

SNAPSHOT

REVIEW AND COMPARE AUSTRALIAN ANIMAL WELFARE SYSTEMS THROUGHOUT THE SUPPLY CHAIN TO MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS (WHOLE OF LIFE ANIMAL WELFARE)

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Project Description

This project provided an overview of the animal welfare practices on a whole of supply chain basis for the Australian red meat industry. Australian requirements (regulatory and industry best practice) were consolidated and compared with international animal welfare standards (OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code) and those of key global customers and trading partners, including Europe and North America.

Project Content

The *Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines* (AAWSG) aim to harmonise animal welfare legislation in Australia and detail the standards (i.e. 'must') and guidelines (i.e. 'should'). This project compared the AAWSG for each species and section of the supply chain to the *OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code*. The following standards and guidelines and animal welfare visions that are in place or have been released in Australia were also considered:

- / Grazing Best Management Practices (Grazing BMP)
- / Livestock Production Assurance (LPA)
- / National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme (NFAS)
- / RSCPA Australia Better Beef Cattle Welfare: Our Vision

This project also considered the following international certification standards and industry guidelines for the applicable species and segment of the supply chain:

- / Bord Bia Sustainable Quality Assurance Schemes
- / Certified Animal Welfare Approved by A Greener World (AWG)

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- / Global Animal Partnership (GAP) animal welfare standards
- / Humane Farm Animal Care (HFAC) Certified Humane
- / North American Meat Institute (NAMI) Recommended Animal Handling Guidelines and Audit Guide
- / Quality Meat Scotland (QMS) Assured
- / Red Tractor Certified Standards
- / RSPCA Assured
- / Soil Association Organic Standards
- / Scottish Organic Producers Association (SOPA)

Project Outcome

The aim of this project was to provide an overview of animal welfare practices on a whole of supply chain basis for the Australian red meat industry. Australian requirements (regulatory and industry best practice) were consolidated and compared with international animal welfare standards (*OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code*) and those of key global customers and trading partners, including Europe and North America.

The analysis identified a number of areas where continued improvement will deliver greater animal welfare outcomes or where improved messaging around the differences between Australian production systems and those of our international trading partners and customers differ is required to drive adoption of animal welfare advancements. These included:

- / Husbandry procedures – considerations include the age of the animal, the method (where multiple methods are available e.g. castration), the competency/qualifications of the operator and the use of analgesia
- / Transport – journey times and time off feed and water
- / Frequency of standard updates and alignment with international standards – the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code is updated annually. Any review and update of standards utilised within Australia should consider current OIE standards. It was also noted that many international and customer standards are reviewed and/or updated frequently, with many of the standards citing an updated version in the last couple of years. As a result, these standards are able to incorporate and reflect advancements in animal welfare in a more timely manner.

The findings of this process have been presented to industry for consideration and action such as inclusion in any future reviews of animal welfare standards and practices.

Benefit for Industry

This analysis demonstrates where requirements may differ to our trading partners and international customers, particularly due to differences in production systems, geography and climate. It also highlights where there is room for continued improvement and provides an overview of 'whole of life' animal welfare requirements. This can be utilised to meet customer and consumer expectations that welfare is addressed for the "whole of life".

USEFUL RESOURCES

A Greener World (AGW). Available at: <https://agreenerworld.org/certifications/animal-welfare-approved/>

American Humane Certified. Available at: <http://www.humaneheartland.org>

Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines. Available at: <http://www.animalwelfarestandards.net.au>

Bord Bia Sustainable Quality Assurance Schemes. Available at: <https://www.bordbia.ie/farmers-growers/get-involved/become-quality-assured/>

Grazing Best Practice Management (Grazing BMP). Available at: <https://www.bmpgrazing.com.au>

Global Animal Partnership (GAP). Available at: <https://globalanimalpartnership.org>

Humane Farm Animal Care (HFAC). Available at: <https://certifiedhumane.org>

Livestock Production Assurance (LPA). Available at: <https://www.integritysystems.com.au/on-farm-assurance/livestock-product-assurance/>

National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme. Available at: <https://www.ausmeat.com.au/services/list/livestock/nfas/nfas-information/>

North American Meat Institute (NAMI) Recommended Animal Handling Guidelines and Audit Guide. Available at: <http://www.animalhandling.org>

OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code. Available at: <https://www.oie.int/standard-setting/terrestrial-code/access-online/>

Quality Meat Scotland (QMS). Available at: <https://www.qmscotland.co.uk/assurance-and-licensing>

Red Tractor Assurance. Available at: <https://assurance.redtractor.org.uk>

RSPCA Assured: Available at: <https://www.rspcaassured.org.uk>

RSPCA Australia Better Beef Cattle Welfare: Our Vision. Available at: https://www.rspca.org.au/sites/default/files/website/what-we-do/working-with-farming-industry/RSPCA_Beef_Cattle_OurVision_Sep2013.pdf

Soil Association. Available at: <https://www.soilassociation.org>

Scottish Organic Producers Association (SOPA). Available at: <http://www.sopa.org.uk>

