



Mount Barker Regional Saleyards Summary of Advisory Committee Matters

Fit to Load Requirements

The Saleyards Committee has recently expressed concern at the cattle mortality rate for truck transports to the Saleyards. It was agreed there is a need to look at what the risks are and continually work towards solutions that look after the animals to reduce the death and injury rates.

It is timely to outline the Fit to Load guidelines and the processes which will then ensue if unfit cattle are unloaded at the saleyards.

Cattle can be assessed as 'fit to load' by meeting the following criteria:

1. STRICTLY NO HORNS GROWING INTO THE ANIMAL'S HEAD.
2. Be strong enough to undertake the journey;
3. Be able to walk on their own by bearing weight on all legs;
4. Not be visibly dehydrated or emaciated;
5. Not showing visible signs of severe injury or distress;
6. Not be in a condition such that transportation will cause increased pain or distress;

7. Not be blind in both eyes;
8. Not be in late pregnancy; and
9. Not have a condition that is likely to cause further pain or suffering during the journey.

When concerned about whether livestock are fit to travel, advice from a veterinarian or stock inspector should be sought. 'If in doubt, leave it out'.

Once a suspect animal is unloaded at the saleyards, the Manager has the authority to act on any animal welfare issues which will end with either the suspect animal returning home, treated at the saleyards by staff or a veterinarian, or destroyed and disposed of.

Additional destruction and tipping fees are applied if cattle are disposed of.

Animals with a pre-existing condition will be assessed and reported to the Department of Agriculture, Livestock Compliance Branch for follow up advice.

Gate to Plate Challenge

On 3 January, Harvey Beef Gate 2 Plate cattle started arriving with all animals in the yards by 4 January. A total of 183 head was put in the western yards on silage.

On 6 January, the Gate 2 Plate induction field day was held with approximately 100 people in attendance to view competition cattle and listen to industry speakers. Sponsor displays enhanced the yards set up on the day which was well received by all.

The furthest team came from Walkaway in the north to Esperance in the east. Forty different breed combinations were displayed. Gate 2 Plate animals left the yards on 8 January via Zambonetti Transport to Willyung Farm Feedlot for induction.

The final field day will be held at Willyung Farm Feedlot (646 Parker Brook Road, Albany) on 20 March. This will feature a range of speakers and trade displays including technology in livestock farming, MLA research, using genomics to drive your business and an assessment of the Gate 2 Plate Challenge results.

Saleyards Manager's Report

Firstly a big thanks to agents and truckies throughout the busy summer period. It has gone relatively smoothly and we all appreciate the ongoing cooperation and good working relationships in what can be a stressful time for all.

We have recently had delegations of Chinese veterinary students attend the facility as well as Japanese meat buyers. There does seem to be increasing interest in saleyards from overseas.

On 3 October, air conditioning units were installed in the office block. The canteen was finished on 26 October. We understand it has been very well received by all over the summer months.

Just a general reminder that it is important for producers to pay their annual property identification code (PIC) registration fees on time. Not doing so will risk Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) accreditation.

If they are not accredited under the LPA program, they will no longer have access to the LPA NVD which carries the LPA logo, and supply chains may not accept their livestock, or may pay a reduced price for it. Contact numbers are: PIC Registration & Disbanded PICs - Bunbury 9780 6207

Permits for Non-compliant cattle ie Bulls with no NLIS tags—Bunbury 9780 6222

NVD books, emergency NVD, LPA accreditation—MLA 1800 683 111

On 5 February, the saleyards lost power due to a transformer going down. The backup generator was engaged for the day to complete washdown. Startup and changeover worked very well. The generator has been used several times with success.

Further to the implementation of flocculent dosing of wash down water, the September and December phosphorus results are very encouraging. Those readings show reduction in recent values by over 50% and are the lowest values since 2012.

In November, modifications to Dispersal Ramp 6 were completed with the alterations the same as dispersal ramp 1 and 2. A new force slam gate has been added for extra safety.