



LPA Requirements: #3

Fodder crop, grain and pasture treatments and stock foods



LIVESTOCK
PRODUCTION
ASSURANCE

The Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) program is the Australian livestock industry's on-farm program covering food safety, animal welfare and biosecurity. It is part of the integrity system used by the red meat industry to meet the stringent requirements of our domestic and export markets. Customer confidence in Australian red meat underpins the success and growth of Australia's livestock industry, and protects the livelihoods of more than 200,000 producers.

When producers become LPA-accredited, they are promising to meet LPA's requirements and fulfil their responsibility in the production of safe and ethical red meat. The management of **fodder crop, grain and pasture treatments and stock foods** is just one of seven elements that farmers need to satisfy to become LPA-accredited.

Every LPA-accredited producer must undertake to minimise exposure of livestock to foods containing unacceptable chemical contamination and guarantee livestock are not fed animal products.

What?

As a livestock producer, you must guarantee that animals are not exposed to foods containing chemical contamination or fed animal products.

Exposure to contaminated food or animal product may result in unacceptably high chemical residues in the animal at the time of slaughter, posing a risk to human health.

Producers must, therefore, do all they can to ensure agricultural chemicals are applied and stored correctly and that animals are not exposed to chemical residues. Records must be kept to enable the traceability of stock feeds provided to animals, including details on relevant Withholding Periods (WHP) and Export Slaughter Intervals (ESI).

To demonstrate this you must:

- *Keep records of your agricultural chemical treatments*
- *Introduce management systems to identify livestock that may have become contaminated and to map or list treated or contaminated areas*
- *File Commodity Vendor Declarations (CVDs) that accompany all introduced stock feeds*

How?

The fodder crop, grain and pasture treatments and stock foods checklist includes nine questions to ensure a livestock producer is doing all they can to minimise animal exposure to foods containing chemicals or animal products.

It is recommended producers document and file answers to the checklist questions and make them available when the property is subject to an LPA audit. A template to assist you with your record keeping is available on the LPA website at www.mla.com.au/lpa

LPA requirements

#1 *Property risk assessment*

#2 *Safe & responsible animal treatments*

#3 *Safe livestock feed*

#4 *Preparation for dispatch*

#5 *Livestock transactions & movements*

#6 *Biosecurity*

#7 *Animal welfare*

Checklist:**1 Do you only allow people who are trained and/or competent to use chemicals?**

Anyone applying or handling chemicals must be able to demonstrate competency in the storage, handling, preparation, use and disposal of chemicals. Ideally livestock producers will hold or be under the supervision of someone that has a current recognised chemical user's certificate. Certificates should be stored and presented during the LPA audit.

2 When applying chemicals, do you abide by the legal directions (eg as written on the label) and only use approved agricultural chemicals?

The intended use, application method and dose rates of agricultural chemicals must be understood prior to use. This means reading the chemical labels and applying them in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. To ensure that the appropriate chemicals are applied, only agricultural chemicals approved by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) should be used.

3 Do you ensure that any equipment used to apply or measure chemicals is working correctly before use and clean it before and after you use it?

So that the correct amount of chemical is applied and is not contaminated, it is essential to calibrate equipment and check it for operational efficiency before use. Equipment to apply or measure chemicals must also be thoroughly cleaned before and after each use.

4 Are agricultural chemicals stored according to instructions on the label and kept in a place safe from animals?

Agricultural chemicals can lose their effectiveness if not stored appropriately and should always be kept according to the manufacturer's instructions. They should also be kept away from animals to minimise the risk of unnecessary contamination of livestock.

5 Are management systems in place to identify livestock that may have accessed treated paddocks or contaminated feed?

Being able to trace livestock that may have come in contact with chemicals is essential. Producers should implement a system that allows them to identify these animals, such as the use of a coloured ear tag or segregation.

6 Do you record agricultural treatments, including spray drift and introduced stock feed, and pass this on when selling stock?

Agricultural treatments should be recorded and passed on when selling stock, by completing an LPA NVD/Waybill.

Where relevant, the producer should also record on the LPA NVD/Waybill details of the Withholding Period (WHP) and Export Slaughter Interval (ESI) to ensure that contaminated livestock are not processed for human consumption before these have expired.

Records should include:

- *Treatment date*
- *Location/size/quantity of treatment*
- *Chemical/drug used, including batch number and expiry date*
- *Application rate and method*
- *Relevant Withholding Period and/or Export Slaughter Interval (and date of expiry)*
- *Relevant withholding from grazing period*

Records of any evident spray drift from neighbouring properties should also be maintained.

7 Do you record introduced stock feeds and ensure these come with a Commodity Vendor Declaration (CVD) that shows there is a minimal risk of contamination?

To minimise the risk of contaminating our meat supply, it is important to keep records of feeds that are introduced, including the date they were received, a description of the feed, the supplier and a residue analysis. It is also important to ensure that a CVD is provided every time you buy/introduce stock feed. CVDs can be downloaded from the LPA website at www.mla.com.au/lpa. In the absence of a CVD it is important that the residue status of the stockfeed be determined and/or that the stockfeed is not fed to livestock that are to be sold for slaughter within 60 days from date of last exposure. Records of stockfeed activities should be maintained, including date, description of stockfeed, mob and/or paddock identification etc.

If you are not sure of the chemical residue status of stockfeed, do not provide it to livestock until you can prove it is clear, possibly through a National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) approved laboratory test.



8 Do you meet the ruminant feed ban legislation of the state in which you raise stock?

This means you:

- Are not permitted to feed Restricted Animal Material (RAM) to ruminants (cattle, sheep, goats)
- Must ensure that livestock do not have access to feed, the feed mixing area or discarded feed containing RAM
- Should ensure all containers, machinery, augers etc that come in touch with stock feeds containing RAM are thoroughly cleaned prior to using or holding ruminant stockfeed

RAM includes meat, meat and bone meal, blood meal, blood and bone meal, dog biscuits, poultry offal meal, feather meal, fishmeal or any other animal meals or manures. [It does not include tallow, treated recycled cooking oils, gelatine, milk or milk products.]

To minimise the risk of contaminating our meat supply, it is important to keep and store products that may contain RAM separately and securely from feed that will be fed to ruminant livestock.

Careful consideration should be given to:

- Dog biscuits where dog kennels are in holding yards or paddocks
- Poultry and pig feeds storage and mixing equipment
- If spreading poultry and pig manures, stock are not allowed to graze until such time that the pasture has grown up and through the manure so that the stock doesn't consume the manure

If used cooking oils are in feed mixes (tallow and oil) you must ensure they meet relevant Australian Standards. If feeding old/waste bread/bakery/pastry waste to livestock ensure that any bread or waste product containing meat is not fed to ruminant animals (cattle, sheep, goats).

9 Is there a management system in place to map or list treated and contaminated areas and signpost them on-farm?

Keeping a map or list of treated paddocks and any contaminated sites or facilities enables producers to minimise the risk of livestock accessing these areas, where they may become contaminated. Signposting treated paddocks on-farm is not essential, but can also help to minimise the risk of contamination.

Where livestock are contaminated, producers must ensure that they meet the relevant Withholding Period or Export Slaughter Interval before they are slaughtered or sold.

When?

Records should be updated every time chemicals are applied and feed is introduced to the property.

Why?

Australia's food safety record is essential to consumers of red meat, both locally and in the 100-plus countries we export to. This means it's fundamental to the future of our red meat industry.

If animals consume foods that have unacceptably high chemical residues or which contain animal product, the meat they produce may be unsafe for human consumption. This will put the entire industry at risk.

At a producer level, repercussions may include failure to be paid for the livestock, and possible legal liability for the resulting costs faced by processors and the rest of the supply chain.

Learn more

A dedicated module within LPA Learning explains what you need to know regarding LPA's requirements for fodder crop, grain and pasture treatments and stock foods. Information is also provided on the LPA website (www.mla.com.au/lpa).

