



**BEEFTALK**  
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# New cattle welfare rules

New standards will be mandatory under the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001. Are you prepared for the new animal welfare rules?

**T**HE Queensland government is committed to adopting the Australian Animal Welfare Standards for Cattle, Sheep and Livestock at Saleyards and Depots, following their approval at a national level.

Activities to make the standards a compulsory requirement under law are almost finalised.

This will soon bring into effect new requirements for the treatment of cattle and sheep in Queensland, and all livestock at saleyards and depots.

The new standards will be mandatory under the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001 and will replace the current voluntary codes of practice.

These standards are vital for market access and consumer confidence as they will demonstrate to industry, international trading partners and the community that high standards for animal welfare have been implemented.

Queensland producers already maintain a high standard of animal welfare.

These new standards will bring Queensland in line with other states and territories by applying consistent legislation and enforcement across Australia.

All people responsible for the care and management of cattle and sheep in Queensland, and all livestock at saleyards and depots, will need to familiarise

themselves with the new standards and ensure they understand what they will be required to do.

It will be the responsibility of any person in charge of the animal to make sure these requirements are met.

This includes anyone who is in control of the animals including owners, transporters, saleyard operators and anyone employed to manage or handle livestock.

## What are the key changes that will affect me as a cattle producer?

- Appropriate pain relief must be used when castrating or dehorning cattle. Pain relief is not mandatory if cattle are less than six months old or less than 12 months old and castrated or dehorned at their first yarding.

- Appropriate pain relief must be used when performing the flank approach for spaying or webbing of cattle.

- Reasonable actions must be taken to ensure the welfare of cattle from extremes of weather, drought, fires, floods, disease and injury.

- Dogs must be muzzled when moving calves less than 30 days old that are not with cows.

- An electrical prod can only be used on cattle if they are three months of age or older. The cattle must be able to move away from the prod and the



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prod must be applied as sparingly as possible. The prod must not be applied to the face, udders, anus

or genitals of the cattle. ■ Cattle can only be tethered if they are given reasonable opportunity to

exercise off the tether at least once each day and they have sufficient space to stand up, lie down and move around for grazing.

- Disbudding of calves using caustic chemicals can only be done if the calf is less than 14 days of age and the calf is not wet, is segregated from its mother for 4 hours after the treatment and the calf can be kept dry for 12 hours after the treatment.

## Dairy management

- Lactating dairy cows must be inspected at least once a day to assess the welfare of the cow.

- Dairy cows kept on a feed pad must have access to a well-drained area for resting.

## Beef feedlots

- Cattle kept in a beef feedlot must have a minimum floor area of 9m square for each standard cattle unit (equivalent of 600kg live body weight) in the feedlot.

- Cattle in a feedlot must be inspected daily to assess their welfare.

- The owner or operator of a beef feedlot must complete an annual risk assessment about the risk of heat stress at the feedlot and establish, implement and maintain a risk management system to manage the ongoing risk of heat stress.

## Spaying cattle

- Lay people (non-veterinarians) who wish to spay cattle using the Willis dropped ovary technique must be accredited and hold competency in the following unit of nationally recognised training: AHCLSK335 - Conduct dropped ovary technique procedures for spaying cattle. Experienced spayers may be able to meet the standards of this unit through recognition of prior learning.

The nationally agreed standards and guidelines are currently available online at [animalwelfarestandards.net.au](http://animalwelfarestandards.net.au)

For more information on the new standards and guidelines, please contact the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries by phone on 13 25 23 or email [info@daf.qld.gov.au](mailto:info@daf.qld.gov.au).

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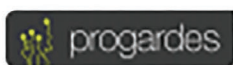
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## What is the NABRC?

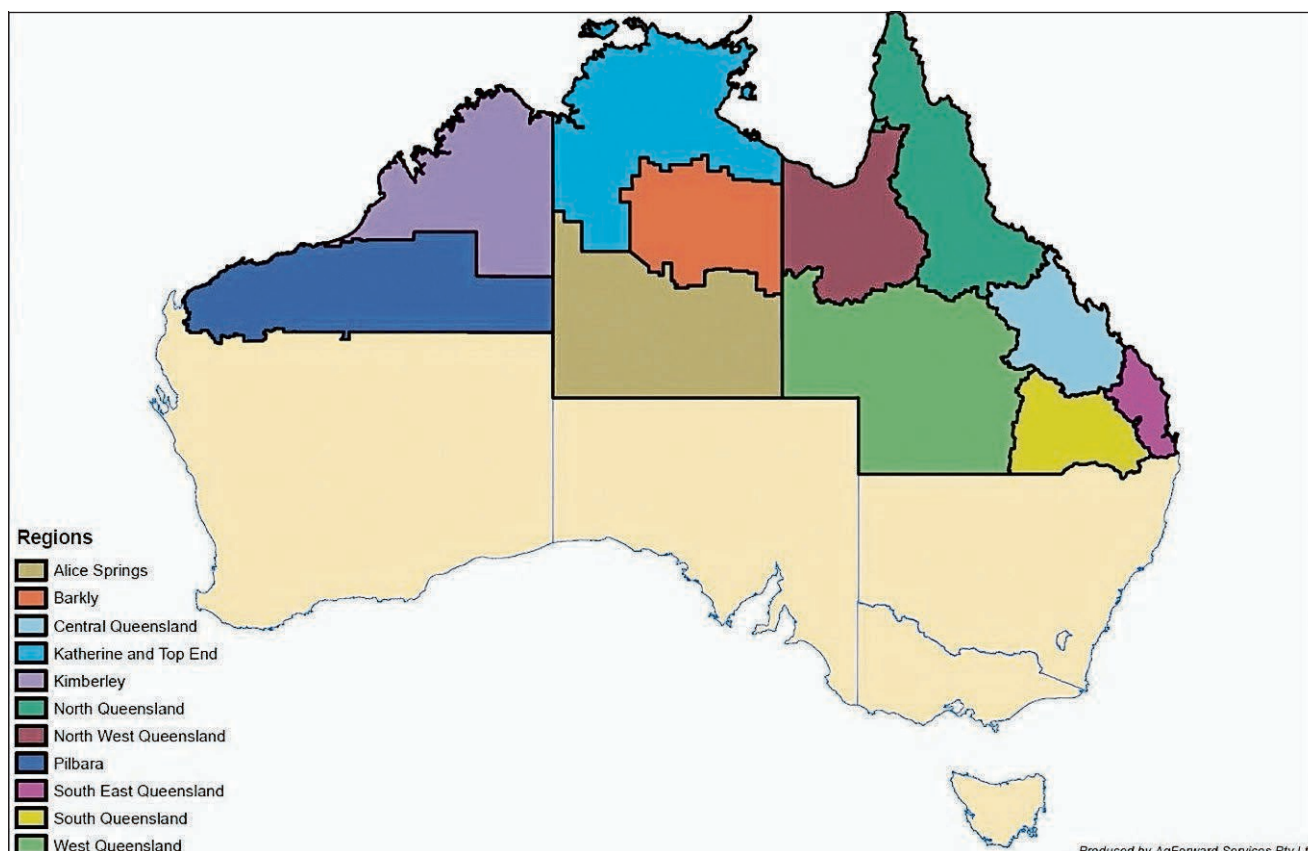
# Advancing the beef industry

THE North Australia Beef Research Council (NABRC) is an independent, incorporated association established in 1992.

Its mission is to drive a focus on research (R), development (D), adoption (A), education and training that benefits the northern beef industry. Producers, research organisations, research funders and education providers come together to discuss strategic industry issues and identify priority RD&A issues.

Eleven Regional Beef Research Committees (RBRCs) led by a producer chair and supported by an agency-sponsored secretary, provide grassroots input to NABRC from across Queensland (6), the Northern Territory (3) and the Pilbara and Kimberley regions of Western Australia (2). There is a core of up to six producer members, plus other members represent state/territory agencies, CSIRO, universities, and key stakeholders in the region (stock and station agents or NRM groups).

The RBRC chairs are representatives on NABRC, alongside senior representatives of



A total of 11 Regional Beef Research Committees provide grassroots input to North Australia Beef Research Council.

Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA), relevant state government departments (QLD, WA, NT), CSIRO, industry organisations and other major R&D providers.

NABRC meets twice a

year and plays a key role in the consultation structure MLA use to determine RD&A investment priorities. In addition, two NABRC representatives sit on MLA's Red Meat Panel which assesses

regional issues in the context of national red meat and livestock industry RD&A priorities.

Following a survey of members, incoming NABRC chair, John Taylor plans to

strengthen RBRCs.

"NABRC is only as good as the RBRCs - they are critical to defining the issues to address and identify new ways to advance the industry in those regions," he said.

“

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The plan includes expanding capacity within RBRCs to ensure they are equipped to address current and emerging industry issues and provide important consultation for R&D funding bodies.

If you are interested in being more involved in your region's RD&A activities or knowing more about NABRC, visit [www.nabrc.com.au](http://www.nabrc.com.au), contact NABRC chair John Taylor [chair@nabrc.com.au](mailto:chair@nabrc.com.au), 0429 725 838 or secretariat Janine King [secretariat@nabrc.com.au](mailto:secretariat@nabrc.com.au), 0419 735542.

## Stocktake GLM app is helping out graziers

STOCKTAKE GLM is an updated smart device application that assists producers with their grazing land management. Based on the popular Stocktake workshop, the app provides graziers, consultants and other land managers with a simple tool to monitor land condition and undertake forage bud-

geting on their property.

Available in the App Store or via Google Play, Stocktake GLM is free to download and use with no subscription fees. The app works without the need for mobile reception, backing up securely once a connection is restored. Data can also easily be synced to another device.

Setting up a property is simple, since the app contains the latest spatial mapping, allowing users to quickly locate and pin their grazing property. Using updated pasture growth modelling data, land type mapping and adult equivalent data, the app can calculate long-term carrying capacity using

grazier on ground monitoring inputs. Stocktake GLM can also guide you through a basic or detailed forage budget to determine short-term stocking rates by balancing pasture supply with stock demand.

Capable of storing rainfall records and cattle numbers, Stocktake GLM produces a

variety of reports that can be exported as a PDF or alternatively a CSV for those wishing to import their data into spreadsheet format. During a land condition assessment, GPS coordinates are collected along with photos and site information to be revisited when monitoring in the future.

Stocktake workshops are run on demand across Queensland. If you are interested in holding one in your local area or require assistance with downloading and setting up your property on Stocktake, contact your local beef extension officer. Alternatively, visit [stocktakeglm.com.au](http://stocktakeglm.com.au).



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# New videos coming to FutureBeef

FUTUREBEEF will soon launch 15 new "how to" videos online on a variety of topics for the "anything but average" beef producer. With topics ranging from foetal ageing and vaccination through to using fire or wet season spelling, these videos include something for every beef producer.

With filming across three states (Queensland, Northern Territory and Western Australia) the videos feature prominent beef producers, veterinarians, beef advisors and scientists from across northern Australia. The short videos cover the practical implementation of specific management options across a variety of different locations and country types on commercial scale properties. Topics featured include:

- Foetal ageing for management
- Pregnancy testing for management
- Establishing stylo in

northern forest country

- Making informed economic decisions
- How to age cattle by their teeth
- Bull breeding soundness evaluation
- Transporting cattle safely
- Wet season spelling
- Land condition assessment
- Weaner management
- Vaccination techniques
- Feeding phosphorus
- Recognising signs of overgrazing
- Using fire within management
- Setting and using decision dates

Joe Rolfe, senior principal beef extension officer, with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) Queensland, stars alongside Kevin "Hooter" Young at Dels Hole' in Georgetown and Darcy O'Brien from The Brook north of Charters Towers, to provide insights on successful stylo establishment in forest country.

"Many producers are time-poor and these videos are an easy way to see and hear about some handy management options. There's nothing better than hearing practical tips from producers and seeing how different practices can improve a beef operation," Joe said.

Kate Brown, beef extension officer with DAF, who was leading the video production for FutureBeef said they had a few extra challenges thrown their way with COVID-19 and restrictions for interstate travel in place.

"I am very pleased to say we managed to get to most places as planned. It has been extremely rewarding working with such a variety of great contributors," she said.

Visit [futurebeef.com.au](http://futurebeef.com.au) and subscribe to futurebeef's monthly e-bulletin and like and follow us on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

■ Kate Brown



With filming across three states, the new FutureBeef videos feature prominent beef producers, veterinarians, beef advisors and scientists from across northern Australia.



New or expanding commercial cropping and horticulture activities in certain reef catchment regions now require an environmental authority.

## New cropping requirements

ARE you located in a reef catchment?

Are you considering cultivating, or expanding your current cultivation, onto land that hasn't been cropped for more than three out of the last 10 years?

Is there a chance you could sell any of the resulting crop or hay?

If you answered "yes" to

these questions you need to be aware of the new or expanding cropping requirements that came into effect on June 1, 2021.

Under the reef regulations, from June 1, 2021 new or expanding commercial cropping and horticulture activities in the Cape York, Wet Tropics, Burdekin, Mackay Whitsunday, Fitzroy

and Burnett Mary regions on five hectares or more of land that does not have a cropping history, will require an environmental authority (permit) before the activity or any work takes place.

For more detailed information about the new regulations, visit [qld.gov.au](http://qld.gov.au) and search for 'new or expanding cropping'.

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# Sheep industry insights

**A**S WE head into winter, it's an important time to take stock of the outlook for Australia's sheep industry and how Queensland producers are positioned following the summer and autumn periods.

Despite the significant challenges of 2020, there is general optimism around for many sheep producers and woolgrowers who have signalled interest in boosting flock numbers following a prosperous season and sustained high prices.

According to Meat & Livestock Australia's 2021 Sheep Industry Projections, the national sheep flock is set to enter a rebuilding phase this year, with strong sheep and lamb prices expected to remain, provided favourable seasonal conditions continue.

The report cited that in Queensland, the sheep population will continue to grow with the greater implementation of widespread cluster fencing, reducing the impact of wild dogs and dingoes.

This was echoed at the Leading Sheep Forum held in Longreach in March 2021, where Queensland sheep producers signalled intentions to boost Merino numbers, seeing value in establishing two income streams between meat and wool to help offset the impacts of key market and seasonal challenges.

Andrea McKenzie, extension officer with the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, said that although the outlook is positive for many Queensland producers, some are still facing impacts

of ongoing dry conditions with minimal rainfall across the summer period.

"Summer rainfall across northern Queensland and part of the southern inland districts was above average, but below average from the Capricornia to Wide Bay and Burnett districts and inland," Ms McKenzie said.

"This is creating a number of challenges for sheep producers receiving lower than average rainfall to feasibly and sustainably restock in the current high price market.

"Following an improved season for many, we are also noticing wool prices are steadily climbing and the production of shorn wool is increasing overall."

The Australian Wool Production Forecasting Committee (AWPFC) has released the fourth forecast of shorn wool production in 2020/21 citing a 2.1 per cent increase on 2019/20 to 290 million kilograms (mkg) greasy.

"Though parts of Queensland have benefited from rainfall which has added to on-farm water stocks, the AWPFC forecast expects the number of sheep shorn will fall by 4.5pc in Australia during 2020-21 to 65.5 million, with a 14.2pc downward trend expected in Queensland," Ms McKenzie said.

"The national shearer shortage is creating delays in shearing for many areas, which provides potential challenges to producers by disrupting their individual on-farm programs and shorn wool being longer than usual.

"The sustaining challenges around getting shearers nationally will continue to



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For many Queensland sheep producers, it was a good start to the year, and despite significant challenges for some, the overall positive market conditions indicate an opportunity to rebuild flocks and make on-farm changes that drive greater sustainability and returns.

create a number of issues for producers as we move into the spring joining period." In addition to highly

variable seasonal conditions, the Queensland sheep industry's rebuilding period has also been impacted by pest and disease challenges such as locusts.

"Following early rains, large numbers of locusts occurred in parts of western Queensland and heavily impacted pastures," Ms McKenzie said.

"Emerging greenery from crops and pastures were destroyed, meaning some producers were facing another period of destocking as fodder was gone."

Though the break in the season was a relief for most Queensland producers,

for many it created health issues in livestock like nitrate poisoning and cases of pulpy kidney.

"The long-awaited rain for many producers meant the growth of pigweed and other pests in pastures, which when consumed in high quantities, lead to nitrate poisoning in sheep. Pulpy kidney disease also surfaced in some flocks where the rain leads to lush fast-growing pastures," Ms McKenzie said.

"For many Queensland sheep producers, it was a good start to the year, and despite challenges for some, the overall positive market conditions indicate an opportunity to rebuild flocks and make on-farm changes that drive greater sustainability and returns."

Later this year, Leading Sheep will run a series of ewe and lamb survival, nutrition and drought response workshops. These workshops will help sheep producers optimise reproduction by implementing effective condition score management and feeding programs that minimise ewe losses and boost reproduction and lamb survival rates. More details to come, at: [www.leadingsheep.com.au/event-list/](http://www.leadingsheep.com.au/event-list/).

To subscribe to the Leading Sheep monthly 'Around the Camp' eNewsletter, visit: [www.leadingsheep.com.au/subscribe](http://www.leadingsheep.com.au/subscribe).

*Leading Sheep is a joint initiative of Australian Wool Innovation and DAF, supported by AgForce. Leading the way for a more profitable Queensland sheep and wool industry through new technology knowledge and skills.*



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