



23 March 2020

FEEDLOT INDUSTRY COMMUNIQUE REGARDING CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

The Australian Lot Feeders' Association (ALFA), as the voice representing the cattle feedlot industry, is working with Industry and relevant Federal and State Authorities to help manage COVID-19.

The safety and wellbeing of our feedlot community is paramount. In the interests of our entire feedlot community this communiqué is being provided to all NFAS accredited feedlots, irrespective of their ALFA membership status. Updates will be issued as required.

Please follow directions from relevant Authorities regarding human health on this matter.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a human respiratory illness. Symptoms range from a mild cough to pneumonia. There is evidence that it spreads from person to person. Like a flu, good hygiene can prevent infection. Importantly, current government advice indicates there is no evidence that livestock or companion animals/pets such as dogs, cats can be infected with the virus.

Human hygiene, preventative measures and staff

The safety and wellbeing of our feedlot community is paramount. ALFA has provided important information and tools to help feedlots manage COVID-19 at an operational level.

Please click here for [ALFA's General Message](#) which includes information on human health, preventative measures, contingency planning and practical tips for feedlots around staff resourcing and rostering.

Whole of Supply Chain coordination

ALFA is a member of the Red Meat Advisory Council (RMAC) who is taking a 'whole of supply chain approach' to this issue.

RMAC includes key Peak Industry representative organisations and coordinates industry efforts that are important to the supply chain. RMAC has established a COVID-19 Roundtable that includes our service providers (MLA, AMPC and Livecorp) and government. Regular meetings are being undertaken to ensure we are working together to manage the situation in terms of staff safety, livestock and business continuity.

'Essential Services' classification

ALFA is working with the Red Meat Advisory Council (RMAC) to ensure State and Federal Governments define our supply chain as an 'Essential Service' for the provision of food and therefore remain open to trade across borders.

Collectively, ALFA with other peak bodies, are working with government to ensure they understand our supply chain and recognise all aspects – feed, fodder, water, Agvet medicines, livestock

transport and movement, livestock farms and feedlots, live export and livestock processing - are considered as 'Essential Service' and can continue to operate.

Veterinary Services, Animal Health

ALFA is working with the veterinary community. Veterinary visits for animal disease control / welfare requirements remain essential activities and many sites are maintaining remote supervision through a variety of means (electronic visual / data monitoring etc). You are encouraged to contact your veterinary service to make appropriate arrangements.

ALFA has been in contact with providers of Agvet Medicines through our Platinum Member network. They have advised that they are continuing to operate in terms of the provision of these important goods for livestock.

Financial Assistance

The Australian Government announced an economic stimulus package totalling \$17.6 billion in mid-March that focuses on cash flow and investment incentives. A second stimulus package was announced over the weekend.

Please refer to [ALFA's General Message](#) that includes information announced by the Federal Government on the first stimulus package. Your business may be eligible for financial assistance.

What is ALFA doing?

- ALFA will advise ALFA members and the broader Feedlot Industry as relevant and new information comes to hand from the Authorities.
- ALFA will continue to engage with the relevant State Government Departments on this issue including liaising with relevant Agriculture and Biosecurity agencies.
- ALFA will continue to work with RMAC to respond to this issue with a supply chain focus.
- The safety and welfare of our people is our top priority. ALFA has postponed a number of face-to-face events scheduled over the next 6-week period. These Events will be rescheduled for a later date. Communication has been sent directly to delegates who have registered for these events.

RESOURCES?

RMAC resource summary

RMAC has prepared a comprehensive resource summary for red meat and livestock businesses. Please refer to the [RMAC resource summary](#) for important links and resources.

NOTE: *The material has been compiled from external resources such as State and Federal government sources. It does not constitute legal advice or recommendations and should not be relied upon as such. It is provided in good faith to assist ALFA members and recipients. Appropriate legal advice should be sought that reflects your individual circumstances.*