



Mount Barker Regional Saleyards Summary of Advisory Committee Matters

Bovine Johne's Disease (BJD)

Saleyards staff have been fielding many questions regarding what effect BJD and the newly implemented Johne's Beef Assurance Score (JBAS) will have on operational issues at Saleyards.

One such question is 'Do we need to pen cattle according to their JBAS score or display it on the penning sheet?'

As WA is currently free from BJD, the current approach is that the Saleyards will do nothing differently. Cattle will be penned as normal and the JBAS score on penning cards will not be displayed.

All cattle saleyards across the state will be operating under these same guidelines, unless directed otherwise.

Gate to Plate Challenge

Nominations are now open for the 2018 Harvey Beef Gate 2 Plate Challenge. Cattle need to be delivered to the Saleyards from 3rd–4th January 2018 with the cattle presented for inspection on Saturday 6th January 2018.

All competition cattle can be viewed on this day. Industry representatives will be present to give helpful advice to producers on the day with a sausage sizzle at lunch (gold coin donation) to Regional Men's Health.

Livestock Production Assurance Program

Meat and Livestock Australia has made changes to strengthen the Livestock Production Assurance program to further safeguard Australia's enviable status as a world leader in red meat safety, integrity and traceability.

There will be two new modules :1) on-farm biosecurity :and 2) animal welfare practices which will be requirements of LPA accreditation. LPA accredited producers will need to renew LPA accreditation every three years.

A free electronic LPA National Vendor Declaration (LPA eNVD) will be available. However, a paper copy must still accompany the truck as the Saleyards does not have the provision to deal with these.

Note that the NLIS is now called Integrity Systems.

Refer to Meat and Livestock Australia for further information.

Animal Welfare Award

The Shire of Plantagenet was very pleased that the Mount Barker Regional Saleyards won the 2nd Animal Welfare Award at the 2017 National Saleyards Expo in Rockhampton.

A lot of factors contributed to the win, not least being Saleyards Manager, Stewart Smith's efforts as an animal welfare inspector, provision of soft floor matting, the new roof and TV advertising of the welfare attributes of the facility.

Over the years, many upgrades have been done at the Saleyards which have significantly improved animal welfare standards. Animal welfare is important in its own right, but it also has the added benefit of securing the future viability of the facility.

Saleyards Manager's Report

At this stage, we are looking to start double sales in the first week of December.

Ramp 6 at the dispersal end has now been modified in line with two others. The Shire is considering an additional ramp in future budgets.

Air conditioning has now largely been completed throughout the office block, with the canteen being finalised soon.

Replacement of the guttering on the roof above the weighbridges has been carried out.

Some maintenance works have been carried out recently with clean gravel

being replaced in a number of pens. We have also replaced D shackles on the weighbridge lift gate chains.

We are looking to put a yard map somewhere in the facility to identify what pens are where.

The new roof has now been in place for approximately 12 months and the quality of the delivery pens has been well received by buyers, producers and carriers. The condition of the pens over winter has been of a good standard and came through very well. Water capture has also been excellent.

We have recently carried out a little more beautification of the carpark ar-

ea, with the planting of some native plants.

The Saleyards TV commercial has been updated to reflect the facility being the winner of the 2017 National Award for Animal Welfare by the Australian Livestock Markets Association.

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development recently ran a session on Early Detection and Reporting of Emergency Animal Diseases and Compliance at the Saleyards. Issues covered were Foot and Mouth Disease BSE/Scrapie Blue Tongue Virus, Screw Worm Fly and common diseases