

Good practice reinforced through training

FACTSHEET 11

The Australian livestock export industry wants to help all members of the supply chain with information and training. The training available as part of conformance and quality management programs will assist in improving animal welfare, quality control and profitability.

Key points

- Stressed animals will increase your instances of dark cutting and bruising, reduce water holding capacity and negatively impact tenderness, juiciness and flavour of meat.
- Meat & Livestock Australia and LiveCorp are committed to providing training and support in animal health, handling and welfare to reduce stress and increase profit.
- Improved skills through specialised training can directly contribute to better financial returns.

Why training is important

Conformance and quality management programs require particular tasks associated with animal handling, nutrition and welfare to be conducted and often recorded in ways that may be new or different to those traditionally practiced by handlers in overseas markets.

The Australian industry has developed a range of training packages and materials to ensure handlers understand these requirements and are confident in putting them into practice. To reduce stress on animals in a supply chain, livestock handlers and transporters need to be able to:

- Understand concepts of flight zone, point of balance, position, pressure and release, movement and communication and utilise these concepts to handle animals calmly and effectively.
- Appreciate the harmful effect of electric prodders, noise, touching and other stressors on animal welfare and meat quality.
- Recognise problems and situations which may cause stress or injury and how to fix them.

Stressed animals will increase instances of dark cutting and bruising, reduce water holding capacity and negatively impact tenderness, juiciness and flavour of meat. Training and the implementation of standard operating procedures which reflect good practice are fundamental to profitability.

Good practices required by conformance or quality management programs reinforced through training

Training programs designed by the Australian industry to support the adoption of conformance and quality management programs include topics such as:

- Standard Operating Procedures for the Welfare of Sheep / Cattle in Overseas markets.
- Low Stress Livestock Handling
- Facility Design Risk Analysis
- Livestock Transport Operators Training

Training materials available include:

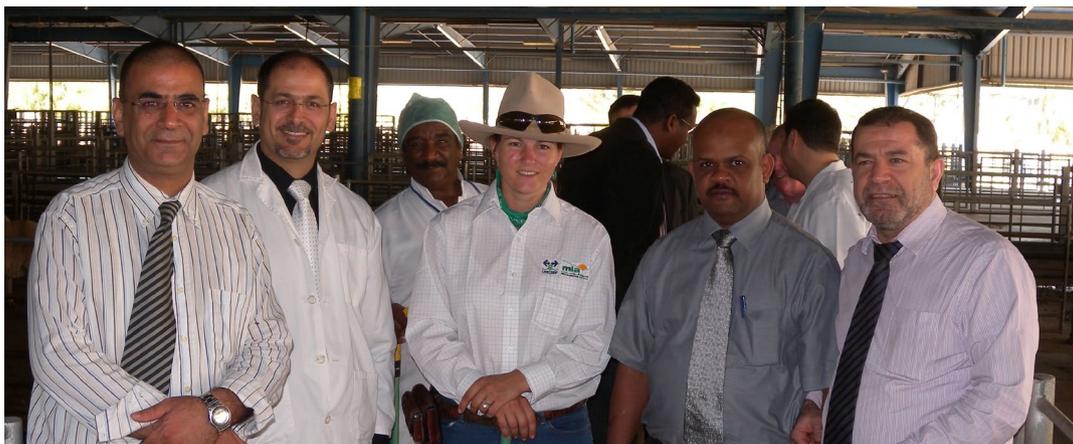
- Standard Operating Procedures for the Welfare of Sheep / Cattle in Overseas markets.
- Is It Fit to Load?
- Management of unfit to Load Livestock
- South East Asian Cattle Breeding Guide
- Manual for South East Asian Cattle feedlots
- South East Asian Cattle Feedlot Treatment Guide
- Do's & Dont's of Livestock Handling
- Livestock Handling Guide
- Australian Goat Manual for Malaysian Farmers
- Best Practice use of Veterinary Drugs
- Tropical Beef Production Manual

Benefits of good practice

The benefits of training aligned to conformance and quality management programs include:

- improved animal welfare,
- improved meat quality,
- reduced losses and greater yields and
- greater financial returns.

If you are interested in accessing assistance and material to aid training your staff within your facility, please contact your Australian exporter or your local Meat & Livestock Australia regional manager. A program tailored to your requirements can be designed and organised.



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Further reading

- LiveCorp website: www.livecorp.com.au
- MLA website: www.mla.com.au
- *Factsheet 1: Good practice can reduce dark cutting for better meat quality and higher returns*
- *Factsheet 2: Good practice can reduce stress and improve eating quality*
- *Factsheet 3: Good practice can reduce acute stress and water loss from meat*
- *Factsheet 4: Good practice can reduce bruising resulting in less trimming and less carcass wastage*
- *Factsheet 5: Good practice delivers benefits from improved infrastructure*
- *Factsheet 6: Good practice can reduce animal stress and shrinkage for increased profits*
- *Factsheet 7: Good practice in the provision of quality feed and clean fresh water can improve growth rates and eating quality*
- *Factsheet 8: Good practice in reducing slipping and falling can improve hide cleanliness and carcass hygiene*
- *Factsheet 9: Good practice avoids mixing unfamiliar livestock which can reduce stress and improve eating quality*
- *Factsheet 10: Good practice in traceability delivers health and safety control and improves management decisions*
- *Factsheet 12: Support and training in good practice*