

tips & tools

MARKETING



The European Union Cattle Accreditation Scheme (EUCAS)

Background

The European Union (EU) offers a reliable, high-value opportunity for Australian beef, despite access to the market traditionally being restricted due to tariffs and quotas. Cattle production in the EU is declining, whilst consumption has remained steady, causing a growing beef supply deficit that has been forecast to approach one million tonnes by 2020.

Opportunity for Australian Beef

In January 2010, Australia gained access to a new 20,000-tonne tariff-free grainfed beef quota. In 2009-10, Australian beef exports to the EU increased 9% and in 2010-11 increased a further 52%. This increase is a result of maintaining exports under the "Hilton" quota and then supplying additional tonnage of grainfed beef.

Supplying grainfed beef under the new 20,000-tonne quota has opened new marketing opportunities for Australian beef in the EU. This includes new higher value market segments and regions that have previously not used Australian beef. In 2012-13, the 20,000-tonne grainfed quota is scheduled to increase to 48,200 tonnes. As quota access to the region expands, it is essential that supply capability is increased. Processors and exporters to the region have recently expressed concern over the supply of EU eligible cattle.

Also, with increased supply of high quality chilled beef, the opportunity exists to ship additional items from EU

This document is a guide only and should be read in conjunction with European Union Cattle Accreditation Scheme (EUCAS) information such as the Pre Accreditation Fact Sheet on the AQIS website. Producers wishing to participate in the scheme should familiarise themselves with the requirements of EUCAS.

Key benefits

- Beef destined for the EU must have been supplied through a EU accredited supply chain, including producers, feedlots and saleyards
- EUCAS requires individual animal traceback capability on all animals slaughtered for the EU market
- The EU will only take beef from cattle free of hormone growth promotants (HGP)

carcasses as frozen and manufacturing beef under quotas totalling more than 100,000 tonnes.

Key EU Requirements (delivered via EUCAS)

To be eligible for export to the EU, beef or meat products and some by-products, must have been obtained from cattle sourced from the EU Cattle Accreditation Scheme (EUCAS)-accredited supply chain, which includes producers, feedlots and saleyards.



Individual animal traceability capability is a key requirement for supplying the EU market.

Producers wanting to supply the EU market must have their properties accredited under the EUCAS. The Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) administers EUCAS. This is a voluntary scheme and there is no application fee.

EUCAS

Entry into EUCAS is by way of an application to AQIS.

Applications are available at:

<http://www.daff.gov.au/aqis/export/meat/elmer-3/eucas/rules>

Application process

AQIS will check that all sections on the application form have been completed and that all relevant information is supplied. It is suggested that applicants ensure they have their NLIS database account up to date prior to making an application as any discrepancies will delay processing of the application. Please contact the EUCAS help line for any assistance or clarification of requirements (see below for more information).

Feedlots and saleyards must submit a documented management plan with their application. They must have a successful audit against the management plan before being accredited.

EUCAS requires accredited farms to:

- have only eligible cattle on their property at all times; that is cattle that have lifetime traceability and have never been treated with HGP (with the exception of breeding bulls and a small number of house cows)
- only purchase cattle from other accredited properties or saleyards (with the exception of approved non-EU breeding females and bulls)
- identify all cattle on the property with NLIS devices. For cattle born on the property this is to be done at the time of or before weaning (this requirement is different to state or territory National Livestock Identification Scheme (NLIS) requirements)
- use LPA European Union Vendor Declaration (EUVD) forms and specific Scheme transaction tail tags to identify Scheme cattle that are being moved
- ensure their NLIS database account is kept up to date

Lifetime traceability requirement

Following accreditation, all eligible cattle on the property must be individually identified with National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) devices. In order to maintain eligibility and traceability when scheme cattle are moved, it is mandatory to use LPA, complete EUVD forms, apply approved lime green tail tags and ensure all stock movements are recorded in the NLIS database.

HGP-free status requirements

The terms of EUCAS accreditation are strict. With the exception of breeding bulls, only cattle that have never have been treated with HGPs in their lifetime are eligible to remain on a EUCAS property. Properties with a history of HGP use will have to remove any HGP treated cattle and demonstrate through records the disposal of HGP treated cattle and any unused HGP doses. Cattle with an unknown HGP status or that do not have lifetime traceability must be removed from the property.

Accredited feedlots and accredited saleyards are allowed to have HGP treated cattle on the property; however, stringent EUCAS approved management plans must be in place to ensure these cattle are segregated from EUCAS cattle at all times.

Once accredited, cattle must only be purchased from other accredited properties or through accredited saleyards, and these cattle must be accompanied by EUVDs.

Integrity of the scheme

Accredited properties are subject to random audits; feedlots and saleyards are audited annually. The European Union audits Australia's export meat system on a regular basis and these audits include visits to accredited properties, feedlots and saleyards. Failure to comply with the conditions of the accreditation is a serious offence and puts at risk Australia's access to a valuable export market.

Further information

Please contact the EUCAS Helpline Phone: 1800 305 544

Email: eucas@aqis.gov.au

Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS):
www.daff.gov.au/aqis

For EUCAS requirements and links to necessary forms:
<http://www.daff.gov.au/aqis/export/meat/elmer-3/eucas/>



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Published October 2011
ISBN: 9 78174191 586 0
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ABN 39 081 678 364