



Frequently asked questions about NLRS

How do I become an MLA member?

MLA membership is free to levy-paying producers of cattle, sheep, lambs or goats. All you need to do is complete and lodge a member registration form with MLA.

To request that a form be sent to you (via email, fax or mail) please email info@mla.com.au or phone 1800 675 717.

What am I entitled to receive as an MLA member?

MLA members are entitled to receive *Meat & Livestock Weekly*, *Australian Cattle and Sheep Industry Overview* and four NLRS saleyard and/or OTH reports free of charge (email only). Reports are available via the NLRS web site www.mla.com.au/nlrs.

I'm not an MLA member, how much does subscription cost?

Subscription prices vary depending on the report. A standard market report subscription costs \$220 per annum and is delivered by email within 2 hours of the

completion of the market. For costs of other reports, including custom made reports, contact the NLRS.

How do butt profile and condition relate to muscle and fat scores?

Butt profile or butt shape has no relevance to the actual muscularity of an animal, the potential carcass weight or, ultimately, the meat yield. Butt profile is simply the side profile of the rear of a carcass viewed from a 45° angle with the carcass hanging on a rail, whereas muscle score views the muscularity of an animal and demonstrates a relationship with meat yield.

Fat score is the measurement of fat over the P8 site and rib of cattle. Generally, stock in good condition should have a fat score of 3 for young cattle and 4 for grown cattle.

Condition is often confused with butt profile and muscle score but is actually a general reference to fat coverage. A well-conditioned animal may have a fat score of 5.



The NLRS quoted the market as dearer, however my stock were cheaper than expected. How is this possible?

The NLRS prices and trends quoted in market broadcasts or published in market summaries are general market indicators. It is quite common for a particular agent to sell against the trend of a market, depending on their order of sale. In areas where a number of agents are selling, the proportion of the total sale viewed by a particular agent may be much smaller than that viewed by the NLRS LMOs and, as such, may not be representative of the prices for the total sale.

Similarly, it is quite common for a specific producer's stock to sell against the general market trend, because they fall outside the specifications of an indicator grade.

When assessing the value of a particular producer's stock, it is necessary for the producer to compare their own cattle with other similar grades sold at that market. The best way to do this is by looking at the detailed market report, released by the NLRS.

**National Livestock Reporting Service
– the leader in livestock intelligence**

Care is taken to ensure the accuracy of information in the publication, however MLA cannot accept responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of the information or opinions contained in the publication. Readers should make their own enquiries in making decisions concerning their interests.

Does the NLRS only report physical markets?

The NLRS is well known for the physical markets broadcast over ABC Country Hour. However, the NLRS provides far more information than just saleyard reports.

The NLRS provides reports on 44 prime cattle markets, 30 prime sheep markets, major store markets, weekly state-based OTH prices, weekly state-based market summaries, weekly skin and hide prices and weekly state-based slaughter statistics. The NLRS can also customise reports to meet individual needs.

More information

For more information on NLRS market reporting, or to subscribe to one of the NLRS market reports, contact MLA on 02 9463 9163 or email nlrs@mla.com.au.



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