



# Safe livestock feed: Alternate feedstuff (cotton trash)



LIVESTOCK  
PRODUCTION  
ASSURANCE

## What do I need to do to source cotton trash?

As a Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) accredited red meat producer you can access cotton trash from approved gins as a form of feed for your livestock or for use as mulch. This is permitted under a strict protocol developed by industry, approved by SAFEMEAT and incorporated into the LPA program.

Before taking delivery of cotton trash you should understand how this will affect your LPA accreditation and the implications it will have for your Property Identification Code (PIC) on the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) database.

You should also be aware that some buyers may choose not to purchase cattle or sheep that have been fed cotton trash. This may compromise the value of your livestock and/or your ability to sell into your usual markets.

As an LPA-accredited red meat producer you are responsible for making sure contaminants from feedstuffs given to your livestock do not enter the human food chain. LPA allows the feeding of cotton trash and its use as mulch under strict conditions.

Whenever you acquire cotton trash from an approved gin, as the owner/manager of the property receiving the shipment you must:

1. Complete and sign an Alternate Feedstuff Declaration (Cotton Trash) which can be downloaded from [www.mla.com.au/lpa-alternative-feedstuffs](http://www.mla.com.au/lpa-alternative-feedstuffs). This document records the details of the gin; your trading name and details; and the amount and delivery date of the cotton trash order. In making this declaration you agree to abide by all requirements of LPA and NLIS in relation to cotton trash.
2. Send the completed Alternate Feedstuff Declaration (Cotton Trash) to the approved Supplying Gin prior to delivery, and to LPA Administration at [operations@integritysystems.com.au](mailto:operations@integritysystems.com.au) within seven (7) days of receipt. The Supplying Gin must also then send a copy of the Declaration to LPA Administration.
3. Receive a completed Commodity Vendor Declaration (CVD) from the supplying gin.
4. Retain copies of the Alternate Feedstuff Declaration (Cotton Trash) and Commodity Vendor Declaration for three years as part of your LPA record keeping practices. Provide these documents on request to an LPA auditor.

## Steps to source cotton trash to feed to livestock:

1. Producer contacts approved cotton gin ([www.cottonaustralia.com.au/latest-campaigns/approved-gins-supplying-cotton-gin-trash](http://www.cottonaustralia.com.au/latest-campaigns/approved-gins-supplying-cotton-gin-trash))
2. Gin checks producer LPA accreditation via the LPA Service Centre
3. Producer completes Alternate Feedstuff Declaration (Cotton Trash) downloaded from [www.mla.com.au/lpa-alternative-feedstuffs](http://www.mla.com.au/lpa-alternative-feedstuffs) and provides a copy to:
  - Supplying gin to secure order
  - LPA Administration
4. Gin delivers cotton trash and a completed Commodity Vendor Declaration to the producer
5. Gin lodges copy of Alternate Feedstuff Declaration (Cotton Trash) with LPA Administration (at [operations@integritysystems.com.au](mailto:operations@integritysystems.com.au)) to activate NLIS status
6. The Property Identification Code (PIC) and individual devices are automatically assigned an Accessed Cotton Trash status on the NLIS database
7. Producer files the Commodity Vendor Declaration and Alternate Feedstuff Declaration as per LPA record keeping requirements

## 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

## Does this affect my NLIS status?

Once you sign the Alternate Feedstuff Declaration (Cotton Trash) and it is sent to LPA Administration, the status "Accessed Cotton Trash" will be assigned to your PIC on the NLIS database and will show against your individual NLIS devices (eartags and boluses). This information will be available to potential buyers of your livestock.

The PIC status will remain in place until it has been independently verified that cotton trash is no longer accessible to cattle or sheep on your property. The device-based status will be removed only after your livestock have been quarantined from cotton trash for a "60 days on clean feed" period (during which time they can be fed pasture, crop, fodder, silage or any other feed, but not cotton trash).

### Steps to remove the Accessed Cotton Trash status on the NLIS database:

1 Producer stops feeding cotton trash to livestock



2 Producer engages independent approved auditor



3 Approved Auditor provides verification that animals no longer have access to cotton trash



4 Producer lodges verification form with LPA Administration at [operations@integritysystems.com.au](mailto:operations@integritysystems.com.au)



5 LPA Administration initiates the 60 day countdown period on animals verified to be grazing on clean feed

## How do I get the status removed?

Before consigning your livestock for slaughter or live export make sure they complete the required Export Animal Feed Interval "60 days on clean feed". This has been set by SAFEMEAT as the minimum time needed to allow potential residues from cotton trash to leave your animals, thereby making their meat eligible for the domestic and export markets.

This must be verified at your expense by an Approved Auditor. A copy of the resulting signed verification form must be sent to LPA Administration within two days. Once received by LPA Administration, the 60 day countdown period will be automatically initiated on the NLIS database.

Producers should be aware of the need to schedule an appointment for the verification audit with their preferred Approved Auditor at least two to three weeks in advance. Currently AUS-MEAT is the only Approved Auditor for clean feed period audits. Contact AUS-MEAT on telephone 07 3361 9200, fax 07 3361 9222 or email a [ausmeat@ausmeat.com.au](mailto:ausmeat@ausmeat.com.au)

## Can I still move my livestock?

While your PIC has an "Accessed Cotton Trash" status, whenever you move livestock to another PIC (whether it's your own or someone else's) you must complete the declaration at Question 9 (cattle) or Question 7 (sheep) on the relevant LPA National Vendor Declaration (NVD) by writing "Accessed Cotton Trash".

Within two days of having moved them you must also notify the NLIS database of the individual animal ID numbers for cattle or of any mob-based sheep movement.

## Where do I send a copy of my signed Alternate Feedstuff Declaration to?

The producer must send the signed Declaration to the supplying gin AND to LPA Administration at [operations@integritysystems.com.au](mailto:operations@integritysystems.com.au).

## Where do I send a copy of the signed Verification report to?

The producer must contract an Approved Auditor, and then lodge their verification of 60 days on clean feed with LPA Administration at [operations@integritysystems.com.au](mailto:operations@integritysystems.com.au). This will initiate a 60 day countdown on the NLIS database. Once completed, the Accessed Cotton Trash status will be automatically removed from the PIC and individual devices.

## Why do I need to follow this protocol?

Following the requirements of LPA ensures that potential chemical residue from cotton trash does not pose any risk to markets and protects the integrity of the red meat industry as a whole.

This is critically important, as in the 1980s and 1990s some of Australia's trading partners stopped importing Australian beef after chemical residues were detected in meat from cattle fed cotton trash or that has been grazed on land where cotton had been grown. The chemicals that caused these problems are no longer registered for use in Australia.

## Is there anything else I need to know?

Producers who have an Approved Auditor verify that cotton trash is no longer available on the PIC and that the "60 days on clean feed" period has commenced, will still be subject to normal random and targeted audits under the LPA program rules.

## Where can I find out more?

Red meat producers can access further information via LPA. Resources developed specifically to cover feeding cotton trash to cattle and sheep or for use as mulch include this factsheet, frequently asked questions, the Alternate Feedstuff Declaration (Cotton Trash), and the NLIS Database User Guide. The "LPA Requirements: #3 Fodder crop, grain and pasture treatments and stock foods fact sheet" may also be useful.

Visit [www.mla.com.au/lpa-alternative-feedstuffs](http://www.mla.com.au/lpa-alternative-feedstuffs), call 1800 683 111 or email [info@integritysystems.com.au](mailto:info@integritysystems.com.au)

## Who is responsible for this protocol?

The protocol has been decided by SAFEMEAT in collaboration with the cotton industry. Integrity Systems Company (ISC), a wholly owned subsidiary of Meat & Livestock Australia is responsible for the Administration of the LPA program, which underpins the protocol. ISC delivers the red meat industry's integrity system. This include the LPA program, the National Vendor Declarations and the NLIS.

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