



**CATTLE COUNCIL OF
AUSTRALIA**

**BEEF
IMPROVEMENT
ASSOCIATION**

MEDIA RELEASE

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EASIER EU ACCESS ON THE WAY

The Cattle Council of Australia and the Beef Improvement Association have welcomed new rules governing the European Cattle Accreditation Scheme (EUCAS). The two industry groups understand that the new EUCAS rules will be announced by AQIS to accredited producers later this month.

All beef exported from Australia to the European Union (EU) must be from EUCAS accredited properties and feedlots. With previous rules making stock management extremely difficult during periods when feed is scarce, the number of accredited properties and stock has not been high enough to fill market quotas.

The changes to EUCAS will allow a producer with accredited properties to introduce non-accredited breeder females, as already occurs for breeder bulls. While these non-accredited cows cannot be sold to EU markets, their progeny will be fully accredited.

"It's particularly relevant in the current situation in much of Australia, where many producers have destocked due to drought pressures. Now with the good general rains, these changes allow them to restock quickly and return to full production with a minimum of inconvenience," said Cattle Council Vice-President Mike Norton.

Cattle Council has been working with AQIS to develop rules changes for the scheme. These will ensure that producers enjoy increased flexibility in managing their EUCAS herds. Cattle Council has worked alongside AQIS during a review and audit of the system, handover of full control and auditing to AQIS (from state authorities) and the recently completed audits by EU officials.

"Producers currently in the EUCAS system should look out for the information concerning the new rules, which will be sent out by AQIS. For those producers wishing to become accredited, AQIS have in place excellent communication resources, including a hotline; 1800 305 544," said Mr Norton.

Cattle Council has focused on the EUCAS after a full briefing by the Beef Improvement Association (BIA), at the CCA AGM in Tamworth last year. BIA is an associate member of Cattle Council. The two industry groups regularly work in close cooperation.

"BIA brought this issue to the attention of Cattle Council, and we have been pleased with the results. Cattle Council has listened to the BIA and wholeheartedly accepted our concerns regarding a lack of flexibility in EUCAS rules," said BIA President Mario Camarri.

"The industry groups have worked hard to ensure that governments in Australia, and the EU, recognize that our management and ID systems are second to none and that subsequently these changes can now be put in place. We are pleased that our members, and all EUCAS producers, have received value from industry groups working effectively together," Mr Camarri concluded.

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