



Media Release

7th November, 2011

Grain fed cattle numbers fall

Results from the latest ALFA/ MLA September quarter survey showed a 10% drop in grain fed cattle numbers on feed over the quarter and a 7% fall year on year.

Australian Lot Feeders' Association (ALFA) President Jim Cudmore commented that the survey outcome was the result of the confluence of the high Australian dollar, strong feeder cattle and grain prices along with continued global economic uncertainty.

"The Australian dollar for the quarter was up 16% against the US year on year, feeder cattle up 6% whilst feed grain prices were at similar levels".

"Feeder cattle prices reflected the ongoing good seasonal conditions (and hence re-stocker demand for young cattle) whilst grain prices over the quarter remained strong due to mainly tight world corn stocks".

"As a result, cattle numbers on feed and capacity utilisation levels fell in every state with the highest falls in numerical terms experienced by large feedlots in Queensland, NSW and Victoria".

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 19% year on year decline to Japan and a 15% rise in Korea".

"Total grainfed beef exports were 54,524 tonnes swt for the quarter, a fall of 8% year-on-year, although 2% higher than the previous quarter".

"Total chilled grainfed shipments declined 9%, to 33,476 tonnes swt, while frozen grainfed exports for the September quarter fell 5%, to 21,048 tonnes swt".

"With the fundamentals underlying the current economic uncertainty and dollar pressures unlikely to subside, lot feeders and exporters will be hopeful of price improvements in the last quarter".

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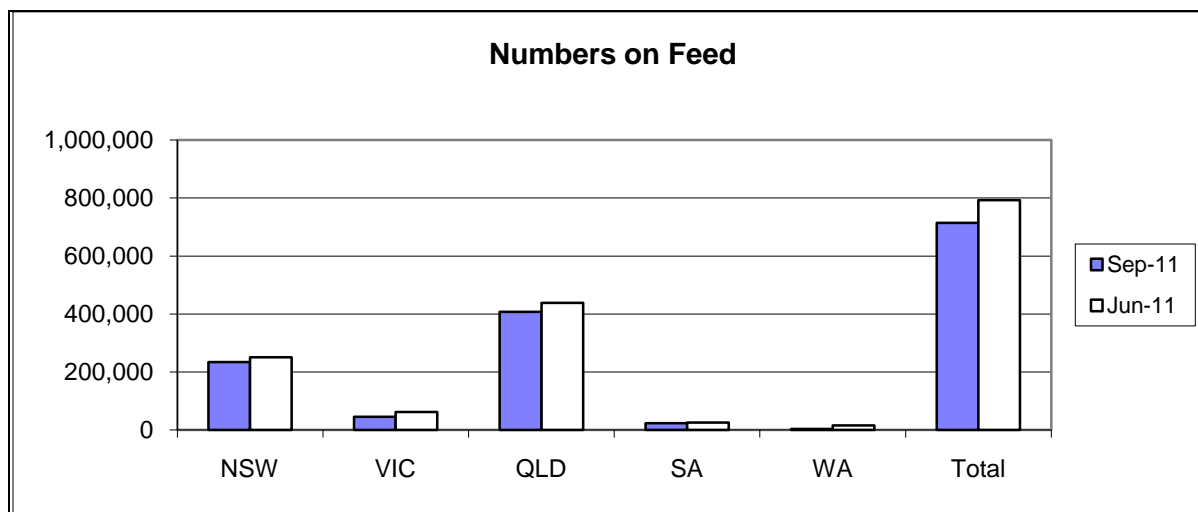
**ALFA / MLA FEEDLOT SURVEY
Jul – Sep 2011**

Cattle numbers on feed, capacity and capacity utilisation

Numbers on Feed	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	Total
Sep-11	233,678	45,625	407,958	23,316	3,151	713,728
Jun-11	250,716	61,702	438,777	25,882	15,369	792,446
Sep-10	224,614	53,306	442,718	22,974	22,206	765,818

Capacity	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	Total
Sep-11	409,392	103,104	614,819	30,840	94,139	1,252,294
Jun-11	418,432	102,824	644,975	32,540	106,345	1,305,116
Sep-10	427,659	82,313	636,380	31,449	99,965	1,277,766

Utilisation	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	Total
Sep-11	57%	44%	66%	76%	3%	57%
Jun-11	60%	60%	68%	80%	14%	61%
Sep-10	53%	65%	70%	73%	22%	60%

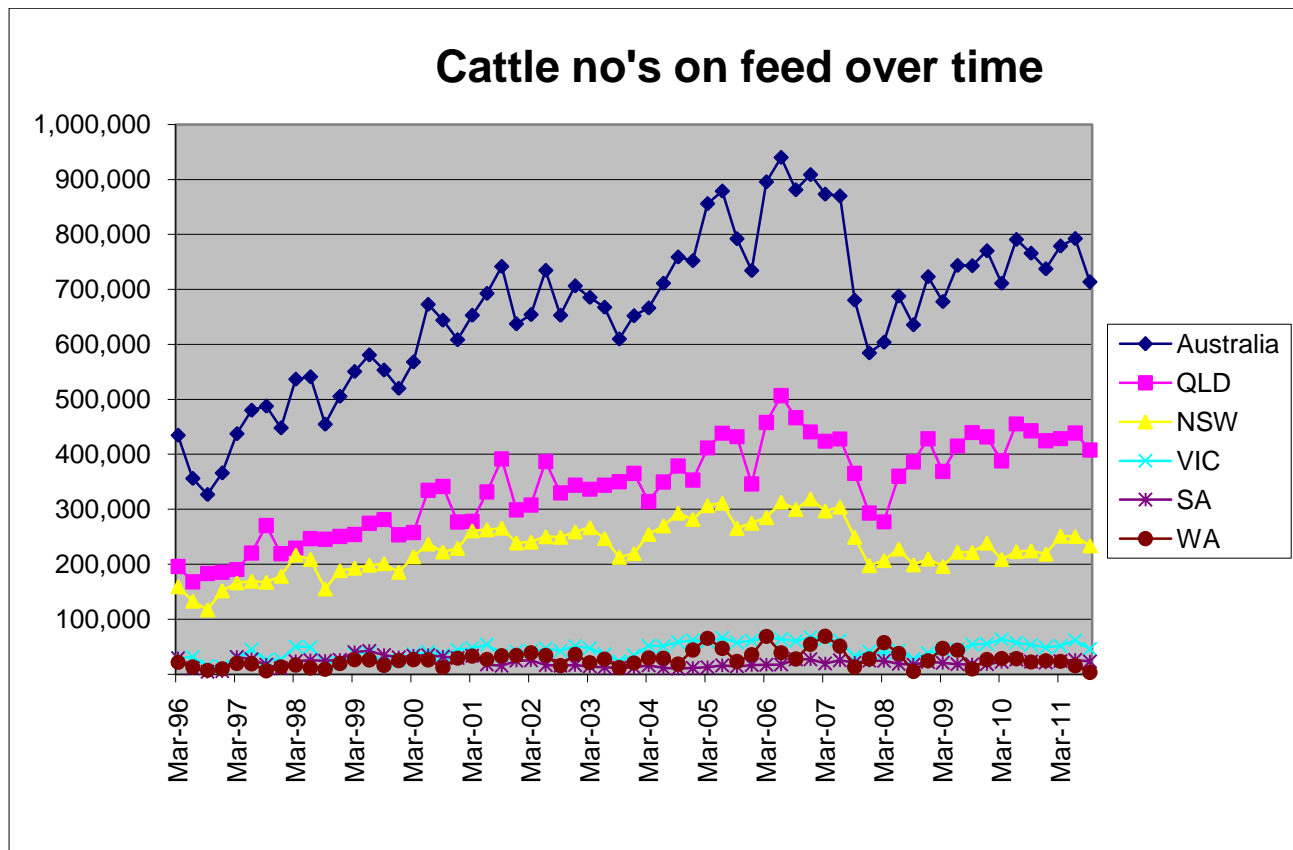
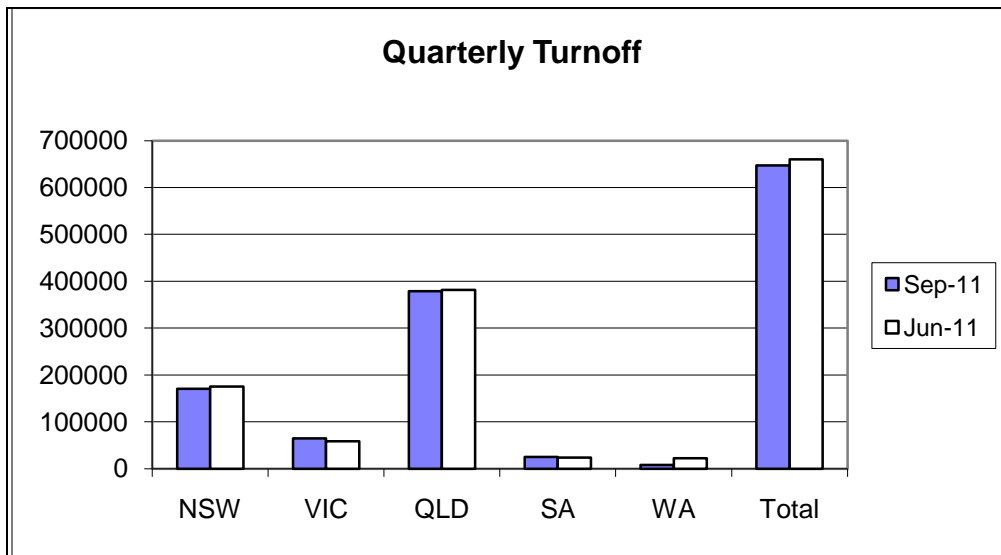


Total Cattle Turnoff

Total Turnoff (year ending)	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	Total
Dec-10	634526	207305	1468631	110831	112318	2533611
Dec-09	587444	161614	1374959	77281	130601	2331899
Dec-08	570099	150271	1212738	76910	124485	2134503

Total Turnoff (quarterly)	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	Total
Sep-11	170450	64665	378823	25021	8009	646968
Jun-11	175222	58245	381518	23258	21854	660097
Sep-10	171018	60278	407275	27561	44035	710167

**ALFA / MLA FEEDLOT SURVEY
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State Breakdown by Feedlot Size

	Capacity Sep 11	Capacity Jun 11	Capacity Sep 10	Numbers on Feed Sep 11	Numbers on Feed Jun 11	Numbers on Feed Sep 10
New South Wales						
Less than 500 head	6,489	7,459	7,309	3,340	1,979	2,369
500 -1000 head	18,754	20,253	23,701	3,039	5,310	2,504
1000 - 10000 head	112,576	119,147	111,076	56,480	63,064	44,407
over 10000 head	271,573	271,573	285,573	170,819	180,363	175,334
<i>State Total</i>	409,392	418,432	427,659	233,678	250,716	224,614
Queensland						
Less than 500 head	39,491	42,748	50,128	10,766	8,763	9,173
500 -1000 head	44,690	47,589	48,204	14,767	20,319	17,273
1000 - 10000 head	228,232	232,232	227,642	157,423	170,151	159,447
over 10000 head	302,406	322,406	310,406	225,002	239,544	256,825
<i>State Total</i>	614,819	644,975	636,380	407,958	438,777	442,718
Victoria						
Less than 500 head	805	1,225	1,814	120	427	927
500 -1000 head	6,800	6,100	500	6,800	5,600	0
1000 - 10000 head	31,499	31,499	24,610	19,859	15,953	20,026
over 10000 head	64,000	64,000	55,389	18,846	39,722	32,353
<i>State Total</i>	103,104	102,824	82,313	45,625	61,702	53,306
South Australia						
Less than 500 head	2,900	2,900	3,290	530	892	1,243
500 -1000 head	5,775	7,475	6,734	3,790	3,760	3,040
1000 - 10000 head	22,165	22,165	21,425	18,996	21,230	18,691
over 10000 head	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>State Total</i>	30,840	32,540	31,449	23,316	25,882	22,974
Western Australia						
Less than 500 head	6,879	10,585	15,465	61	937	78
500 -1000 head	8,360	11,660	6,800	0	174	0
1000 - 10000 head	68,900	74,100	77,700	3,090	14,258	22,128
over 10000 head	10,000	10,000	0	0	0	0
<i>State Total</i>	94,139	106,345	99,965	3,151	15,369	22,206
Australia						
Less than 500 head	56,564	64,917	78,006	14,817	12,998	13,790
500 -1000 head	84,379	93,077	85,939	28,396	35,163	22,817
1000 - 10000 head	463,372	479,143	462,453	255,848	284,656	264,699
over 10000 head	647,979	667,979	651,368	414,667	459,629	464,512
<i>Total</i>	1,252,294	1,305,116	1,277,766	713,728	792,446	765,818