

For Meat Standards Australia enquiries, contact:

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## Buy and sell MSA cattle

### Optimise carcass compliance

#### Minimise dark cutting

Beef carcasses with pH levels above 5.70 are of lower and less consistent eating quality.

The main cause of high pH in carcasses is insufficient glycogen levels at the time of processing. Livestock that are stressed, over-exercised and under-nourished pose the biggest risk, and the effect is irreversible.

#### The following steps can help reduce stress in livestock prior to processing:

- Muster and handle cattle quietly, avoid excessive noise and force
- Avoid the use of prodders and dogs
- Load cattle at recommended densities
- Ensure cattle have been on a rising plane of nutrition for the month prior to sale
- Do not mix unfamiliar cattle and avoid drafting cattle within two weeks of consignment

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A quick reference for:  
producers, agents  
and buyers



## Checklist to consigning MSA cattle

- Animals must be sourced from a registered MSA producer.**  
Visit [www.mla.com.au/msa](http://www.mla.com.au/msa) to complete online registration providing immediate accreditation. Each PIC used for MSA cattle will require a separate MSA registration.
- Consign cattle with an MSA vendor declaration and an LPA National Vendor Declaration (NVD).**  
Incorrect or missing vendor declarations will lead to cattle being ineligible for MSA grading.
- Cattle should be continually grazed or fed rations to a level that is adequate for growth for a minimum of 30 days prior to dispatch.**
- Cattle must be held on the consigning property for at least 30 days prior to dispatch.**
- No mixing or drafting mobs or pens.**  
Cattle cannot be mixed and drafting should be avoided within two weeks of consignment and whilst at the processing facility.
- Consign in separate tropical breed content (TBC) groups where possible.**  
Use separate MSA vendor declarations for pens with different TBC %.
- Minimise animal stress.**  
Do not consign animals with bad temperament, sickness or severe signs of stress. Avoid consigning in severe weather.
- Allow access to feed and water prior to dispatch.**  
Other than minimum time required for sale preparation.
- Direct consignment cattle, travelling by road transport, must be processed within 48 hours from the property of dispatch providing the total truck transport time does not exceed 36 hours.**  
Up to a 12 hour rest period can occur during this 36 hour period. If this occurs, total truck time cannot exceed 24 hours.
- Direct consignment cattle travelling by other methods of transport must be processed no later than the day after dispatch.**
- Saleyard cattle must be processed within 36 hours of dispatch and be sold through an MSA-licensed saleyard.**
- Grading feedback**  
Afterwards ensure you review the MSA grading feedback from the processor. Feedback reports and MSA index values can also be accessed through the MSA feedback system called myMSA at [www.mymssa.com.au](http://www.mymssa.com.au)

**Visit [www.mymssa.com.au](http://www.mymssa.com.au) to access MSA carcass feedback**