



# Media Release

14 November 2017

## Cattle on feed numbers ease slightly

Cattle on feed for the July – September 2017 quarter decreased 64,324 head, or 6% from the June quarter according to the results of the latest Australian Lot Feeders Association (ALFA) and Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) survey.

Despite the decrease, the numbers on feed still remain over the million-mark, at 1,024,748 following the record breaking levels in the June quarter.

A decrease was observed across all states with Victoria seeing the biggest percentage decline of 12,413 head or 19%, closely followed by Western Australia, dropping 18%, or 4,732 head.

ALFA President, Tess Herbert said that the results from the September quarter survey signalled the ongoing support of the grain fed production system in the beef supply chain.

“Whilst a slight decline in numbers was expected, cattle on feed over the million mark is a reflection of how integral feedlots are to delivering consistent high quality beef to our markets in the current overall production and seasonal conditions,” Ms Herbert said.

“Capacity figures expanded again for the quarter, with 1,278,184 being recorded, reflecting capital works coming on line and continued investor confidence in the feedlot sector,” Ms Herbert said.

Scott Tolmie, MLA’s Manager of Market Intelligence, said that the national saleyard feeder steer indicator averaged 304.12¢/kg lwt during the September quarter, 12% (42¢) lower quarter-on-quarter and back 19% compared with the same period last year.

“Deteriorating pasture conditions across much of NSW and Queensland during the quarter saw restocker buying activity ease due to limited rainfall. However, the availability of light weight stock through markets remained limited with the herd rebuilding cycle still underway,” Mr Tolmie said.

A decline in cattle prices in the September quarter was partially offset by grain prices moving in the opposite direction during the quarter.

“Wheat ex-Darling Downs averaged \$318.61/tonne, while barley averaged \$308.46, an increase of 35% and 40% year-on-year, respectively,” Mr Tolmie said.

“Combined Ex-Darling Downs grain prices average 22% higher than the June quarter, as a result of well below average rainfall in most cropping regions in July and August negatively impacting crop yields.”

-Ends-

For more information:

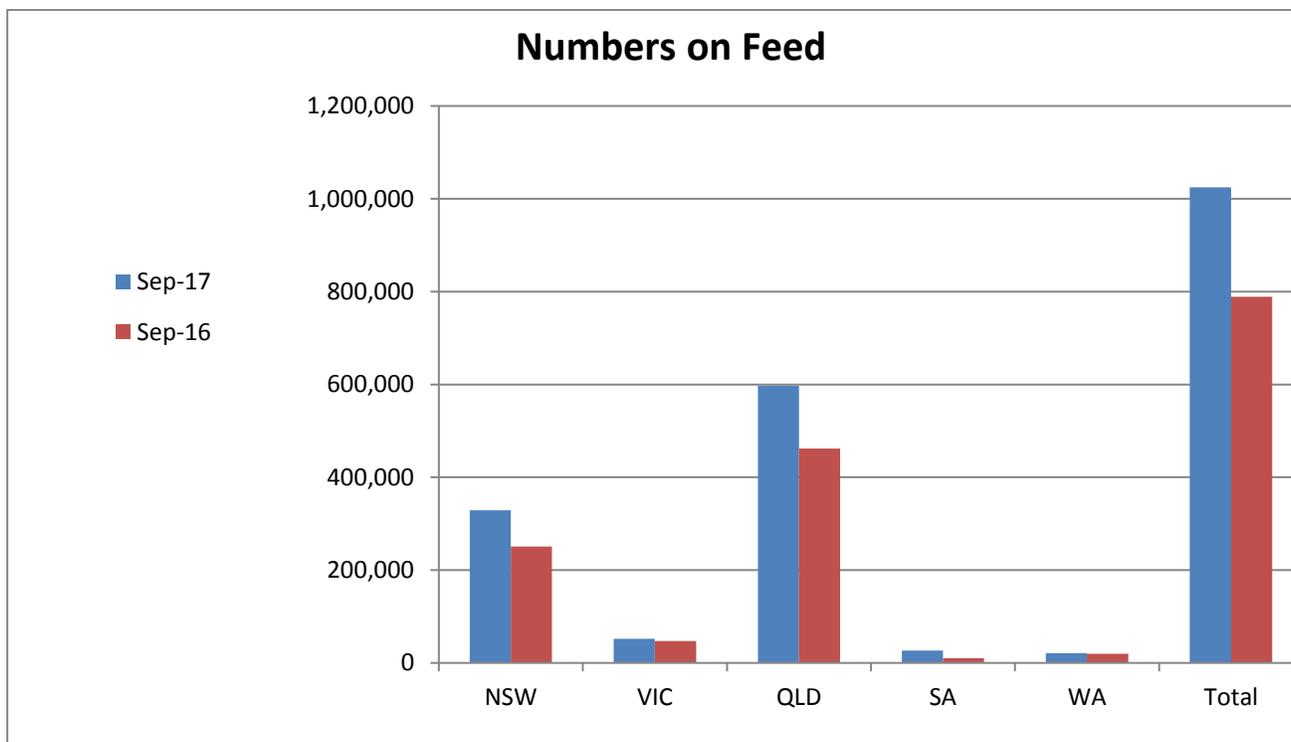
Tess Herbert  
President – ALFA  
E: [tess\\_herbert@gundamain.com.au](mailto:tess_herbert@gundamain.com.au)  
P: (02) 6859 2784

Josh McIntosh  
Media Manager – MLA  
E: [jmcintosh@mla.com.au](mailto:jmcintosh@mla.com.au)  
P: (02) 9463 9198

**ALFA / MLA FEEDLOT SURVEY  
Jul - Sep 2017**

**Cattle Numbers on Feed**

<b>Numbers on Feed</b>	<b>NSW</b>	<b>VIC</b>	<b>QLD</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>WA</b>	<b>Total</b>
Sep-17	328,584	51,771	597,239	26,218	20,936	<b>1,024,748</b>
Jun-17	338,406	64,184	626,580	34,235	25,668	<b>1,089,072</b>
Sep-16	250,430	46,875	461,839	9,757	19,972	<b>788,873</b>



**Total Cattle Turnoff**

<b>Total Turnoff (quarterly)</b>	<b>NSW</b>	<b>VIC</b>	<b>QLD</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>WA</b>	<b>Total</b>
Sep-17	192,131	49,871	437,949	25,003	25,827	<b>730,781</b>
Jun-17	194,905	51,811	464,255	19,480	25,766	<b>756,216</b>
Sep-16	226,828	40,351	367,528	8,118	27,279	<b>670,105</b>

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	Numbers on Feed Sep 17	Numbers on Feed Jun 17	Numbers on Feed Sep 16
<b>New South Wales</b>			
Less than 500 head	916	1,500	4,150
500 -1000 head	22,430	18,245	8,920
1000 - 10000 head	93,047	104,563	80,830
over 10000 head	212,191	214,098	156,531
<b>State Total</b>	<b>328,584</b>	<b>338,406</b>	<b>250,430</b>
<b>Queensland</b>			
Less than 500 head	10,949	10,907	8,970
500 -1000 head	19,813	20,417	20,359
1000 - 10000 head	175,838	169,426	147,979
over 10000 head	390,639	425,829	284,531
<b>State Total</b>	<b>597,239</b>	<b>626,580</b>	<b>461,839</b>
<b>Victoria</b>			
500 -1000 head	4,522	4,661	6,510
1000 - 10000 head	7,834	21,601	17,052
over 10000 head	39,415	37,922	23,313
<b>State Total</b>	<b>51,771</b>	<b>64,184</b>	<b>46,875</b>
<b>South Australia</b>			
Less than 500 head	0	874	560
500 -1000 head	0	0	2,016
1000 - 10000 head	12,718	15,862	7,181
over 10000 head	13,500	17,499	0
<b>State Total</b>	<b>26,218</b>	<b>34,235</b>	<b>9,757</b>
<b>Western Australia</b>			
Less than 500 head	200	2,172	165
500 -1000 head	2,448	0	2,030
1000 - 10000 head	18,288	23,496	17,777
<b>State Total</b>	<b>20,936</b>	<b>25,668</b>	<b>19,972</b>
<b>Australia</b>			
Less than 500 head	12,065	15,454	13,845
500 -1000 head	49,212	43,323	39,834
1000 - 10000 head	307,726	334,947	270,819
over 10000 head	655,745	695,349	464,374
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,024,748</b>	<b>1,089,072</b>	<b>788,873</b>

<b>Total Capacity</b>	<b>NSW</b>	<b>VIC</b>	<b>QLD</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>WA</b>	<b>Total</b>
Sep-17	389,263	73,552	701,955	40,637	72,777	<b>1,278,184</b>
Jun-17	389,263	73,552	695,163	40,637	67,777	<b>1,266,392</b>
Sep-16	390,222	75,150	662,328	33,298	59,777	<b>1,220,775</b>

Source: Feedlot Capacity figures are provided by AUS-MEAT Limited (AUS-MEAT). AUS-MEAT owns and administers the National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme (NFAS) on behalf of ALFA and the feedlot sector. Actual Feedlot Capacity figures are reported under the NFAS.

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