

Grain fed cattle numbers remain high

Cattle numbers in Australian feedlots remained at near record levels, falling less than 1% for the June 2015 quarter to 956,927 head.

Australian Lot Feeders' Association (ALFA) President, Don Mackay, stated that "the result reflected the ongoing dry conditions in particularly Queensland (which made it difficult for grass fed cattle operators to sustain numbers) as well as continued strong demand for Australian beef overseas."

"Small declines were experienced in every feedlot state except Queensland and Victoria whilst nationwide feedlot capacity utilisation, at 82%, remained extremely high."

"Strong international demand, as well as some rain across the eastern states, saw feeder and grain fed cattle prices record robust growth during the June quarter."

"Saleyard feeder steer (330-400kg lwt, C2) prices averaged 262¢ during the quarter (up 37% year-on-year), while the eastern states domestic paddock feeder steer indicator (280-350kg lwt) averaged 255¢ over the three months (up 31% year-on-year)."

"Darling Downs grain trended cheaper year-on-year but was dearer than the previous quarter. Barley averaged \$318/tonne during the quarter, back 8% year-on-year, sorghum averaged \$302/tonne, back 4%, while wheat averaged \$325/tonne, back 11%."

"Meat & Livestock Australia's Operations Manager, National Livestock Reporting Service, Damon Holmes, stated that 2014/15 grain fed beef exports were up 15% (to 250,954 tonnes swt) compared to the previous financial year."

"Japan (up 24% to 143,686 tonnes swt) continued to be the dominant export market for grain fed beef for 2014/15 with 57% of exports directed there."

"The second largest grain fed beef export market was South Korea (up 11% to 37,454 tonnes swt) followed by the EU (up 13% to 16,545 tonnes swt), the US (up by 133% to 13,688 tonnes swt) and China (down by 40% to 13,122 tonnes swt)."

"Shipments of grain fed beef during the June quarter were the highest on record, with almost 66,000 tonnes swt exported over the three months, up 23% year-on-year and above the 2006 peak of just over 61,000 tonnes swt."

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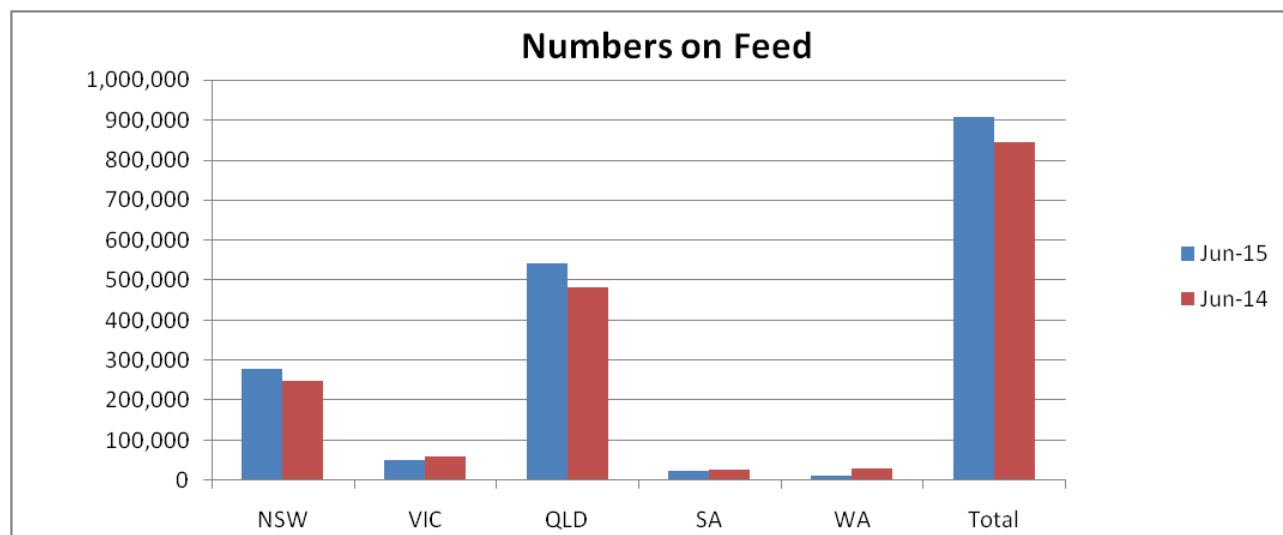
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Cattle numbers on feed, capacity and capacity utilisation

Numbers on Feed	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	Total
Jun-15	277,874	51,612	542,316	24,893	11,423	908,118
Mar-15	308,274	58,582	519,248	33,108	39,929	959,141
Jun-14	249,134	59,773	481,487	26,001	29,396	845,791

Capacity	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	Total
Jun-15	377,496	69,898	624,045	24,893	38,128	1,134,460
Mar-15	365,483	71,272	614,786	40,130	55,324	1,146,995
Jun-14	330,503	77,734	589,648	26,951	51,419	1,076,256

Utilisation	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	Total
Jun-15	74%	74%	87%	100%	30%	80%
Mar-15	84%	82%	84%	83%	72%	84%
Jun-14	75%	77%	82%	96%	57%	79%



Total Cattle Turnoff

Total Turnoff (year ending)	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	Total
Dec-14	783,132	183,510	1,577,009	85,406	66,938	2,695,995
Dec-13	675,353	161,378	1,581,591	87,291	117,377	2,622,990
Dec-12	610,687	156,573	1,566,232	104,681	67,077	2,505,250
Dec-11	665,278	220,082	1,402,924	101,822	55,026	2,445,132
Dec-10	634,526	207,305	1,468,631	110,831	112,318	2,533,611
Dec-09	587,444	161,614	1,374,959	77,281	130,601	2,331,899

Total Turnoff (quarterly)	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	Total
Jun-15	208,904	65,401	360,597	23,098	32,630	690,630
Mar-15	214,949	37,489	419,993	32,525	20,255	725,211
Jun-14	181,723	49,302	396,265	24,344	22,308	673,942

State Breakdown by Feedlot Size

	Capacity Jun 15	Capacity Mar 15	Capacity Jun 14	Numbers on Feed Jun 15	Numbers on Feed Mar 15	Numbers on Feed Jun 14
New South Wales						
Less than 500 head	7,784	5,442	5,419	5,189	4,251	1,990
500 -1000 head	24,811	24,749	28,619	8,706	15,071	8,085
1000 - 10000 head	112,076	104,179	101,639	91,001	88,601	78,738
over 10000 head	232,826	231,113	194,827	172,977	200,351	160,321
State Total	377,496	365,483	330,503	277,874	308,274	249,134
Queensland						
Less than 500 head	25,225	27,754	23,462	13,747	11,653	9,246
500 -1000 head	36,290	37,736	38,593	17,373	18,770	22,284
1000 - 10000 head	238,374	206,950	205,197	199,300	169,969	150,918
over 10000 head	324,156	342,345	322,397	311,896	318,856	299,039
State Total	624,045	614,786	589,648	542,316	519,248	481,487
Victoria						
Less than 500 head	0	0	0	0	0	0
500 -1000 head	7,773	7,918	8,234	7,773	7,543	7,840
1000 - 10000 head	22,125	23,354	29,500	15,271	20,193	24,728
over 10000 head	40,000	40,000	40,000	28,568	30,846	27,205
State Total	69,898	71,272	77,734	51,612	58,582	59,773
South Australia						
Less than 500 head	2,183	1,992	1,932	2,183	1,410	982
500 -1000 head	0	4,540	4,540	0	2,300	4,540
1000 - 10000 head	22,710	33,599	20,479	22,710	29,398	20,479
over 10000 head	0	0	0	0	0	0
State Total	24,893	40,130	26,951	24,893	33,108	26,001
Western Australia						
Less than 500 head	2,828	8,194	4,301	88	2,546	2,191
500 -1000 head	0	6,930	9,366	0	4,495	5,383
1000 - 10000 head	35,300	40,200	37,752	11,335	32,888	21,822
over 10000 head	0	0	0	0	0	0
State Total	38,128	55,324	51,419	11,423	39,929	29,396
Australia						
Less than 500 head	38,019	43,381	35,114	21,207	19,860	14,409
500 -1000 head	68,874	81,874	89,351	33,852	48,179	48,132
1000 - 10000 head	430,585	408,282	394,566	339,618	341,048	296,685
over 10000 head	596,982	613,458	557,224	513,441	550,053	486,565
Total	1,134,460	1,146,995	1,076,256	908,118	959,141	845,791

