

final report

Project code: B.FLT.0470
Prepared by: Kimberley Wockner
EnviroAg Australia
Date published: April 2013
ISBN: 9781741919097

PUBLISHED BY
Meat & Livestock Australia Limited
Locked Bag 991
NORTH SYDNEY NSW 2059

Feedlot environment training workshops - QLD

Meat & Livestock Australia acknowledges the matching funds provided by the Australian Government to support the research and development detailed in this publication.

This publication is published by Meat & Livestock Australia Limited ABN 39 081 678 364 (MLA). Care is taken to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this publication. However MLA cannot accept responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of the information or opinions contained in the publication. You should make your own enquiries before making decisions concerning your interests. Reproduction in whole or in part of this publication is prohibited without prior written consent of MLA.

Abstract

The Australian Lot Feeders' Association (ALFA) negotiated with the Queensland Government for the industry's quality assurance program, the National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme (NFAS), to become eligible to access the 20% licence fee discount under the state's Environmental Protection regulation. In order to access this discount, one person from each accredited feedlot must complete training that provides them with an appropriate understanding of environmental risks and consequences in relation to the day to day operation of feedlots. In addition, there is a need to update industry on the recently finalised versions of the National Guidelines for Beef Cattle Feedlots in Australia and the National Beef Cattle Feedlot Environmental Code of Practice, which must be addressed within feedlot Quality Assurance manuals.

Using the materials developed in the B.FLT.0469 'Feedlot environment education training module' project, this project delivered workshops in Emerald, Toowoomba and Chinchilla to assist lot feeders to achieve competency in feedlot environmental risk reduction management. A total of 86 lotfeeders attended the workshops.

Executive Summary

The Australian Lot Feeders' Association (ALFA) negotiated with the Queensland Government for the industry's quality assurance program, the National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme (NFAS), to become eligible to access the 20% licence fee discount under the state's Environmental Protection regulation. In order to access this discount, one person from each accredited feedlot must complete training that provides them with an appropriate understanding of environmental risks and consequences in relation to the day to day operation of feedlots. In addition, there is a need to update industry on the recently finalised versions of the National Guidelines for Beef Cattle Feedlots in Australia and the National Beef Cattle Feedlot Environmental Code of Practice, which must be addressed within feedlot Quality Assurance manuals.

An earlier project, B.FLT.0469 'Feedlot environment education training module', developed a training, education and advisory module to aid feedlot operators and staff in operating an environmentally compliant feedlot business specifically recognising and addressing the recent changes to guidelines, NFAS and legislative requirements.

This project delivered this training at workshops in Emerald, Toowoomba and Chinchilla. In order to cover the key components of the documentation required for and outlined in B.FLT.0469, five modules were included in the workshops:

1. Environmental legislation
2. Risk assessment and reporting
3. Monitoring and environmental management
4. Environmental management: Specific issues (including effluent management, chemical and fuel storage, manure management, odour and dust, noise, dead animals and sandy soils)
5. Framework for continuous improvement

All participants to the workshop were given a 'take-home' resource pack, which contained a comprehensive set of notes, the PowerPoint presentation, a questionnaire to identify potential environmental risks and hazards on their feedlot and additional background information used during the workshop.

A questionnaire was completed in the final session of the course, and a certificate supplied to successful course trainees by ALFA. A total of 86 lotfeeders attended the workshops, and a 100% success rate was achieved in answering the questionnaire, ensuring they all received the ALFA certificate, and are eligible for the licence fee discount.

As a result of these workshops, lotfeeders were provided with tools for the identification and management of potential environmental risks and hazards experienced in their feedlot businesses.

Table of Contents

1.	Background to the project	5
2.	Project objectives	5
3.	Methodology	5
3.1	Workshop	5
3.2	'Take-home' resource pack.....	6
3.3	Self-evaluation questionnaire	6
4.	Results	6
5.	Conclusion	7

1. Background to the project

The Australian Lot Feeders' Association (ALFA) negotiated with the Queensland Government for the industry's quality assurance program, the National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme (NFAS), to become eligible to access the 20% licence fee discount under the state's Environmental Protection regulation. In order to access this discount, one person from each accredited feedlot must complete training that provides them with an appropriate understanding of environmental risks and consequences in relation to the day to day operation of feedlots. In addition, there is a need to update industry on the recently finalised versions of the National Guidelines for Beef Cattle Feedlots in Australia and the National Beef Cattle Feedlot Environmental Code of Practice, which must be addressed within feedlot Quality Assurance manuals.

Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) commissioned EnviroAg Australia to deliver workshops in regional QLD to provide training to assist feedlot owners, managers and employees regarding the identification and management of potential environmental risks and hazards experienced in feedlot businesses. The workshop content was based on a previous MLA-funded project, B.FLT.0469, which generated the training, education and advisory module to aid feedlot operators and staff in operating an environmentally compliant feedlot, recognising and addressing the recent changes to guidelines, NFAS and legislative requirements.

2. Project objectives

The project objective was to deliver three training workshops in Emerald, Toowoomba and Chinchilla to educate and assist feedlot employees regarding the identification and management of potential environmental risks and hazards experienced in a feedlot. Successful attendance (by successfully completing a questionnaire at the end of the workshop) will result in a 20% discount on the feedlot's environmental licence fee.

3. Methodology

Using the resources developed in the B.FLT.0469 'Feedlot environment education training module' project as a guide, EnviroAg developed a workshop, 'take-home' resource pack and self-evaluation questionnaire.

3.1 Workshop

The workshop structure was designed to encompass the key components of the environmental feedlot training module. The key components were:

- A summation of the environmental responsibilities of lot feeders under state legislation, feedlot licenses and the National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme.
- Explanation of the new requirements under The NSW Protection of the Environment Operations Act (POEO) including template examples of how lot feeders can practically meet the requirements of the newly amended Act.
- The environmental and legislated consequences if lotfeeders don't adhere to these requirements.

- An explanation of the requirements of the new Guidelines (*National Guidelines for Beef Cattle Feedlots in Australia*¹) and Code of Practice (*National Beef Cattle Feedlot Environmental Code of Practice*²) emphasising how the new documents differ from the previous version.
- The inclusion of practical examples, tools and templates to assist feedlot operators to meet the requirements of the new Guidelines and Code of Practice. This included, the use of a risk register and risk matrices to help identify the likelihood, consequences and priority of feedlot related risks and hazards that could lead to environmental harm.

As a result, the workshops were based on five modules, including:

1. Environmental legislation
2. Risk assessment and reporting
3. Monitoring and environmental management
4. Environmental management: Specific issues (including effluent management, chemical and fuel storage, manure management, odour and dust, noise, dead animals and sandy soils)
5. Framework for continuous improvement

3.2 'Take-home' resource pack

A 'take-home' resource pack was developed for workshop participants. It contained a comprehensive set of notes, the PowerPoint presentation delivered in the workshop, a questionnaire to identify potential environmental risks and hazards ('hot-spots') on their feedlot and additional background information used throughout the workshop.

3.3 Self-evaluation questionnaire

A questionnaire was developed which was based on workshop content. It is to be completed in the final session of the course, with a 100% score required to successfully receive the course completion certificate from ALFA. Upon receipt of this certificate, course participants are eligible for the licence fee discount.

4. Results

The environmental training workshops were delivered in the three Queensland locations of Emerald, Toowoomba and Chinchilla. There were 15, 45 and 26 attendants at each location respectively.

All participants to the workshop were given a 'take-home' resource pack, which contained a comprehensive set of notes, the PowerPoint presentation, a questionnaire to identify potential environmental risks and hazards on their feedlot and any additional background information used throughout the workshop. During the

¹ Meat and Livestock Australia Limited (2012) *National Guidelines For Beef Cattle Feedlots in Australia*. 2nd Edition. Meat and Livestock Australia Limited in association with the Australian Lot Feeders' Association and the Feedlot Industry Accreditation Committee, North Sydney, NSW.

² Meat and Livestock Australia Limited (2012) *National Beef Cattle Feedlot Environmental Code of Practice*. 2nd Edition. Meat and Livestock Australia Limited in association with the Australian Lot Feeders' Association and the Feedlot Industry Accreditation Committee, North Sydney, NSW.

day, participants recorded notes relating to their own feedlot, and as a result turned this pack into their own individual resource.

All participants completed a self-evaluation questionnaire at the end of the workshop, with a 100% success rate. As a result, all participants were eligible to receive their workshop certificate from ALFA, and therefore receive a discount on their licence fee.

5. Conclusion

As a result of these workshops, lotfeeders were provided with tools for the identification and management of potential environmental risks and hazards experienced in their feedlot businesses.

Using feedback from the Queensland workshop participants and MLA, a separate project is being undertaken to deliver this workshop to lotfeeders in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. These workshops will be held in Wagga Wagga, Moama, Tamworth and Adelaide.