



21st February, 2013

Media Release

Grain fed cattle numbers rise

Results from the latest ALFA/ MLA feedlot survey showed a 10% rise in cattle numbers on feed over the quarter, a position virtually equivalent to the same period 12 months ago.

Australian Lot Feeders' Association (ALFA) President Don Mackay commented that the December quarter survey outcome was predominantly the result of a decline in feeder cattle prices.

"Indicative national feeder cattle (yearling steers C3 330-400kg lwt) prices averaged 188¢/kg lwt during the December quarter, back 10% from the corresponding period last year".

"The decline in feeder cattle prices reflected easing demand and higher cattle turnoff figures due to drier than average seasonal conditions across parts of Australia."

"Higher cattle numbers on feed were experienced in all states with the largest increases, in absolute terms, seen in Queensland and NSW, and in percentage terms in South Australia and Western Australia".

"Whilst Darling Downs barley, sorghum and wheat prices were significantly higher year on year (29%, 22% and 25% respectively), they were similar to the September quarter (averaging only 5% higher) and hence did not impede cattle purchase decisions".

Meat & Livestock Australia's Manager for Market Information and Analysis, Tim McRae stated that "grain fed exports to our major markets for the quarter were mixed with a 12% year-on-year decline to Japan and a 15% rise in Korea".

"Total grain fed beef exports into Japan finished the 2012 year at 124,101 tonnes swt, a fall of 12% compared to 2011 whilst total exports into Korea were 31,332 tonnes swt, down 19%".

"The declines were offset slightly however by increases in grain fed beef exports into Europe (46%), South East Asia (88%) and the Middle East (40%), albeit all coming from a low base".

"Total grain fed beef exports for 2012 were 190,179 tonnes swt, a fall of 9% compared to 2011".

"The overall results reflected continuing challenges associated with our currency strength, weak consumer demand in export markets and increasing US competition".

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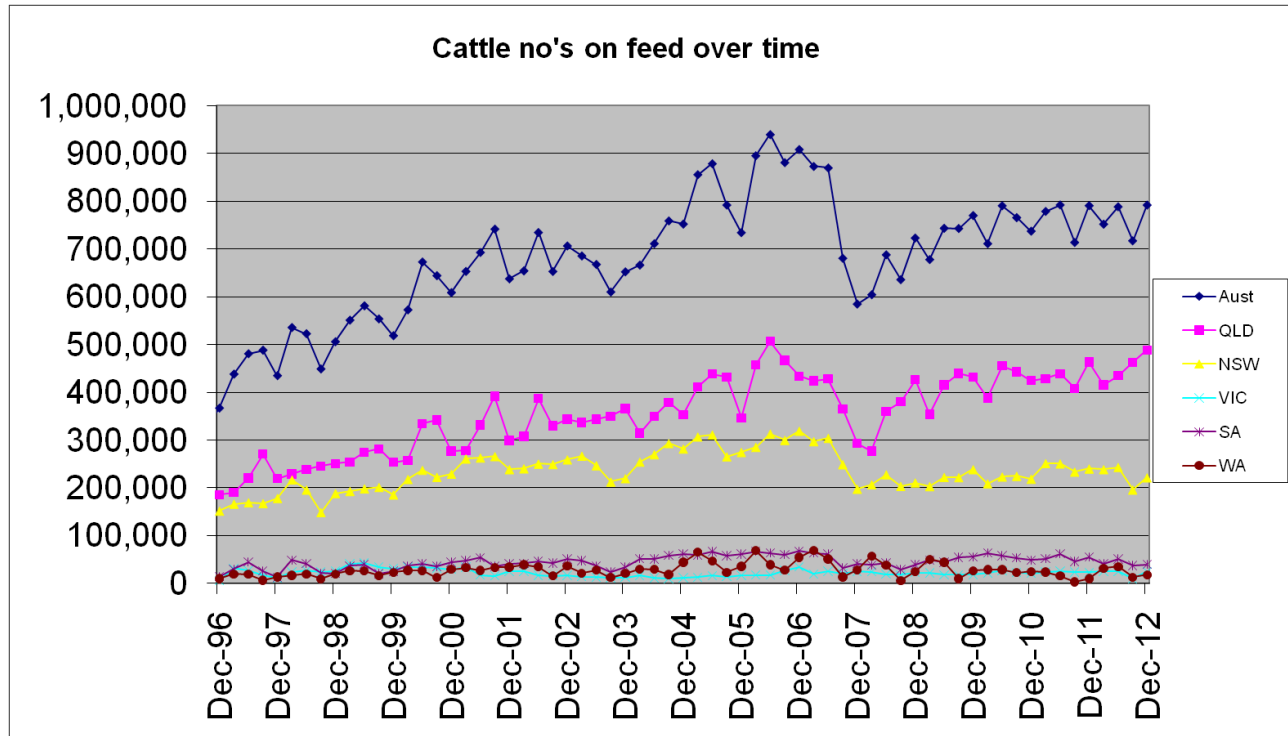
ALFA / MLA FEEDLOT SURVEY
Sept-Dec 2012

Cattle numbers on feed, capacity and capacity utilisation

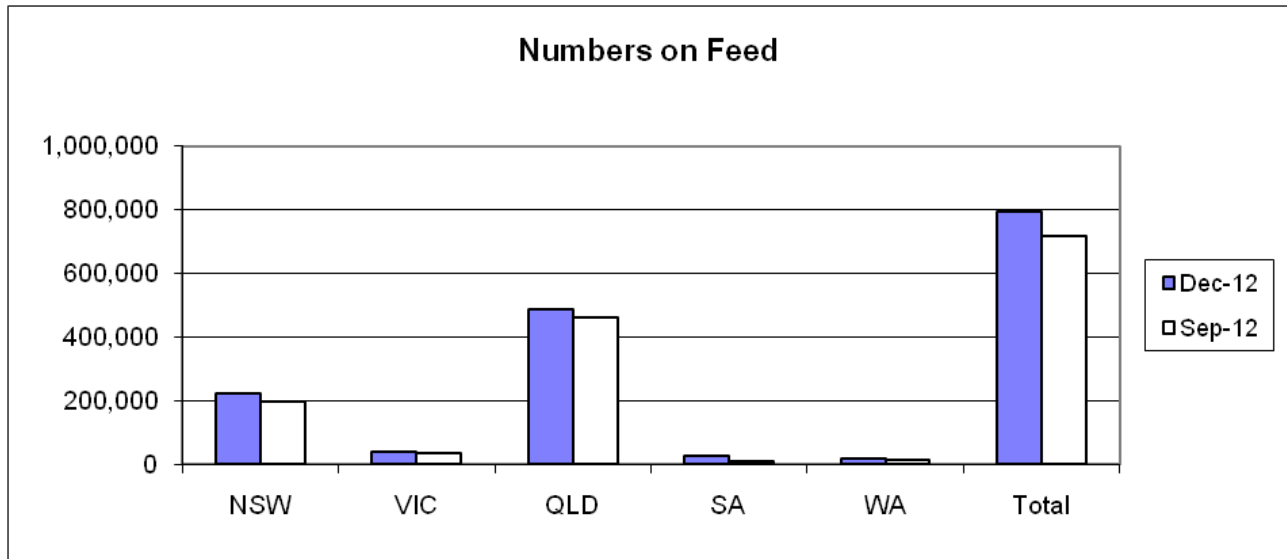
Numbers on Feed	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	Total
Dec-12	221,380	39,649	488,539	24,879	17,771	792,218
Sep-12	196,073	36,906	462,510	9,036	12,620	717,145
Dec-11	240,154	54,870	463,520	22,748	9,683	790,975

Capacity	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	Total
Dec-12	396,442	86,494	660,603	31,526	100,272	1,275,337
Sep-12	418,412	94,814	634,163	32,926	99,383	1,279,698
Dec-11	419,692	132,745	630,704	29,200	101,604	1,313,945

Utilisation	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	Total
Dec-12	56%	46%	74%	79%	18%	62%
Sep-12	47%	39%	73%	27%	13%	56%
Dec-11	57%	41%	73%	78%	10%	60%



**ALFA / MLA FEEDLOT SURVEY
Sept-Dec 2012**



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
Dec-12	132717	30177	490443	27952	3122	684411
Sep-12	157431	35303	358319	14668	18643	584364
Dec-11	158478	49878	338978	26307	1185	574826

ALFA / MLA FEEDLOT SURVEY
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State Breakdown by Feedlot Size

	Capacity Dec 12	Capacity Sep 12	Capacity Dec 11	Numbers on Feed Dec 12	Numbers on Feed Sep 12	Numbers on Feed Dec 11
New South Wales						
Less than 500 head	6,409	7,409	7,209	2,502	3,525	2,555
500 -1000 head	17,864	20,354	21,757	2,244	1,722	2,994
1000 - 10000 head	88,886	106,076	119,153	62,804	56,585	60,505
over 10000 head	283,283	284,573	271,573	153,830	134,241	174,100
<i>State Total</i>	396,442	418,412	419,692	221,380	196,073	240,154
Queensland						
Less than 500 head	38,078	35,995	40,610	6,122	11,196	4,869
500 -1000 head	41,638	45,775	49,259	20,343	15,833	16,115
1000 - 10000 head	259,019	223,972	251,224	201,675	164,060	166,293
over 10000 head	321,868	328,421	289,611	260,399	271,421	276,243
<i>State Total</i>	660,603	634,163	630,704	488,539	462,510	463,520
Victoria						
Less than 500 head	4,620	9,315	16,246	2,702	6,294	12,845
500 -1000 head	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0	0
1000 - 10000 head	24,874	28,499	28,499	12,929	7,928	15,367
over 10000 head	56,000	56,000	87,000	24,018	22,684	26,658
<i>State Total</i>	86,494	94,814	132,745	39,649	36,906	54,870
South Australia						
Less than 500 head	2,068	3,484	7,835	681	542	4,038
500 -1000 head	6,664	6,368	1,700	3,450	3,565	0
1000 - 10000 head	22,794	23,074	19,665	20,748	4,929	18,710
over 10000 head	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>State Total</i>	31,526	32,926	29,200	24,879	9,036	22,748
Western Australia						
Less than 500 head	14,365	13,623	9,685	1,673	243	107
500 -1000 head	9,800	15,160	13,660	0	75	1,790
1000 - 10000 head	76,107	70,600	78,259	16,098	12,302	7,786
over 10000 head	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>State Total</i>	100,272	99,383	101,604	17,771	12,620	9,683
Australia						
Less than 500 head	65,540	69,826	81,585	13,680	21,800	24,414
500 -1000 head	76,966	88,657	87,376	26,037	21,195	20,899
1000 - 10000 head	471,680	452,221	496,800	314,254	245,804	268,661
over 10000 head	661,151	668,994	648,184	438,247	428,346	477,001
<i>Total</i>	1,275,337	1,279,698	1,313,945	792,218	717,145	790,975