

Audit Checklist



LIVESTOCK
PRODUCTION
ASSURANCE

The Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) program is the Australian livestock industry's on-farm food safety program. It meets the stringent requirements of our export markets, providing an assurance of the safety of red meat grown on Australian farms.

What does it mean for me?

Producers who become LPA-accredited commit to carrying out specific on-farm practices in order to fulfil their responsibility to produce safe red meat. On-farm audits are conducted each year to ensure the farm management systems are complying with LPA Rules and Standards.

Who gets audited?

All LPA accredited producers - from large scale operators to hobby farmers - may be audited. Audits are selected at random from the database of all LPA accredited producers, including producers with just a few livestock. Approximately 7000 audits are conducted each year.

Who does the audits?

Qualified auditors from AUS-MEAT visit LPA-accredited farms and conduct the on-farm audits for the LPA program. The process is overseen by the LPA Advisory Committee.

What does an on-farm audit involve?

If selected for an audit, producers receive an LPA Audit Notification Pack with information to help them prepare for audit. They are then contacted by an auditor to organise a mutually convenient time for the auditor to visit the farm and carry out the audit.

What happens during an audit?

On the day, the auditor will check how records are maintained and food safety-related management is being carried out. The auditor may accompany the producer on an inspection of property facilities relating to food safety. Parts of the farm that have been identified as contaminated with persistent chemicals may also be visited to review the management systems implemented at these locations.

At the conclusion of the audit, you are provided with an LPA site audit summary. This could outline any further actions required and agreed timeframes.

How can I prepare for an audit?

Producers selected for an audit will receive an LPA Audit Notification Pack, including an audit checklist. Reviewing on-farm practices against the checklist will identify any areas that may need attention before the audit. The more preparation that is done before the audit, the smoother the process is likely to be.

Can the auditor provide advice?

No. The auditor is not able to provide specific advice to producers they have audited, however they may be able to provide guidance as to where to obtain assistance or advice.

What happens if any issues are identified during the audit?

If the issue is minor, the auditor may record an 'observation' which means that the producer should consider taking action to improve the relevant practice. If the issue is more significant, the auditor may raise a 'corrective action request' which means that the producer needs to do something to ensure compliance with LPA requirements, and this action will be followed up.

How long does a producer have to rectify an issue?

If a 'corrective action request' is raised, the auditor and the producer will agree to the necessary activities that need to be undertaken to rectify the problem, and a timeframe for completion (usually a period of 30 days).

What happens if the results of the audit show serious problems?

The results of an audit determine what steps need to be taken. Producers can seek help to change their practices, where required. Failure to address problems identified may lead to a producer losing their accreditation. Where a critical issue is identified, producers can be suspended immediately.

Can an auditor withdraw my LPA accreditation?

No. An auditor reports to the LPA Advisory Committee. This Committee reviews any issues and can withdraw LPA accreditation.

Can producers decline to be audited?

No. It is a condition of accreditation that LPA producers agree to participate in the audit process. Refusal to participate may result in LPA accreditation being withdrawn.

Cost?

There is no charge to the producer. Should the audit reveal LPA requirements are not being met, subsequent audits may be charged.

Time?

On average 1.5-2.5 hours, although this may vary depending on the size of the operation and the producer's management systems and understanding of LPA.

Checklist:

Element 1 - Property risk assessment

It's your responsibility to minimise the risk of livestock being exposed to sites that are unacceptably contaminated with persistent chemicals or physical contaminants.

What's required?

All potentially contaminated sites are identified.

All identified sites are managed to restrict livestock access to prevent exposure and contamination.

Potentially exposed animals are identified and managed to minimise risk of contamination of livestock intended for human consumption.

The proof you'll need:

- A map highlighting potentially contaminated sites or sources of contamination on your property
- Any soil residue and animal fat test results
- Identification and management of animals that may have been exposed to contaminated sites or physical contaminants
- A recent Property Residue Status report from the relevant department of primary industries or agriculture
- Records for animals that may have been exposed to persistent chemicals or physical contaminants
- A letter of clearance from your state authority for any exposed animals
- Copies of NVDs for any exposed animals that have been sold or transferred
- All of the above must be collated into a single risk assessment document

Element 2 - Safe and responsible animal treatments

It's your responsibility to make sure that livestock you sell for human consumption do not contain unacceptable chemical residues or physical hazards.

What's required?

Animal treatments are administered only by trained and/or competent staff in accordance with label directions and/or vet advice.

Chemicals are stored securely in accordance with label/manufacture's directions.

Sufficient records are maintained to:

- 1 Enable treated livestock to be traced (from birth/introduction through to dispatch)
- 2 Demonstrate the correct/controlled use of chemicals

The proof you'll need:

- Ability to demonstrate competency in the storage, use and disposal of chemicals. Completion of a recognised chemical user's course (eg ChemCert, SMARTtrain, etc) is the easiest way to do this
- Records of animal treatments and physical contamination
- A copy of the latest With Holding Period (WHP) and Export Slaughter Intervals (ESI) (available from www.apvma.gov.au/residues)
- A note of animals that may have been purchased while still within a WHP/ESI
- Written authorisation and directions for any off-label use of chemicals or drugs
- Demonstration of the equipment used and of storage methods. No 'expired' chemicals or veterinary drugs are kept
- Demonstrate understanding of WHP and ESI requirements

Element 3 - Stock foods, fodder crops, grains and pasture treatments

It's your responsibility to make sure that your livestock are not exposed to feeds containing animal products or unacceptable chemical residues.

What's required?

Agricultural chemicals are applied to fodder crops, grain and pasture only by trained or competent staff and in accordance with label directions and/or relevant approvals in accordance with relevant legal requirements.

Chemicals are stored securely in accordance with label/manufacture directions.

Exposure of animals to fodder crops, grain and pasture and introduced stock feed that has been treated is managed to minimise risk of unacceptable chemical residues in livestock for human consumption.

Exposure of animals to stock feed is managed to eliminate risk of animal products being fed to ruminant livestock, other than approved exemptions.

Sufficient records are maintained to:

- 1 Trace the status of exposed livestock
- 2 Trace the status of fodder crops, grain and pasture, and introduced stock feed intended to be fed to livestock (specifically WHP/ESI from slaughter or grazing/harvest as applicable)
- 3 Demonstrate the correct/controlled use of chemicals

The proof you'll need:

- Ability to demonstrate competency in the storage, use and disposal of chemicals. Completion of a recognised chemical user's course (eg ChemCert, SMARTtrain, etc) is the easiest way to do this
- Records of any chemicals used on fodder crops, grain and pasture
- A Commodity Vendor Declaration for introduced/purchased feed
- Origin of purchased feedstuff (i.e. an invoice)
- Identification of animals fed or grazed on purchased feeds, treated crops or pastures
- A copy of the latest WHP available from APVMA at <https://portal.apvma.gov.au/pubcris>
- Chemical approvals if required
- Documentation of all off-label use (from a vet or APVMA)
- Farm map or list of treated areas
- Stock feed test analysis (if conducted)



Element 4 - Preparation for dispatch of livestock

It's your responsibility to make sure that livestock to be transported are fit for the journey, are not unduly stressed and the likelihood of contamination is minimised when penned on farm and transported to the destination.

What's required?

Only animals that are in a condition fit for travel are selected.

On-farm assembly and transport are managed to minimise the risk of stress and contamination of animals.

As well as ensuring bobby calves are fit and well for transport, you must also document that all bobby calves dispatched are:

- 1 Between 5 and 30 days of age
- 2 Protected from cold and heat
- 3 In good health, alert and able to rise from a lying position
- 4 Adequately fed milk or milk replacer on the farm within 6 hours of transport
- 5 Prepared and transported to ensure delivery in less than 18 hours from last feed with no more than 12 hours spent on transports

The proof you'll need:

- Copies of all NVDs and transport records
- Transport operation name and registration details
- Date and time of yarding and truck departure
- Records of feedback/complaints from processors or purchasers
- Demonstration of any actions taken in response to feedback/complaints
- A note of animals that may have been exposed to physical contaminants such as broken needles, buckshot or wire

Element 5 - Livestock transactions and movements

It's your responsibility to make sure that any purchaser of your livestock can assess the chemical residue or food safety status of the animals, that you can do the same for the livestock you buy, and the movement of all livestock can be traced. Equally, it is important that when purchasing livestock from other producers that you ensure that the livestock are sourced from an LPA accredited PIC. This requirement also includes ensuring PICs are LPA accredited when placing livestock on agistment.

What's required?

A current, correctly completed LPA NVD accompanies all livestock transactions and movements including between properties with different Property Identification Codes (PICs).

Sufficient records are maintained to:

- 1 Ensure the declarations on the LPA NVD concerning the food safety status of livestock both coming to and leaving the property can be reconciled with the livestock traceability system adopted on farm

The proof you'll need:

- Ensure that all movements of any livestock onto your PIC are updated to the NLIS Database in accordance with regulatory requirements
- Records of purchases, sales and movements
- Copies of LPA NVDs (checked for accuracy and compared to treatment records to ensure compliance with WHP/ ESI)
- LPA NVD serial number for livestock purchases and/or introduced livestock, sales and property to property transfers (only when properties have different PICs)
- Vendor's name, address and PIC
- A note of animals that may have been purchased while still with a WHP/ESI
- A note of animals that may have been exposed to physical contaminants such as broken needles, buckshot or wire

LPA Audit Preparation Notes

Element 1 - On-farm risk assessment

Element 2 - Safe and responsible animal treatments

Element 3 - Fodder crop, grain and pasture treatments and stock foods

Element 4 - Preparation for dispatch of livestock

Element 5 - Livestock transactions and movements
