543	418,412	199,555	238,186	196,073
Queensland						
Less than 500 head	34,293	46,484	35,995	15,505	11,702	11,196
500 -1000 head	34,987	43,875	45,775	11,906	23,517	15,833
1000 - 10000 head	192,568	522,296	223,972	177,605	488,184	164,060
over 10000 head	327,379	20,000	328,421	299,062	0	271,421
<i>State Total</i>	589,227	632,655	634,163	504,078	523,403	462,510
Victoria						
Less than 500 head	820	4,620	9,315	0	5,491	6,294
500 -1000 head	4,395	1,000	1,000	3,251	0	0
1000 - 10000 head	34,551	68,609	28,499	21,635	45,416	7,928
over 10000 head	44,000	0	56,000	20,458	0	22,684
<i>State Total</i>	83,766	74,229	94,814	45,344	50,907	36,906
South Australia						
Less than 500 head	5,435	1,994	3,484	1,722	681	542
500 -1000 head	1,017	6,368	6,368	0	840	3,565
1000 - 10000 head	24,289	23,162	23,074	16,476	22,619	4,929
over 10000 head	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>State Total</i>	30,741	31,524	32,926	18,198	24,140	9,036
Western Australia						
Less than 500 head	8,393	15,214	13,623	0	703	243
500 -1000 head	7,300	12,850	15,160	0	2,219	75
1000 - 10000 head	63,551	90,837	70,600	20,312	33,434	12,302
over 10000 head	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>State Total</i>	79,244	118,901	99,383	20,312	36,356	12,620
Australia						
Less than 500 head	53,940	74,721	69,826	17,826	20,835	21,800
500 -1000 head	63,816	81,269	88,657	18,783	31,614	21,195
1000 - 10000 head	402,710	797,974	452,221	282,178	649,433	245,804
over 10000 head	641,738	237,888	668,994	468,700	171,110	428,346
<i>Total</i>	1,162,204	1,191,852	1,279,698	787,487	872,992	717,145