



# Lot feeding brief

## Results for the June quarter 2021 feedlot survey

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### Summary

- The number of cattle on feed increased in the June quarter, reported at 1,173,652 head, a lift of 16.2% on year-ago levels.
- The number of cattle on feed for the June quarter is 11% higher than the five-year quarter average.
- National feedlot capacity remained firm on March 2021 levels at 1,448,085 head – demonstrating continued confidence of the lot feeding industry.

### From the previous quarter:

- Queensland cattle on feed increased significantly to 708,557 head, a 30% increase for the quarter.
- NSW and Victoria both experienced modest increases in the number of cattle on feed, up 4% and 12.9% to achieve 324,715 and 65,027 head, respectively.
- Cattle on feed numbers in WA fell this quarter, decreasing by 32% to 38,350 head.
- SA remained steady, reporting 37,003 head of cattle on feed, up 1.3%.
- National feedlot utilisation increased to 81% for the June quarter, just above the five-year June quarter average of 77%.

Figure 1: Cattle on feed

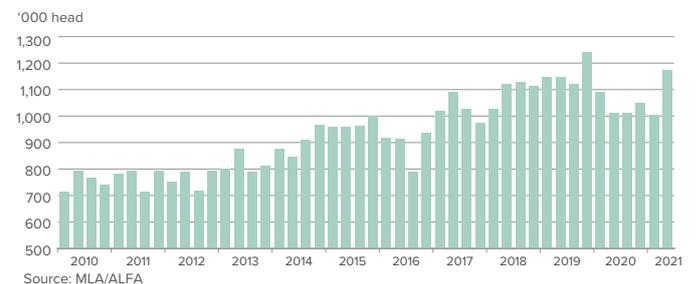


Figure 2: Quarterly grainfed beef exports

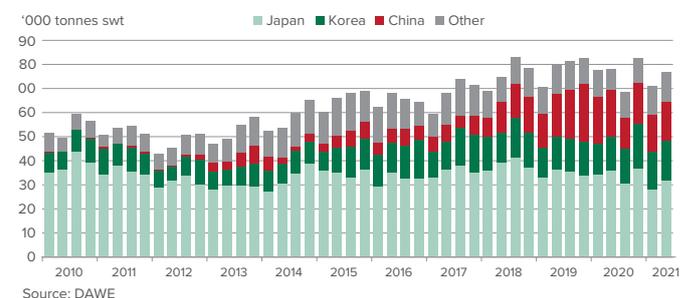


Table 1: MLA/ALFA Survey of feedlot activity

	Feedlot capacity			Numbers on feed			Utilisation %		
	Jun-21	Mar-21	Jun-20	Jun-21	Mar-21	Jun-20	Jun-21	Mar-21	Jun-20
NSW	412,274	411,274	411,538	324,715	311,957	263,489	79	76	64
Vic	78,892	79,392	79,392	65,027	57,594	57,211	82	73	72
Qld	829,628	832,725	814,968	708,557	542,176	611,683	85	65	75
SA	53,814	53,614	53,614	37,003	36,526	40,714	69	68	76
WA	73,477	73,477	73,477	38,350	56,782	37,096	52	77	50
<b>Australia</b>	<b>1,448,085</b>	<b>1,450,482</b>	<b>1,432,989</b>	<b>1,173,652</b>	<b>1,005,035</b>	<b>1,010,193</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>70</b>

Source: MLA/ALFA, AUS-MEAT

### Currency

- In the June quarter, the A\$ averaged US77¢, remaining firm on the previous quarter and 18% higher year-on-year.
- Against the Japanese yen, the A\$ increased 2.8% from the March quarter to average 84.27¥ in the June 2021 quarter.
- Against the Korean won, the A\$ averaged 863.53₩, a slight increase of 0.2% on the previous quarter.

### Grainfed exports

- Australian grainfed exports increased 8% in the June quarter to 77,757 tonnes shipped weight (swt), down 1.7% from the same quarter last year.
- Japan continued to be Australia’s largest export market for grainfed beef, with volumes exported reaching 31,815 tonnes swt, down 11% on the June 2020 quarter.
- Korean grainfed exports still surpassed China in volume in the June quarter, up 2.5% on the previous quarter to 16,339 tonnes swt.
- Exports to China also reported a slight increase in the June quarter, up 5.5% on the March quarter to 16,105 tonnes swt, although this was still 17% down on the same quarter last year.

Figure 3: Grainfed cattle turn-off

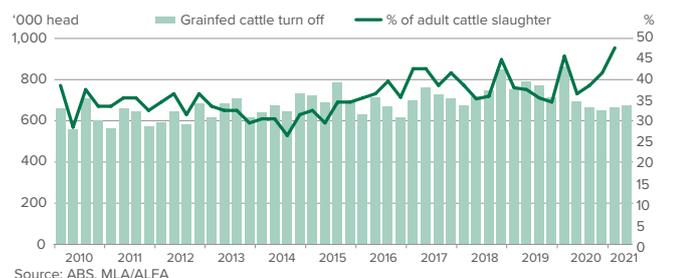


Figure 4: Feed grain and feeder steer prices

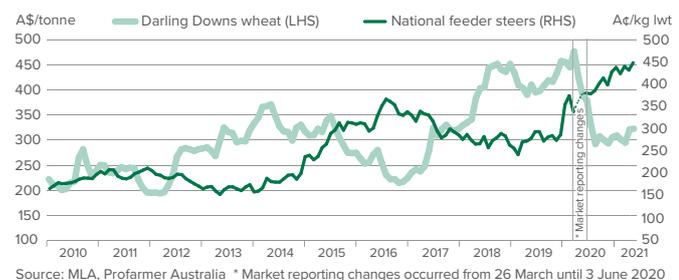


Figure 5: Queensland 100-day Grainfed Steer OTH Indicator



### Domestic feeder cattle prices

- The Queensland 100-day Grainfed Steer Over-the-hooks (OTH) Indicator continued to trade at elevated levels, averaging 677¢/kg carcass weight (cwt) in the June quarter. This was 1.5% lower than the record March quarter levels and 9% above year-ago levels. With the ongoing herd rebuild maintaining store competition and lowering throughput in the finished market, prices remained strong for the first half of the year.
- The National Feeder Steer Indicator averaged 442¢/kg live weight (lwt) in the June quarter, an increase of 1.8% on the previous quarter. The Indicator held a steady increase through the quarter as a direct result of continuing restocker competition that has propelled it into record territory, up 28% on year-ago levels.

### Grain prices

- In the June quarter, wheat ex-Darling Downs prices increased slightly, up 2% from the previous quarter to average \$311/tonne. This price is 27% below June 2020 levels.
- Barley averaged \$285/tonne, up 4.8% on the previous quarter but 21% below year-ago levels.

Table 2: Numbers on feed by feedlot size

Feedlot size (head)	Jun-21	Mar-21	Jun-20
< 500	10,529	8,763	9,343
500-1,000	38,325	39,729	31,674
1,000-10,000	372,311	328,051	336,167
>10,000	752,487	628,492	633,008
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,173,652</b>	<b>1,005,035</b>	<b>1,010,192</b>

Source: MLA/ALFA

Table 3: Quarterly cattle feedlot turn-off

	Jun-21	Mar-21	Jun-20
	Head		
NSW	171,612	219,087	181,050
Vic	46,600	47,089	48,011
Qld	397,429	321,600	379,635
SA	28,712	26,256	29,126
WA	30,949	51,504	58,432
<b>Australia</b>	<b>675,302</b>	<b>665,536</b>	<b>696,254</b>

Source: MLA/ALFA

Table 4: Feedlot turn-off

	FY2021	FY2020	FY2010
	Head		
NSW	718,248	794,237	636,347
Vic	167,839	215,592	210,209
Qld	1,542,780	1,758,572	1,377,701
SA	105,457	121,512	93,191
WA	122,577	154,221	108,493
<b>Australia</b>	<b>2,656,901</b>	<b>3,044,134</b>	<b>2,425,941</b>

Source: MLA/ALFA