



8 November 2016

Media Release

Cattle numbers on feed decline

Cattle on feed for the September 2016 quarter have declined 122,094 head or 13% from the June quarter, down to 788,873 head, according to the results of the ALFA/MLA quarterly survey.

Decreased numbers on feed were seen in all states, with South Australia experiencing the biggest percentage drop (42%), to 9,757 head. Grainfed numbers in Queensland, the largest beef producing state, also declined (10% or 53,249 head), to 461,839 head.

ALFA President, Tess Herbert said that the results from the September survey indicated the impact the cattle prices have had on feedlot numbers.

“The September survey has shown a further drop on June quarter, given current market conditions,” Ms Herbert said. “The approach taken by feedlotter to existing market circumstances shows an acknowledgment of the strategic risks that face our industry and an ability to address those.”

Ben Thomas, MLA’s Manager of Market Information, also said that with the prices of feeder cattle being driven up, it has ultimately impacted on the numbers on feed.

“The domestic paddock feeder steer indicator averaged 368.89¢/kg lwt for the September quarter – up 24% year-on-year and 19% higher than the June quarter,” Mr Thomas said. “Similarly, the national saleyard feeder steer indicator averaged 375.68¢/kg lwt, up 20% year-on-year and was 18% higher than the previous quarter.”

Mr Thomas said that restockers have been driving the market for young and store cattle due to widespread rain across much of the eastern states during the September quarter, “This has provided strong competition for feeder buyers and has pushed prices to record levels.”

The continuing lower grain prices, however, continue to partially offset the high cattle prices, and are anticipated to remain low on the back of high global grain supplies.

“Domestic grain prices for the quarter were lower than 2015 levels, with wheat ex-Darling Downs averaging \$235.72/tonne, back 28%, while barley eased 26% to \$220.95/tonne. Riverina wheat prices eased 19% year-on-year, to \$233.18/tonne for the quarter, while barley slipped 34% to \$178.20/tonne,” Mr Thomas said.

Fodder prices have followed a similar trend, with Darling Downs cereal and lucerne fodder easing 20% and 13%, to \$250/tonne and \$360/tonne, respectively.

-Ends-

For more information:

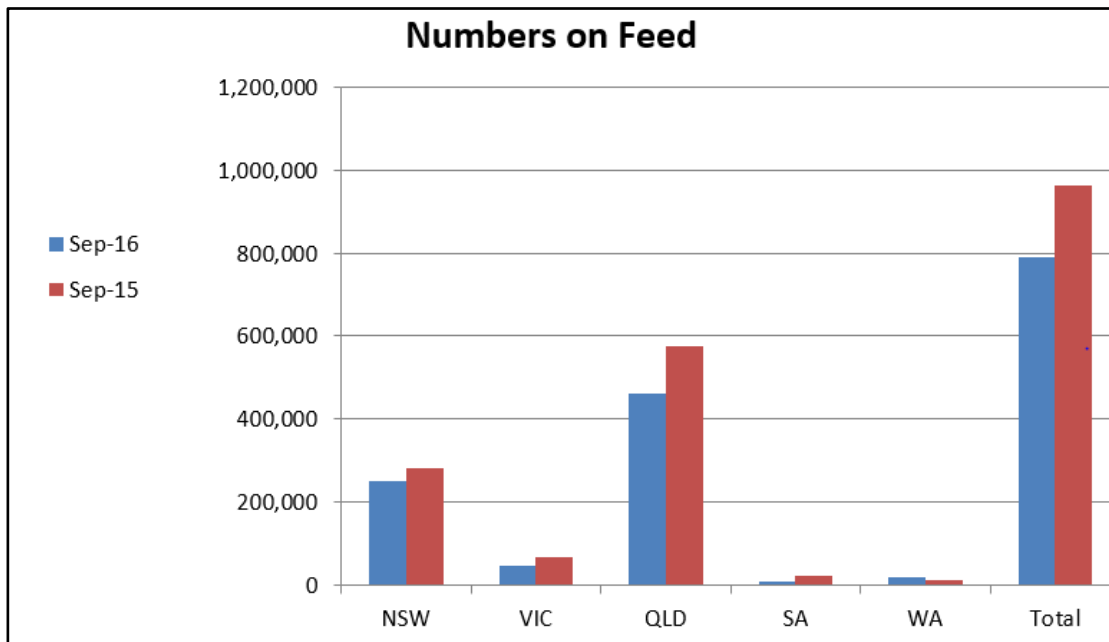
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ALFA / MLA FEEDLOT SURVEY Jul – Sep 2016

Cattle Numbers on Feed

Numbers on Feed	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	Total
Sep-16	250,430	46,875	461,839	9,757	19,972	788,873
Jun-16	285,128	63,368	515,088	16,990	30,393	910,967
Sep-15	281,960	66,735	575,242	24,371	13,020	961,328



Total Cattle Turnoff

Total Turnoff (quarterly)	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	Total
Sep-16	226,828	40,351	367,528	8,118	27,279	670,105
Jun-16	231,453	58,383	350,577	28,031	44,060	712,504
Sep-15	212,160	53,205	492,086	8,284	19,846	785,580

ALFA / MLA FEEDLOT SURVEY
Jul – Sep 2016

	Numbers on Feed Sep 16	Numbers on Feed Jun 16	Numbers on Feed Sep 15
New South Wales			
Less than 500 head	4,150	2,951	4,758
500 -1000 head	8,920	10,424	11,892
1000 - 10000 head	80,830	96,988	82,825
over 10000 head	156,531	174,765	182,485
State Total	250,430	285,128	281,960
Queensland			
Less than 500 head	8,970	17,014	14,269
500 -1000 head	20,359	9,026	21,826
1000 - 10000 head	147,979	163,363	198,784
over 10000 head	284,531	325,685	340,363
State Total	461,839	515,088	575,242
Victoria			
500 -1000 head	6,510	8,498	6,529
1000 - 10000 head	17,052	29,556	29,500
over 10000 head	23,313	25,313	30,706
State Total	46,875	63,368	66,735
South Australia			
Less than 500 head	560	778	0
500 -1000 head	2,016	630	3,847
1000 - 10000 head	7,181	15,582	20,524
State Total	9,757	16,990	24,371
Western Australia			
Less than 500 head	165	2,158	851
500 -1000 head	2,030	3,898	2,331
1000 - 10000 head	17,777	24,337	9,839
State Total	19,972	30,393	13,020
Australia			
Less than 500 head	13,845	22,902	19,877
500 -1000 head	39,834	32,475	46,425
1000 - 10000 head	270,819	329,826	341,472
over 10000 head	464,374	525,764	553,554
Total	788,873	910,967	961,328

ALFA / MLA FEEDLOT SURVEY
Jul - Sep 2016

