



CATTLE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

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Cattle industry hits milestone with LPA accreditation

The red meat industry has hit an important milestone this week with 100,000 cattle and sheep properties reaching full accreditation under the Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) Food Safety program. By being fully accredited in the LPA Food safety program a producer agrees to abide by all rules and standards governing the program and undertakes to be part of the random audit process.

Cattle Council of Australia President, Bill Bray, says that the milestone signifies a mature industry that takes the integrity of its product seriously.

“It demonstrates a commitment by producers to keep records which verify that important steps are taken to manage food safety risks on farm, and a commitment by industry leaders to heighten producer understanding of the benefits of quality assurance on farm.”

“The industry set the target to achieve this milestone within three years and has hit that target, 100%”.

Mr Bray says that the bulk of Australian cattle producers use the LPA National Vendor Declaration (NVD) waybill for livestock transactions and follow the food safety guidelines that underpin the quality assurance program.

“Recent MLA surveys indicate that over 75% of the cattle presented at saleyards are fully accredited in LPA and the results even higher at export abattoirs”.

Over 175,000 LPA manuals have been sent to producers and more than 4,000 audits have been carried out since January 2005.

The random audits review a producer’s ability to manage safety according to the five LPA guidelines for food safety.

“Around 75% of producers go through an audit without a corrective action and the majority of corrective actions are closed.”

Mr Bray said that the LPA Standards and Accreditation Committee, the staff within MLA’s Livestock Quality Systems group and industry representatives across Australia should be congratulated for helping the industry achieve the milestone.

“Many hours of planning and hard work has gone into making the LPA Food Safety program the envy of our competitors and a key tool in ensuring the integrity of the Australian Cattle and Beef industry”.

Ends – For further information contact Bill Bray, President, Cattle Council of Australia on 0429 307 561 or Selena Jensen from Pegasus communication on 0400 626 782. To advise of additional or alternative email addresses for CCA media releases or to unsubscribe, please email selena@pegasuscomms.com.au

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