



Australian Lowline Cattle Association Inc.
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Record Keeping

Organisation is the key to efficiency and is something that most of us find we are lacking.

If you have cattle, you will need to keep records. They don't need to be complicated and could be in a diary or exercise book, a card file, an EXCEL sheet on the computer or a cattle-based computer program.

This newsletter covers some of the record keeping and assessment requirements necessary for Australian farmers to breed, buy and sell livestock and beef.

Your state Departments of Agriculture have websites to assist in understanding their requirements.

Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) is a producer-owned company providing marketing and research and development services to over 49,500 cattle, sheep and goat producer members and the broader industry. MLA works in partnership with industry and government to achieve profitable and sustainable **cattle**, sheep and goat industries.

Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) is a great place to start www.mla.com.au

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



DNA Testing

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, members using the Zoetis laboratory will have to use SNP testing for Parent Verification from 30 June 2021.

Neogen have already changed to SNP testing only.

We have been told by Zoetis that they have many samples from older animals in storage which were used for Genestar testing in the early 2000's. Some of these samples may be suitable for re-testing so contact the Zoetis office to enquire about a specific older animal that may already be deceased. This might solve the problem of having some AI sires re-tested using semen samples.

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.

The 'DNA Guide for Members' has been emailed to ALCA members.

If you did not receive the PDF document, please contact the ALCA office.

office@lowlinecattleassoc.com.au



2020/2021 ALCA Journal



A copy of the 2020/2021 ALCA Journal has been sent to all members.

The Journal is a great way to promote your stud and the breed when you have prospective clients looking at purchasing cattle.

Why not give your clients a copy of the journal along with some of the promotional flyers and a fridge magnet?

Members are able to request extra copies of the Journal from your Promotion Group free of charge. Contact your Promotion Group committee and ask for some Journals.

Members can also get copies of the Journal, promotional flyers and fridge magnets by contacting the ALCA office.

The only cost to members is the postage.

Non-members can purchase the Journal through the Lowline Shop for \$5 plus postage.



North Island New Zealand - Summer Field Day

THE NORTH ISLAND LOWLINE PROMOTION GROUP

AGM & Annual Summer Field Day

Date: Saturday 20th February 2021

Location: Shanan & Michelle Millar (Ironclad Stud)

15 Caitcheon Road,
Hunua, Auckland 2583

Schedule:

11am: AGM commences

12 midday: A light lunch/finger food (provided) accompanied by chatting to one another

1pm: Annual Summer Field Day event activities commence

Topics for the day:

- 'Breeding Lowlines - Know your Market'
Presented by ALCA members as an informal discussion; sharing of knowledge and experiences including successes, failures and challenges of dealing with a changing market place.
- AI and the place it may have in your herd
- Cattle handling facilities required for Lowlines with a focus on safety
- Viewing Ironclad Stud's animals

6pm: meet for dinner at the John Hill Estate Vineyard Restaurant.

Bookings are essential and food and refreshments are on pay for your own basis

**RSVP to Matt Wilkinson ASAP to allow for catering of light lunch and dinner reservations -
mattania37@gmail.com**

**The Annual Summer Field Day Event is open to all New Zealand ALCA members as well as
anyone interested in Lowlines**



National Vendor Declarations (NVD)

As of 1st January 2021, there is a new version of the National Vendor Declaration (NVD) that must be used for all animal transactions.

The LPA (Livestock Property Assurance) NVD communicates the food safety and treatment status of every animal every time it moves along the value chain – between properties, to saleyards, or to processors. The NVD also acts as movement documentation throughout the value chain.

NVDs are a **legal document** that are key to Australian red meat's traceability and market access. It is **crucial that you fill out the NVD accurately**, including questions about whether animals have been treated with hormonal growth promotants (HGP)s).

You must be LPA accredited to access to LPA NVDs. When you tick the box on your LPA NVD, you are declaring your on-farm practices meet LPA requirements, and ultimately customer expectations.

Your tick must be backed up by accurate farm records. This is your pledge that the meat from your farm has been produced safely, ethically and meets biosecurity requirements– it means you ***stand by what you sell***.

Filling out an NVD

A National Vendor Declaration (NVD) is a document completed by the owner or person responsible for the husbandry of the livestock.

The NVD declares necessary and valuable information about the food safety status of the livestock being sold (for example, chemical treatment and exposure history). It's the key tool that underpins Australia's food safety reputation for livestock.

Buyers rely on the NVD for accurate information on the livestock purchased and processors rely on the information to ensure only the safest food enters our food chain.

When an NVD is required

Consignors must provide an NVD when cattle of any age are:

- sent to an abattoir or saleyard
- moved to a property with a different Property Identification Code (PIC), or
- given away or sold as pets.

The NVD **must** be provided to the person receiving the stock by no later than the time of their arrival.

NVDs are **not** required:

- for dead livestock being sent for processing in a knackery
- for livestock being consigned to an agricultural show or exhibition (provided the livestock will be returned to the exhibitor's property immediately after the event).
- False or misleading answers on an NVD can lead to prosecution and civil action by the buyer.

Keeping copies of your NVDs

You must keep NVDs for purchased livestock for 7 years for cattle to allow the tracking of animals if the need arises.

Sellers must also keep a copy of the NVD forms that they provide for 7 years.

Welcome to New Members

It is with great pleasure that we welcome the following new members to our Association who we hope will enjoy being part of our Australian Lowline family.

Full Memberships

Jeni Mendez & Reuben Wertz
Tarzali, QLD – RANCHO CHAPPARRAS

Jamie Wood
Alnwick, England, UK – PRENDWICK

Daniel McAllansman (Tellus Mater Farm Ltd)
Maungaturoto, NZ – TELLUS MATER

Matthew Bailey
Otago, NZ – EN GEDI

Commercial Membership

Tyrone O'Neill (Dungannon Farm)
Krambach, NSW

John & Marie Lepper
Morere, NZ

Lifestyle Membership

Veronica Holland
Langwarrin, VIC – OAK TREE

Junior Membership

Taylor Dennett
Mount Taylor, VIC – NARWANDA

ALCA WANTS YOUR DATA!

- If you produce beef either for your own use or to sell then we need your help. Information we need:
- Stud name + age & sex of the animal
- Liveweight at time of slaughter (if available) & Hanging Carcase Weight
- Saleable Meat Yield or Retail Beef Yield (the weight of all the processed meat, minus the bone, not including offal)
- From this data, the Kill Out Percentage and Meat Yield Percentage can be calculated by ALCA
- Without data from our members, ALCA cannot offer breed feedback or beef statistics



**Lowline
Beef**

Email your data to Matt Wilkinson - mattania37@gmail.com



Reflections from Warrengulla Lowlines

Living on a farm, of any size, is a real blessing. Our little patch of over 30 years was first used as a family retreat, now our home for the past 15 years. As we become older, with the kids now making their own lives in other places, maybe we should sell up and move on. This is a tough decision. We wake up to the sounds of our kind of nature, roosters crowing, cows mooing, parrots of different kinds moving from tree to tree, patch to patch. Sometimes we are awakened by the kookaburra chorus, a very loud song indeed. We go to bed with the sounds of frogs and crickets and other little unknown critters around the place. We have our two dogs, our bossy little poodle and compliant border collie, now almost blind. We have our hens, a small Lowline cattle family and families of wild ducks moving from dam to dam, parents at front and back steering the little waddling family out of danger and into safety. We have our trees planted over 30 years ago, our veggie patch and the critters which sometimes enjoy it more than we do.

We would miss all of this if we sold the joint. Lost and gone if we move to a bigger town, into a villa or over 50's place. Memories locked in our aging heads and not many to share them with. And what would the littlest of our grandchildren do if they could not join in the 'mooing' of a Lowline mother calling her calf?

But, to the point of this exercise, it is an experience with the hens I would like to recall.

Firstly, some brief background. We have a workshop with lots of woodworking machinery and associated equipment. I had a small woodworking business called Steve's Woodshed. I made, restored, repaired furniture along with woodturning. I still dabble, having just finished a lapstrake sailing dinghy.

Our daughter, son in law, and two little ones were having a visit over the past long weekend. Our daughter is a wood machinist by trade and son-in-law loves to dabble. We experiment with wood these days.

The son-in-law was making a jewel box for his 2-year-old daughter.

He was getting in a bit early I thought but, who cares, he was having fun.

Back to the hens. They are let out of their yard every second or third day to peck at and enjoy all those little treats not available in the scratch feed. Their investigating territory will always include my shed. It's normal practice and quite acceptable. And so, on this weekend the hens 'cluck clucked' their way in, one hopped up onto the bench, another two flitted up near a machine where there was some sawdust and started scratching around. They look around with their heads jerking this way and that, up and down looking sideways as they do. They flit down, and as a little group move on their enjoyable way. There is no danger to anyone, obviously if there is a lot going on, they are either moved on or not let out of their yard.

Our daughter and son-in-law were at first startled and then amused by this feathered intrusion. How is it possible to share a workspace with hens of all things? It's not something one encounters in other places of work or living. Maybe it is an unwanted event in the minds of many folk. Who knows?

But I don't.

But that's life up here. It's simple, loving and inclusive. It somehow makes sense out of all the 'no sense' stuff that is happening in this world. It's a place to pause, it's a place of peace, still a retreat, a refuge for all who live here or visit here. Humans and animals alike.

Reflections come naturally.

PS. I just need to find a way to teach the hens better toileting habits. Any clues out there, or am I the only one to let hens into my shed?

PPS. Nah! Staying put for now.


*Stephen and Ann-Marie Kennedy
Warrengulla Lowline*

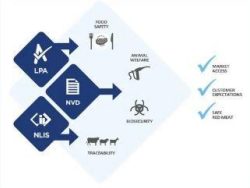


Livestock Production Assurance Program (LPA)

The Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) Program is the on-farm assurance program that underpins market access for Australian red meat. LPA National Vendor Declarations (NVDs) provide evidence of livestock history and on-farm practices when transferring livestock through the value chain. For further information use this link <https://www.integritysystems.com.au/on-farm-assurance/livestock-product-assurance/>

Stand by what you sell





The red meat integrity system maintains trust in Australian red meat

A system of on-farm assurance, animal identification and traceability from paddock to plate guarantees the integrity of Australia's red meat industry.

It protects the disease-free status of Australian red meat and underpins the marketing of our product as clean, safe and natural. Australia's red meat integrity system ensures the livestock industry can stand by what it sells.

ABOUT

What You'll Need

Property Identification Code (PIC)

A Property Identification Code (PIC) is an eight-character code allocated by the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) or an equivalent authority in each state or territory to identify a livestock-producing property. Producers must have a PIC to move livestock on and off a property – it forms the basis of Australia's food safety and traceability programs.

LEARN MORE >

LPA NVD

Each time livestock are moved off a PIC they must be accompanied by some form of movement documentation. For LPA accredited PICs, this must be an LPA NVD. LPA NVDs guarantee that on-farm practices meet LPA requirements, and ultimately customer expectations.


LEARN MORE >

Record Keeping


Australia's on-farm assurance and traceability systems underpin our reputation for producing safe, high quality livestock products for both domestic and export markets. The effectiveness of these systems depends on compliance and accurate record keeping.

LEARN MORE >


PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS




1. Property risk assessments




2. Safe and responsible animal treatments




3. Stock foods, fodder crops, grain and pasture treatments




4. Preparation for dispatch of livestock



5. Livestock transactions and movements



6. Biosecurity



7. Animal welfare

Mastitis in Cattle

What is mastitis?

Mastitis is an infection in the milk producing breast tissue inside a cow's udder.

How does it happen?

Bacteria enter the teat canal, multiply, and then move on up to the udder. They can also enter the teat from an injury. These bacteria can spread from cow to cow or can be picked up from their own skin or bowel. Cow to cow spread is more common in dairy cattle.

How do I know my cow has mastitis?

If you are milking your cow, you may first notice a change in the colour of the milk or that the milk contains fibrin clots which look like stringy lumps. At this stage, the mastitis is mild.

Otherwise, the first thing you may notice is changes in your cow's udder and teats including such things as swelling, hardness, heat, pain and redness. You may recognize pain by the cow kicking off the calf when it tries to drink from the affected quarter. If the teat is swollen, the calf may not be able to drink from it. If your cow is not otherwise sick, then this mastitis is mild to moderate.

If your cow becomes sick in other ways, such as develops a high temperature, goes off her food, or is having trouble moving around, then the mastitis is severe. If this happens, your cow may also develop a discharge from the teat in the infected quarter of her udder or develop diarrhoea. More than one quarter of her udder can be affected at the same time. Veterinary care is strongly recommended at this stage.

What can I do if my cow has mastitis?

If the mastitis is mild to moderate, and your cow will let you, you could:

- Wait and see;
- Encourage her calf to drink from the affected quarter;
- Strip the milk from that quarter by hand which can aid milk let down and help the calf attach

A vet crush is useful at this stage.

Otherwise, a call to your friendly vet may arm you with some medication to insert into the teats. These are usually antibiotic creams in syringes with fine nozzles that you can insert into the teat canal and deposit some of the cream in there e.g. cloxacillin. This sort of treatment needs to continue daily for from 2 to 8 days depending on how bad the infection is and your cow's response to treatment.

If the mastitis is severe, a vet call is strongly recommended as your cow's survival could be at risk. Your vet may take a milk sample for testing. Apart from antibiotic creams inserted into the teat canal, veterinary treatments include antibiotic injections to treat the infection e.g. oxytetracycline (Alamycin LA 300), NSAID (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug) injections to treat fever and pain e.g. meloxicam (Metacam), flunixin, and giving around 18 litres (2 buckets) of fluid directly into the rumen. These measures could be life-saving for a very sick animal and her dependent calf.

What if I do nothing?

Most infections are mild to moderate and the vast majority of animals eventually recover. However, they recover faster with treatment. If the mastitis is severe, both the cow and calf will suffer. The earlier mastitis is recognized and treated, the better the outcome.

Please note: The medications mentioned in this article are examples only and do not represent an exhaustive list of available medications.

Article researched and written by Michael Noel

References

Mastitis in Cattle: MSD Veterinary Manual
Farm Guidelines for mastitis control: Dairy
Australia Countdown



Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) Stocking Rate Calculator

People are always asking 'how many Australian Lowlines can I run on my property?'

We know that due to the compact size of the breed, we can run more animals per acre/hectare than other larger breeds.

But the other critical factors we need to take into consideration before the stocking rate can be worked out is the CLIMATE & the SOIL type.

Education is the key to working out the carrying capacity for your property.

There are many online tools and courses available in all states and countries. Whether it be regenerative farming, cropping for hay production or pasture improvement, Pasture Courses are the best way to learn and you meet a lot of interesting people who are also striving for that perfect farm. Sharing ideas is a great way to start.

MLA has many online tools available. One of these is the MLA Stocking Rate Calculator.

Stocking rate calculator

HOME BEEF SHEEP HELP ETOOLS

meat & livestock australia

CARDS TABLE PRINT SAVE

Paddock description

Paddock size: 1 ha

Pasture available at start of grazing: 2000 kg DM/ha

Pasture available at end of grazing: 1200 kg DM/ha

Pasture growth rate: 10 kg DM/ha/day

Number of days grazing: 10

CLEAR RESET

Alternative allowance (kg DM/head/day, 10MJ ME/kg DM)

Pasture allowance: 30 kg DM/head/day, 10MJ ME/kg DM

Stocking rate: 3 # stock / paddock

Stock class	Pasture allowance (kg DM/head/day, 10MJ ME/kg DM)	Stocking rate
200kg lightweight steer	8	11.3
400kg lightweight steer	12	7.5
Dry cow	10	9
Lactating cow (5 months)	20	4.5

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You will need to do your homework, join a pasture group to learn about pasture growth & how to calculate it.

Check out the new, more user-friendly version of MLA's stocking rate calculator to help you estimate the number of cattle to run in your paddock.

https://etools.mla.com.au/src/?v=4&r=18&linking=1&&utm_campaign=160909_FFBK%20-%2029%20January&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Meat%20%26%20Livestock%20Australia&dm_i=4PKB,3G5P,91Z9V,BNQQ,1#/beef



2020 Canterbury Show, South Island, New Zealand



The Canterbury Show's 2020 beef cattle event drew good support from breeders with a shortened format and 60 cattle on site at the Christchurch Showgrounds.

COVID changed things this year. Breed competitions were tightened up to cover one day rather than two, and youth events were able to be completed in a half day because the stock judging was done online for the first time.

The event was open to exhibitors and families only and members of the Canterbury A&P Association with no entry to the general public. Oh what a relief to not have to dodge hundreds of people in the aisles getting cattle out to the ring on time. And no queues at the portaloos in the campground. More time for a barbecue get together on both days and a catch-up. But, yes, we did miss the crowd and the atmosphere.

The emphasis was on youth with young judges taking the primary role in each of the three breed judging rings with some older heads to call upon if needed at ringside. Needless to say they were not needed. It was great to see these previous competition winners giving back.

In the All Breeds, Lowline had several honourable mentions, Harvey and Sally Rhodes' excellent heifer, Edsal Sheila, which was champion Lowline in the morning matched up to the big girls in the afternoon to claim second in a class of a dozen fine yearlings.

Other All Breeds placings were a second for the Woolstone Park team (Phil and Kay Worthington) in the older bull class with Woolstone Park Kauri and the two-year-old cow, Woolstone Park Moonshine. In the senior cow All Breeds Class, Woolstone Park Hera was fourth and Edsal Abby sixth.

The Youth Day was as always hotly contested. Stock judging was done virtually with competitors given four days in the week before the show to assess videos of four two-year-old bulls, make their rankings and then video their comments about the animals.

Judging was done by the over judge from the videos sent in.

Not easy, even for older "judges" who had a crack at it but, with more sales online, it was a good test of skills to judge animals in a virtual space, and organisers might retain some online element in future years.

All in all the show which was put together with sponsors support after the full New Zealand Agricultural Show was cancelled because of COVID earlier in the year. The show was a success because it kept the momentum for exhibitors – one family came seven hours away to take part – and whet the appetite for next year.



Results for 2020 Canterbury Show

Lowline classes

Cow with or without a calf at foot (3 yrs and over):

- 1st P & K Worthington, Woolstone Park Hera
- 2nd P & K Worthington, Woolstone Park Genoa
- 3rd Harvey Rhodes, Edsal Abby.

Heifer with or without a calf at foot (2 years):

- 1st P & K Worthington, Woolstone Park Moonshine
- 2nd P & K Worthington, Woolstone Park Malibu.

Yearling Heifer:

- 1st Harvey Rhodes, Edsal Sheila
- 2nd P & K Worthington, Woolstone Park California
- 3rd P & K Worthington, Woolstone Park Idaho
- 4th P & K Worthington, Woolstone Park Montana
- 5th P & K Worthington, Woolstone Park Yukon
- 6th P & K Worthington, Woolstone Park Alabama

Bull 2 years and over:

- 1st P & K Worthington, Woolstone Park Kauri

Yearling Bull:

- 1st P & K Worthington, Woolstone Park Texas
- 2nd P & K Worthington, Woolstone Park Wyoming

Champion Lowline: Harvey Rhodes, Edsal Sheila,

Reserve Champion Lowline: P & K Worthington, Woolstone Park Kauri.

Beef All breeds

Cow, with calf at foot (3 years and over):

- 4th P & K Worthington, Woolstone Park Hera
- 6th Harvey Rhodes, Edsal Abby

Heifer, with or without a calf at foot (2 years):

- 2nd P & K Worthington, Woolstone Park Moonshine

Heifer (Yearling):

- 2nd Harvey Rhodes, Edsal Sheila.

Bull (2 years and over):

- 2nd P & K Worthington, Woolstone Park Kauri



Youth Day results:

Paraders:

Senior:

1st Cara Doggett, 2nd Caitlin Rhodes, 3rd Hannah White, 4th George Climo.

Intermediate:

1st Abbie Walls, 2nd Hillary Cooper, 3rd Charlie Herbert, 4th Marshall Stokes, 5th Timothy Croucher, 6th Deacon Austin.

Junior:

1st Elizabeth Cooper, 2nd Gus McLachlan, 3rd Ebony Eden, 4th Jake Eden, 5th Daniel Stokes.

Stockjudging:

Senior:

1st Caitlin Rhodes, 2nd Cara Doggett.

Intermediate:

1st Marshall Stokes, 2nd Hillary Cooper, 3rd Timothy Croucher, 4th Deacon Austin, 5th Reece Drozdowski, 6th Abbie Walls, 7th Harry Roe.

Junior:

1st Gus McLachlan, 2nd Daniel Stokes, 3rd Ebony Eden, 4th Jake Eden, 5th Elizabeth Cooper.

Champion: Caitlin Rhodes

Reserve Champion: Marshall Stokes.

