



Australian Lowline Cattle Association Inc.
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E-mail: office@lowlinecattleassoc.com.au

ALCA AGM Saturday 12th October 2019

This year the ALCA AGM will be held on Saturday 12th October at the Southgate Motel in Mount Gambier, South Australia.

A bus tour of some surrounding Lowline studs and local places of interest has been organized for Sunday 13th October, the day after the AGM.

As this will only be the second AGM held in South Australia it is hoped members will take this opportunity to attend what will be a really interesting event organized by the small but very enthusiastic South Australian Promotion Group.

Registration Forms for attending the AGM and bus trip will be emailed to members very soon.

Registrations close Sunday 29th September 2019

Send completed registrations to:
office@lowlinecattleassoc.com.au

Further information on accommodation in Mt.Gambier & about the Sunday Bus Trip is on the following page.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Anne Williams 0408 854 246 or Sue Foureur 0407 251 041

Julie Knight
ALCA President

Inside This Issue

ALCA AGM Saturday 12 th October 2019	1
Membership Renewal	1
Mt Gambier AGM – Accommodation	2
Mt Gambier Bus Trip	2
SRPG Cattle Show Preparation Weekend	3
NEW Livestock Feeding Website	4
Neogen Update	4
Nominations for Council 2019/2020	5
Herd Fertility & days to Calving	5
MSA Requirements for handling cattle	6/7
2019 Royal Melbourne Show	8
2019 EKKA Judging date	8
How do I find other ALCA members from my state	8

Membership Renewal


The cut-off date for Membership renewal is coming soon. If your membership hasn't been renewed, your animals may be deactivated on the ALCA database so to avoid this, renew now.

All current ALCA members have been sent Membership renewals so click on your Renewal Invoice & you will be re-directed to the Lowline Shop for payment.

Very simple & easy to do.

www.lowlineshop.com

Have you remembered to
RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP



*Do it Today
Before Time Runs Out*



Mt Gambier AGM - Accommodation

The 2019 AGM is to be held at the Southgate Motel, 175 Commercial Street East, Mount Gambier, SA.

Their contact details are:

Phone: (08) 8723 1175

(for reservations and other details)

Email: david@southgatemotel.com.au

The cost for this is \$160.00 per room (each room will sleep 2 people) and this includes the Continental Breakfast daily

When making a booking with David Pratt (the motel owner) and Justin (front desk) please mention that you are attending the ALCA (or Australian Lowline Cattle Association) AGM for the deal they have offered us.

The AGM on Saturday, October 12, 2019, will be followed by a Breed Forum for members to discuss issues or ideas with the Council & speakers on various topics. Further details will be available soon.

A Breed Dinner will be held in the evening at the Motel.

The cost of dinner is \$45.00 per head - Local Lowline beef is to be featured on the menu.

Could you please alert the South Australian PG contacts if you have any special dietary requirements.

Anne Williams 0408 854 246

Sue Foureur 0407 251 041

Mt Gambier Bus Trip



Blue Lake, Mt.Gambier, SA

The following day (Sunday, October 13, 2019) the bus tour is intended to leave the Southgate Motel at 8 am.

For all guests who intend to fly out of Mount Gambier on the Sunday we would ask that they checkout of the motel and bring their luggage with them on the bus for the day.

The bus will deliver members to the Airport at the end of the day on the way back from Coonawarra/Penola, in time for the flights home.

The cost for the bus trip (including morning tea and lunch, plus entry to Yallum Park homestead) is \$70.00 .

We will be visiting a local sinkhole, the Blue Lake, 2 studs, Yallum Park homestead where we will be having lunch and a tour of the homestead, stopping in Coonawarra for everyone to have a chance of visiting a winery or 2, before returning to Mount Gambier via the airport.

A **Registration Form** for the bus trip will be emailed to members next week.

We hope you will take the opportunity to join us for the weekend.

SRPG Show Cattle Preparation Weekend 15th - 16th June 2019

An enthusiastic group of eight novice and aspiring exhibitors (including some welcome new faces) gathered at Glenholme Lowlines, Yarra Glen for a weekend of learning about how to prepare cattle for show.

Master showman Ken Lorains, ably assisted by Jacqui Feagan and Matt Cooney, led discussion about training cattle to halter, pre-show preparation, show equipment, identification and animal health requirements for shows, fitting and care of cattle at show grounds.

The small number of participants allowed the training to be conducted in an informal interactive way with plenty of time for questions, exchange of ideas and "hands on" practice of new skills on five Lowline heifers supplied by Patricia and Gary of Glenholme Lowlines.

A convivial dinner was held on Saturday evening at a nearby restaurant. A mock show (judged by Matt) was held on Sunday during which people learned about ringcraft and practised presenting a heifer to the judge.

Notes were supplied including information prepared by Julie Knight in 2015 for a previous SRPG Showing Skills Weekend; ALCA Showing of Cattle By-Law 11 Guidelines and Protocols (Version Dec 2016); and the ALCA Policy on the Use of Drugs and Surgical Alterations in Showing Cattle.

Feedback from attendees was very positive. As a result, SRPG hopes to see some new faces in the show ring at 2019 Whittlesea Agricultural Society Show in early November. Australian Lowline cattle will be the Feature Breed at this show.

Patricia Ellis
Glenholme Lowlines



NEW Livestock Feeding Website

Agriculture Victoria has recently launched a comprehensive feeding livestock website with all the tools, resources and calculators you'll need during drought and other times when pasture is limited.

If you are still in drought conditions you will find this information extremely useful in the management of your cattle & farm.

Please visit <http://feedinglivestock.vic.gov.au/>

Some of the topics discussed are

- Preparing for drought
- Water during drought
- Pasture management during drought
- Monitoring stock condition
- Choosing feeds
- Feeding grain to cattle
- Options for young stock management
- The feed value of unusual feedstuffs
- Animal health & welfare

Neogen Update

Negotiations have been finalised with Neogen for all ALCA member DNA samples collected between 1st September 2017 & 30th June 2019 to be transferred to Zoetis for storage.

Storage at Zoetis will be free. A copy of all DNA data for these samples will also be transferred to Zoetis.

What does this mean to me?

Using Neogen for DNA & PV –

You can continue using Neogen if you prefer. Neogen will have the data for the samples moved to Zoetis so you can still have your Parent Verification tests processed.

You will be able to contact Neogen directly if you have any questions about your samples without using the ALCA office as the middle-man.

You will be paying Neogen directly for any DNA processed.

As of 2018, Neogen no longer supply DNA Certificates for results. If you would like a DNA certificate, Neogen charge \$10 +GST per certificate.

Please note: As of 1st August 2019, Neogen will be charging an extra \$3 +GST for every hair sample sent in for processing.

Tissue samples will not be charged any extra.

Using Zoetis for DNA & PV –

Zoetis will have the DNA results on file for the samples moved to their storage.

University of Queensland (UQ) used to supply DNA Certificates with results for each animal.

If you are a new client to Zoetis, please email these certificates to Zoetis so they can use them for Parent Verification for your calves.

This will save you time, especially if you need results quickly.

You can contact Zoetis directly if you have any questions.

Payment is to be paid directly to Zoetis.

Beef Book



A practical guide to beef feeding and management during a drought and other times when pasture is limiting.

Learn More >

Nominations for Council 2019/2020

Members are encouraged to nominate for Council to:

- Represent members interests,
- Influence the continuing advancement of the breed and the Association,
- Contribute leadership to achieve the Association's objectives.

Nominations are now being called for the election of Councillors of the Australian Lowline Cattle Association, whose term shall commence from the closure of the 2019 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Association on 12th October 2019 in Mt Gambier, South Australia.

In accordance with Rule 18(b) of the constitution the following Councillors are required to retire by rotation:

Julie Knight, Michele Molly, Philip Worthington and Colin Schiller.

Therefore, four (4) Councillors need to be elected to serve a two year term.

Please note the following:

- Only Full Financial Members may be nominated for the position of Councillor.
- Nominations shall be in writing, on the Nomination Form, signed by two (2) Full Financial Members and/or Honorary Life Members.
- Written consent of the person being nominated is also required on the nomination form.
- Nominees are encouraged to provide a statement to assist voters should a ballot be required.

We have the following councillors continuing on for a further 1 year term : Gordon Guthrie, Klaus Emmerich, Sandra Price & Bill Brydon.

Nominations must be lodged at the Association's office no later than 5pm on Friday 30th August 2019.

Natalie Herd
Lowline Registrar

Herd Fertility & Genetics - Days to Calving - an on farm focus



Black Label Glee & her calf, Nymph

Livestock producers agree that herd reproductive performance is a critical factor impacting on enterprise profitability. The job of the breeding female in a herd is to conceive early in the joining period, carry a foetus and deliver a live healthy calf, rear that calf until weaning, and get back into calf again all within a 365-day cycle. Enterprise profitability is adversely impacted if she fails to achieve this.

There are management as well as genetic factors that impact on herd reproductive performance. Bull breeders and buyers are able to make genetic progress in the reproductive performance of breeders using estimated breeding values (EBV) provided by BREEDPLAN in their breeding program and breeding objectives. Days to calving (DtC) is one of the EBVs produced as part of a range of economically important traits provided by BREEDPLAN.

Alistair Rayner, genetics editor for Beefcentral.com interviewed several bull breeders and reports on the traits these breeders consider important when selecting for improved herd fertility. To read more –

<https://www.beefcentral.com/genetics/weekly-genetics-review-days-to-calving-an-on-farm-focus/>



t i p s & t o o l s

Marketing: MSA05



MSA Requirements for Handling Cattle

How you handle your cattle effects their eating quality

An important element contributing to predictable eating quality performance is the management of cattle on-farm or feedlot prior to slaughter. For this reason MSA has produced guidelines to optimise the eating quality potential of the animal.

The long period of care and investment in producing an animal with high eating quality potential is most at risk in the two weeks pre-slaughter and the first few hours post slaughter. The best carcass can be reduced to a low quality, unacceptable product by inappropriate action in this period.

The damage is caused by changes in muscle glycogen (blood sugar) levels. Glycogen is in essence the energy reserve of the muscle. The glycogen level in muscle is increased by feeding (a process taking days) and rapidly reduced by stress (which may only take minutes) or activity in the live animal. After stunning, the glycogen in muscle is converted to lactic acid that steadily decreases the pH of the muscle.

Mustering and good feed is important

The production of MSA graded product is consequently a partnership between the producer and the abattoir. An abattoir cannot rectify poor cattle handling practices or nutritional problems. Cattle should be mustered as quietly as possible, as it takes at least 4-5 days for the muscle glycogen levels to be restored, once they have been used. For this reason it is recommended that cattle are supplementary fed good quality feed for at least one month prior to dispatch, to maximise the eating quality potential of the animal.



MSA REQUIREMENTS

Cattle dispatched for slaughter must meet with the following requirements.

- ✓ Be continually grazed or fed rations to a level that is adequate for growth for a minimum period of one month prior to dispatch.
- ✓ Be handled and mustered quietly to reduce stress.
- ✓ Have free access to water until dispatch.
- ✓ Have free access to feed until dispatch, other than a minimum period required for preparation through cattle yards.
- ✓ Do not consign any cattle of poor temperament or with signs of severe stress.
- ✓ Do not consign sick cattle or cattle within a withholding period for any treatment.
- ✓ Do not mix cattle from different mobs or pens on the property within two weeks of dispatch.
- ✓ Do not dispatch cattle purchased or moved from another property/sale yard within one month of arrival.
- ✓ Load cattle quietly, preferably with no use of goads and electric prodders.
- ✓ Load cattle at the recommended densities set out in the Trucking Industry Code of Practice.



Temperament is also important

Temperament is also an important issue, with work in the USA by Temple Grandin showing that calm cattle show a reduced incidence of dark cutters. Cattle with poor temperament can lose more glycogen during the period leading up to slaughter. These cattle also have the tendency to stir up other cattle in the pen, which can lead to a higher overall incidence in dark cutting and high pH carcasses. Temperament is even more important for heifers since they are inherently more 'fearful' than steers resulting in a greater risk of dark cutting.

This is the reason for the MSA producer requirement that the cattle handling guidelines on the previous page be observed.

Recommended sound practices however are much broader and deserve inclusion in professional property and herd management.

Other stress factors

Other stress factors including weather should also be taken into account with mustering and truck timing adjusted to minimise the animal welfare and eating quality risk, as dramatic changes in temperature (such as a cold snap or heavy rain whilst trucking) can cause undue stress to animals.

Damage is irreversible

In carcasses the pH fall is irreversible and continues post rigor mortis to an ultimate value, generally within 24 hours of slaughter, depending on the conditions. The optimum pH range is between 5.30 and 5.70. MSA consumer eating quality tests show lower scores as ultimate pH rises above 5.7.

Where initial animal glycogen levels are very low at slaughter a higher ultimate pH results, which may be accompanied by a dark, undesirable meat colour. This is referred to as dark cutting and is a major industry problem. Dark cutting carcasses tend to be an indicator of stress to the animal pre-slaughter, but can be a result of other factors such as the chilling process and the age of the animal (meat colour gets darker as the animal ages).

Abattoirs have an important role

In addition to ultimate pH, the rate of pH decline (from around 7.1 at slaughter) in relation to muscle temperature, is of critical importance to eating quality. If the temperature fall is rapid and the pH fall slow, carcasses will cold shorten, resulting in extremely tough meat. If the pH fall is rapid and the temperature fall slow, heat shortening results. This also creates slightly tougher and less juicy beef with eating quality problems relating to colour changes, excessive drip loss and lack of improvement with ageing. The ageing damage is a result of the enzymes involved being denatured by low pH/high temperature conditions.

The rate of pH decline is also a function of the size of the carcass and the fat cover over the major primals. There are also abattoir conditions affecting this process, such as the time from knocking to the chiller, the temperature of the slaughter floor and the chilling environment, including packing density and the cycle itself.

All electrical inputs (including electrical stimulation units, restrainers and hide puller rigidity probes) have an impact on the rate of pH decline and resultant eating quality, and are thus often varied by MSA licensed processors to optimise this. Processors are required to maintain conditions that meet the MSA 'pH / temperature window' that describes the optimum rate of pH and temperature decline.

Research under way

Research in this area is being conducted in a number of important research projects. Key research participants are VIAS (Victorian Institute of Animal Science), Food Science Australia, Murdoch University and Agriculture Western Australia. Research findings have been integrated into the MSA grading system.

For more information

For a complete copy of the guidelines *Preventing Dark Cutting in Livestock: On farm Guide 2000* call 1800 023 100

Visit the Meat and Livestock Australia website at www.mla.com.au

Meat Standards Australia is a project funded by cattle producers and the government and managed by Meat & Livestock Australia.

Contact

Meat Standards Australia

Brisbane: telephone 07 3842 3114

Wagga: telephone 02 6931 0371

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2019 Royal Melbourne Show

Preparations are underway for the Royal Melbourne Show.

Dates for Australian Lowlines:
Thursday 26th Sept 2019 – Tuesday 1st Oct 2019
in the Livestock Pavilion

Australian Lowline Judging:
Saturday 28th Sept 2019 at 1PM

Come along & see the great cattle Victorian Lowline breeders have to offer. Join exhibitors after judging for a chat & nibbles. We hope to see you there.....



2019 Royal Queensland (EKKA) Show

Australian Lowlines are now at the EKKA.

Come & see the large line-up of quality cattle & speak to experienced Lowline breeders who would love to share information with you.

Australian Lowline judging:
Friday 16th August 2019



How do I find other ALCA members in my state?

Networking is one of the benefits of being an ALCA member & there are times when we need to contact other Lowline breeders.

The ALCA website provides easy access to member details from each state & country.

www.lowlinecattleassoc.com.au

- ⇒ Membership => Members Directory => click on the relevant area in Australia, New Zealand & Overseas to find the listings

There are Promotion Groups in each state & country. ALCA encourages members to become actively involved with the Promotion Groups to help with networking & promotion of cattle.

- ⇒ Membership => Promotion Groups => select the Promotion Group for your state for contact details