



Australian Lowline Cattle Association Inc.
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Happy Holidays

Many of us will be pleased to see the end of 2020. The year has stretched our patience to the limits & changed the way we look at life forever.

But on a positive note, many of us have had to learn new technologies to conform with Covid restrictions. ALCA Council is now using Skype for meetings which makes a pleasant change to the anonymity of teleconferencing. It is a more interesting experience to be able to speak to fellow Councillors face-to-face & has been a bit of fun trying to teach ourselves how this technology works but we have managed two meetings now & things can only get better.

It is pleasing to see the continuing increase in new memberships. It is important we all do our part in encouraging our clients to join the Association as it means our cattle & genetics will remain active in the Herdbook & strengthen the Association

Hoping 2021 brings rain to those who still need it & anyone who is lucky enough to have holidays enjoy your time away.

Best wishes

Julie Knight
ALCA President



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ALCA Office Holiday Dates

The ALCA Office will be closed for Christmas the close of business **on Thursday 24th December & will reopen on Tuesday 12th January 2021.**

Your Executive Officer, Katrina McKemey will be available from 12th January 2021.

The ALCA Registrar, Natalie Herd will be available from Monday 18th January 2021.

A big 'Thank You' to Katrina & Natalie for all their work throughout a difficult 12 months.

NOTE: Please allow a 2 week turnaround for registrations once DNA/PV results and payment have been submitted to the office.

This is important to remember following the Christmas break.



Important Notice - DNA testing

As you will be aware, Neogen will cease using MiP (microsatellite testing) on 31st December 2020. All DNA testing done at Neogen from 1st January 2021 will only be SNP (single nucleotide polymorphisms) testing.

ALCA has just had notification from Zoetis that they will be cease MiP testing on 1st July 2021.

For Parent Verification to be done for progeny, both parents will need to be SNP tested otherwise the Parent Verification cannot be done.

As a service to the Australian Lowline Cattle Association members, Zoetis will be offering a reduced fee of \$12 (+GST) for samples of SNP only until 30th June 2021.

This will give ALCA members time to either have original DNA samples retested for SNP or to send in new samples for existing animals, previously MiP tested, to be SNP tested.

There is no guarantee that older samples will be successful in re-genotyping so it may be preferable to send either a new tail hair or tissue sample for SNP testing.

PLEASE NOTE: DNA samples processed by Neogen from Sept 2017 until May 2019 are being stored at Zoetis, free of charge. If you had an animal MiP tested during that period, the sample will be at Zoetis & can be used for re-testing at Zoetis.

There is no reason for members to panic. ALCA will send out information in the new year to help members with the process of re-genotyping their animals.

Please contact the ALCA office in the new year if you need further assistance.

office@lowlinecattleassoc.com.au



Allflex DNA testing system – tissue sampling for DNA at the same time as applying an Allflex management ear tag
- for further details: [Livestock identification and traceability system | Allflex AUS : Allflex Australia](#)

Year Letter for all calves born in 2021 will be the letter S

Best Practice Pain Relief in Cattle

This e-Booklet is a must-read for all cattle producers. With changes regulations concerning the management of pain relief for many common practices, it is now very important to follow *the Cattle Code of Ethics* regulations & use appropriate pain relief for common animal husbandry practices, eg. Castration & Freeze Branding.

By Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA)

Complete Booklet can be downloaded through this link - [pain relief | Meat & Livestock Australia \(mla.com.au\)](http://pain-relief | Meat & Livestock Australia (mla.com.au))

INTRODUCTION

This booklet is a resource to achieve the outcomes and requirements of the *Australian Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals: Cattle*, 2nd Edition – hereafter referred to as ‘The Cattle Code’. ‘The Cattle Code’ documents agreed standards of animal welfare; all those handling cattle should be aware of, and comply with, ‘The Cattle Code’ to ensure they meet their responsibilities and duty of care requirements under the various state and territory animal welfare legislations.

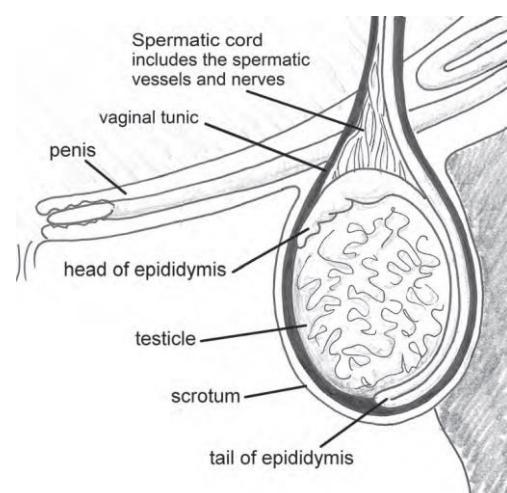
Information on the relationship between ‘The Cattle Code’ and legislation is contained in Appendices A and C. Relevant excerpts from ‘The Cattle Code’ are contained in each section of this booklet, and are repeated in Appendix A.

Currently, if the procedures covered in this booklet are performed at the specified ages, there is no legal requirement for the use of anaesthesia or analgesia. If the procedures are carried out on older animals, the use of anaesthetics and analgesics by or under the direction of a veterinarian is recommended, and mandatory in some cases. While it is presently not logistically or economically feasible to routinely use anaesthetics and analgesics, this may change in the future as better techniques become available.

After extensive consultation with a wide range of interested parties, this ‘best practice’ booklet provides practical, easy-to-follow advice.

The following Chapters relate to procedures that are common practice with Australian Lowline cattle in Australia.

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Best Practice Pain Relief in Cattle cont.

Key messages when branding and castrating

General

- Be mindful of the animal's health and welfare at all times.
- Be aware of the requirements of 'The Cattle Code' and of your particular state/territory legislation – refer to Appendix C.
- Perform all procedures with cattle as young as possible.
- Minimise stress to the animal by:
 - quiet, calm mustering and handling
 - ensuring access to water before and after the procedures
 - minimising the time that cows and calves are separated
 - doing the procedures in the coolest part of the day
 - releasing cattle from yards as soon as possible, into a shaded, grassed holding paddock with access to water
 - avoiding wet, humid weather, and dusty conditions.
- Use adequate numbers of well-trained and experienced staff, and good planning and process – brand, then castrate, then dehorn.
- Ensure cattle have adequate protection against tetanus.
- Good hygiene is essential – always wash hands and instruments, keeping separate containers with antiseptic for washing hands and storing instruments, and change antiseptic after every 15–20 calves.
- Inspect animals daily for 10 days after castrating or dehorning to check for complications such as infection and fly-strike, and provide appropriate treatment if necessary
 - consult your veterinarian.

Branding

- Good restraint is essential – use a cradle for calves and a squeeze crush for older cattle.
- Ensure branding irons are well maintained and heating equipment is adequate to reach and hold the required temperature.
- Hot branding – irons must be at the correct temperature
- Never brand wet, weak or emaciated cattle.

Castration

- To minimise pain and stress to the animal and the resultant production loss, always castrate calves as young as possible.
- Good restraint is essential – use a calf cradle.
- Change antiseptic solution and replace scalpel blades after every 15–20 calves.
- Do not castrate an animal unless two normal, freely moving testicles can be palpated in the scrotum – otherwise, consult your veterinarian

Occupational Health & Safety

- Get well organised, and plan the process well in advance.
- Use well-designed and maintained yards and equipment, especially the calf cradle.
- Handle cattle quietly and calmly, and be especially aware of the risk of kicks from calves in a calf cradle.
- Always make castration cuts **away** from the hand.
- Work in the coolest part of the day, for the welfare of both the operators and cattle.
- Ensure vaccinations of staff for Q Fever and tetanus are up to date.
- Keep dust to a minimum, and avoid contact with cattle blood, urine and other fluids to minimise risk of Q Fever and Leptospirosis.
- Wear gloves when handling hot branding irons.

Welcome to New Members

It is with great pleasure that we welcome the following new members to our Association, including some previous ALCA members who have returned our Australian Lowline family.

Full Memberships

Michael Camilleri
Maroota, NSW – MAROOTA HEIGHTS

Jacinta Austin & Dean Geddes
Elaine, VIC – AUSGED

Joel & Talan Breaden
Parkes, NSW – AUFRECHT MELCHER

Wes & Tracey Gunn
Kingsbury, Texas, USA – GUNNDEROSSA

Len & Mellodie Woolley
Riley's Hill, NSW – DEVINE

Ms Jennifer & Ms Stacey Kellie
Woodford, QLD – THE GLEBE

Lynell & Trevor Fisher
Allenview, QLD – MARGARET PARK

Commercial Membership

Danny & Cheryl-Lee Francis
Yellingbo, VIC

Associate Membership

Gary & Glenda Richardson
Eagleby, QLD

Kay Marchant
Winchelsea, VIC

Lifestyle Membership

Matthew Bengtsson
Bigga, NSW – LACHLAN HILL

Junior Membership

Luke Blank
Japoonvale, QLD – OUTBACK

2020/2021 Australian Lowline Journal



The Australian Lowline Journal for 2020/21 is in the mail. Most Australian members should have received a copy by now but overseas members will have to be patient for their copies.

If you have not received your Journal (in Australia), please check your postal address on the ALCA Members database & contact the ALCA office if your contact details are incorrect – office@lowlinecattleassoc.com.au

Thank you to all the contributors & advertisers. We really appreciate your support.

Due to the numerous articles submitted, the number of pages in the Journal were increased but we were still unable to fit everything in. Those articles not used in the Journal will feature in the Newsletter next year.

We hope you enjoy your Journal.



Winner of the 2020/2021 Journal Photo Competition



Kiatake Lowlines – photo by Fiona Henschman, NZ

Once again, Councillor Bill Brydon has organised a Photo Competition for the ALCA Journal and donated the prize of a Voucher for the Lowline Shop to the value of \$100.

Thank you to all who submitted such beautiful photos. To be eligible for publication in the Journal the photos needed to be a high resolution, very clear, not blurred or too dark & not have any special effects applied to the photo as these are not suitable for print.

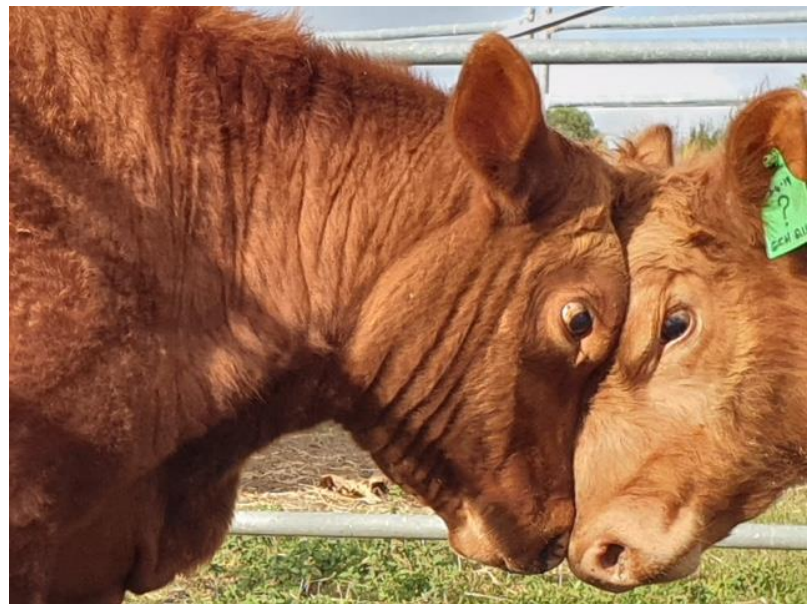
The winner of the Photo Competition was Fiona Henschman, Kaitake Lowlines, Taranaki in New Zealand. Her photo of her Lowline cattle with Mt Egmont in the background was a unanimous winner. Congratulations Fiona!

Some of the photos suitable for print have been used in the Journal while others will be used in the Newsletters next year. Well done everyone & Thank You for participating.

Finalists for the Journal Photo Competition



Left: Waiting Patiently by Patricia Ellis, Glenholme, Yarra Glen, VIC



Right: Butting bulls by Christine Hine, McIntosh Creek, Gympie, QLD



Left: Australian Lowlines in the mist
Photo by Audrey Lauvie, Perigord Lauvie, FRANCE

Finalists for the Journal Photo Competition cont.



Left: Red & Black Lowlines by Christine Hine, McIntosh Creek, Gympie, QLD



Right: Lowline Bull by Fiona Henschman, Kaitake, Taranaki, NZ



Left: Lowline baby by Tania Wilkinson, Lowland Park, Ohaupo, NZ

Show Season for 2021 - Entries are Open

There are a number of shows around the country that are advertising they will be holding their annual shows in 2021.

With the everpresent Covid-19, organisations may change or cancel their proposed shows at short notice.

If you are thinking of entering or attending any of these events, please check with the organising bodies for any updated information.

Beef Australia 2021

Rockhampton, Queensland is preparing to hold its triannual Beef Australia Expo from 2nd to 8th May 2021.

Australian Lowline cattle will be on display in the cattle sheds with show classes for Australian Lowlines during the event.

The Beef Australia Committee offered a \$500 Sponsorship for a Junior member of each Breed Society for the Breed representative to act as Associate Judge during the show.

ALCA asked for any interested Junior members, School students & children of ALCA members to submit an application if they were interested in being considered for this \$500 sponsorship.

The winner of the Beef Australia Sponsorship for the Australian Lowline Cattle Association was Riley Jensen who runs his own Adelaide Park stud in Adelaide Park, Queensland. Congratulations to Riley!
ALCA Council selected Riley as a worthy winner of the sponsorship as he is a young man with great enthusiasm for the breed who will make the most of this brilliant opportunity to learn from his peers.

Council also selected two school applicants to be Associate Judges during Beef Australia.

Congratulations to Grace Thompson & Yasmin Carley who will both have the opportunity to be Associate Judges during the Australian Lowline classes.

Well done to all applicants & good luck at Beef Australia.

2021 Royal Canberra Show

Entries are now open for the Royal Canberra Show to be held from Friday 26th February to Sunday 28th February 2021.

Entries Close: 7th February 2021

[RNCAS Ausmectin Cattle Show 2021 - Royal National Capital Agricultural Society](#)

2021 Toowoomba Royal Show

The Toowoomba Royal Show is to be held from Friday 16th April to Sunday 18th April 2021.

No further details are available as yet.

<https://www.toowoombashow.com.au/royal-show/schedule/>

2021 Royal Sydney Easter Show

Entries are now open for the Royal Sydney Show to be held from 1st April to 12th April 2021.

Entries Close: 3th February 2021

<https://www.rasnw.com.au/sydney-royal-competitions/competitions/cattle/key-dates--schedule/>

