



# Media Release

23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2015

## Grain fed cattle numbers remain high

Cattle numbers in Australian feedlots remained at near record levels, increasing by less than 1% for the September 2015 quarter to 961,328 head.

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

"Small declines were experienced in every feedlot state except Queensland whilst nationwide feedlot capacity utilisation, at 84%, remained extremely high."

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

"Nationally, saleyard feeder steer (330-400kg lwt, C2) prices averaged 312¢ during the quarter, up 61% year-on-year, while the eastern states domestic paddock feeder steer indicator (280-350kg lwt) averaged 299¢ over the three months, up 52% year-on-year."

"Darling Downs grain price trends were mixed year-on-year. Barley averaged \$301/tonne during the quarter, back 2% year-on-year, while sorghum and wheat both averaged 3% above year-ago levels, at \$293/tonne and \$328/tonne, respectively."

"Meat & Livestock Australia's Manager, Market Information and NLRS, Ben Thomas, stated that 2014/15 September quarter shipments of grain fed beef were the highest on record since 2006, with just over 68,000 tonnes swt exported over the three months – up 14% year-on-year and 22% above the five year September quarter average."

"Japan (down 4% year-on-year to 33,016 tonnes swt) continued to be the dominant export market for grain fed beef taking 48% of total shipments during the quarter."

"Volume to Korea was the highest on record since 2006 for the September quarter, with 12,730 tonnes swt shipped during the three months, up 31% year-on-year, whilst shipments to China more than tripled year-on-year to 6,470 tonnes swt."

"Exports to the US and Middle East also grew (up 68% and 26% above year-ago levels to 4,765 tonnes swt and 2,601 swt respectively) whilst shipments to the EU market remained steady at 4,535 tonnes swt."

"It is however expected that cattle numbers on feed will reduce for the December quarter due to high feeder cattle prices and tighter cattle supply brought about by the declining herd and increased backrunner and re-stocker demand following good November rains, Mr Gordon concluded."

### *For further information:*

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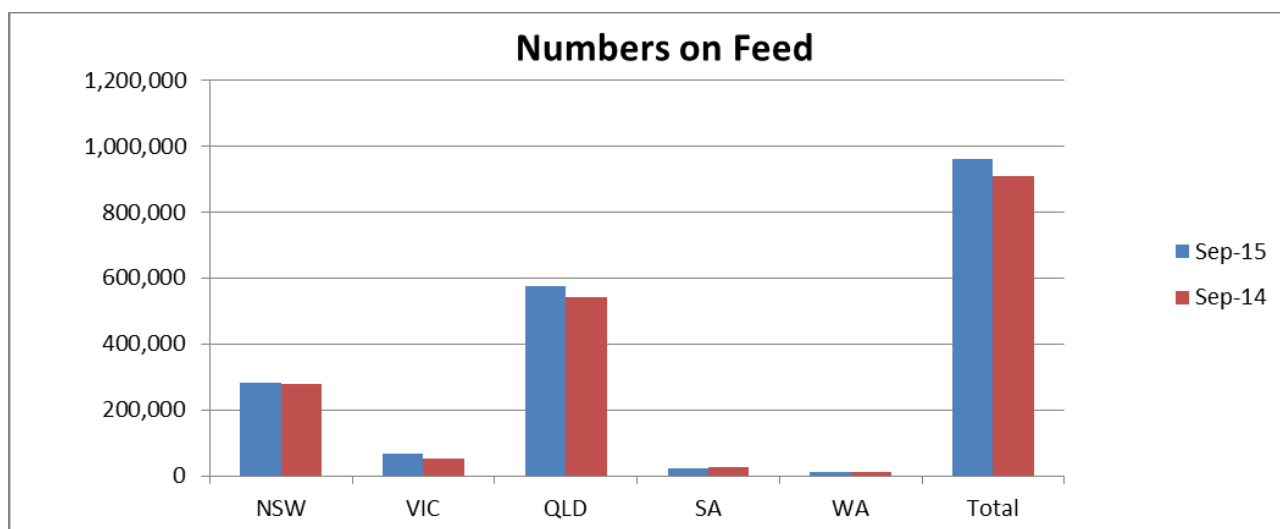
**ALFA / MLA FEEDLOT SURVEY  
Jul – Sep 2015**

**Cattle numbers on feed, capacity and capacity utilisation**

<b>Numbers on Feed</b>	<b>NSW</b>	<b>VIC</b>	<b>QLD</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>WA</b>	<b>Total</b>
Sep-15	281,960	66,735	575,242	24,371	13,020	<b>961,328</b>
Jun-15	299,505	69,371	528,164	29,466	30,422	<b>956,928</b>
Sep-14	277,874	51,612	542,316	24,893	11,423	<b>908,118</b>

<b>Capacity</b>	<b>NSW</b>	<b>VIC</b>	<b>QLD</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>WA</b>	<b>Total</b>
Sep-15	365,349	77,538	628,981	28,849	50,500	<b>1,151,216</b>
Jun-15	390,753	84,793	606,460	35,667	53,752	<b>1,171,425</b>
Sep-14	377,496	69,898	624,045	24,893	38,128	<b>1,134,460</b>

<b>Utilisation</b>	<b>NSW</b>	<b>VIC</b>	<b>QLD</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>WA</b>	<b>Total</b>
Sep-15	77%	86%	91%	84%	26%	<b>84%</b>
Jun-15	77%	82%	87%	83%	57%	<b>82%</b>
Sep-14	74%	74%	87%	100%	30%	<b>80%</b>



**Total Cattle Turnoff**

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

**ALFA / MLA FEEDLOT SURVEY  
Jul – Sep 2015**

<b>Total Turnoff (quarterly)</b>	<b>NSW</b>	<b>VIC</b>	<b>QLD</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>WA</b>	<b>Total</b>
Sep-15	212,160	53,205	492,086	8,284	19,846	<b>785,580</b>
Jun-15	208,904	65,401	360,597	23,098	32,630	<b>690,630</b>
Sep-14	201,855	40,291	368,830	17,389	20,193	<b>648,557</b>

**State Breakdown by Feedlot Size**

	<b>Capacity Sep 15</b>	<b>Capacity Jun 15</b>	<b>Capacity Sep 14</b>	<b>Numbers on Feed Sep 15</b>	<b>Numbers on Feed Jun 15</b>	<b>Numbers on Feed Sep 14</b>
<b><i>New South Wales</i></b>						
Less than 500 head	6,160	4,407	7,784	4,758	3,877	5,189
500 -1000 head	24,824	48,203	24,811	11,892	14,524	8,706
1000 - 10000 head	105,556	106,142	112,076	82,825	91,063	91,001
over 10000 head	228,809	232,001	232,826	182,485	190,041	172,977
<b>State Total</b>	<b>365,349</b>	<b>390,753</b>	<b>377,496</b>	<b>281,960</b>	<b>299,505</b>	<b>277,874</b>
<b><i>Queensland</i></b>						
Less than 500 head	24,398	24,959	25,225	14,269	12,056	13,747
500 -1000 head	37,472	37,304	36,290	21,826	13,235	17,373
1000 - 10000 head	213,065	205,946	238,374	198,784	173,344	199,300
over 10000 head	354,046	338,251	324,156	340,363	329,529	311,896
<b>State Total</b>	<b>628,981</b>	<b>606,460</b>	<b>624,045</b>	<b>575,242</b>	<b>528,164</b>	<b>542,316</b>
<b><i>Victoria</i></b>						
Less than 500 head	0	0	0	0	0	0
500 -1000 head	8,038	7,918	7,773	6,529	7,245	7,773
1000 - 10000 head	29,500	36,875	22,125	29,500	28,888	15,271
over 10000 head	40,000	40,000	40,000	30,706	33,238	28,568
<b>State Total</b>	<b>77,538</b>	<b>84,793</b>	<b>69,898</b>	<b>66,735</b>	<b>69,371</b>	<b>51,612</b>
<b><i>South Australia</i></b>						
Less than 500 head	1,651	1,652	2,183	0	714	2,183
500 -1000 head	4,540	4,540	0	3,847	2,427	0
1000 - 10000 head	22,658	29,475	22,710	20,524	26,325	22,710
over 10000 head	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>State Total</b>	<b>28,849</b>	<b>35,667</b>	<b>24,893</b>	<b>24,371</b>	<b>29,466</b>	<b>24,893</b>
<b><i>Western Australia</i></b>						
Less than 500 head	3,178	3,295	2,828	851	1,976	88
500 -1000 head	7,122	12,600	0	2,331	9,503	0
1000 - 10000 head	40,200	37,857	35,300	9,839	18,943	11,335
over 10000 head	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>State Total</b>	<b>50,500</b>	<b>53,752</b>	<b>38,128</b>	<b>13,020</b>	<b>30,422</b>	<b>11,423</b>
<b><i>Australia</i></b>						
Less than 500 head	35,387	34,313	38,019	19,877	18,623	21,207
500 -1000 head	81,995	110,565	68,874	46,425	46,934	33,852
1000 - 10000 head	410,979	416,295	430,585	341,472	338,563	339,618
over 10000 head	622,855	610,252	596,982	553,554	552,808	513,441
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,151,216</b>	<b>1,171,425</b>	<b>1,134,460</b>	<b>961,328</b>	<b>956,928</b>	<b>908,118</b>

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