



Final report

National Beef Producer Survey of Sustainability Practices

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Abstract

The Australian Beef Sustainability Framework (ABSF) was launched in 2017. It is structured around key themes including caring for cattle, enhancing the environment and climate, supporting people, customers and the community, and maintaining a financially resilient industry. Quantitative studies were undertaken by MLA in the years leading up to the ABSF launch. Following the launch, more comprehensive surveys were conducted in 2022, 2024, and 2026 to monitor previous metrics and establish benchmarks for new ABSF measures.

To track changes and improve how producers can be targeted through further profiling, an online and telephone survey of cattle producers was carried out in March and April 2026. The research found that cattle producers have adopted many animal husbandry, management, and environmental practices that contribute to a sustainable operation, although to varying degrees. However, the uptake of some practices differs across demographic groups, such as state or geographic location. Recommendations have been made split by short-term actions and long-term strategies. The research will benefit the industry by helping MLA identify key sustainability priorities to inform future industry levy investments.

Executive summary

Background

The Australian beef industry has developed four key themes of best animal care, environmental stewardship, people and community, and economic resilience. These pillars underpin the Australian Beef Sustainability Framework (ABSF), which guides the industry to ensure sustainable beef production. Ongoing monitoring of cattle producers' attitudes and behaviours through survey-based methods supports the measurement of progress against these themes and enables industry initiatives to be developed and refined to drive continuous improvement.

Objectives

The primary objective was to monitor key metrics and practices against the benchmarks underpinning the ABSF, in order to guide Meat & Livestock Australia's (MLA) investment and project planning, and to enhance transparency of production for both domestic and international consumer markets.

Methodology

The methodology for this project involved a survey of a total of 901 beef producers in March and April 2026. A mixed methodology was employed involving a 20-minute Online survey with 779 producers and a 25-minute survey with 122 producers via Computer Assisted Telephone Interviews (CATI). Producers who were classed as hobby or lifestyle farmers were later screened out, leaving a total of 838 producers. Producers were incentivised to participate in the survey through a prize draw. Producer contact details were sourced from MLA's member database.

The sample was stratified, and results weighted by state and herd size categories based on producer population data from the MLA Levy Payer Register and the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) for representativeness. As the results are based on a survey, they are subject to margins of error and should be viewed as the midpoint of the likely range, rather than a single value. For example, based on the national sample of 838 cattle producers, 24% of producers vaccinate their cattle against botulism. This result has a margin of error of +/- 2.4% at a 90% confidence level so the national result of 24% has a range of between 21.6% and 26.4%.

Results

The survey for this research project represents cattle producers from New South Wales (36%), Victoria (25%), Queensland (25%), South Australia (5%), Western Australia (5%), Tasmania (3%) and the Northern Territory (<1%).

Slightly less than two thirds of producers (63%) operated farms that were 499 hectares or less in size. Around a fifth (19%) were between 500 – 1,499 hectares, with 7% between 1,500 – 2,999 ha and 11% 3,000 hectares or more.

Nearly three quarters of producers (73%) ran between 50 and 199 breeding cows.

Over half (53%) of cattle producers are tertiary or post-graduate educated. More than half (53%) have been farming for fifty years or more with over one third (35%) farming for a quarter to half a century. The largest age segment of interviewed producers was those 65 and over (54%), and almost all producers were 35 and over.

Nationally, producers earned 85% of their income from beef cattle. The average herd size was 432 head with 63% of producers having a herd size of between 50 – 199 head.

Nationally, 84% of producers castrate bull calves, with nearly half castrated between birth and two months of age (45%). An average of 91 bull calves were castrated by each producer in 2025. Over two fifths (41%) of calves were castrated between three and four months of age.

Where producers did castrate calves between 5 and 12 months of age, they cited time for growth (52%) and doing all procedures at the same time (30%) as the top reasons for choosing this age.

Rubber rings was the most common castration technique (72%) used for calves followed by a knife or scalpel (30%). Producers who used rubber rings did so because it was simple (68%), causes no bleeding (63%), and is efficient (62%).

Producers who used a knife or scalpel said that it was effective (54%) and efficient or quick (48%).

Those who used burdizzo for calf castration chose this method because they caused no bleeding (96%), is less stressful (81%) and has a lower risk of infection (77%). Producers who chose to use the short scrotum method using rubber rings stated that it is safe for the operator (70%) and is efficient (46%). Users of tension banders said they were better for older animals (55%), safer for the operator (50%) and efficient (47%).

Nationally, 27% of producers use pain management at calf castration across all methods. The proportion of calves that are castrated with pain management is higher at 36%. Anesthetic and antiseptic spray at the site was by far the most commonly used pain management (49%) followed by analgesic injection (30%) and analgesic oral gel (not veterinarian prescribed) (16%). When castrating calves with rubber rings, the most commonly used pain management was an analgesic injection (35%). When castrating with knife or scalpel, 5% used an inappropriate anaesthetic injection. Where producers did not use pain management, they said that it is not necessary (51%) and that it is not practical (36%). The majority of producers (55%) check calves the day after castration.

Only a small proportion of producers surveyed castrate bulls over 12 months of age (3%), with an average of 31 bulls castrated per producer. At the national level 53% of those castrating bulls use pain management. The proportion of bulls that are castrated with pain management is 29%. The majority of producers (76%) use anaesthetic and antiseptic spray. The most common reasons given for not using pain management is that pain management is not necessary (72%), it is not practical (16%) or they have not considered it (9%).

In 2025, the majority of producers intentionally bred livestock to be naturally polled, with 65% saying they always do and a further 11% saying they do sometimes. Among these, half (51%) say that 100% of their herd is naturally polled, while nearly a third (31%) say 76-99% of their herd is polled.

Nationally, among producers who don't have a totally polled herd, 69% dehorn or disbud cattle. Producers much more commonly dehorn or disbud calves (91%) while 16% dehorn or disbud mature cattle over twelve months of age. Where they do dehorn or disbud calves, they treated an average of 95 in 2025, with most of these being 4 months or under (67%). The most commonly used technique to dehorn calves was scoop or cup dehorners (46%) followed by tippers (19%). Scoop or

cup dehorners were perceived to be effective (55%), quick (48%), and easy to use (47%). More than half of producers (52%) use pain management for dehorning or disbudding calves. The proportion of calves that are dehorned or disbudded with pain management is lower at 17%. The vast majority of these producers use anesthetic and antiseptic spray at the site (72%). Where producers dehorned or disbudded without pain management, nearly two fifths felt that it was not practical for a quick procedure (39%) and 36% felt it was unnecessary. Over half of producers who dehorn or disbud (58%) check calves one day following the procedure.

On average, producers who dehorned mature cattle treated 17 animals. Around half (56%) of interviewed producers who knew the age at which they dehorned mature cattle report dehorning between 12 months and 24 months with over half (55%) using tippers / cutters. Almost two fifths of producers who dehorn mature cattle use pain management products (39%). The proportion of mature cattle that are dehorned with pain management is 52%. The most common pain management used is anesthetic and antiseptic spray (47%). Producers who don't use products for pain management cite it being impractical for a quick procedure (39%), or not necessary (32%).

At the national level, most producers do not spay cull heifers, with only 2% of producers choosing to do so and 83% of these pregnancy test heifers before spaying. Fewer than 1% spay cull cows and most of these pregnancy test the cull cows (72%).

When producers spay heifers and cows, they spay an average of 240 and 190 respectively. These producers prefer to use the Willis dropped ovary and removal of ovaries method (78% of heifers and 39% of cows). The most common reason given for using this method is that it is on the advice of veterinarians (52% heifers and 54% cows). When producers spay their cull heifers and cows, almost half of producers use the services of a vet (48%) with non-vet contractors also common (33%). Over half of producers check heifers and cows one day after spaying (52%). Pain management is used by 39% of producers who spay heifers or cows. The proportion of heifers that are spayed with pain management is 41% with the proportion of cows at 23%. Of producers who chose not to use pain management, 43% did not feel it was necessary. More than two thirds of producers (69%) who spay their cows and heifers state that they feel likely or very likely to use a non-surgical sterilisation method if it was available.

Almost one quarter of producers vaccinate against botulism (23%). When producers do vaccinate for botulism, nearly two thirds (63%) always follow up with a booster. Nationally, rates of vaccination for botulism are higher for younger cattle with calves 64%, weaners 53% and cattle 32%.

At the national level, 76% of producers vaccinate against other clostridial diseases such as tetanus and blackleg. Over half of producers use 5 in 1 vaccines (55%). 62% use 7 in 1 vaccines. 79% of producers give booster vaccines within six weeks. Producers who did not give a variety of reasons for not giving booster vaccines. Most commonly, they state that it isn't practical (27%), isn't necessary (22%) or that they do give a booster outside of the 6-week window (21%). Producers vaccinate all classes of cattle at high rates (88% for calves under one year, 62% of weaners and 45% cattle over two years of age).

At the national level, 20% of producers vaccinate against BVDV. The majority of producers vaccinated weaners or heifers from one to two years of age (81%), with more than half vaccinating cows older than two years (57%) and slightly over a third vaccinating calves under one year (38%).

8% of producers vaccinate against Three-Day Sickness (Bovine Ephemeral Fever or BEF).

When asked about their awareness of the ParaBoss, WormBoss, TickBoss, LiceBoss and FlyBoss websites, nearly two thirds (65%) of producers had not heard of any of them. One quarter of producers (25%) are aware of the 'Immune Ready Guidelines'.

Over half (52%) of producers use renewable energy that they generate themselves. A further 14% of producers stated that they use renewable energy bought from their energy retailer with 38% not generating or buying any renewable energy. Of the producers who generate their own renewable energy, the majority (61%) have solar without batteries, with solar powered farm machinery (39%) and solar with battery (39%) are also common. Producers interviewed had generally not taken carbon accounting training study (83%) and did not measure their emissions (86%), however 31% did implement carbons emissions measures. Of those who did, most (82%) used pasture management methods. Of the producers who had measured their greenhouse gas emissions, a minority (16%) had undertaken a second or subsequent accounting.

The most common land management activities practices by producers were weed control (90%), pest control (69%) and destocking (57%), with activities carried out on 80-100% of land area for 57% of producers. The average land area these activities are conducted on is 2,756 hectares. 87% of producers carry out grazing management activities, with the top activity fencing areas to prevent livestock access (66%). On average, producers estimate 2,771 hectares of their properties benefit from grazing management activities, with half (50%) saying this represented 81-100% of their land.

Surface water from dams, creeks and rivers is the top source of water for cattle (73%) followed by groundwater (60%). Almost all producers (90%) have a plan for managing their farms and cattle during extreme weather events, with 95% confident their water supply can withstand prolonged dry periods. 77% of producers are able to increase stock water supply if needed and two thirds (61%) manage pastures to have diverse, drought resistant species.

Over half (58%) of producers test and monitor their soil health, with the majority of these (78%) conducting laboratory tests. Producers who test often change their practices based on the monitoring of their soil health (74%). 76% of producers undertake practices to improve their soil water retention.

More than half of producers manage waste on site for beneficial reuse (53%), with 50% managing on site without benefit. Plastic waste is mostly managed through official collection for landfill (58%) or recycled (41%). Workshop waste is also managed through recycling (63%) or official collection for landfill (51%).

Producers cited a combination of sources for their animal husbandry training. The overwhelming majority have had informal training where the practice/s had either been shown to them by someone else (77%) or were self-taught (54%). 50% stated that they had attended formal training with the majority of these (83%) consisting of various courses, workshops and field days. Producers had also attended a low stress livestock handling course (33%), obtained a degree or attended an Ag college (32%) or taken specific courses on AI (27%), 29% completed an TAFE / Ag Certificate and 27% pregnancy testing or spaying training.

Around half of producers have a Work Health and Safety (WHS) plan (53%), 63% have undertaken a WHS risk assessment, 49% induct workers in WHS obligations and 42% induct visitors. The majority encourage workers to identify safety concerns (72%) and have roll bars where appropriate (79%). Half (50%) exclude children under the age of 16 from farming activities.

Benefits to industry

This research benefits the industry by showing that cattle producers have adopted a broad range of sustainability practices, across animal husbandry, farm management, and environmental stewardship, though uptake varies among producers.

The industry will also gain from the benchmark and tracking data collected, which will help guide MLA's investment and planning. This will support ongoing improvements in the sustainability of cattle operations and ensure better outcomes from industry levy funding.

Future research and recommendations

Several recommendations have been made from this research:

- Repeat the full survey every two years to track industry progress
- Expand the profile of MLA's Member database and ensure accuracy with regular updates
- Facilitate the transition to polled, low-intervention production systems.
- System-wide normalisation of pain management.
- Digital and peer-led extension models.
- Workforce renewal and succession.
- Integrated productivity–sustainability frameworks.

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1. Background

1.1 Sustainability framework and need for research

Sustainability and related initiatives have gained significant momentum in recent years. In its modern form, the movement can largely be traced back to the pioneering efforts of European leaders and it has since become embedded in global business practice. Environmental, social and governance (ESG) reporting is now standard among leading organisations and is, in some cases, mandatory. Consumers strongly connect with sustainability, influencing both purchasing decisions and investment choices. As a result, businesses without clear strategies to reduce their environmental and social impact are finding it increasingly difficult to attract capital. The movement is now so well established that no industry can afford to lag in its adoption.

While agriculture is essential to sustaining life, it also has an environmental footprint. Key challenges include greenhouse gas emissions, pollution, chemical residues, and animal welfare. In Australia, these issues have at times been contentious among government, industry, and consumers. Initiatives such as the withdrawal of certain chemicals, improved supply chain traceability, and ongoing discussions around emissions trading schemes reflect the growing emphasis on sustainability.

Leaders within the beef industry recognise the critical role sustainability plays in maintaining and expanding Australia's position in global markets. Consequently, sustainability frameworks have been developed through extensive consultation with industry bodies, leaders, and producers.

A central element of these frameworks is the ability to measure progress and drive improved adoption of sustainable practices. Establishing baseline data, tracking changes over time, and refining initiatives are essential to ensuring continuous improvement. Sustainability tracking also supports reporting requirements, strengthens market access negotiations, and enhances transparency for consumers. For these reasons, MLA and others have sought to develop robust, integrated systems to monitor key metrics and trends over time.

Kynetec conducted a producer sustainability survey for MLA in 2022 (E.SUS.0005) to track animal husbandry practices of beef producers and also benchmark new behavioural measures. Repeating the survey in 2024, and, as presented here, 2026 identifies any shifts in producers' behaviour over the previous two years and also provides benchmarks for new practices not covered in 2022. This provides guidance for MLA to assist with the industry's sustainability commitments.

2. Project objectives

The primary objective of this project was to identify key metrics and practices underpinning the ABSF. These insights will inform MLA's investment and project planning, while also enhancing transparency of production for both domestic and international consumers. The identified metrics and practices were then compared with the benchmark results established in 2022 and then the tracking research in 2024.

To meet with these project objectives, the following research topics were addressed:

1. Husbandry practices, management strategies and standards

Identifying the incidence and levels of key husbandry practices related to disease control measures and breeding practices. Highlight the use and understanding of specific management strategies and standards related to animal welfare

2. Environmental profile

Understand the level of environmental on-farm management activities such as carbon activities, biodiversity, water and land management, and soil and waste management.

3. Uptake of sustainable practices

Investigate and highlight producers' views towards sustainability initiatives and practices and the driving force behind current adoption as well as identifying any headwinds present that are inhibiting adoption

4. Producer profile

Profiling producers by age, gender, education and years in farming to form a clear picture of producers in the industries.

3. Methodology

3.1 Questionnaire

A fully structured questionnaire was developed in collaboration with MLA and the ABSF Steering Group to address the research objectives and issues. It incorporated selected questions from previous surveys to enable comparison and validation, supporting the tracking of any demographic or behavioural changes over time. The current survey also included new topics and practices not covered in earlier surveys.

All questions used for analysis were closed-ended, with predefined response options for respondents completing the survey online or via telephone interviewers. For some questions, an “other (please specify)” option was included, with these open-ended responses provided to MLA for future internal reference.

A copy of the questionnaire is provided in the Appendix.

3.2 Sample design

While a sample of 800 beef producers was chosen for this study, there was an overwhelming response from a total of 901 beef producers, with a final sample of 838 which meet screening requirements. This achieved national results with a 90% confidence level and +/- 2.7% margin of error. This confidence level was consistent with MLA’s 2022 producer sustainability survey, and the tracking study in 2024 in which 803 and 813 producers were interviewed, respectively.

The total sample was stratified into 7 state / territory and 3 herd size groups (50 – 399, 400 – 1,599 and 1,600 head +, one group only for NT given the low producer population) based on ABS producer population data. There were no formal quotas as all responses were captured. The samples achieved for each group is provided in **Table 14** in the Appendix.

Results were weighted by state and herd size categories based on data from MLA’s Levy Payer Register and the ABS for representativeness. Due to the reasonably close alignment of the final sample with the quotas and population distribution of producers, weighting the data to the population did not result in any major differences between unweighted and weighted data (as unweighted data was very representative). Weighting however did correct for some over and under sampling in some state and herd size categories.

3.3 Sample selection

MLA provided Kynetec with a database of 27,102 beef producer members of who all had an email address and 26,704 of whom had a telephone number. These records were used for the soft launch, full launch and reminders for the online survey, and for telephone interviewing.

Before starting the survey, all respondents were screened to ensure that they qualified for the survey based on the following requirements:

1. Be the primary / joint decision maker regarding cattle husbandry practices on their property
2. Have farm income from beef in the previous three financial years

After completion of the survey, all respondents were further screened for consistency with previous surveys based on the following requirements:

3. For commercial breeding operations, must have a minimum herd size of 50 head as at 31 December 2025
4. For Traders buying and selling cattle, must trade at least 50 cattle in a typical year.

3.4 Data collection

Data was collected via a mixed methodology approach using both Online and CATI methodologies. The methodological split was proposed to be 720 Online and 80 CATI. The Online methodology allowed the large-scale survey to be conducted very cost effectively with the CATI component being an alternative method of following up non-respondents to the email survey. A number of factors point towards a continuing increase in adoption of online surveys to collect data in the future. These include the high prevalence of producers with email addresses, an increasing familiarity with digital technologies such as smart phones and online surveys, the increasing labour costs of CATI and an anecdotal trend in more producers screening incoming calls on their mobiles due to inconvenience, unknown callers and concerns around scams.

The Online survey was fully launched to 27,102 producers from MLA's Member database by providing each a unique link to the Online survey. Five reminder emails were sent to non-respondents throughout April 2026.

The Online survey was kept open through to the 20 April, and achieved a total of 779 completes, the CATI component of 122 surveys was completed in the final week of the survey by contacting non-respondents to the Online survey. The CATI component aimed to target underrepresented quotas.

Average survey length was 20:22 minutes for Online and 25:20 for CATI.

The breakdown of the sample by methodology is shown in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Sample methodology

Methodology	Total
Online	716
CATI	122
Total	838

For the Online survey, of the 27,102 producers sent a unique link by email, 63 were screened out after completing the survey because they did not meet the minimum requirements to qualify (not shown in the table), and 779 were completed, with a total of 716 retained.

For the CATI survey, there were 122 completes, and 262 refusals giving a response rate of 47%. 190 producers were initially willing to participate in the survey, but were unavailable or uncontactable when called back. A further 1,783 numbers contacted were disconnected or no longer in farming.

3.5 Statistical analysis

It should be noted that the results presented in this study are derived from a survey (as opposed to a census when all members of a population are captured). Survey results are used to make inferences about the total population.

As all surveys are subject to errors, a survey result should not be treated as a single value but rather as the midpoint of the likely range that the true population result would lie within. The range around the survey result is the “margin of error”. For example, a survey result of 50% may have a margin of error of plus or minus 5 percentage points i.e., 45% - 55%. The margin of error depends on the sample size (smaller sample sizes have larger errors), the actual sample result (a result closer to 50% has a larger percentage error) and the confidence level required. Due to a high margin of error associated with a small sample, results based on a small sample in the report should be treated with caution. Care should be taken with any results from a sample of less than 30.

A summary of the expected margins of error based on different sample sizes (from 25 – 900) and different survey results (from 5% to 95%) assuming a 90% confidence level is contained in **Table 15** in the Appendix. For example, based on the national sample of 838 cattle producers, 85% of producers castrate their bull calves. This result has a margin of error of +/- 2.4% at a 90% confidence level so the national result of 85% has a range of between 82.6% and 87.4%.

4. Cattle results and discussion

4.1 Background to the analysis

This section presents the results and discussion summarising the current practices of Australian cattle producers. Results are presented at the national and state level.

4.2 Respondent demographics

Producer demographics such as region, property size, income, farm type and age are presented below in **Figure 1** to **Figure 8**. These charts illustrate the diverse demographic range of the cattle producers in Australia.

The results comprise producers from New South Wales (36%), Victoria (25%), Queensland (25%), South Australia (5%), Western Australia (5%), Tasmania (3%) and the Northern Territory (fewer than 1%) (**Figure 1**).

Slightly less than two thirds of cattle producers (63%) operated farms that were up to 499 hectares in size. Around a fifth (19%) were between 500 – 1,499 ha, 7% were between 1,500 – 2,999 hectares, and 11% 3,000 hectares or greater (**Figure 2**). There was a large state effect on farm size, with Northern Territory producers entirely reporting properties over 1,500 ha (100%), while Victorian and Tasmanian producers tended towards properties under 500 ha (84% and 82% respectively) (**Figure 3**).

On average, producers earn 85% of their income from cattle (**Figure 4, Figure 5**).

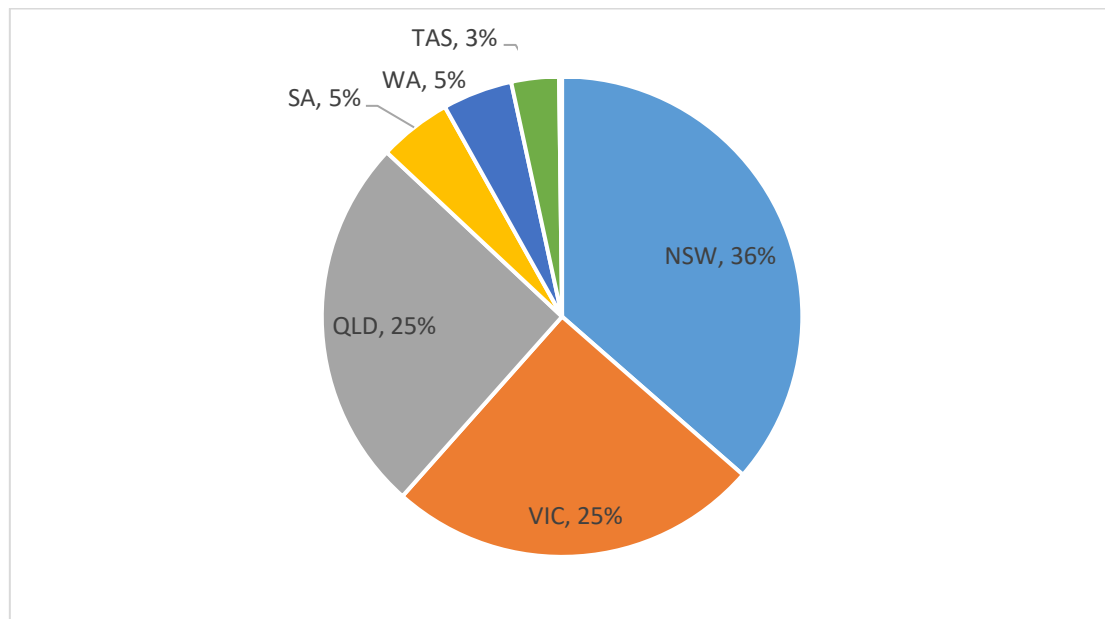
The majority (64%) of producers are tertiary educated (**Figure 6**).

The largest age segment of producers was those 65 and over (54%) with almost all producers being 35 and over, and 1% 25 – 34. One percent of producers declined to state their age (**Figure 7**). Over half (53%) have been farming for fifty years or more with over a third (35%) farming for a quarter to half a century.

The majority (75%) of producers identified as male. Slightly under one quarter (23%) identified themselves as female with 1% preferring not to identify themselves and fewer than 1% nominating another unspecified gender identity (**Figure 8**).

Figure 1: Respondent demographic by state

Base: All producers n = 838

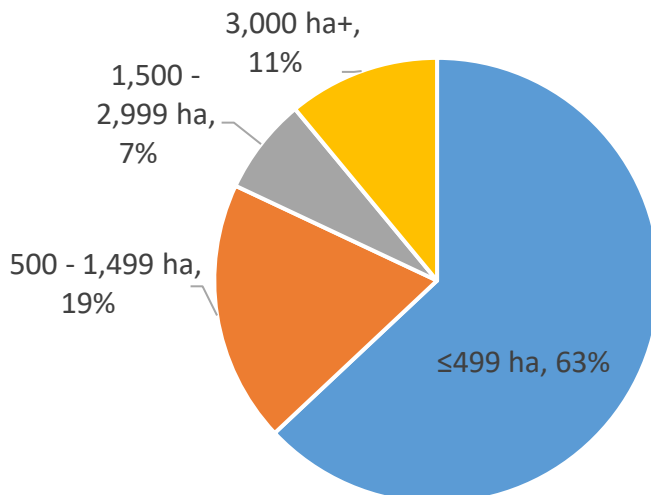


S1: Which state is your main cattle enterprise located?

NB: There were 10 producers in the Northern Territory (fewer than 1% of the sample)

Figure 2: Respondent demographics by property size (hectares)

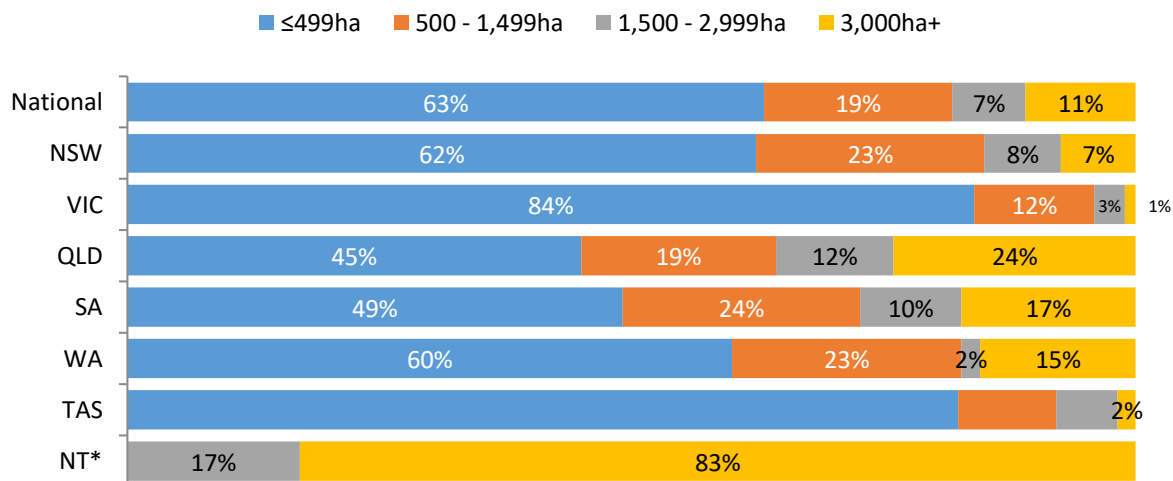
Base: All producers n = 838



S4: What is the total area of your property, including all leased land and any unused land?

Figure 3: Respondent demographic by property size by state

Base: All producers n = 838

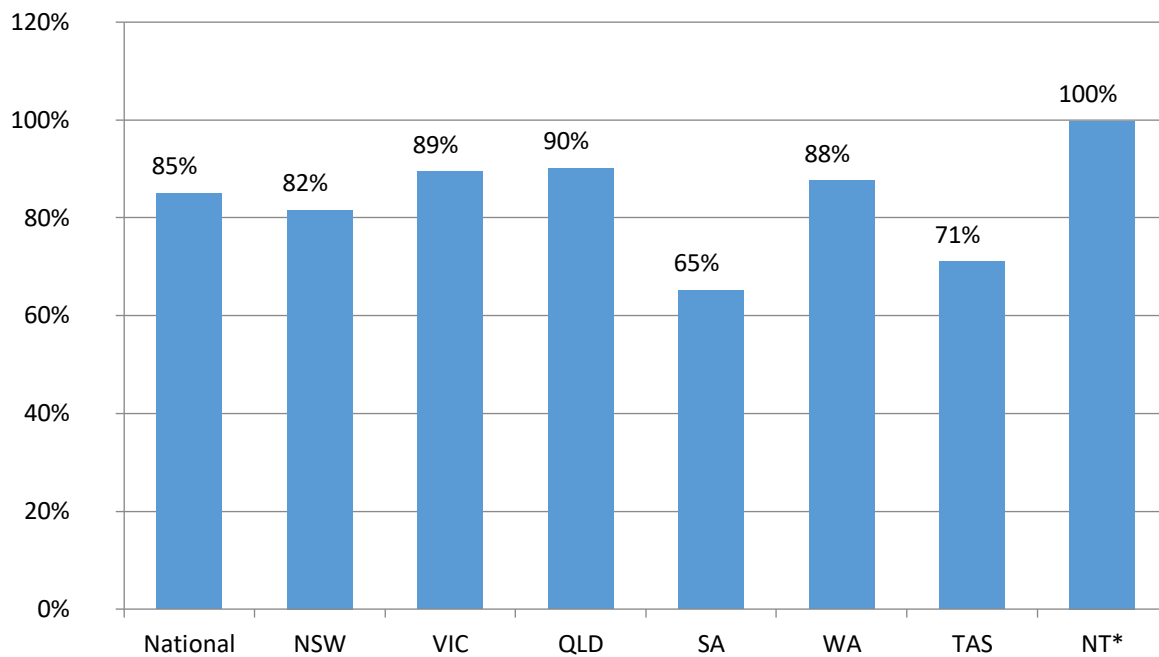


S4: What is the total area of your property, including all leased land and any unused land?

* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

Figure 4: Percentage of gross farm income from beef by state

Base: All producers n = 838

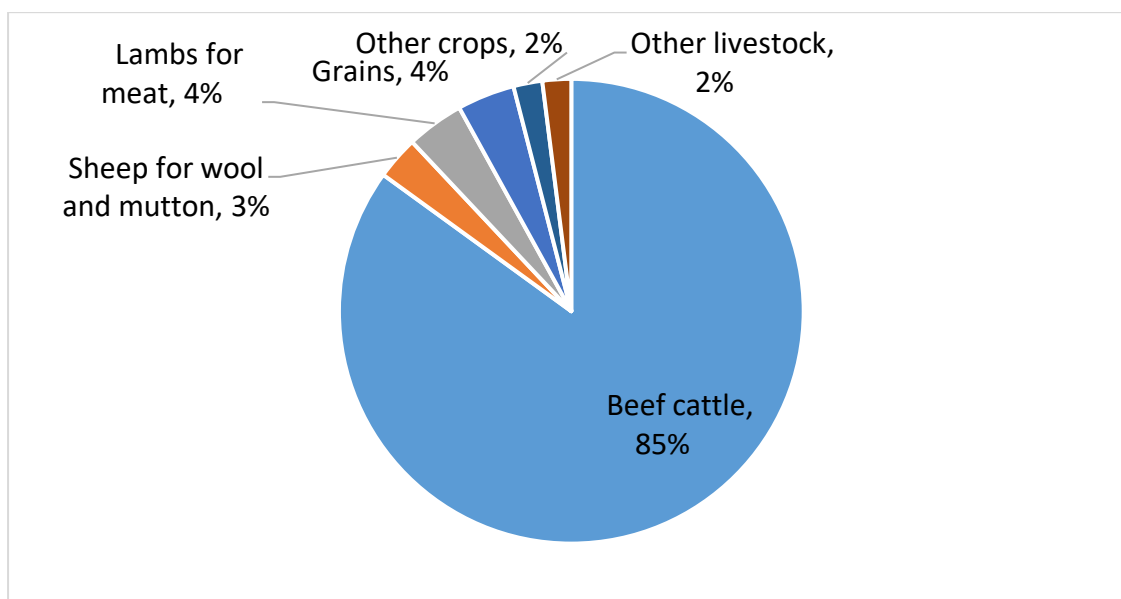


S3: Over the last 3 full financial years, what percentage of your gross farm income, that is, only income from your property, came from the following activities?

* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

Figure 5: Percentage of gross farm income by enterprise type

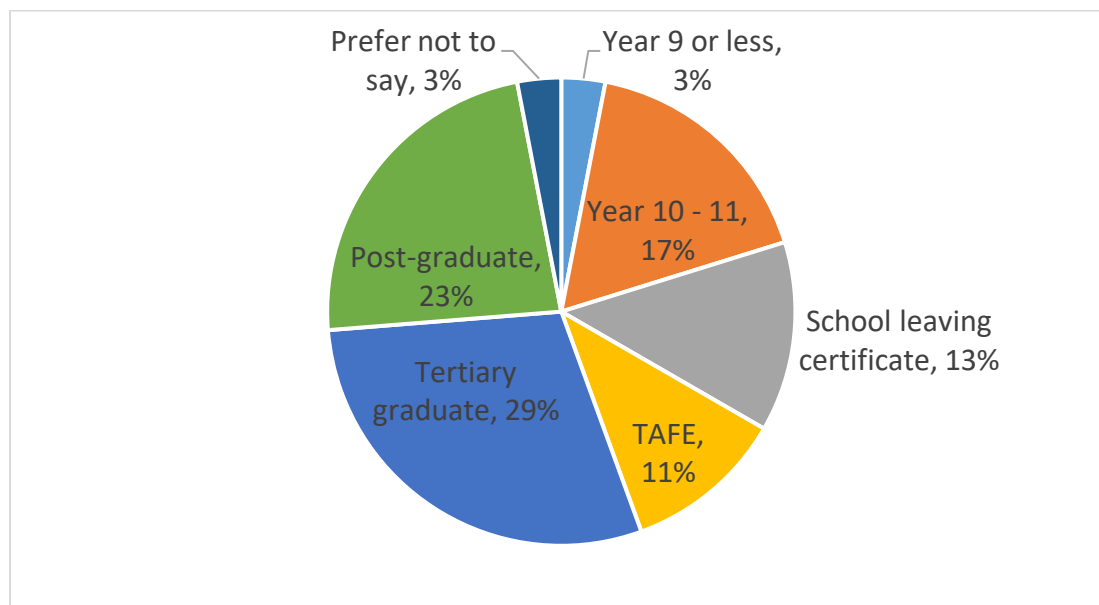
Base: All producers n = 838



S3: Over the last 3 full financial years, what percentage of your gross farm income, that is, only income from your property, came from the following activities?

Figure 6: Respondent demographic by education

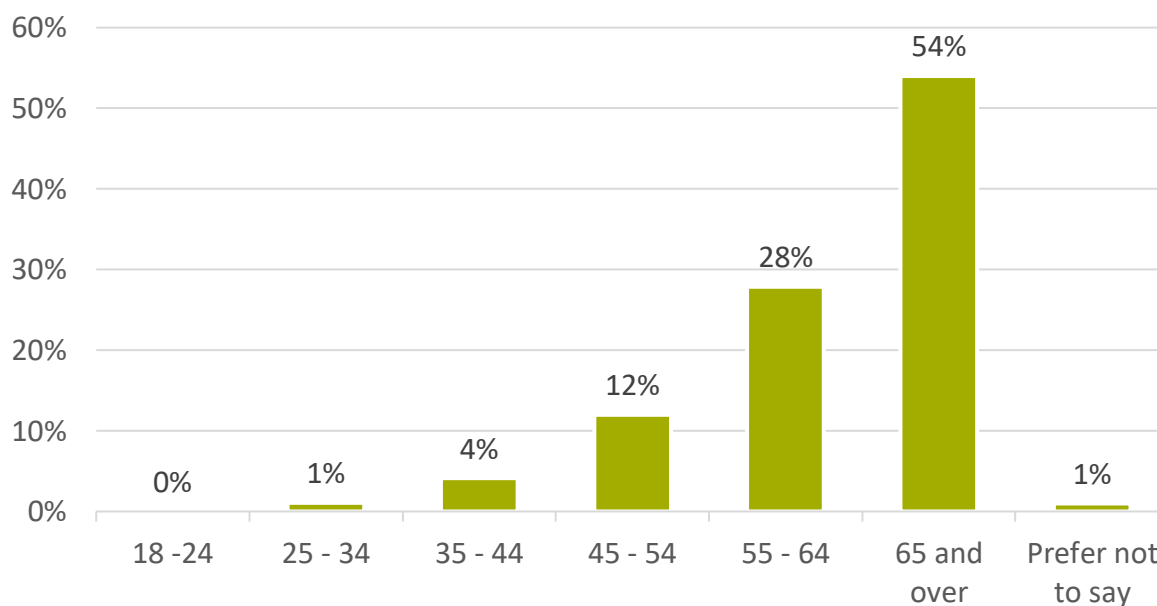
Base: All producers n = 838



16.2: What is the highest level of education you have achieved?

Figure 7: Respondent demographic by age

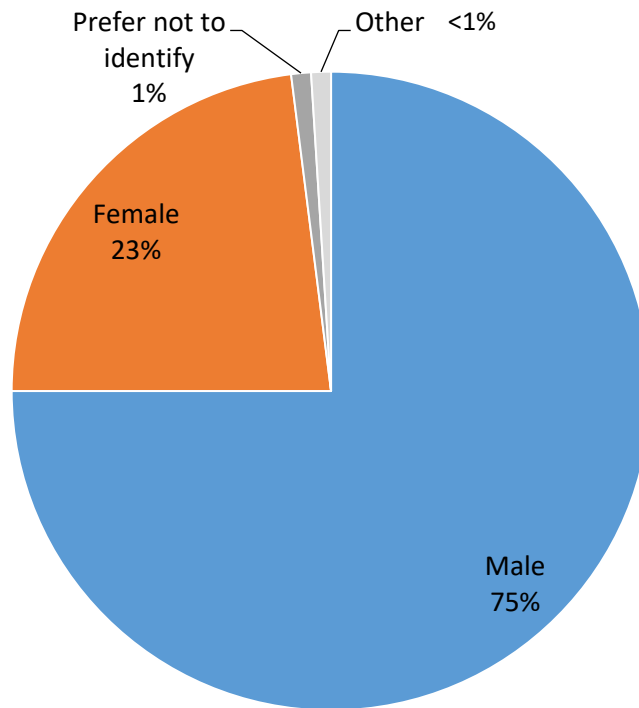
Base: All producers n = 838



16.3: Into which of the following age groups do you fall?

Figure 8: Respondent demographics by gender

Base: All producers n = 838



16.4: What is your gender?

4.3 Herd structure

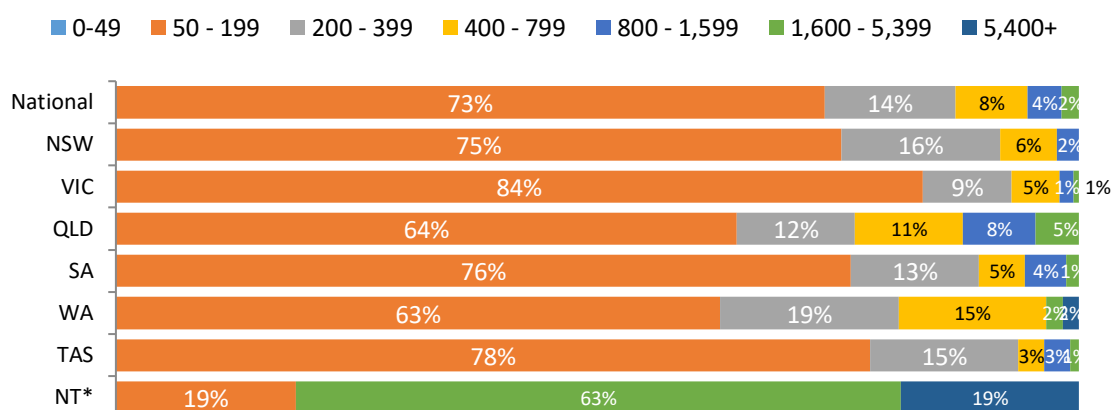
Nationally, nearly 3 in 4 of all producers (73%) ran between 50 and 199 breeding cows. 14% ran 200 - 399 cows, and 8% between 400 – 799 cows. 4% of producers ran between 800 – 1,599 cows, 2% ran between 1,600 and 5,399 cows and less than 1% ran 5,400 or more cows (**Figure 9**). The average number of breeding cows was 257 per farm. Queensland and Western Australia had significantly larger breeding herd sizes at 389 and 418 respectively.

The average total herd size was 432 head. A greater proportion of producers in the Northern Territory ran larger herds of more than 5,400 head of cattle (42% compared to 1% overall). Conversely, fewer Victorian producers ran more than 800 head of cattle (4%) (**Figure 10**). Average total herd sizes were higher in Queensland and Western Australia at 738 and 611 respectively.

The most common breeds of cattle were pure Bos Taurus breeds such as Angus and Hereford, with 67% of producers nationally running these breeds. Bos Taurus cross breeds and Bos Taurus x Bos Indicus breeds were run by 26% and 19% of producers respectively, with (6%) running pure Bos Indicus breeds such as Brahmans with the rest (6%) running beef/dairy cross breeds (**Figure 11**).

Figure 9: Respondent demographic by number of cows

Base: All producers n = 838

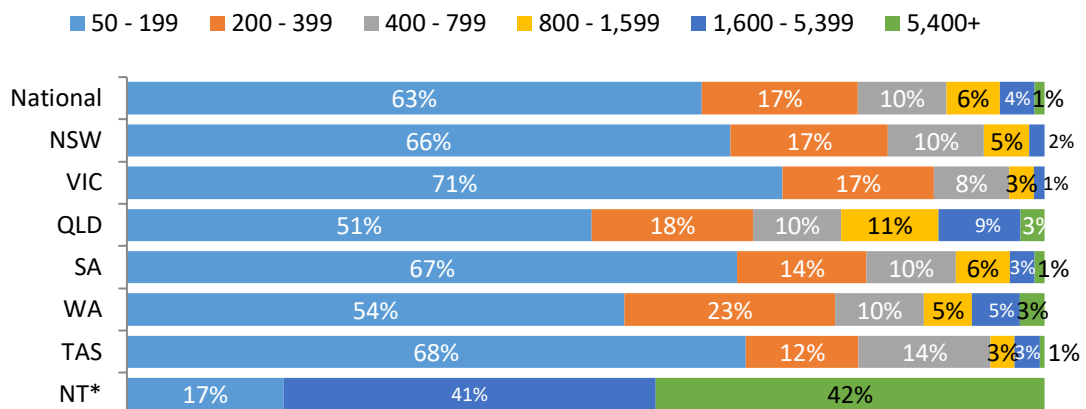


S6.1: As at 31 December 2025, how many breeding cattle did you have on your property?

* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

Figure 10: Respondent demographic by number of cattle

Base: All producers n = 838

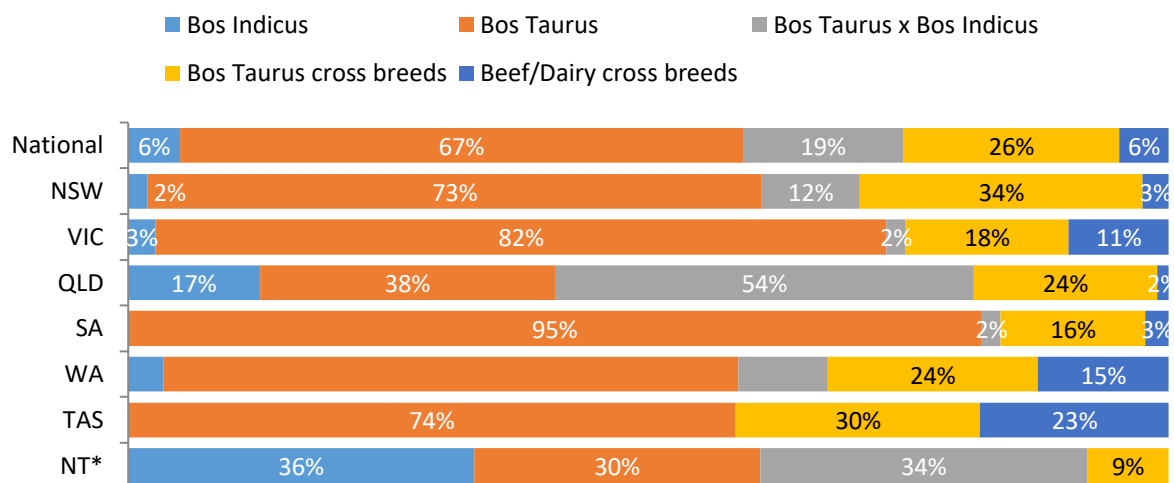


S6.3: As at 31 December 2025, how many cattle did you have in total on your property?

* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

Figure 11: Respondent demographic by breed

Base: All producers n = 838



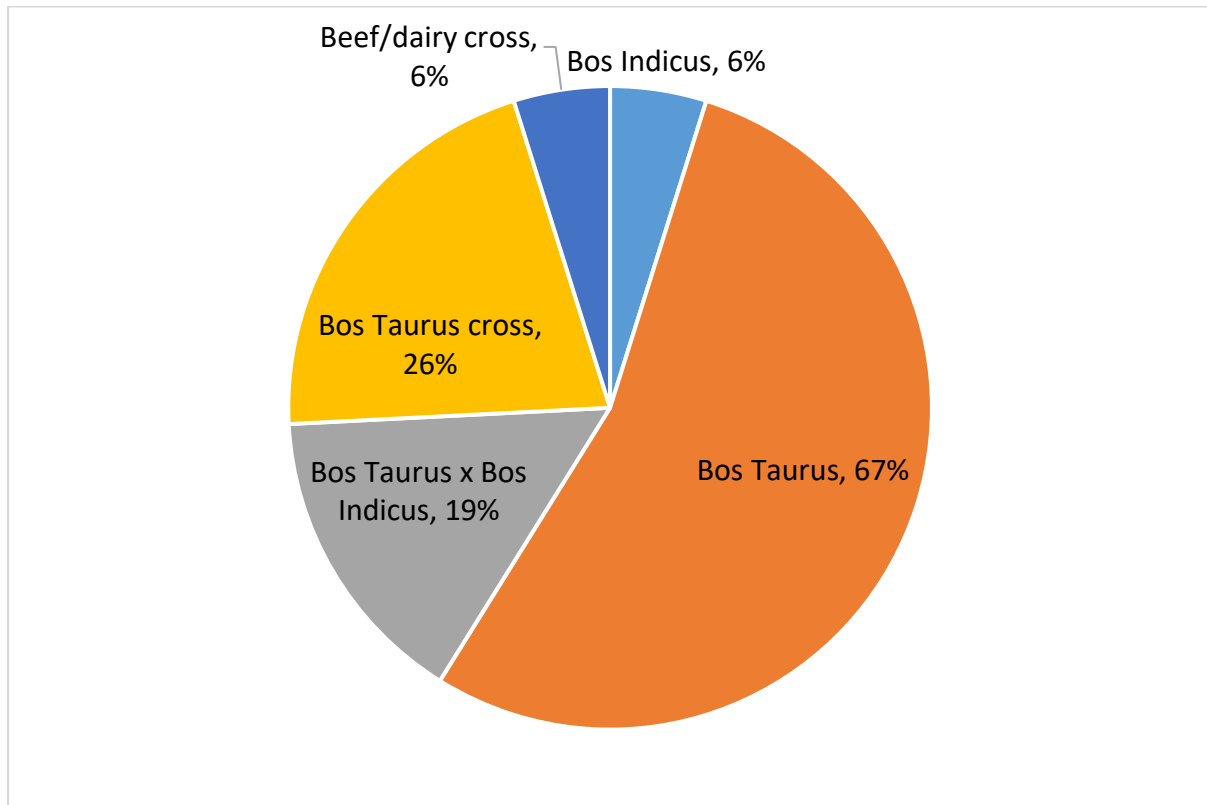
S7: Which of the following types of cattle do you run on your property?

* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

NB. Multiple responses allowed

Figure 12: Respondent demographic by breed (national only)

Base: All producers n = 838



S7: Which of the following types of cattle do you run on your property?

NB. Multiple responses allowed

4.4 Calf castration

Nationally, 84% (87% in 2023 and 89% in 2021) of producers castrate bull calves. On average, those who do castrate, castrated 91 bull calves in 2025 (**Figure 13**). Queensland producers castrated significantly more bull calves than other states at an average of 138.

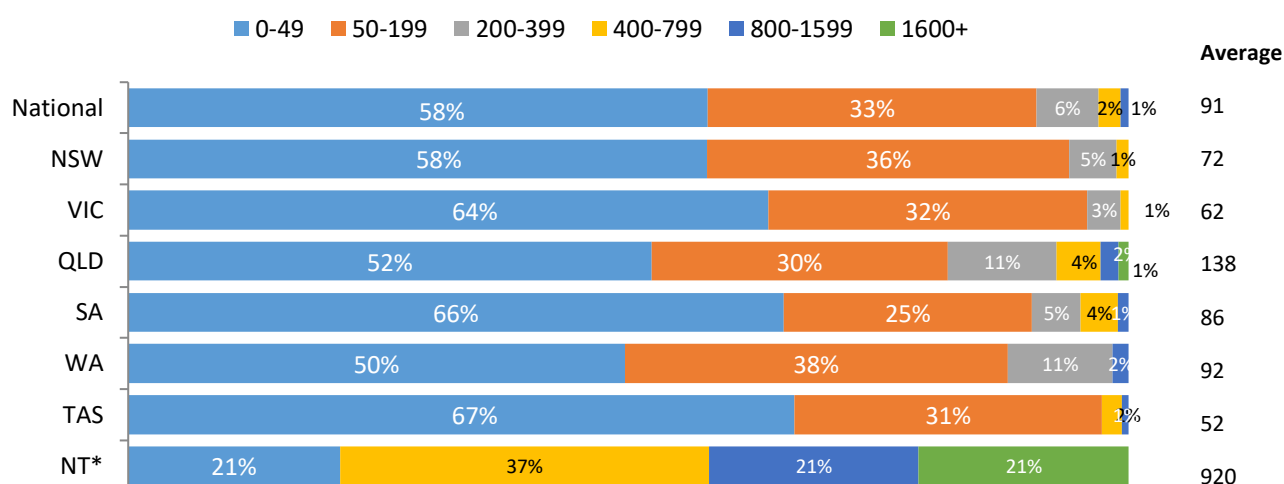
Under half of producers castrated between birth and two months of age (45%). 41% (48% in 2023 and 49% in 2021) of producers castrated bull calves between three and four months of age (**Figure 14**).

Where producers delay castration of bull calves until they are 5-6 months of age, it is most often to give time for growth (52% up from 16% in 2023), to wait until the size of the testes suits rings (where used) (34%, was 27%) or to reduce calf struggling and promote recovery (32% unchanged) (**Figure 15**). Producers who wait for 7 to less than 12 months do so as all procedures are done at the same time (45% was 12%) to see if they grow to be good bulls (29% was 41%) or to give time for growth (29% was 56%).

Rubber rings remain the most common technique (72% compared to 69% in 2023 and 65% in 2021) used for castration followed by a knife or scalpel (30% versus 33% and 40% respectively) (**Figure 16**).

Figure 13: Number of bull calves castrated in 2025

Base: Producers who castrated bull calves in 2025 n = 733

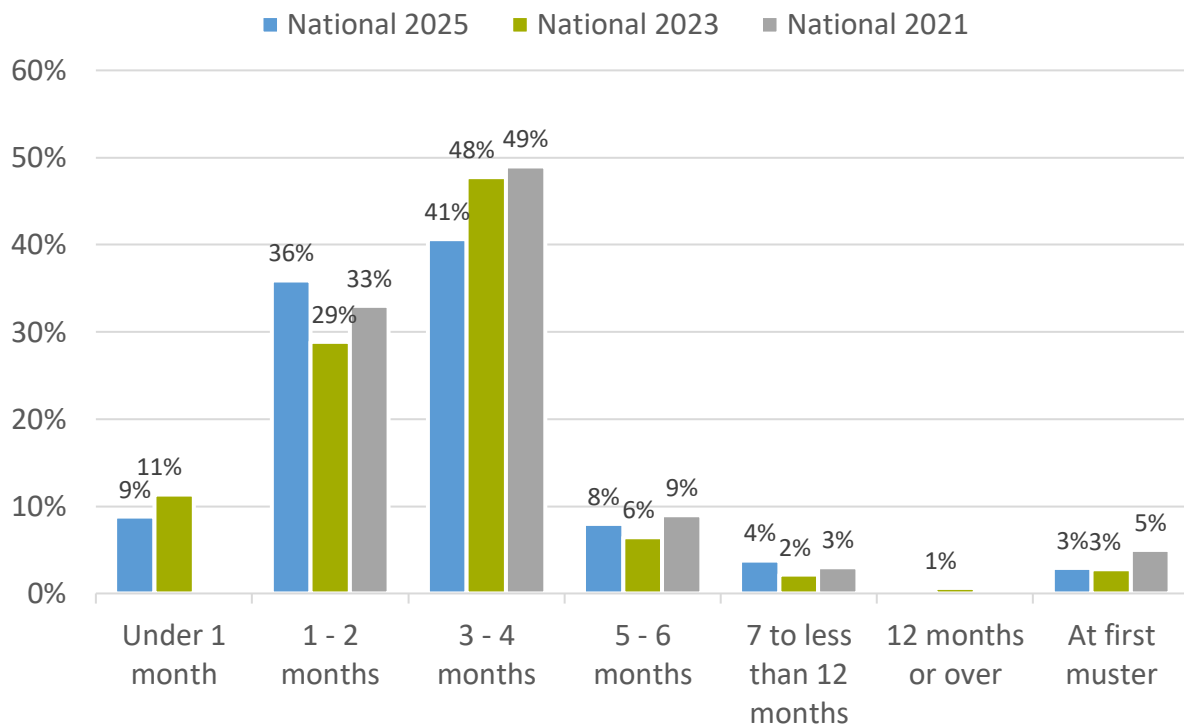


4.2: How many bull calves did you castrate in 2025?

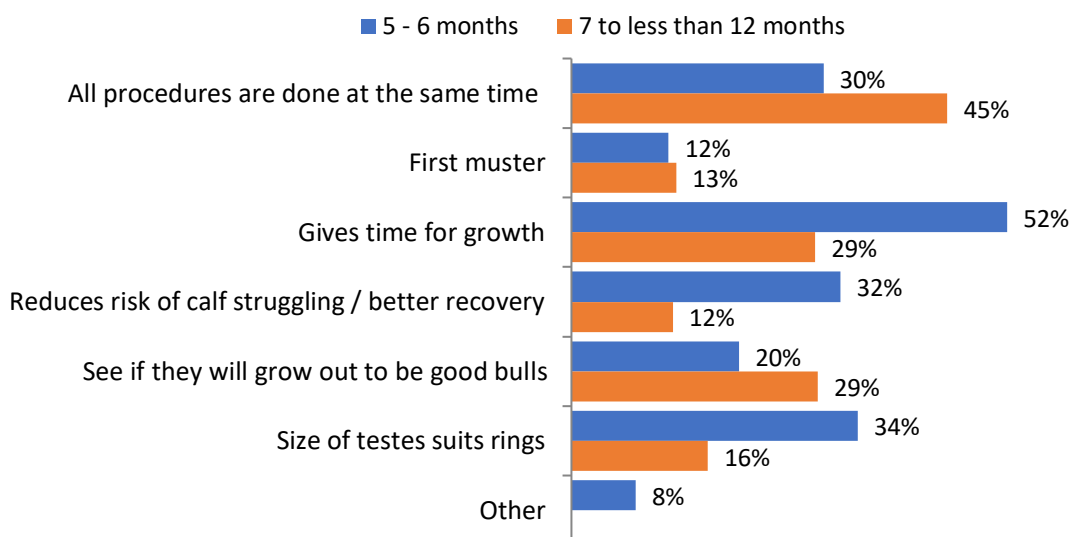
* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

Figure 14: Age of castration

Base: Producers who castrate bull calves n = 733



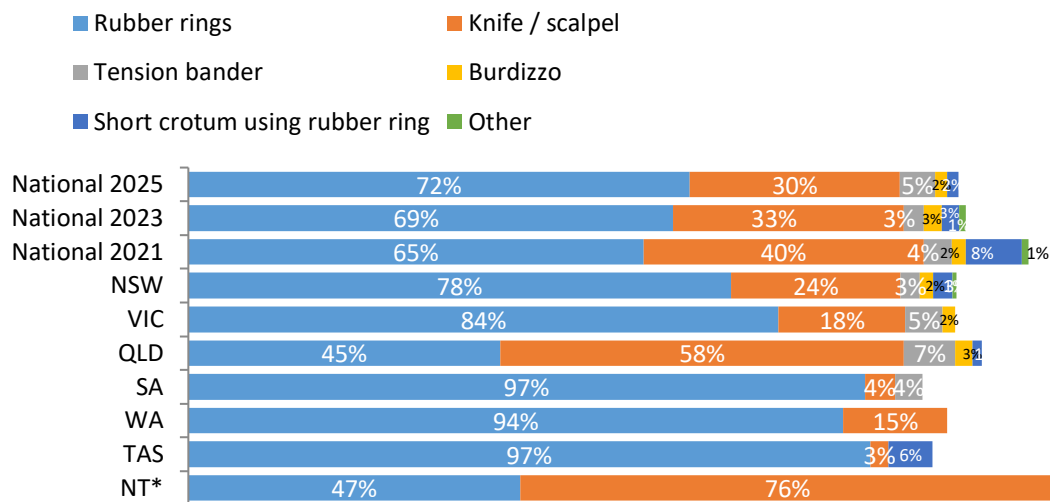
4.3: At what age do you castrate bull calves?

Figure 15: Reasons for castrating between 5 and under 12 months

4.4: Why did you castrate your bull calves at this age?

* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

NB. Multiple responses allowed

Figure 16: Calf castration methods by state*Base: Producers who castrate bull calves n = 733*

4.5: What method of castration do you use to castrate your bull calves?

* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

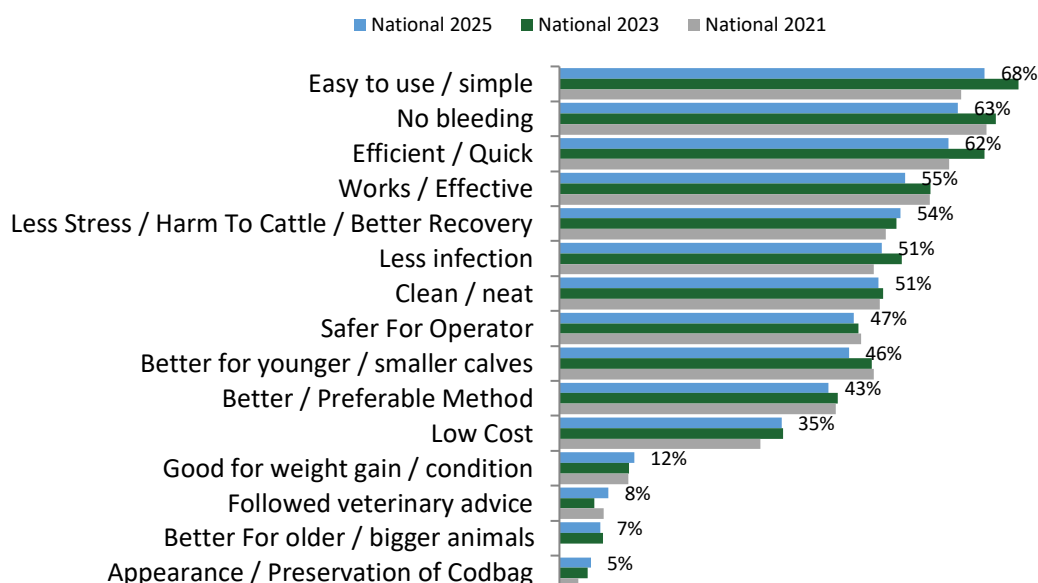
NB. Multiple responses allowed

4.4.1 Rubber rings

The most common reasons cited for using rubber rings was that they are simple (68% compared to 73% in 2023 and 64% in 2021), cause no bleeding (63%) and are efficient (62%) (**Figure 17**).

Figure 17: Reasons for using rubber rings at calf castration

Base: Producers who castrate calves using rubber rings n = 512



4.6: Why do you use this method to castrate your calves?

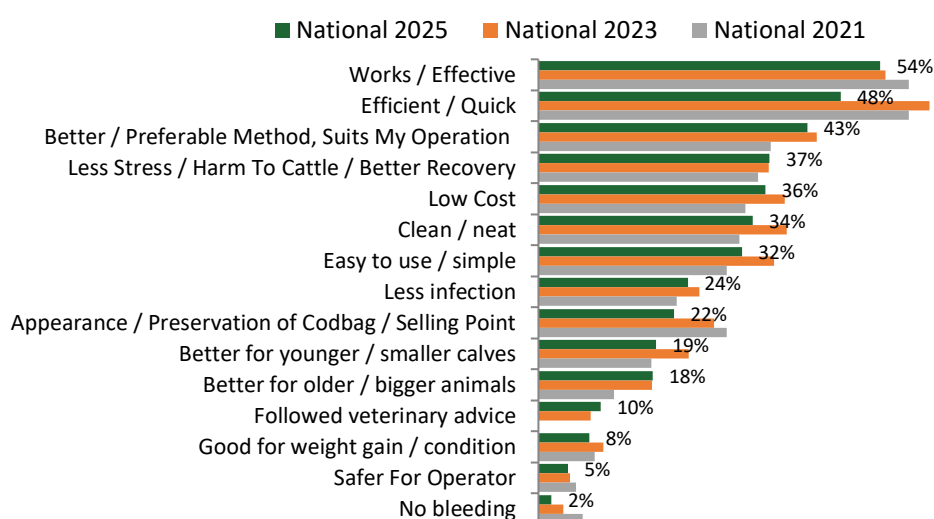
NB. Multiple responses allowed

4.4.2 Knives or scalpel

Producers cited using a knife or scalpel because it is effective (54% similar to 55% in 2023 and 59% in 2021) and efficient or quick (48%) (**Figure 18**).

Figure 18: Reason to castrate calves using a knife or scalpel

Base Producers who castrate calves using a knife or scalpel: n = 240



4.6: Why do you use this method to castrate your calves?

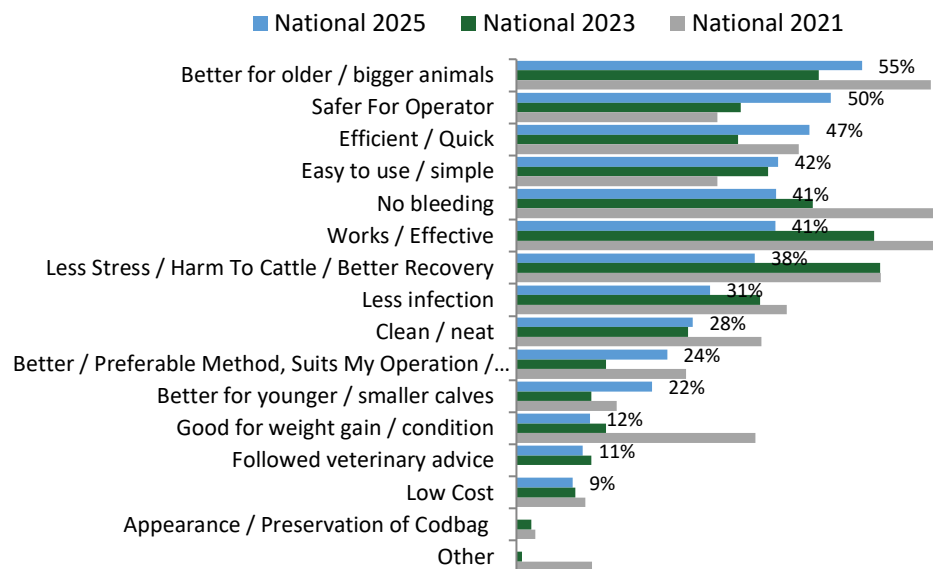
NB. Multiple responses allowed

4.4.3 Tension banders

The most common reasons cited for using tension banders were that it is better for older animals (55% compared to 48% in 2023 and 66% in 2021), that it is safer for the operator (50%) and efficient (47%) (Figure 19).

Figure 19: Reasons to castrate calves using a tension bander

Base: Producers who castrate calves using tension banders n = 29



4.6: Why do you use this method to castrate your calves?

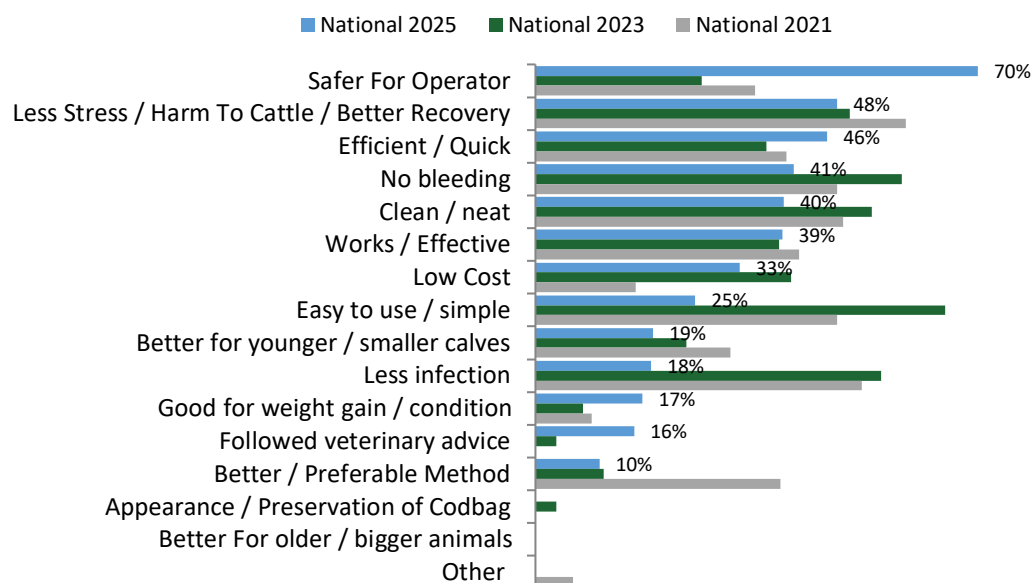
NB. Multiple responses allowed

4.4.4 Short scrotum / cryptorchid

A small number of producers reported using short scrotum / cryptorchid (2%). The most common reasons cited for using the short scrotum method using rubber rings were that it was safer for the operator (70%) and less stressful (48%) (Figure 20).

Figure 20: Reason for using short scrotum / cryptorchid

Base: n = 11*

**4.6: Why do you use this method to castrate your calves?**

* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

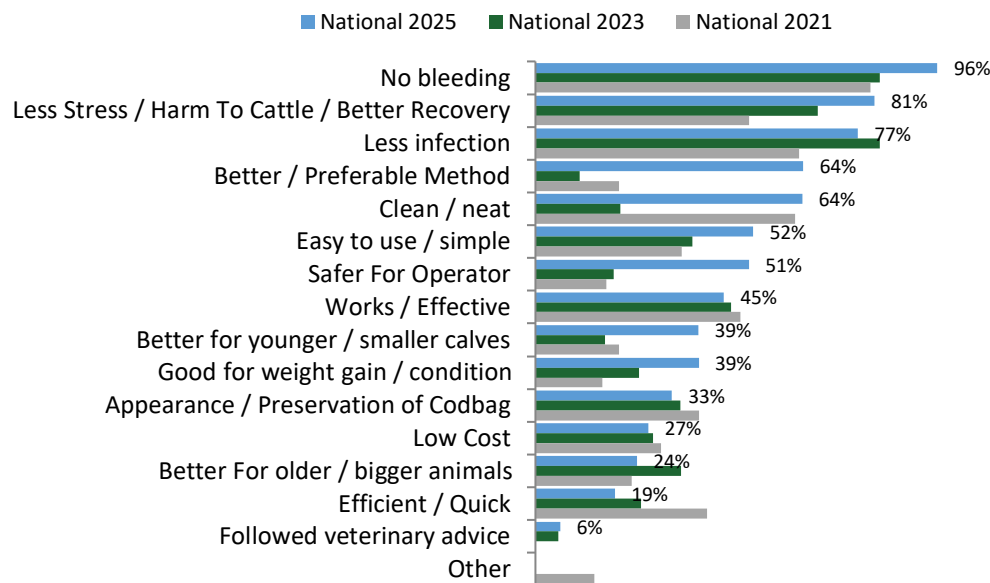
NB. Multiple responses allowed

4.4.5 Burdizzo

11 producers report using this method of castration nationally – 4 producers in each of NSW and Queensland, and 3 in Victoria. The most common reason cited was that it causes no bleeding (96% up from 82% in 2023 and 80% in 2021) (**Figure 21**).

Figure 21: Reasons for using burdizzo

Base: Producers who use burdizzo n = 11*

**4.6: Why do you use this method to castrate your calves?**

* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

NB. Multiple responses allowed

4.4.6 Pain management

Similar to previous years, 27% of producers use pain management at calf castration (26% in 2021 and 24% in 2023). The proportion of calves that are castrated with pain management is higher at 36%. Pain management is most commonly used by producers in Tasmania (56%). It is relatively rarely used in South Australia (3%) (**Figure 22**). Use of pain management was highest for those who use knife / scalpel to castrate calves (45%) (**Figure 23**). On average, producers used pain management on 119 bull calves at castration in 2025. Queensland producers were more likely to use pain management on a higher number of bull calves (186) than other states.

85% of producers used pain management on up to 199 bull calves in 2025 (**Figure 24**).

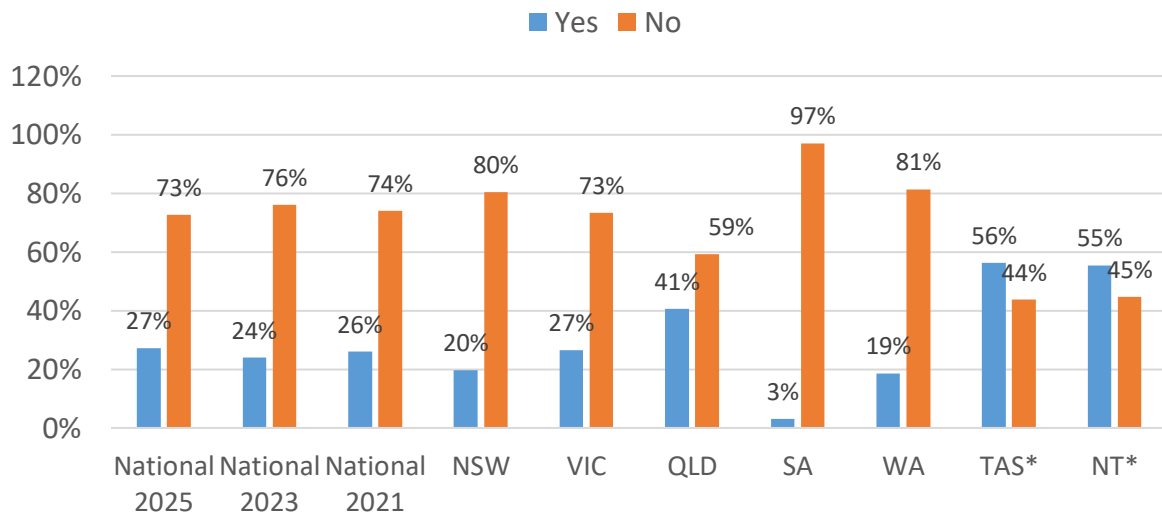
Anesthetic and antiseptic spray at the site was by far the most commonly used pain management (49%) and is used most in Queensland (75%). Analgesic injections were the second most popular pain management (30%) (**Figure 25**).

Where producers did not use pain management, they stated that it is not necessary (51% versus 43% in 2023 and 41% in 2021) and that it is impractical (35% versus 50% in 2023 and 47% in 2021) (**Figure 26**).

Products that are inappropriate for a specific method of castration are highlighted with an asterisk. These include using an anaesthetic and antiseptic spray at the surgery site (e.g., Tri-Solfen) for rings or using anaesthetic injection at the surgery site (e.g., Lignocaine) for knife or scalpel. This could reflect a misunderstanding around the appropriate pain management type for castration.

Figure 22: Use of pain management at calf castration

Base: Producers who castrated calves in 2025 n = 724

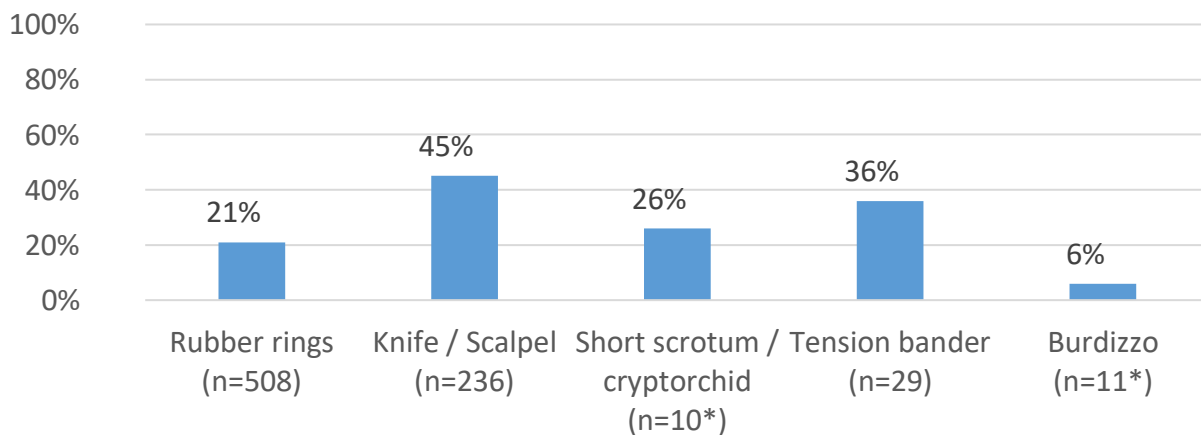


4.11: Did you use any product for pain management for castrating your bull calves in 2025?

* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

Figure 23: Use of pain management at calf castration by method

Base: Producers who castrate calves by each method (n= various)

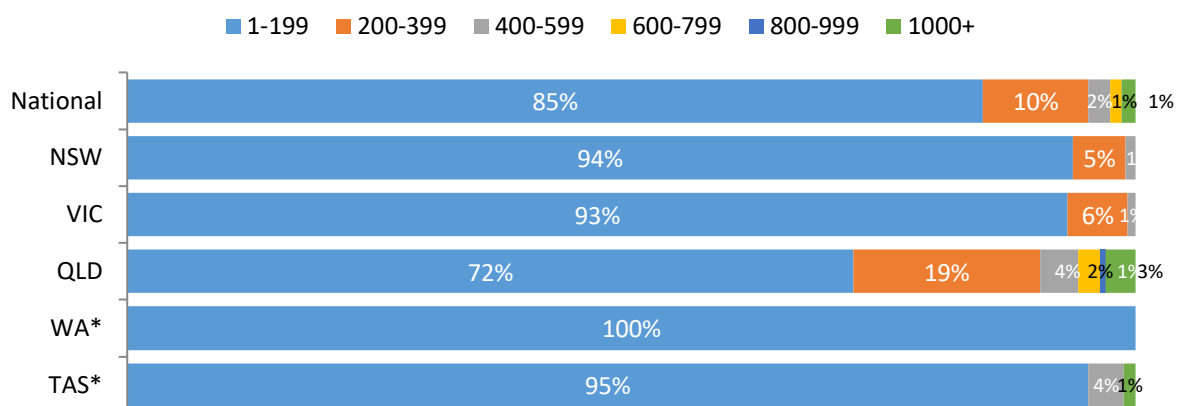


4.11: Did you use any product for pain management for castrating your bull calves in 2025?

* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

Figure 24: Number of bull calves castrated in 2025 with pain management

Base: Producers who castrate calves and use pain management (n= 224)

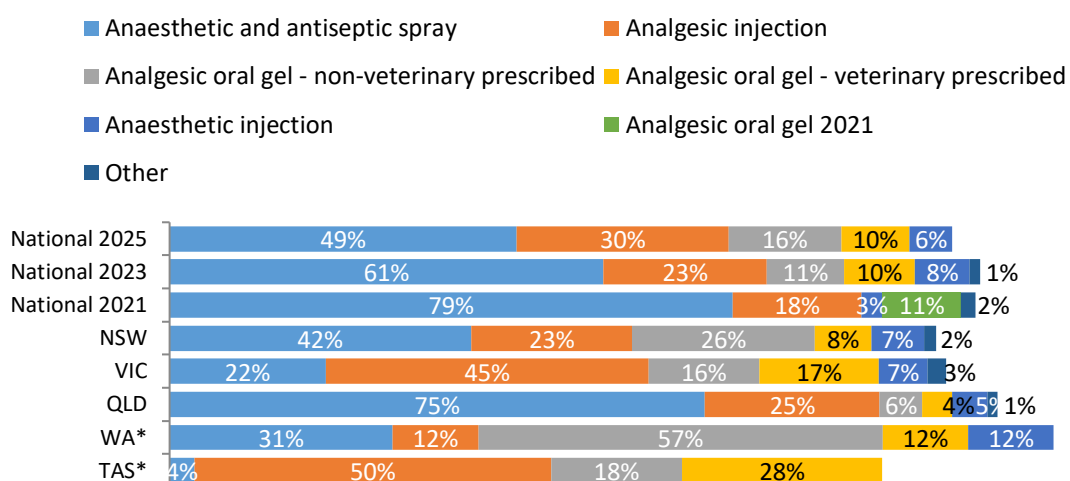


4.11.1: Of the bull calves you castrated in 2025, how many did you use pain management on for castrating?

* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

Figure 25: Pain management for calf castration

Base: Producers who use pain management for calf castration n = 226

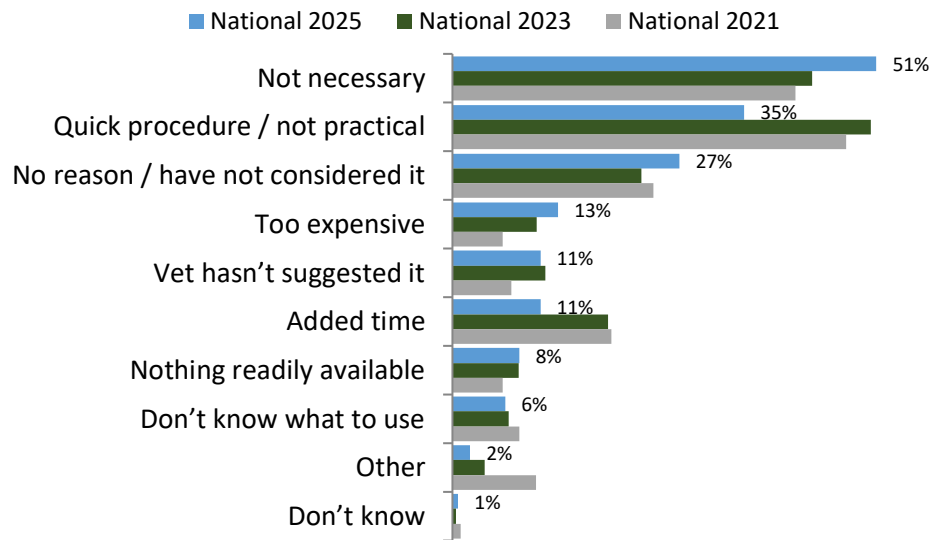


4.12: What type of product/s did you use?

NB: Analgesic oral gel was considered as a single group in 2021 (11%), but has been split into veterinary and non-veterinary prescribed oral gel since 2023

* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

NB. Multiple responses allowed

Figure 26: Reasons not to use pain management at calf castration*Base: Producers who do not use pain management at calf castration n = 507***4.13: Why didn't you use pain management?**

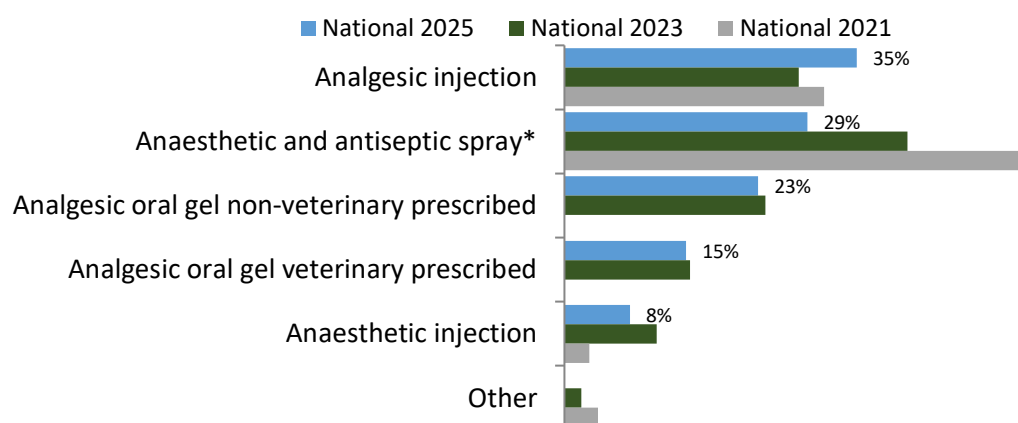
NB. Multiple responses allowed

4.4.7 Rubber rings

The majority of producers who used rubber rings (79%, similar to 85% in 2023 and 87% in 2021) did not use pain management. Of those who did, analgesic injection was the most common (35% compared to 28% in 2023 and 31% in 2021), 29% favoured anaesthetic and antiseptic spray (41% down from 41% in 2023 and 55% in 2021), with non-veterinary prescribed analgesic oral gel (23%) also popular (**Figure 27**).

Figure 27: Pain management products used when castrating calves with rubber rings

Base: Producers who use pain management with rubber rings n = 119



* Inappropriate pain management product

4.12: What type of product/s did you use?

NB: Analgesic oral gel was considered as a single group in 2021 (23%), but has since been split into veterinary and non-veterinary prescribed oral gel

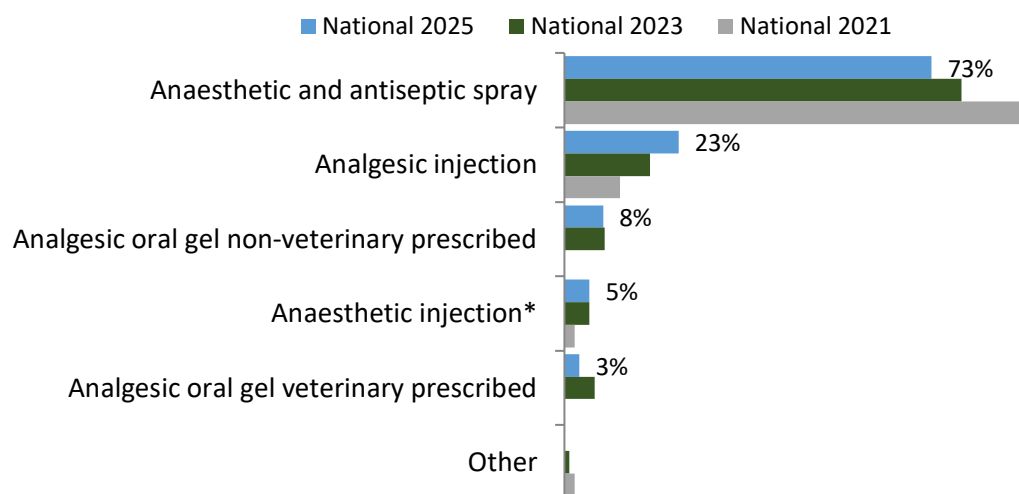
NB. Multiple responses allowed

4.4.8 Knife or scalpel

Producers who reported using a knife or scalpel when castrating calves, 45% (similar to 47% in 2023 and 52% in 2021) also used pain management. The most popular method of pain management used was anaesthetic and antiseptic spray at the surgery site (**Figure 28**), which was used by 73% (was 79% in 2023 and 92% in 2021) of producers.

Figure 28: Pain management products used when castrating calves with knife or scalpel

Base: Producers who use pain management with knife or scalpel n = 142



* Inappropriate pain management product

4.12: What type of product/s did you use?

NB: Analgesic oral gel was considered as a single group in 2021 (6%), but has since been split into veterinary and non-veterinary prescribed oral gel

NB. Multiple responses allowed

4.4.9 Tension bander

Of producers who castrated calves using tension banders (n = 29) a clear majority (64% down from 70% in 2023 and 83% in 2021) did not use pain management products.

4.4.10 Short scrotum / cryptorchid

Of the small number of producers who use the short scrotum / cryptorchid (n = 10), the vast majority did not use pain management products (74% compared to 90% in 2023 and 94% in 2021).

4.4.11 Burdizzo

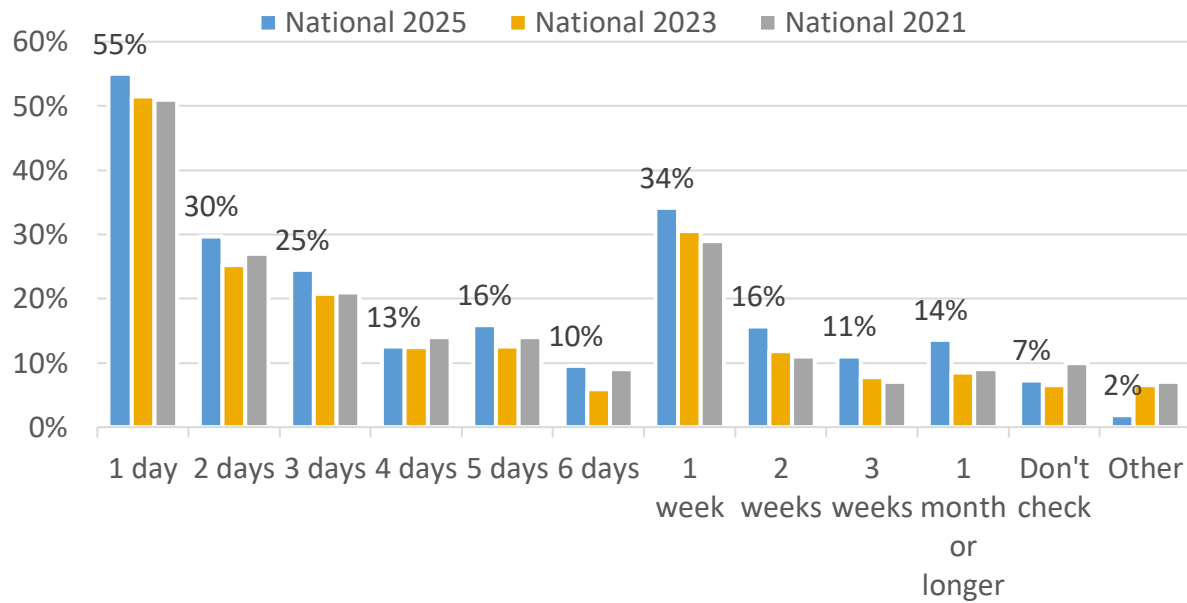
Where producers used burdizzo as the castration method for calves (n = 11), virtually all (94% was 95% in 2023 and 97% in 2021) did not use pain management products.

4.4.12 Checks

For all states, the majority of producers (55% compared to 51% in both 2023 and 2021) check calves the day after castration. 30% (27% and 25% respectively) check after two days, with a further 34% (30% and 29% respectively) checking at one week (**Figure 29**).

Figure 29: Frequency of checking calves following castration

Base: Producers who castrate calves n = 733



4.14: When do you check your calves following castration?

NB. Multiple responses allowed

Bull castration

4.4.13 Overview

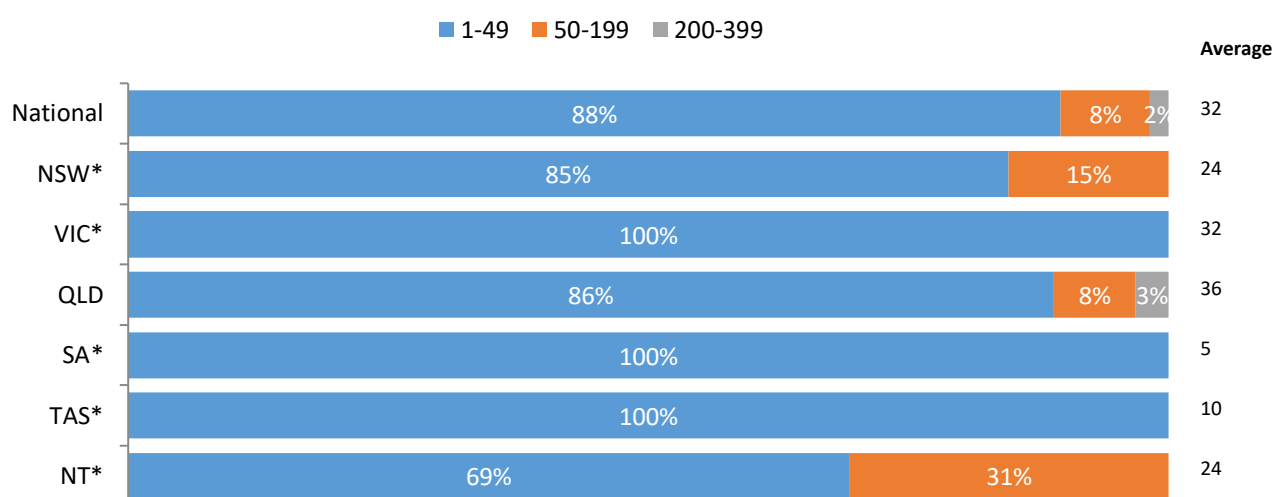
Only a small proportion of producers surveyed castrate bulls over 12 months of age (3%), with an average of 31 bulls being castrated (**Figure 30**). When they did, knives or scalpels were the most common technique used for castration (49% compared to 52% in 2023 and 53% in 2021) followed by rubber rings (31% up from 16% in 2023 and 26% 2021). A minority of producers report using tension banders and emasculators (20% and 13% respectively) (**Figure 31**).

Of those castrating bulls, 53% (40% in 2023 and 55% in 2021) use pain management at the national level (**Figure 32**). The proportion of bulls that are castrated with pain management is 29%. Pain management is used on an average of 17.2 bulls at castration (**Figure 33**).

The most common reason given for not using pain management is that it is not necessary (72% up from 40% in 2023 and 20% in 2021) (**Figure 34**).

Figure 30: Number of bulls castrated state

Base: Producers who castrate bulls n = 36

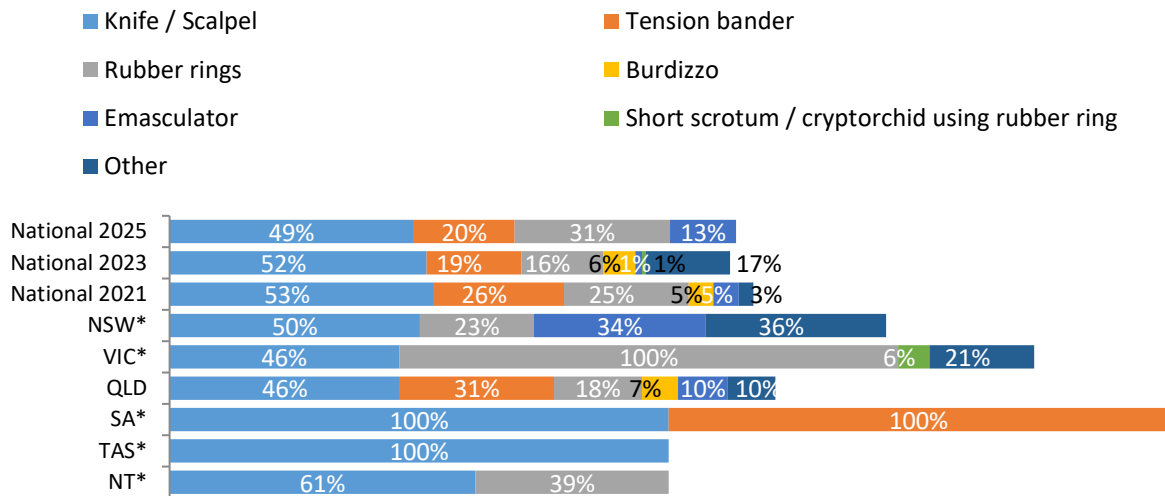


4.17.1: How many bulls (entire males over 12 months of age) did you castrate in 2025?

* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

Figure 31: Bull castration methods by state

Base: Producers who castrate bulls n = 44



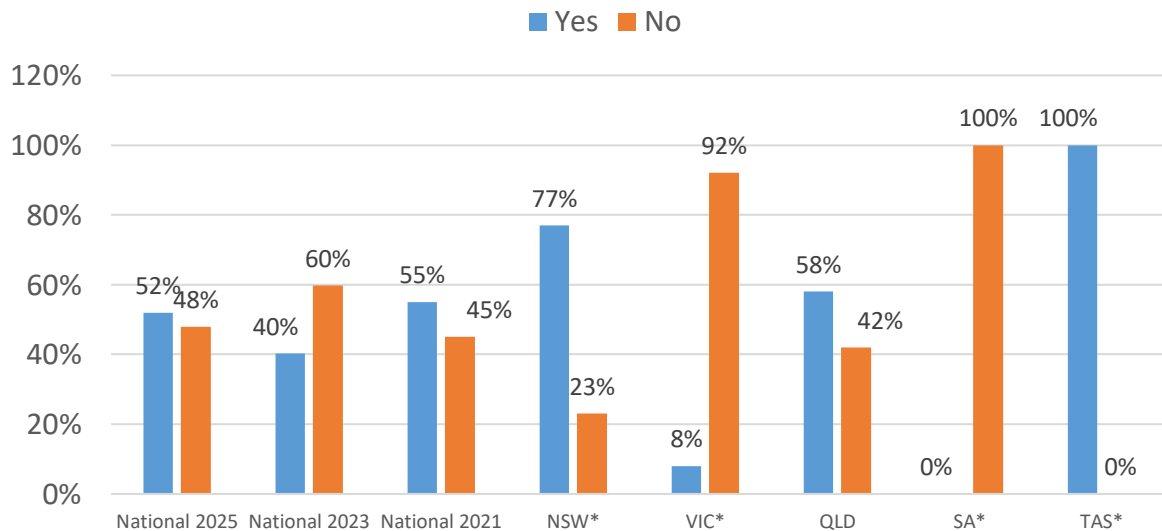
4.18: What method of castration do you use to castrate your bulls?

* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

NB. Multiple responses allowed

Figure 32: Use of pain products for bull castration

Base: Producers who castrate bulls n = 44

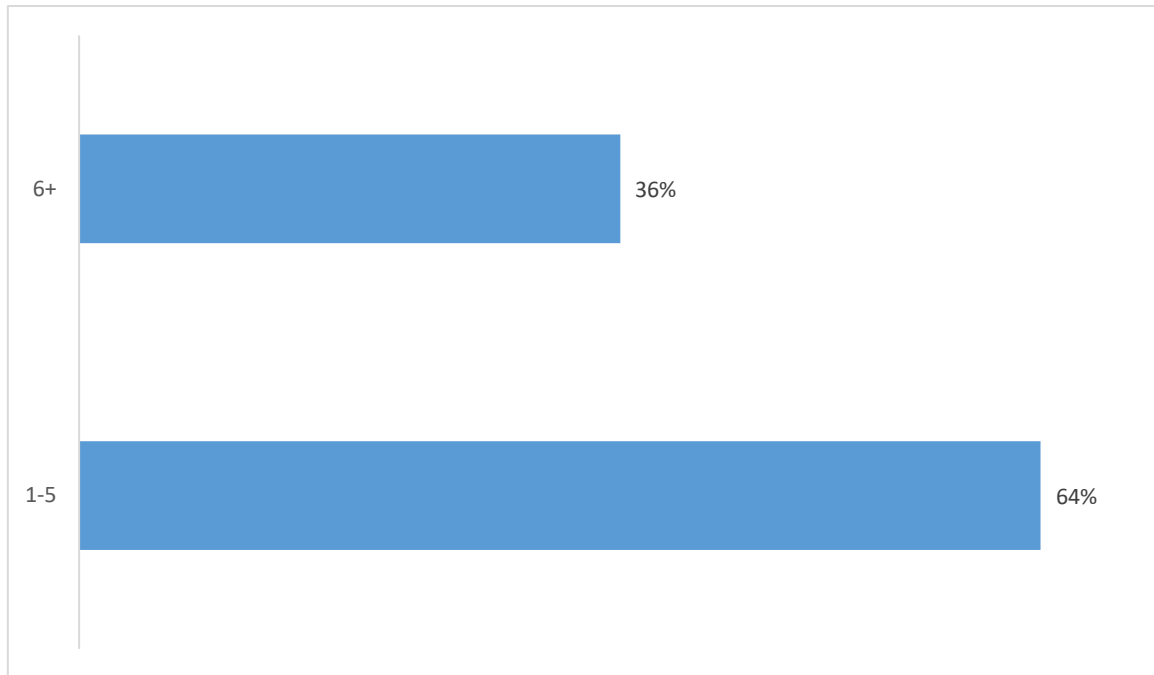


4.20: Did you use any products for pain management for castrating your bulls in 2025?

* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

Figure 33: Number of bulls on which pain products are used at castration

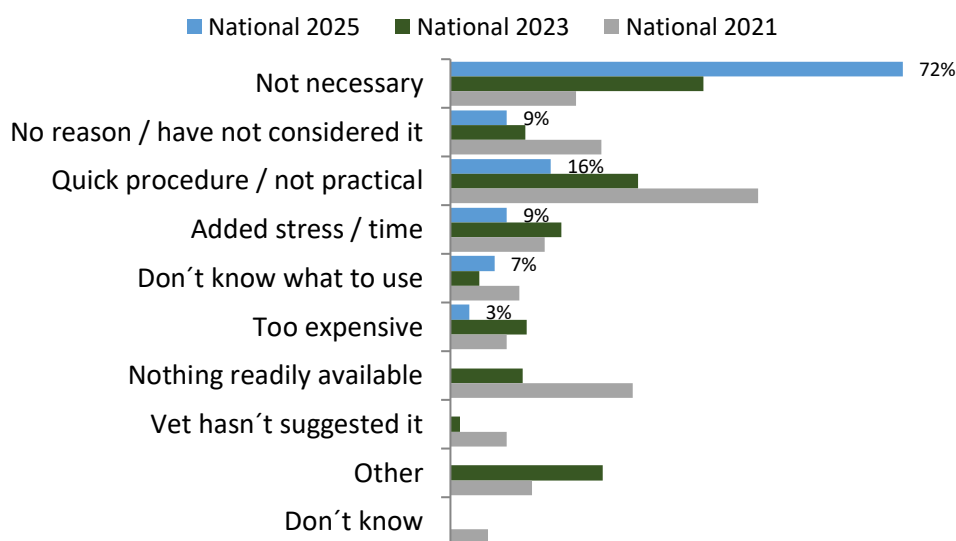
Base: Producers who castrate bulls n = 19*



4.20.1: Of the bulls you castrated in 2025, how many did you use pain management on?

* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

NB. Producers castrated an average of 31 bulls in 2025

Figure 34: Reasons not to use pain management at bull castration*Base: Producers who did not use pain management at bull castration n = 21***4.22: Why didn't you use any products for pain management?**

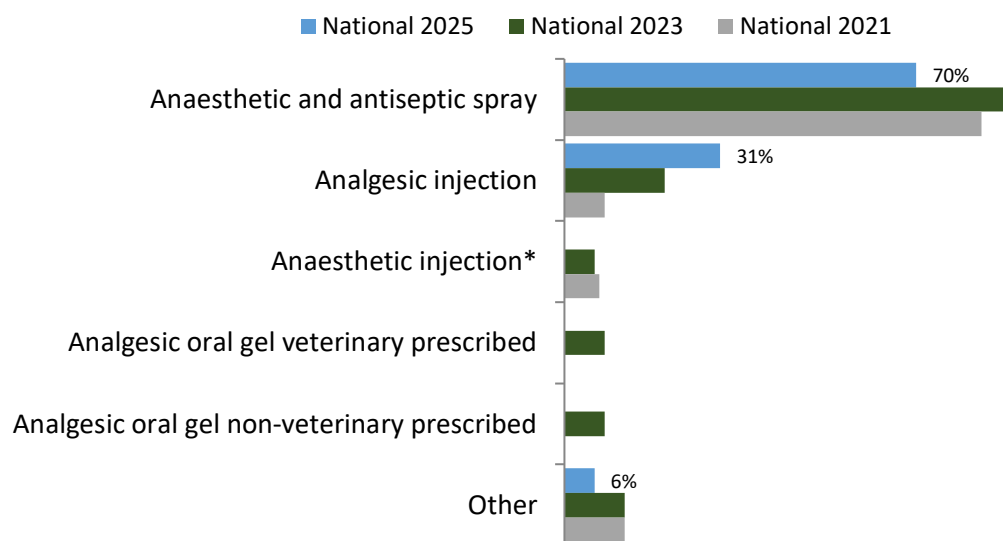
NB. Multiple responses allowed

4.4.14 Rubber rings

Of producers using rubber rings to castrate their bulls (n = 3), only two used pain management.

4.4.15 Knife or scalpel

Of producers who reported using a knife or scalpel when castrating calves, all also used pain management. The most common product used for pain management was anaesthetic and antiseptic spray at the surgery site (**Figure 35**), which was used by 70% (was 89% in 2023 and 83% in 2021) of producers.

Figure 35: Pain management products used when castrating bulls with knife or scalpel*Base: Producers who use pain management with knife or scalpel n = 12***

* Inappropriate pain management product

4.21: What type of product/s did you use?

Notes: Analgesic oral gel was considered as a single group in 2021 (3%), but has since been split into veterinary and non-veterinary prescribed oral gel

** Small sample (less than 20 producers)

NB. Multiple responses allowed

4.4.16 Tension bander

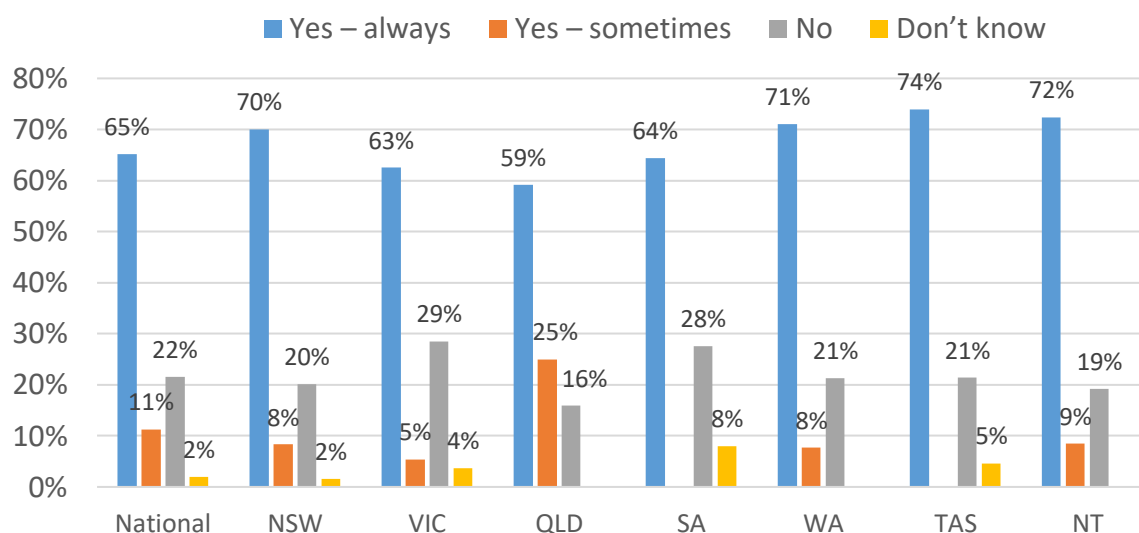
For those using tension banders (n = 2), both (100%) used a pain management product.

Dehorning**4.4.17 Polled livestock**

The majority of producers (65%) report that they always breed livestock to be naturally polled while a further 11% do sometimes (**Figure 36**). Of those who always or sometimes breed for naturally polled livestock, half (50%) breed 100% of their herd polled (**Figure 37**).

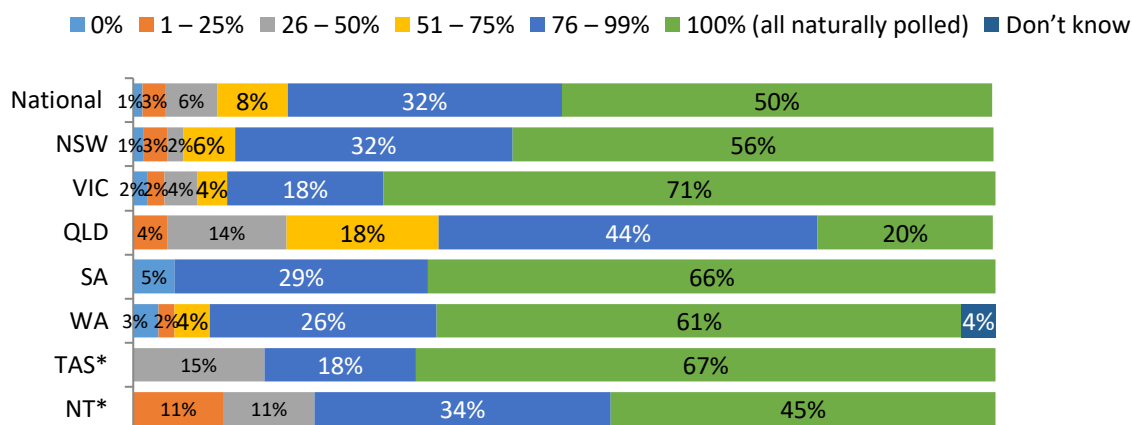
Figure 36: Producers who intentionally breed naturally polled livestock

Base: n = 838



5.1. In 2025, did you intentionally breed livestock to be naturally polled?

* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

Figure 37: Percentage of herd with polled gene or naturally polled

5.2. In 2025, approximately what percentage of your herd carried the polled gene or was naturally polled?

* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

4.4.18 Calf dehorning or disbudding

Among producers who do not have a fully naturally polled herd (or do not know if they do) 69% dehorn or disbud cattle. These producers much more commonly dehorn or disbud calves (91%)

while 16% dehorn or disbud mature cattle over twelve months of age (**Figure 38**). On average, producers dehorned or disbudded 95 calves in 2025.

Two thirds of calves are dehorned or disbudded between one and four months of age (67%, was 76% in 2023 and 75% in 2021) (**Figure 40**).

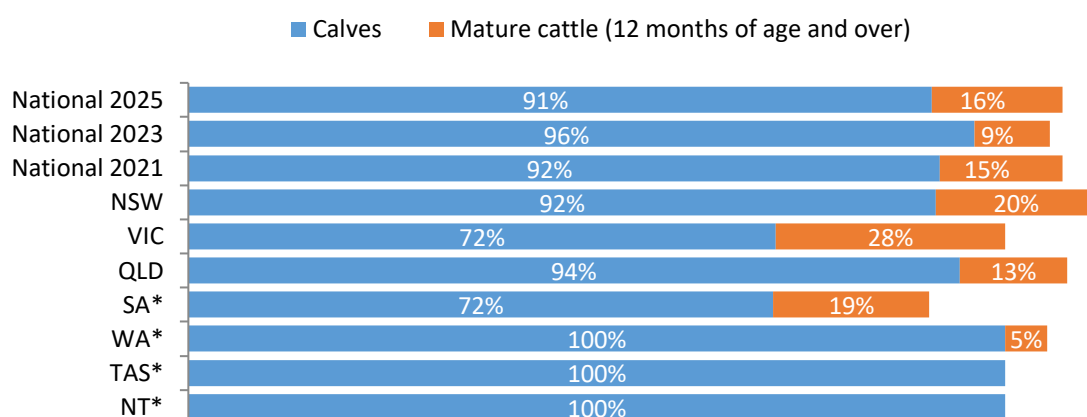
The most commonly used technique to dehorn calves was scoop or cup dehorners (46% down from 55% in 2023 and 2021) followed by tippers (19%) (**Figure 41**). Producers chose scoop or cup dehorners because they were perceived to be effective (55%) and quick (48%) (**Figure 42**), knives because they are effective (60%) (**Figure 44**), hot iron because there is less blood and is effective (60% and 59% respectively) (**Figure 45**) and gouging knives because they are neat and effective (63% and 57%) (**Figure 43**).

More than half of producers (52% was 55% in 2023 and 2021) use pain management for dehorning or disbudding calves on an average of 81 of 95 calves who are dehorned or disbudded. The proportion of calves that are dehorned or disbudded with pain management is far lower at 17%. The majority of these producers use anesthetic and antiseptic spray at the site (72% down from 83% in 2023 and 94% in 2021) (**Figure 47**). Producers gave multiple reasons for not using pain management during calf dehorning or disbudding. More than a third felt that it was not practical for a quick procedure (39% compared to 53% in 2023 and 38% in 2021) and 38% felt it was unnecessary (**Figure 48**). These other reasons varied, but included the time, expense, and lack of availability.

More than half of producers checked calves in the day following dehorning or disbudding (58% trending up from 52% in 2023 and 47% in 2021) (**Figure 49**).

Figure 38: Classes of cattle dehorned or disbudded

Base: Producers who dehorn or disbud cattle n = 316



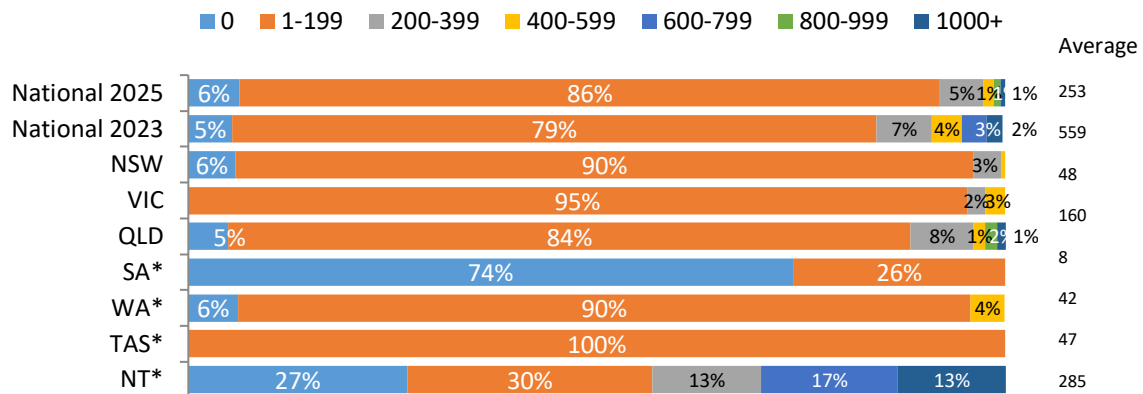
5.19: Which of the following classes of cattle do you dehorn or disbud?

* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

NB. Multiple responses allowed

Figure 39: Number of calves dehorned or disbudded in 2025

Base: Producers who dehorn or disbud cattle n = 292

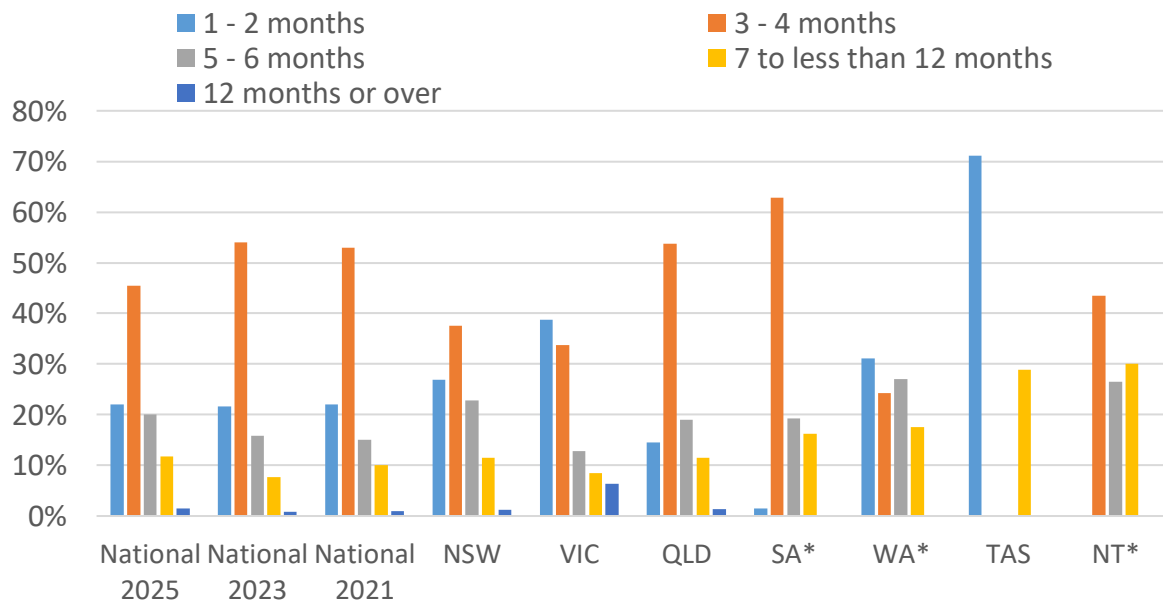


5.20.0: How many calves did you dehorn or disbud in 2025?

* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

Figure 40: Age of dehorning or disbudding in calves

Base: Producers who dehorn or disbud calves n = 292

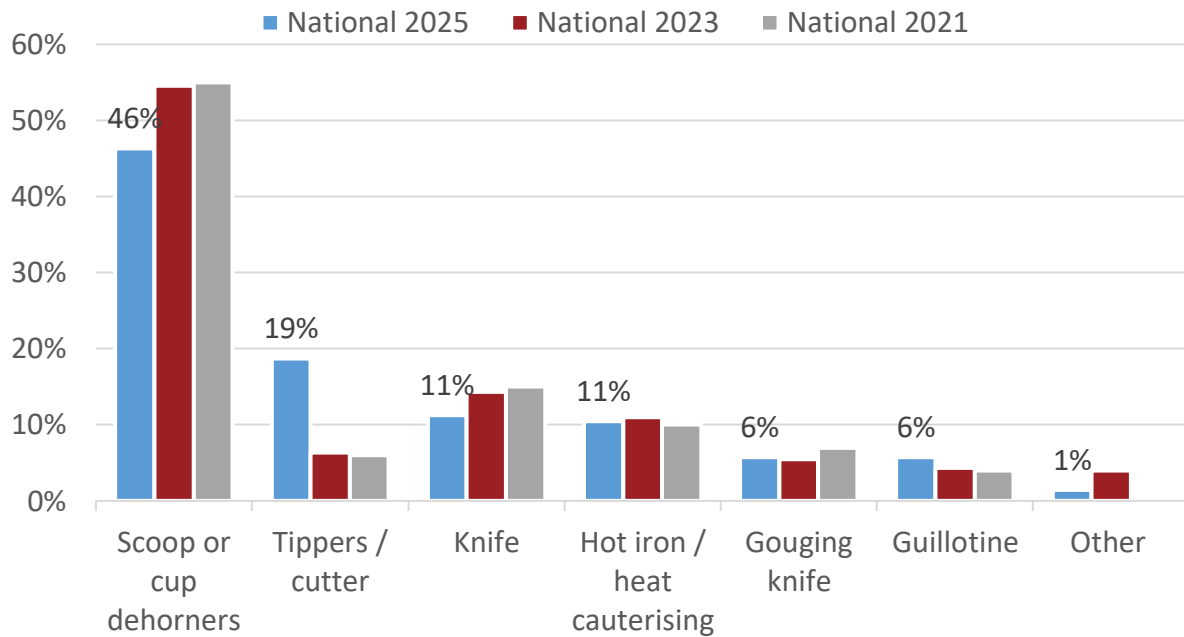


5.20: At what age, in months, do you dehorn or disbud your calves?

* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

Figure 41: Method of dehorning or disbudding in calves

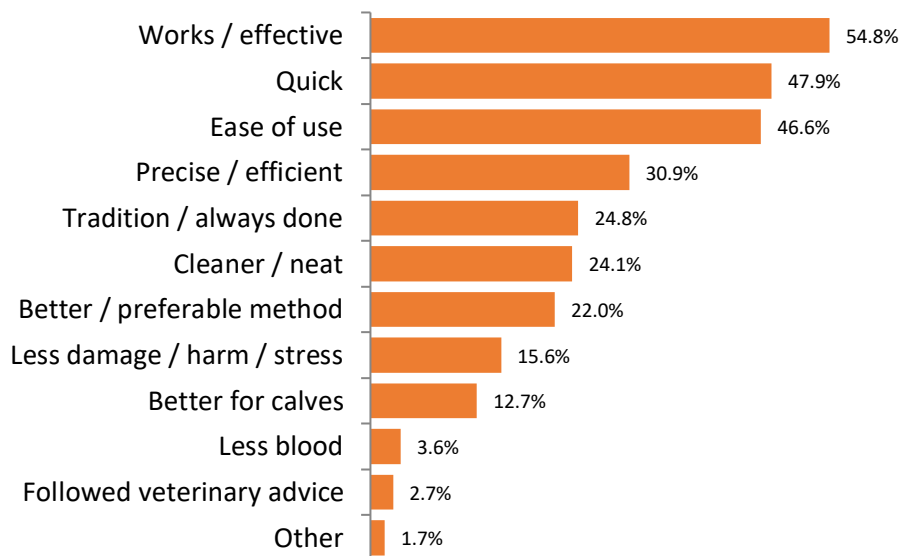
Base: n = Producers who dehorn or disbud calves n = 292



5.21: What method of dehorning or disbudding do you use on your calves?

Figure 42: Reasons for using scoop or cup dehorners for dehorning or disbudding

Base: n = Producers who dehorn or disbud calves with scoop or cup dehorners n = 137

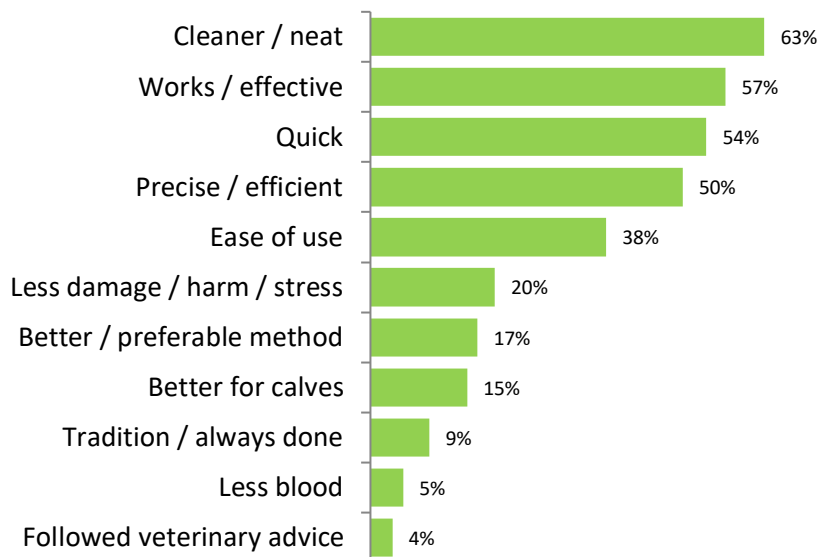


5.22: Why do you use this method to dehorn or disbud your calves?

NB. Multiple responses allowed

Figure 43: Reasons for using gouging knives for dehorning or disbudding

Base: n = Producers who dehorn or disbud calves with gouging knives n = 19*



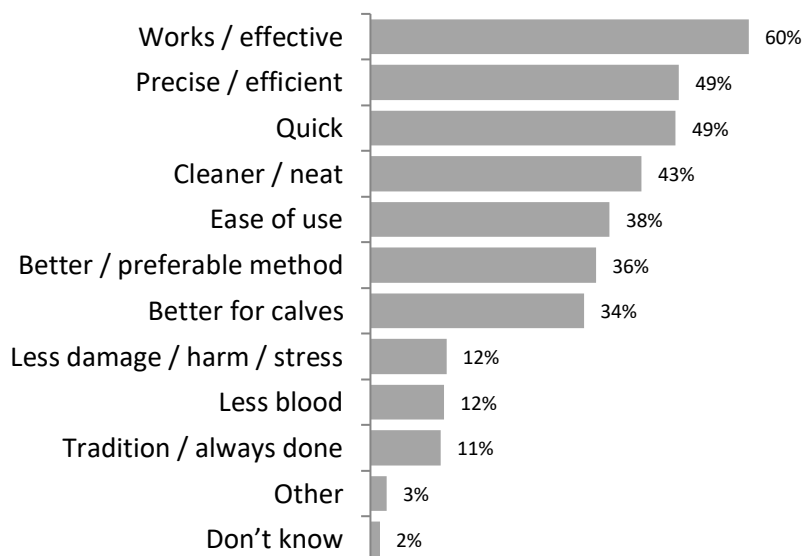
5.22: Why do you use this method to dehorn or disbud your calves?

* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

NB. Multiple responses allowed

Figure 44: Reasons for using knives for dehorning or disbudding

Base: n = Producers who dehorn or disbud calves using knives n = 40

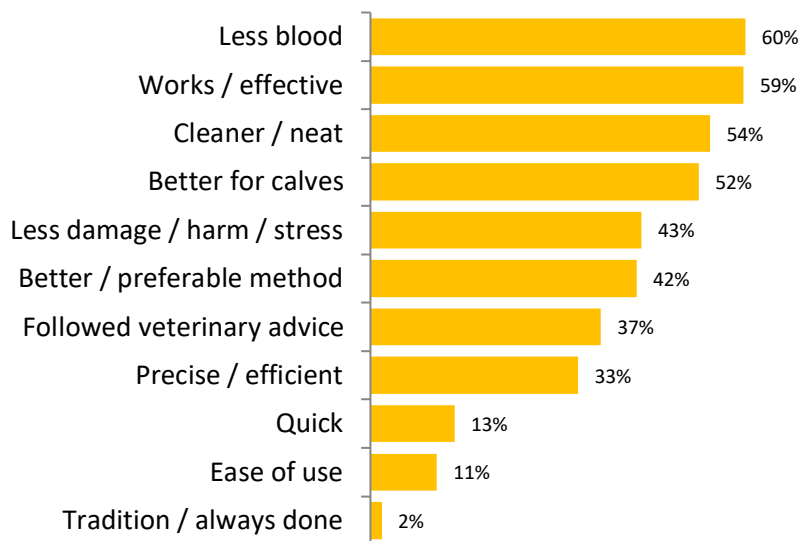


5.22: Why do you use this method to dehorn or disbud your calves?

NB. Multiple responses allowed

Figure 45: Reasons for using hot iron for dehorning or disbudding

Base: n = Producers who dehorn or disbud calves with hot iron n = 27

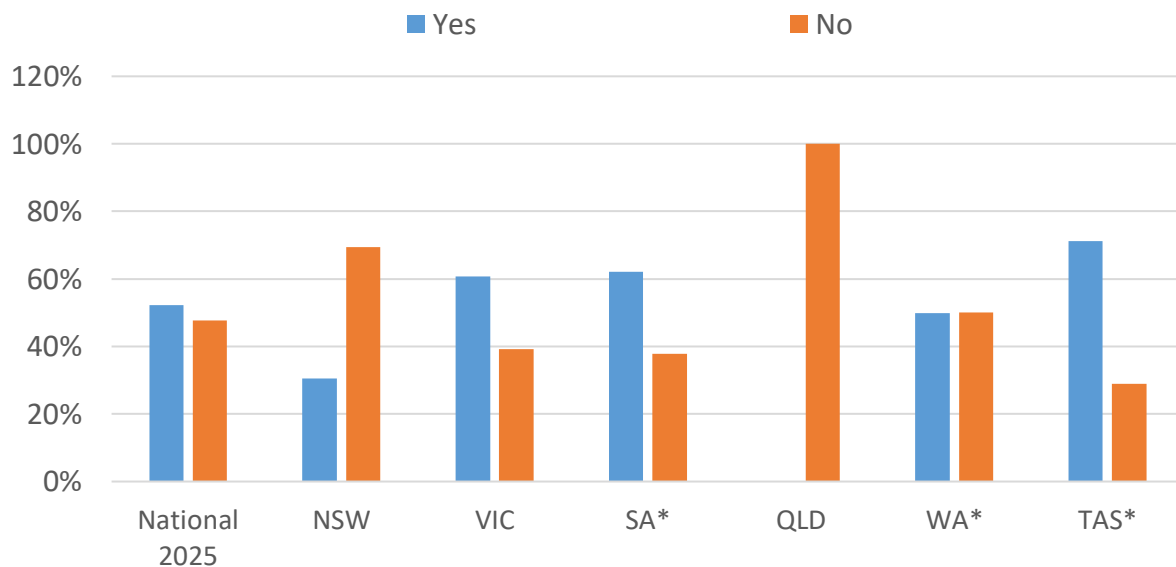


5.22: Why do you use this method to dehorn or disbud your calves?

NB. Multiple responses allowed

Figure 46: Use of pain management for dehorning or disbudding calves

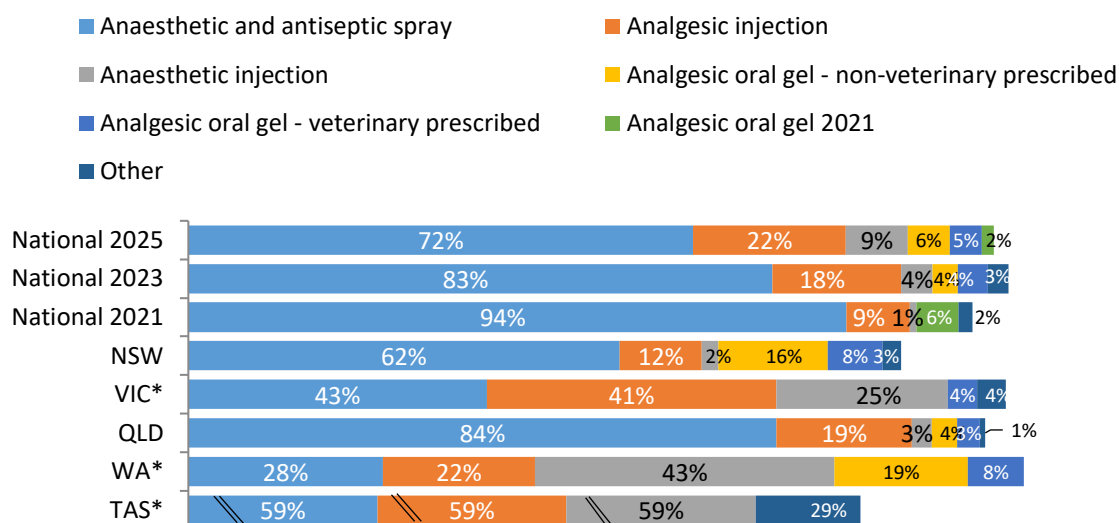
Base: n = Producers who dehorned or disbudded calves in 2025 n = 276



5.27: Did you use any products for pain management for dehorning or disbudding your calves in 2025?

Figure 47: Pain management for dehorning or disbudding calves

Base: Producers who dehorn or disbud calves and use pain management n = 136



5.28: What type of product/s did you use?

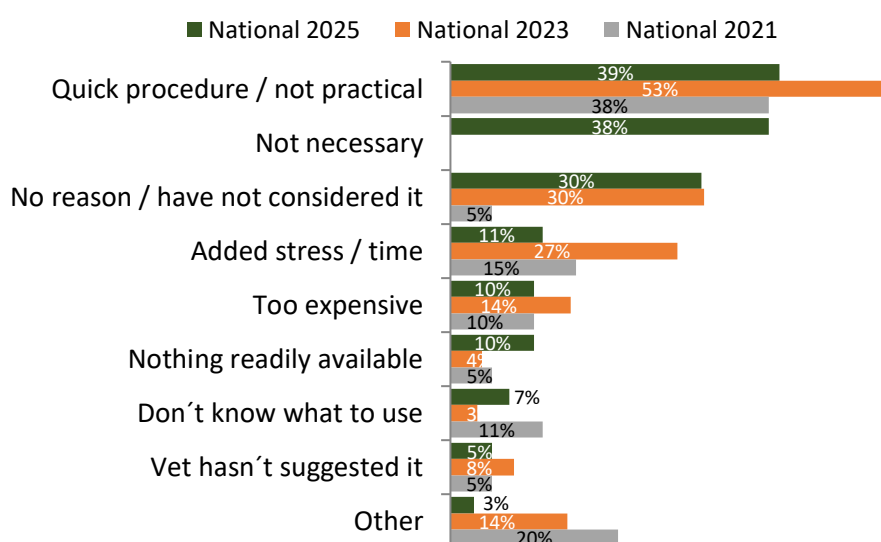
NB. Analgesic oral gel was separated into veterinary prescribed and non-veterinary prescribed in 2025

* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

NB. Multiple responses allowed

Figure 48: Reasons not to use pain management at calf dehorning or disbudding

Base: Producers who dehorn or disbud calves and do not use pain management n = 124

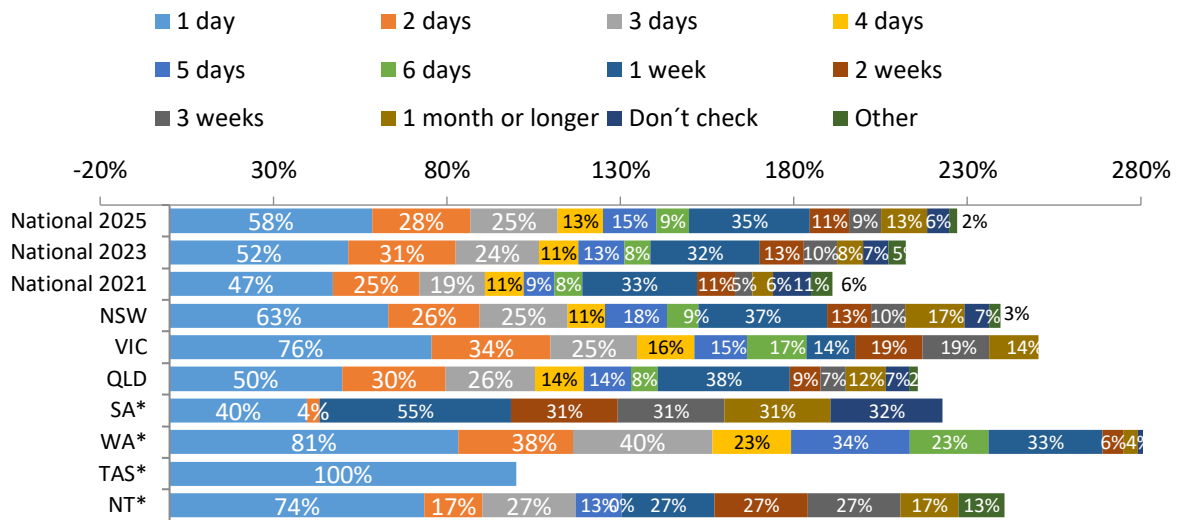


5.29: Why didn't you use pain management?

NB. Multiple responses allowed

Figure 49: Frequency of checking calves following dehorning or disbudding by state

Base: Producers who dehorn or disbud calves n = 292



5.30: When do you check your calves following dehorning or disbudding?

* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

NB. Multiple responses allowed

4.4.19 Mature cattle dehorning

On average, producers dehorned 17 cattle in 2025. 55% (in line with 56% in 2023 and 59% in 2021) report dehorning before 24 months with 13% (21% and 37% respectively) dehorning between 24 and 36 months (**Figure 50**).

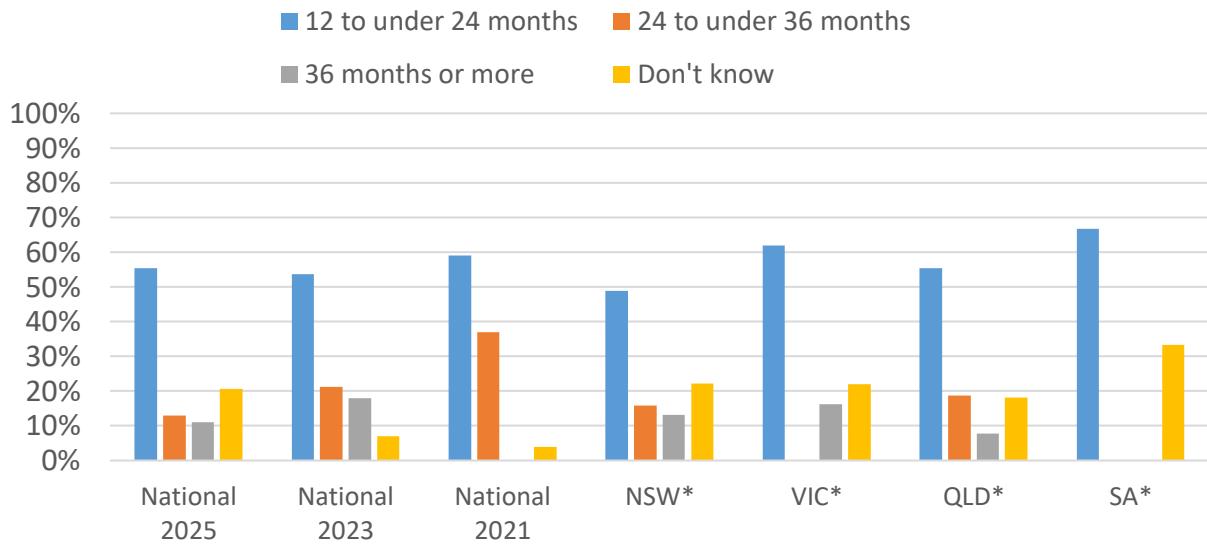
Producers use several types of dehorning methods on mature cattle. Well over half (55% compared to 12% in 2023 and 46% in 2021) of producers use tippers or cutters, with 21% saw and wire and 20% using the guillotine method (**Figure 51**).

Nearly two fifths of producers who dehorn mature cattle use pain management products (39% from 25% in 2023 and 33% in 2021) (**Figure 52**). The proportion of mature cattle that are dehorned with pain management is 52%. Nearly half prefer to use anaesthetic and antiseptic spray at the site (47% was 50% in 2023 and 95% in 2021) (**Figure 53**).

Producers who do not use products for pain management cite it being impractical for a quick procedure (39% from 45% in 2023 and 41% in 2021), or not necessary (32% in line with 30% in 2023 and 31% in 2021) (**Figure 54**).

Figure 50: Age of full dehorning in mature cattle

Base: Producers who dehorn mature cattle n = 47

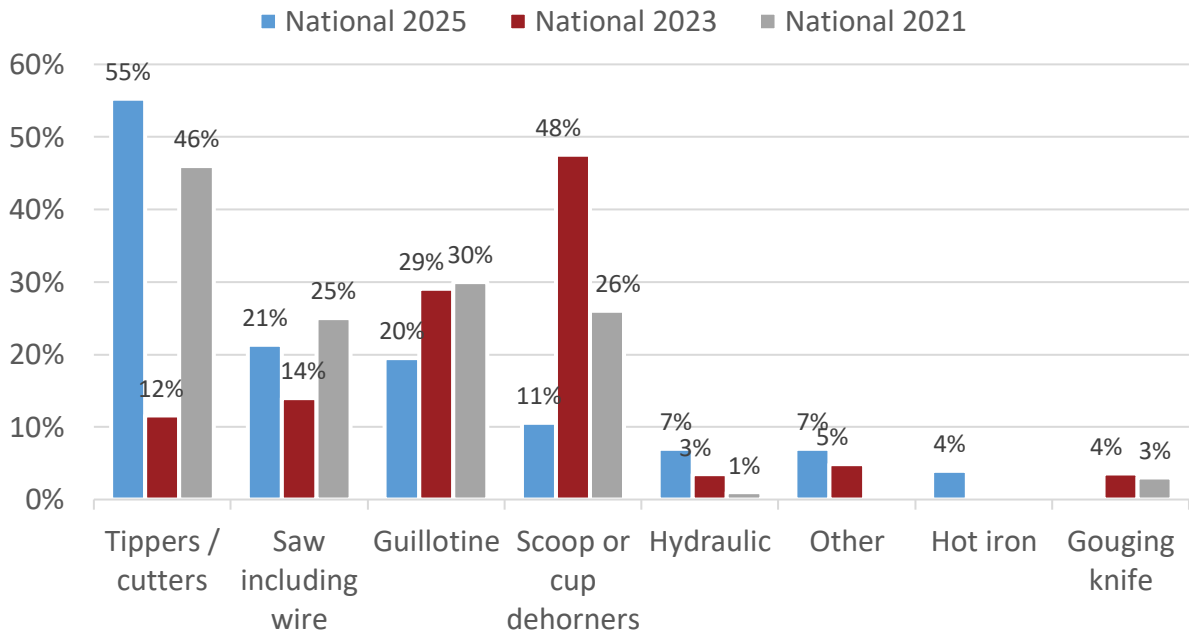


5.34: At what age in months, do you typically fully dehorn mature cattle?

* Small sample size less than 20

Figure 51: Method of dehorning mature cattle

Base: Producers who dehorn mature cattle n = 47

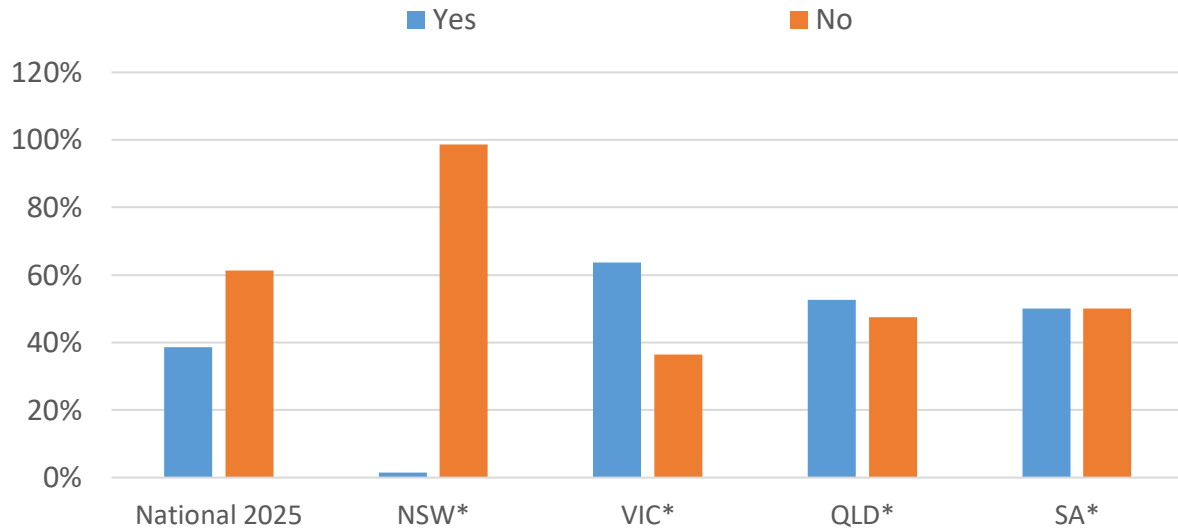


5.35: What method of fully dehorning do you use on your mature cattle?

NB. Multiple responses allowed

Figure 52: Use of pain management for dehorning or disbudding mature cattle

Base: n = Producers who dehorned or disbudded mature cattle in 2025 n = 29

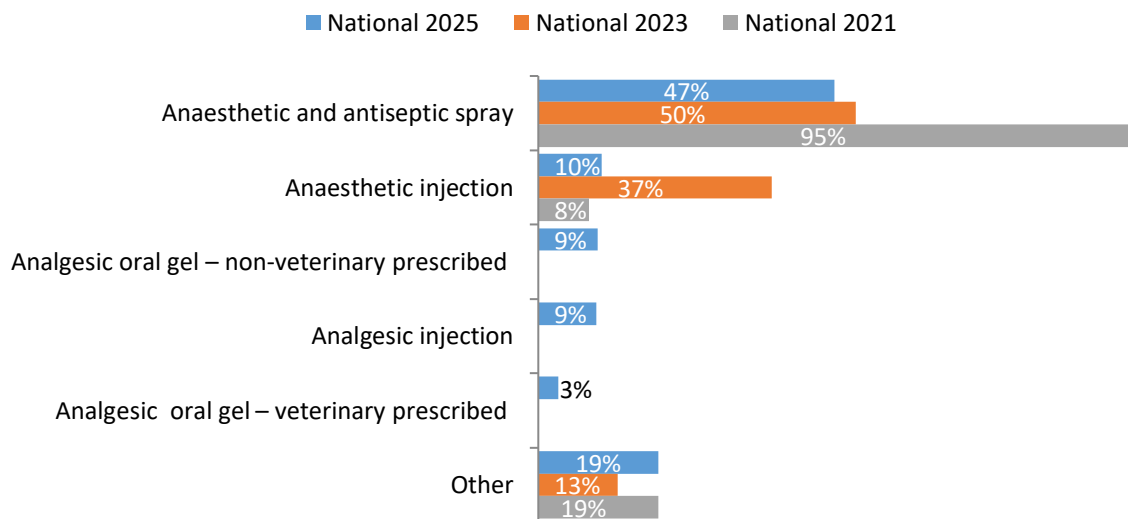


5.37: Did you use any products for pain management for dehorning or disbudding your mature cattle in 2025?

* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

Figure 53: Pain management for dehorning mature cattle

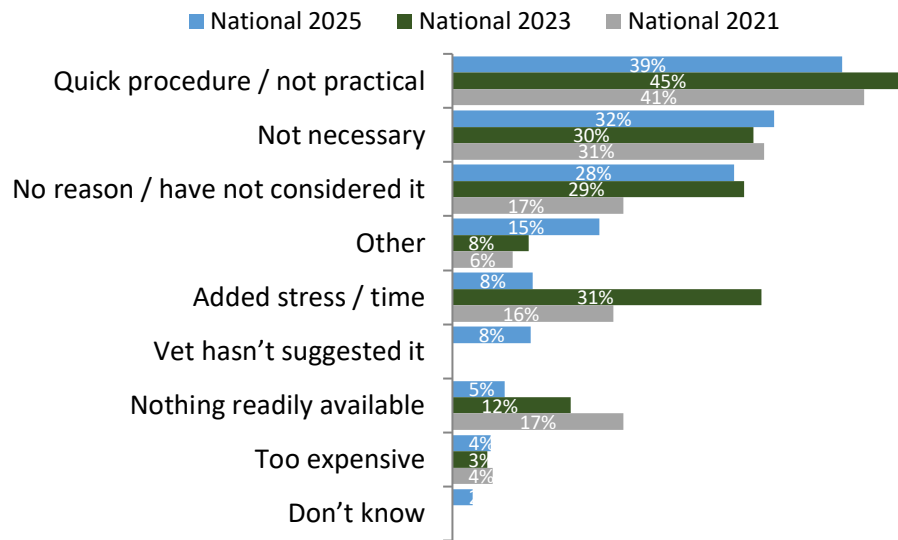
Base: Producers who dehorn mature cattle and use pain management n = 18*



5.38: What type of product/s did you use?

* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

NB. Multiple responses allowed

Figure 54: Reasons not to use pain management at mature cattle dehorning*Base: Producers who dehorn mature cattle and do not use pain management n = 32*

5.39: Why didn't you use pain management?

NB. Multiple responses allowed

4.5 Spaying

Most producers do not spay cull heifers, with only 2% (2% in 2023 and 3% in 2021) of producers choosing to do so (**Figure 55**), with 240 spayed on average by producers who do spay. Likewise, most producers do not spay cull cows, with fewer than 1% (2% in 2023 and 5% in 2021) of producers choosing to do so. Over half spay less than 49 cull cows per year (55% up from 47% in 2023 and 31% in 2021) (**Figure 56**).

At the national level, four fifths of producers who do spay cull heifers pregnancy test cull heifers prior to spaying (83% compared to 75% in 2023 and 72% in 2021). Likewise, most producers pregnancy test cull cows (72% compared to 82% in 2023 and 81% in 2021).

When producers spay, they prefer to use the Willis dropped ovary and removal of ovaries method for both heifers (78%) and cows (39%) (compared to 79% of heifers and 42% of cows in 2023 and 77% of heifers and 56% of cows in 2021) (**Figure 57**). Producers who did said that they did so following veterinary advice and that the process is clean and neat, efficient, and successful (**Figure 58**).

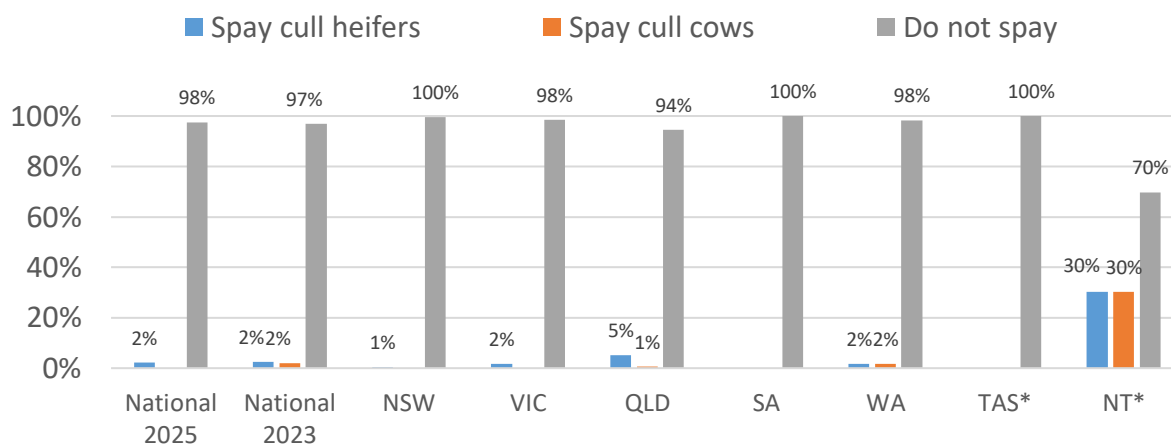
Producers favour the use of veterinarian contractors to perform spaying (48% compared to 29% in 2023), although using a non-veterinarian contractor (33% and 39% respectively) or doing it themselves or using other staff members (19% and 30% respectively) or were also popular (**Figure 59**).

Over half of producers check heifers and cows one day after spaying (52% compared to 54% in 2023 and 48% in 2021) (**Figure 60**). At the national level, 39% of producers use pain management for spaying heifers and cows, with an average of 64 heifers treated and 22 cows treated. The proportion of heifers that are spayed with pain management is 41% with the proportion of cows is 23%. Producers chose not to use pain management for an array of reasons (**Figure 62**), with over two fifths agreeing that they do not use any because it is not necessary (43% compared to 23% in 2023 and 17% in 2021).

Over two thirds of producers who spay their cows and heifers state that they feel likely or very likely to use a non-surgical sterilisation method if available (69% up from 50% in 2023 and 59% in 2021) (**Figure 63**).

Figure 55: Spaying of cull heifers and cull cows by state

Base: Producers with a breeding operation n = 665

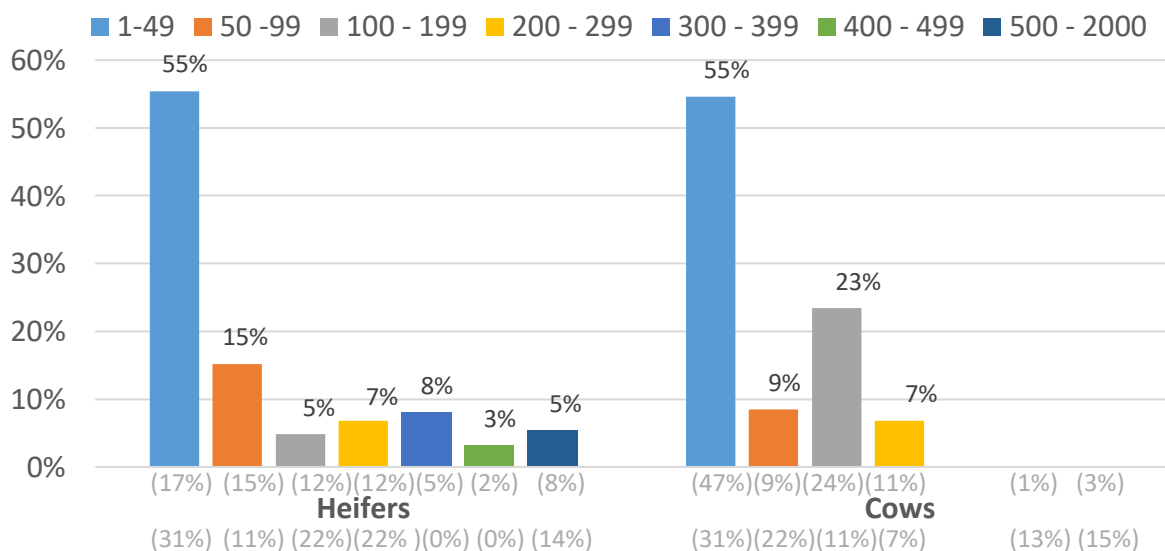


6.1: Do you spay cull heifers and / or cows?

* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

Figure 56: Percentage of producers spaying cull cows and heifers by number spayed

Base: Producers who spay heifers n = 22, Producers who spay cows n = 6*



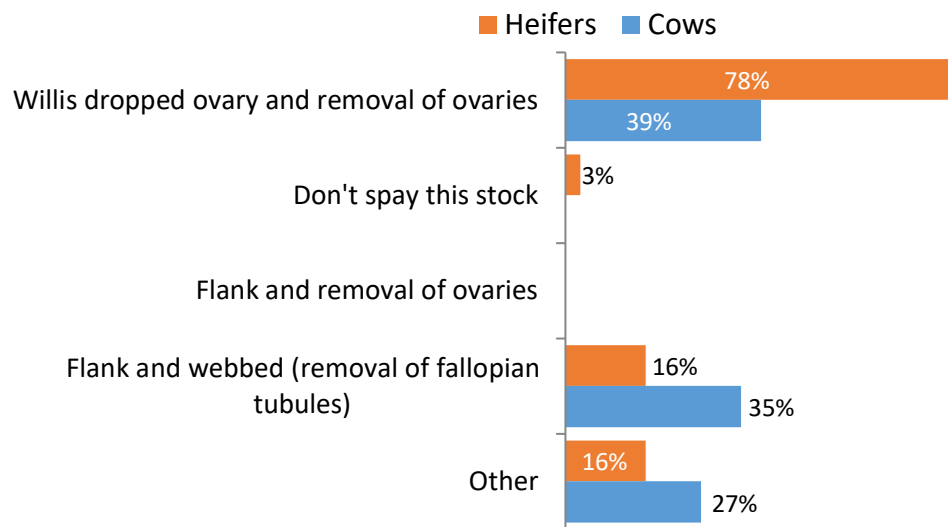
6.1: Do you spay cull heifers and / or cows?

NB: 2023 and 2021 results in brackets respectively

* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

Figure 57: Spaying method

Base: Producers who spay heifers n = 22, Producers who spay cows n = 17*

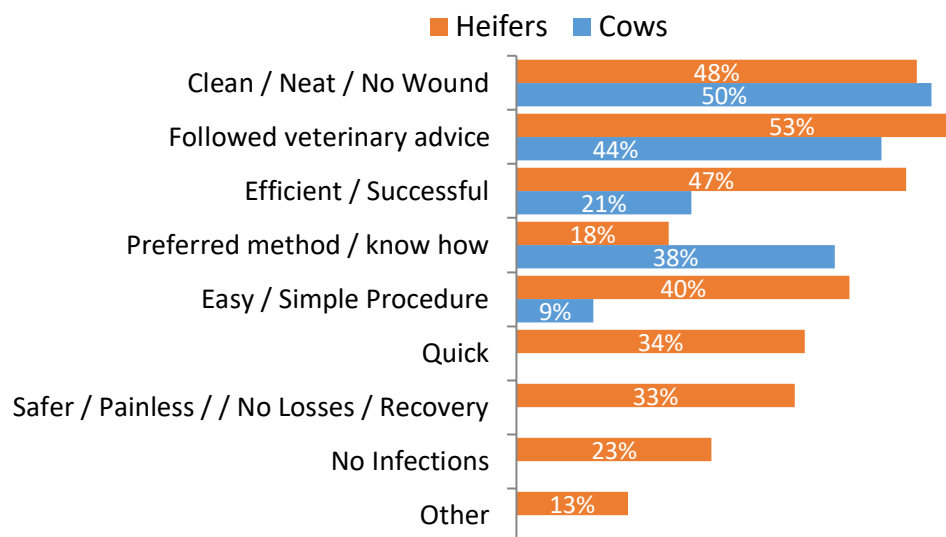


6.6: What spaying methods do you use to spay your heifers and / or cows?

* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

Figure 58: Reason for using Willis dropped ovary spaying method

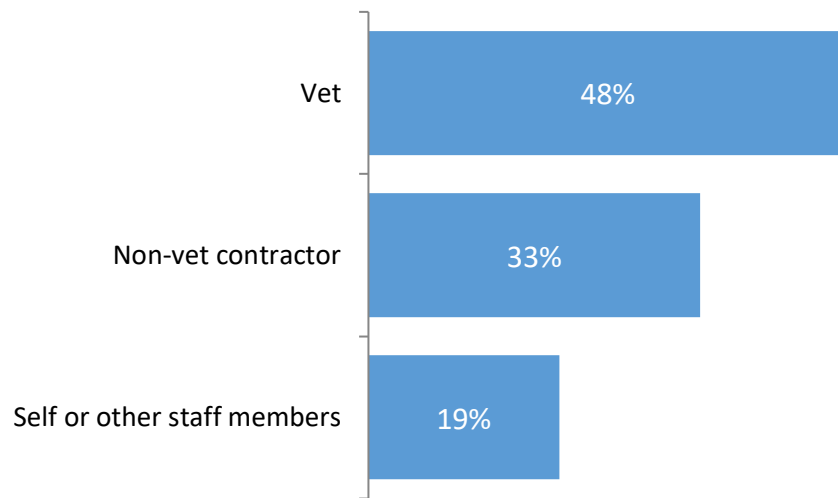
Base: Producers who use the Willis dropped ovary method to spay heifers n = 23, and to spay cows n = 5*



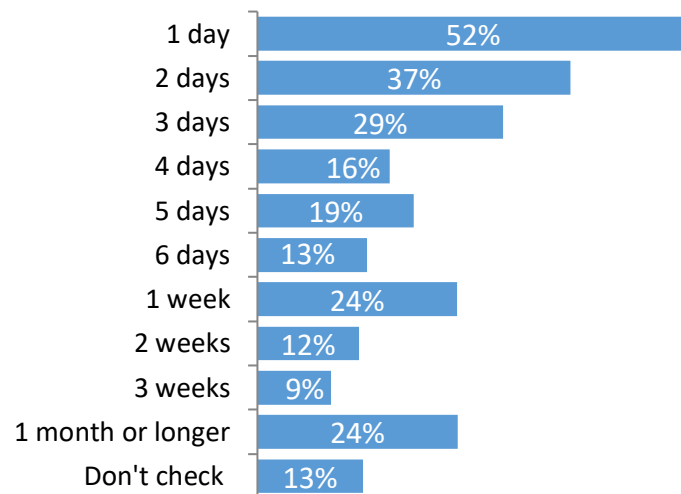
6.7: Why do you use this method to spay your heifers?

6.8: Why do you use this method to spay your cows?

* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

Figure 59: Spaying personnel*Base: Producers who spay heifers or cows n = 23*

6.10: When you spay your cull heifers / cows who performs the spaying?

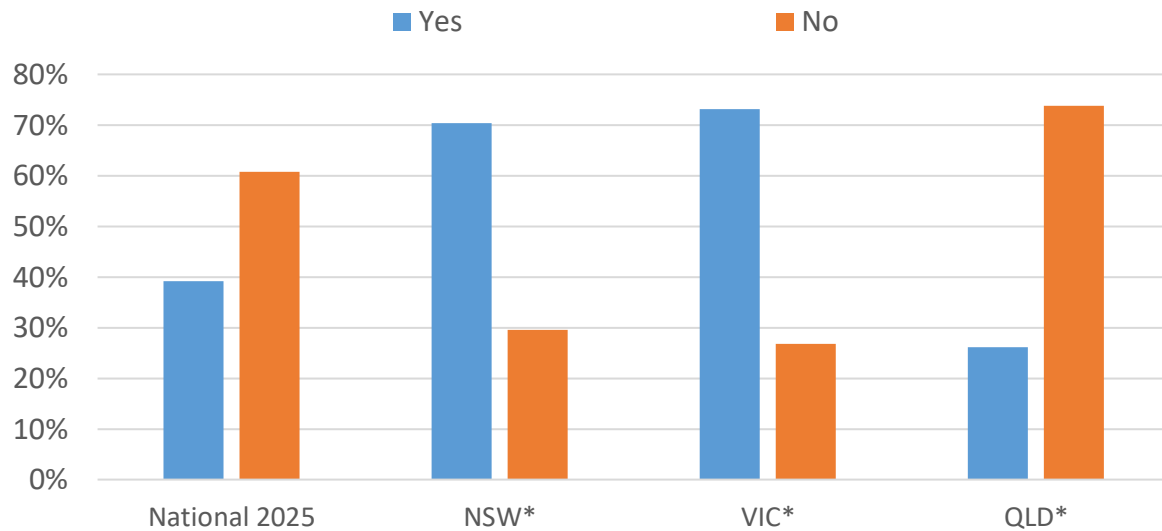
Figure 60: Frequency of checking on heifers and cows following spaying*Base: Producers who spay heifers or cows n = 23*

6.11: When do you check on your heifers / cows following spaying?

NB. Multiple responses allowed

Figure 61: Pain management used for spaying heifers and cows

Base: n = Producers who spayed heifers or cows in 2025 n = 29

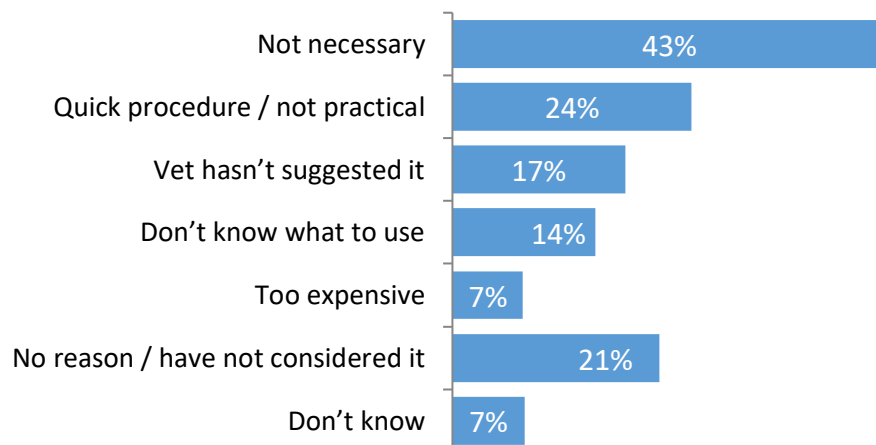


6.14: Did you use any products for pain management for spaying heifers or cows in 2025?

* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

Figure 62: Reasons for not using pain management

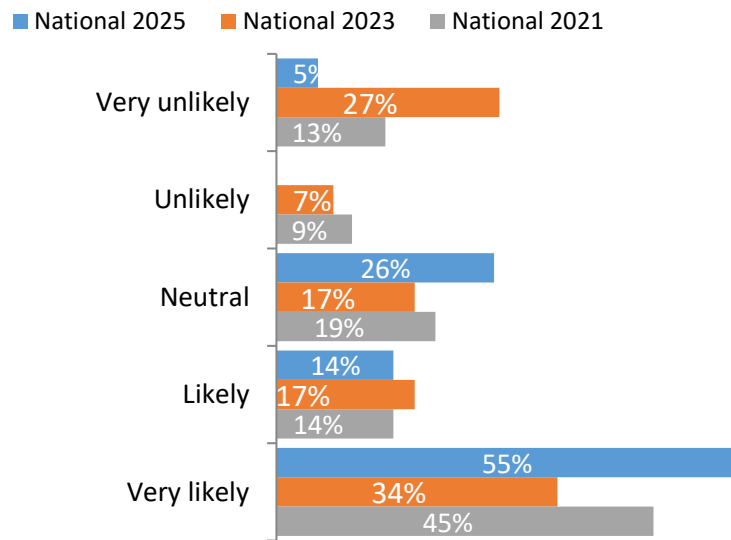
Base: Producers who spay heifers or cows and do not use pain management n = 17*



6.16: Why didn't you use pain management?

NB. Multiple responses allowed

* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

Figure 63: Likelihood to use a non-surgical sterilisation method*Base: Producers who spay heifers or cows n = 23*

6.17: If a non-surgical sterilisation method was available (like a single-dose, 12 month-acting, injectable compound*), how likely would you be to use it?

*wording was changed in 2025 from “vaccine” to “injectable compound”

4.6 Vaccines

Almost one quarter of producers vaccinate against botulism (23% unchanged from 2023 and similar to 27% in 2021). When producers do vaccinate for botulism, the majority (63% compared to 76% in 2023 and 64% in 2021) always follow up with a booster. One fifth (20% compared to 12% in 2023 and 23% in 2021) do not ever give a booster. Producers vaccinate at similar rates across age classes two years and under with fewer than a third vaccinating older cattle (**Figure 64**).

At the national level, 76% (76% in both 2023 and 2021) of producers vaccinate against other clostridial diseases such as tetanus and blackleg (**Figure 65**). Over half of producers use a 5 in 1 vaccine (55% compared to 52% in 2023 and 57% in 2021) and 62% (68% and 63% respectively) use a 7 in 1 vaccine (**Figure 66**).

Around four fifths (79% compared to 80% in 2023 74% in 2021) of producers give booster vaccines within six weeks. Producers who did not give a variety of reasons for not giving booster vaccines. Most commonly, they state that it is inconvenient (27% and 20% in 2023 and 28% in 2021) (**Figure 67**).

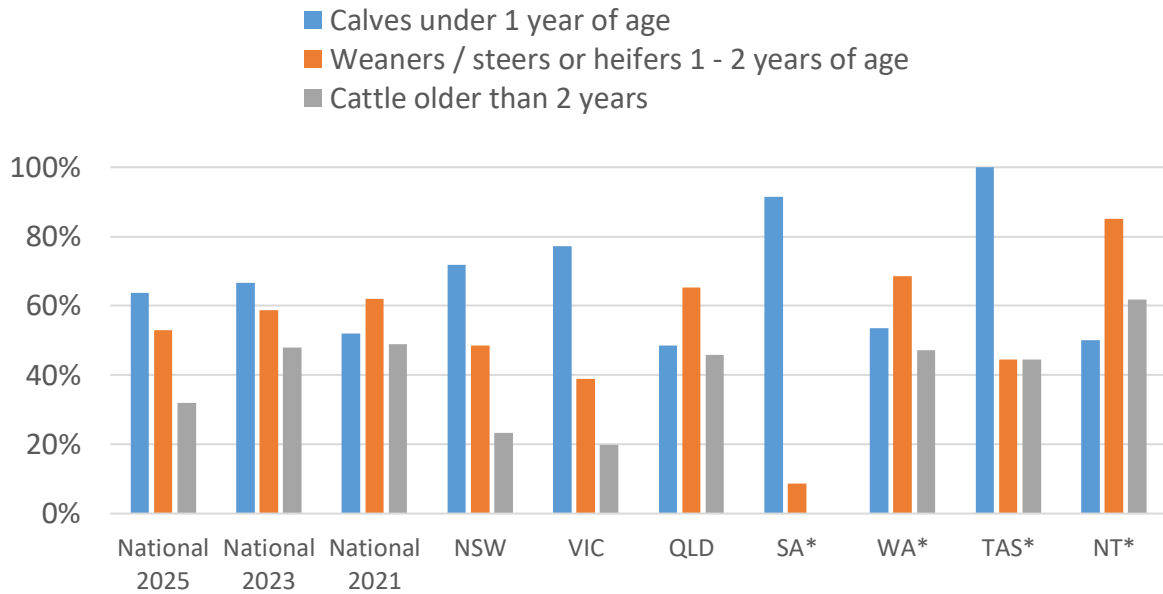
Producers vaccinate all classes of cattle at high rates (87% was 92% in 2023 and 89% in 2021) for calves under one year, 62% (was 63% and 65%) of weaners and 45% (was 51% and 50%) cattle over two years of age) (

Figure 68).

At the national level, 20% (was 23% in 2023 and 2021) of producers vaccinate against BVDV (**Figure 69**)., with weaners the class most commonly vaccinated (81%). Just 8% (9% in 2023 and 10% in 2021) vaccinate against BEF.

Figure 64: Classes of cattle vaccinated against botulism by state

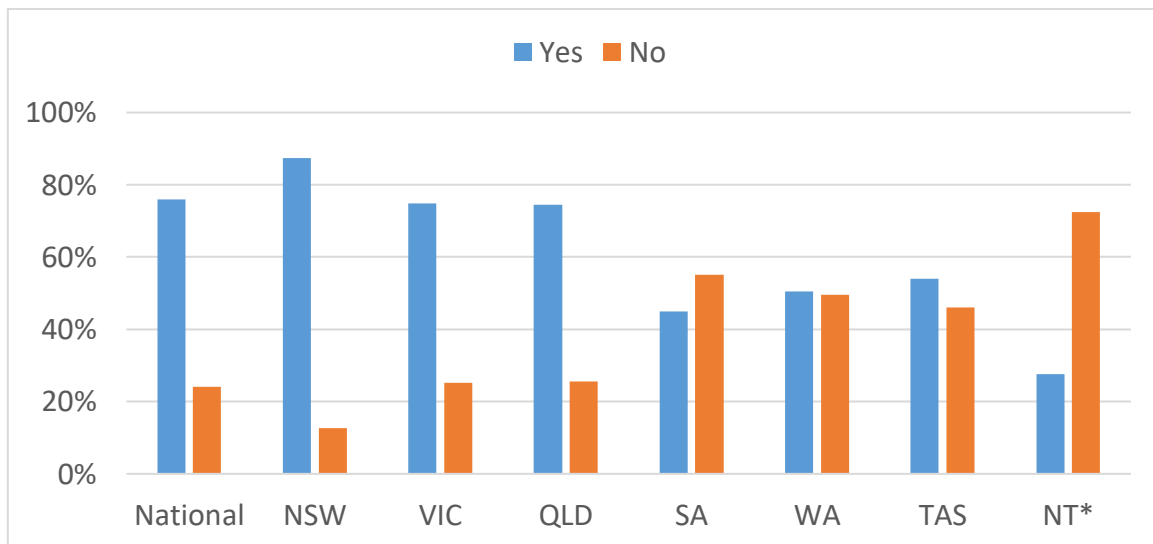
Base: Producers who vaccinate against botulism n = 207



7.4: Which cattle do you vaccinate against botulism?

* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

NB. Multiple responses allowed

Figure 65: Vaccination against clostridial diseases

7.5. Do you vaccinate against other clostridial diseases, e.g. tetanus, blackleg etc?

* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

Figure 66: Use of clostridial vaccines

Base: Producers who vaccinate against clostridial diseases n = 655



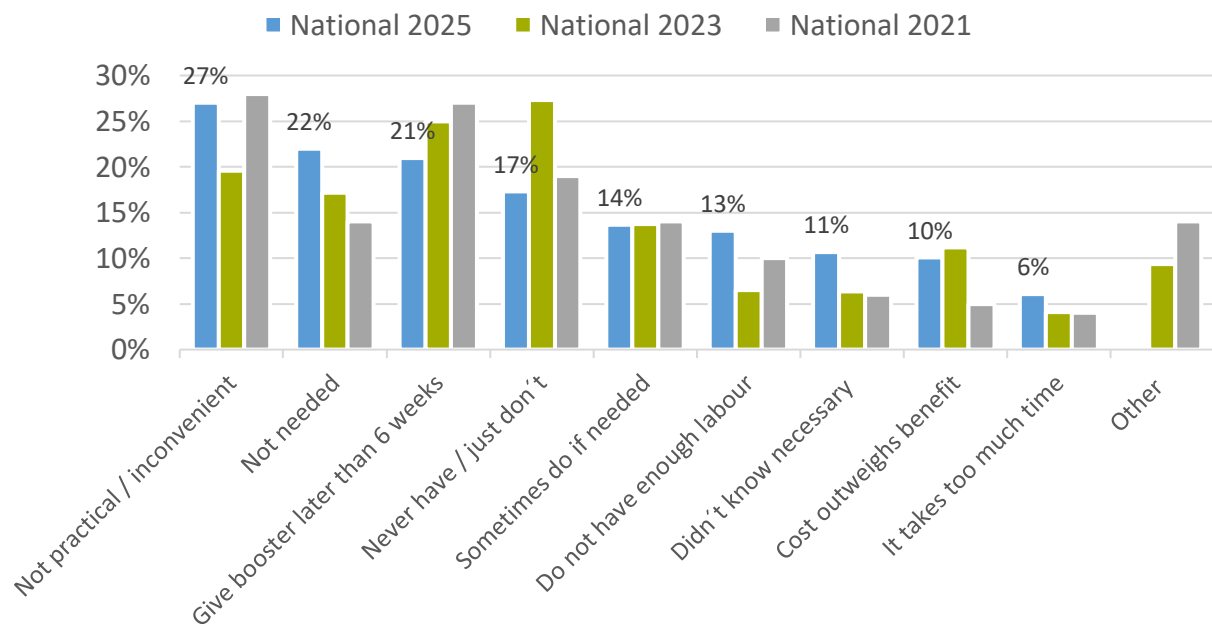
7.6: What vaccines do you use?

* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

NB. Multiple responses allowed

Figure 67: Reasons not to give booster vaccination

Base: Producers who vaccinate but do not give a booster within six weeks n = 139

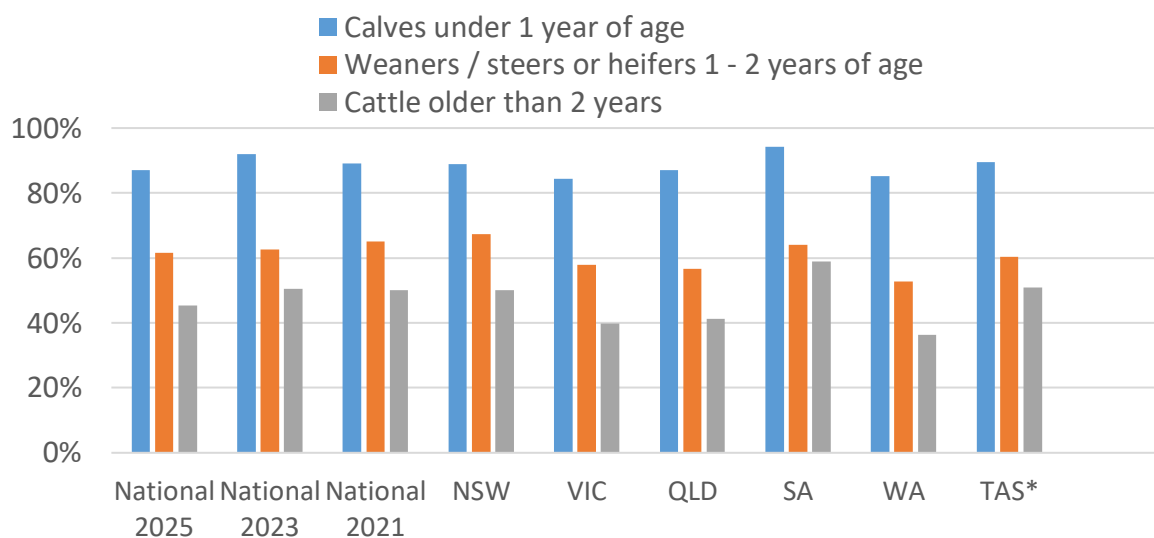


7.8: Why don't you give a booster vaccination within 6 weeks of the initial dose?

NB. Multiple responses allowed

Figure 68: Classes of cattle vaccinated against other clostridial diseases

Base: Producers who vaccinate against other clostridial diseases n = 655



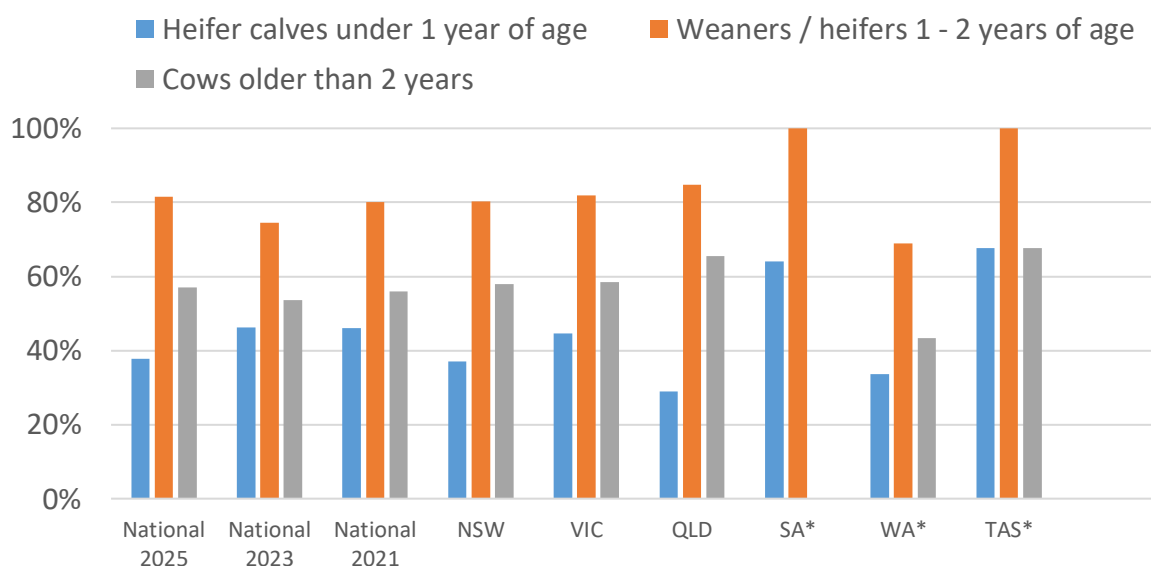
7.9: Which cattle do you vaccinate?

* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

NB. Multiple responses allowed

Figure 69: Classes of cattle vaccinated against BVDV

Base: Producers who vaccinate against BVDV n = 198



7.11: Which cattle do you vaccinate against BVDV (Pestivirus)?

NB. Multiple responses allowed

* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

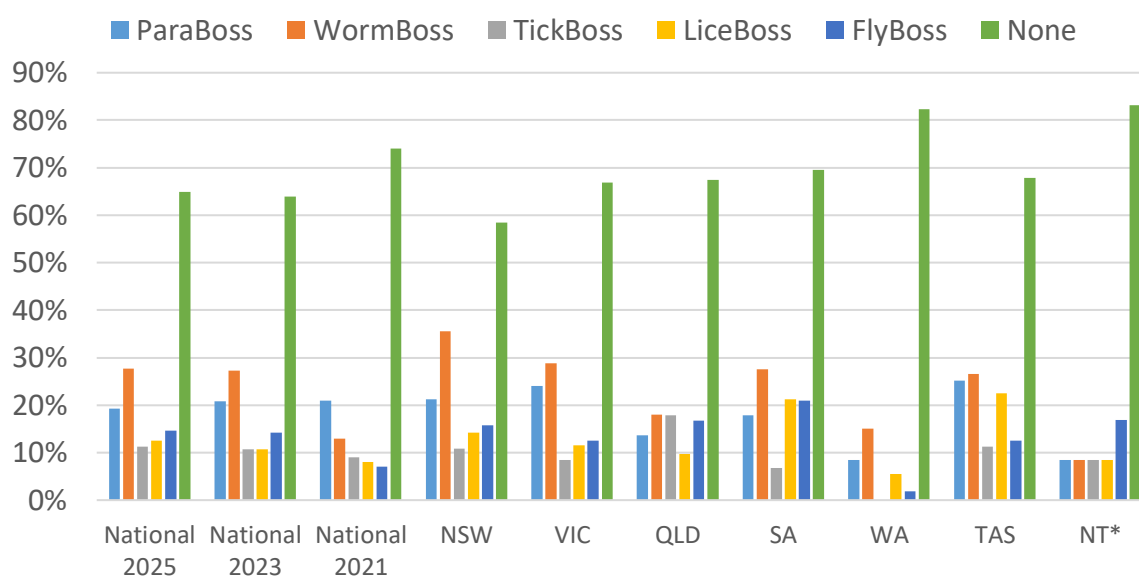
4.6.1 Parasite websites and guidelines

When asked about their awareness of the ParaBoss, WormBoss, TickBoss, LiceBoss and FlyBoss websites, nearly two thirds (65%) of producers had not heard of any of them, with 35% aware nationally. Awareness is stable since 2023. Nationally, for particular websites, WormBoss and ParaBoss have the highest awareness levels at 28% and 20% respectively (**Figure 70**).

25% of producers were aware of the 'Immune Ready Guidelines', up from 20% in 2023 (**Figure 71**).

Figure 70: Website awareness

Base: All producers n = 838



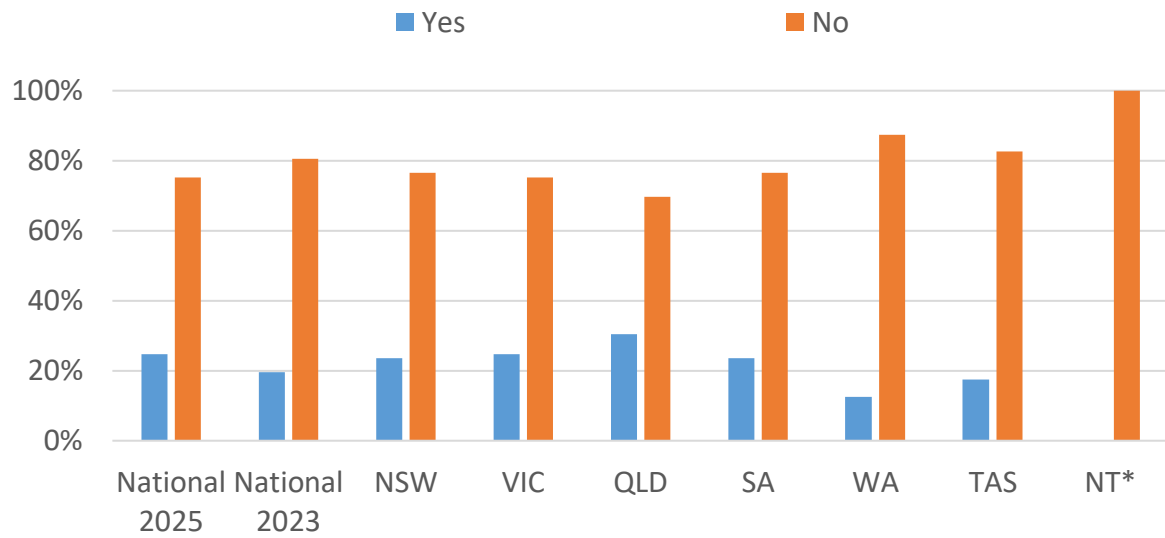
7.25: There are a number of online parasite management information resources available to producers. Which of the following websites have you heard of?

* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

NB. Multiple responses allowed

Figure 71: 'Immunity Ready Guidelines' awareness

Base: All producers n = 838



7.26: Are you aware of the 'Immune Ready Guidelines' for cattle?

* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

4.7 Carbon activities

Over half 52% (50% in 2023 and 47% in 2021) of producers generate and use renewable energy. A further 14% (14% and 12% respectively) of producers nationally stated that they use renewable energy bought from their energy retailer with 38% (42% and 45%) not generating or buying any renewable energy. Producers were allowed to select multiple responses and may use a combination of these (**Figure 72**).

Where producers who generate their own renewable energy, the majority (61% down from 78% in 2023 and 81% in 2021) have solar without batteries. 39% use solar powered farm machinery. Slightly under two fifths (39% up from 30% in 2023 and 26% in 2021) generated solar with a battery. A small portion (4% from 5% in 2023 and 7% in 2021) use wind energy (**Figure 73**).

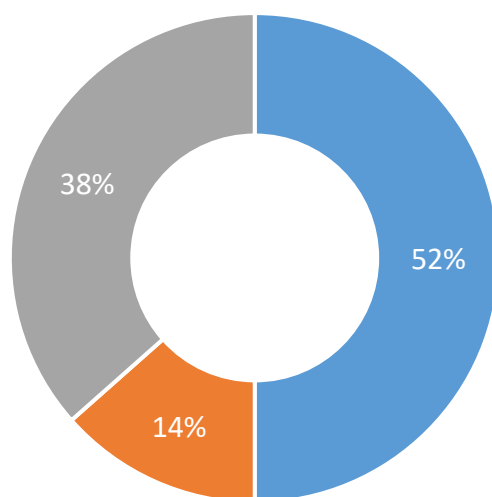
Producers had generally not taken carbon accounting training study (83% in 2025 and 2023 and 88% in 2021) and did not measure their net greenhouse gas emissions produced in their operation using a carbon calculator or another process (86%, a decline from 89% in 2023 and 96% in 2021) (**Figure 74**), however 31% (36% and 26% respectively) did implement measures to reduce emissions. 16% of producers who had undertaken an initial carbon account on their properties went on to take a second or subsequent account (unchanged from 2023).

Producers who did conduct emission reduction activities often selected more than one measure. Most producers (82%, similar to 86% in 2023 and 87% in 2021) used pasture management methods, but management systems and herd management were both popular techniques (68% and 57% respectively). Notably, Queensland producers used savanna burning management systems more often than other states (14% compared to the national average of 6%) (**Figure 75**).

Figure 72: Renewable energy generation and use

Base: All producers n = 838

- Generate and use renewable energy
- Renewable energy from retailer
- Don't generate or buy renewable energy



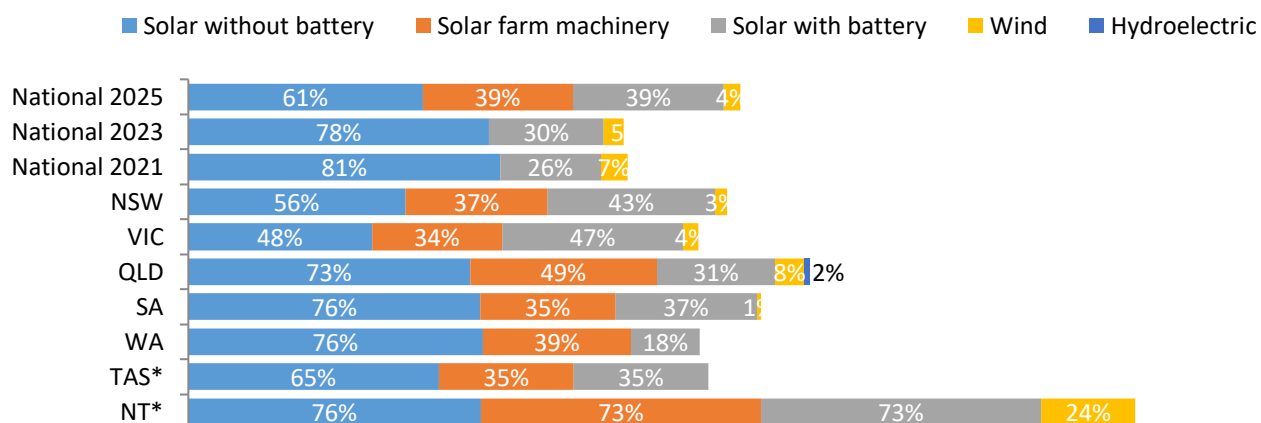
11.1: Which of the following best describes your use of renewable energy on your farm?

2023 and 2021 results in brackets

NB. Multiple responses allowed

Figure 73: Renewable energy generation methods

Base: Producers who generate their own renewable energy n = 444



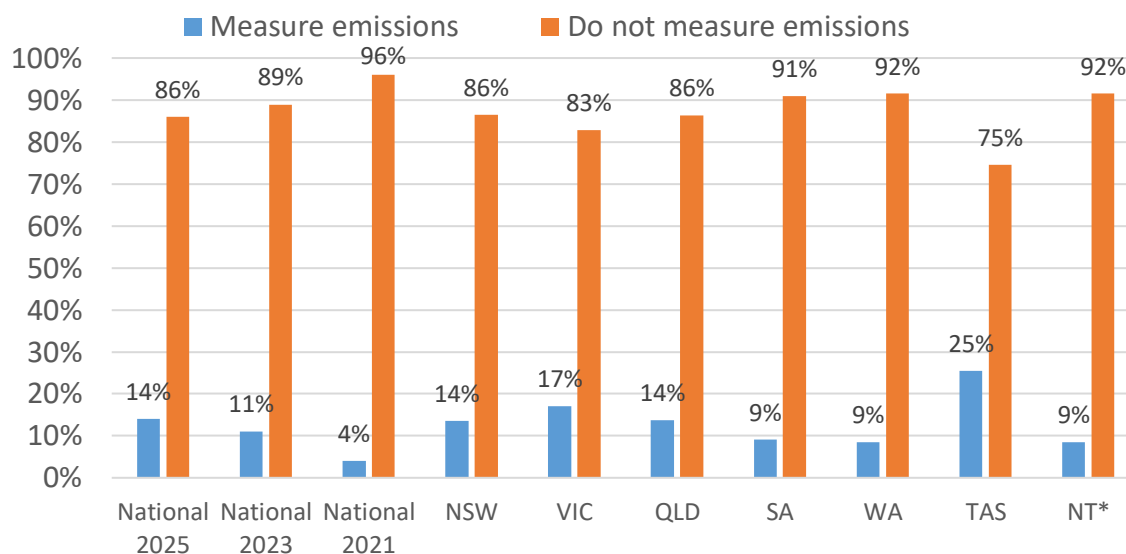
11.2: Which of the following types of renewable energy do you generate and use on your farm?

* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

NB. Multiple responses allowed

Figure 74: Estimation of net GHG emissions

Base: All producers n = 838



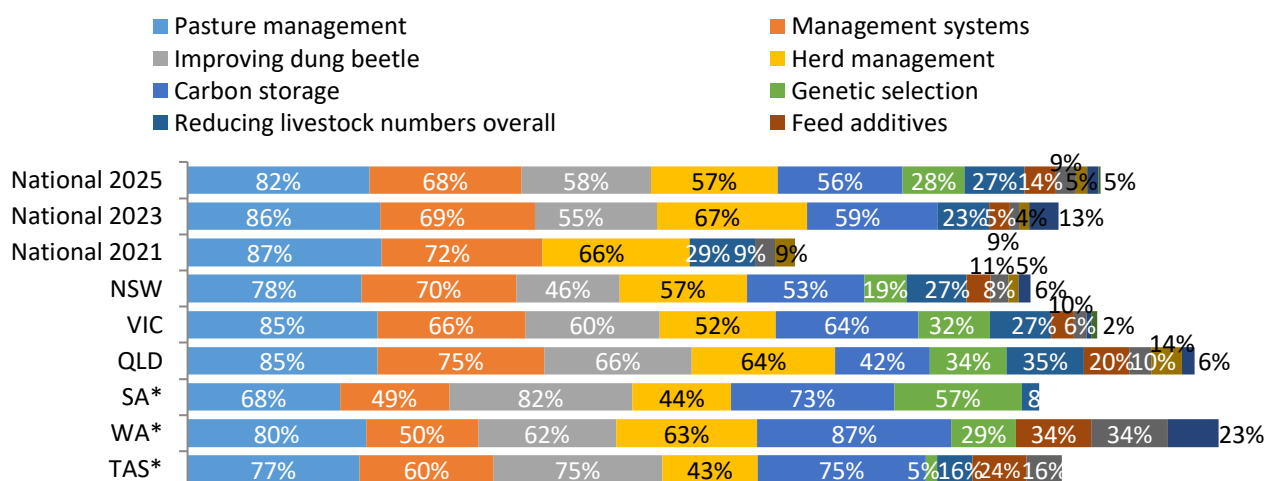
11.4 Have you ever used a carbon calculator or other process to estimate the net greenhouse gas emissions produced in your operation?

* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

NB: question changed in 2025. Previously “Do you estimate the net greenhouse gas emissions produced in your operation using carbon calculator or another process?” was asked

Figure 75: Implementation of emissions reduction measures

Base: Producers who implement emissions reduction measures n = 274



11.6: Which of the following activities have you implemented?

* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

NB. Multiple responses allowed

4.8 Biodiversity and land and water management

Producers undertake an array of land management activities on their properties across an average of 2,756 hectares, with Queensland and Western Australia carrying out these activities on statistically larger areas (6,574 and 3,446 hectares respectively) and New South Wales a significantly smaller area (995 hectares).

Weed control (90% compared to 88% in 2023), control of pest animals (69%, 65% in 2023) and destocking pastured areas (57% was 55%) were undertaken by the majority of respondents (**Figure 76**). For differences by state refer to the Details of land management activities appendix for details. Nationally, 57% (55% in 2023) of producers undertook land management activities across 81% to 100% on their properties (**Figure 77**).

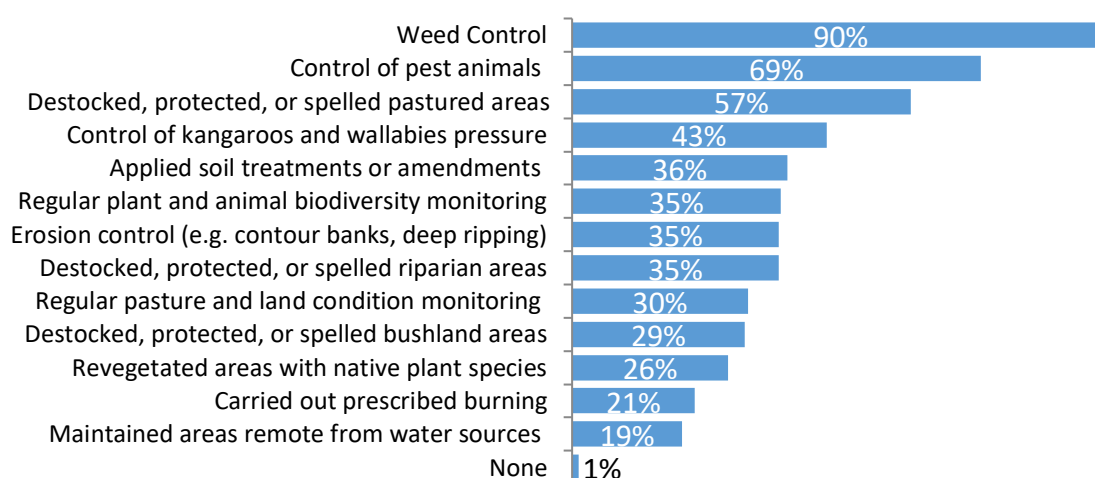
Most producers undertake grazing management activities such as fencing for spelling (66% was 71% in 2023), fencing by land type (62%, was 64%), providing water away from natural water features (56% was 61%) and fencing off waterways (48% was 50%) (**Figure 78**). These activities are undertaken on an average of 2,771 hectares, with 50% of producers undertaking these practices across 81% to 100% of their land (**Figure 79**). As with land management activities, Queensland and Western Australia carried out these activities on statistically larger areas (7,815 and 1,086 hectares respectively) and New South Wales a significantly smaller area (978 hectares).

Over three quarters (73% was 78% in 2023) of producers source water for their cattle from surface water such as dams (**Figure 80**). Groundwater is also commonly used, with 60% (was 57%) of producers using this source.

The vast majority (90% in line with 91% in 2023) of producers had a plan for managing their farm and cattle during extreme weather (**Figure 81**). Almost all producers (95%, was 96%) stated that their stock water supplies can withstand prolonged dry periods (**Figure 82**), although only three quarters (77%, was 78%) were able to increase stock water if needed (**Figure 83**). Nationally, nearly two thirds (61%, was 66%) of producers said they managed their pastures to have diverse, drought resistant species (**Figure 84**).

Figure 76: Land management activities undertaken

Base: All producers n = 838

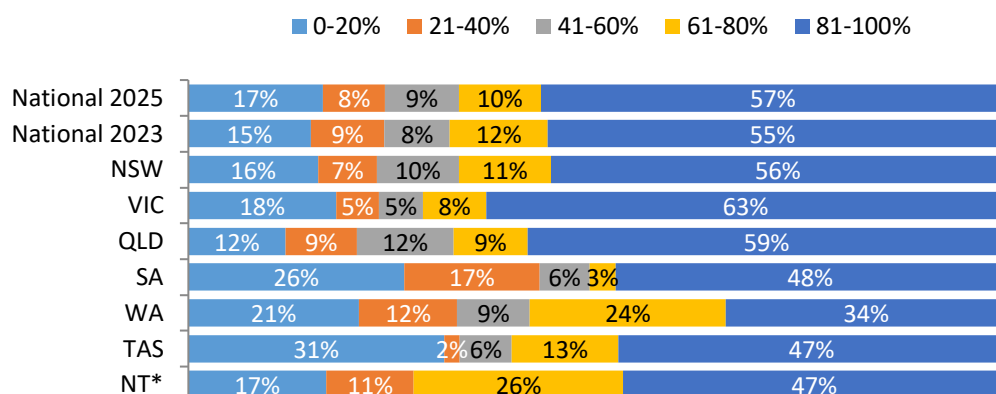


12.1: Which of the following land management activities did you undertake on your property/ies in 2025?

NB. Multiple responses allowed

Figure 77: Land area on which land management activities are undertaken

Base: Producers who conducted land management n = 829

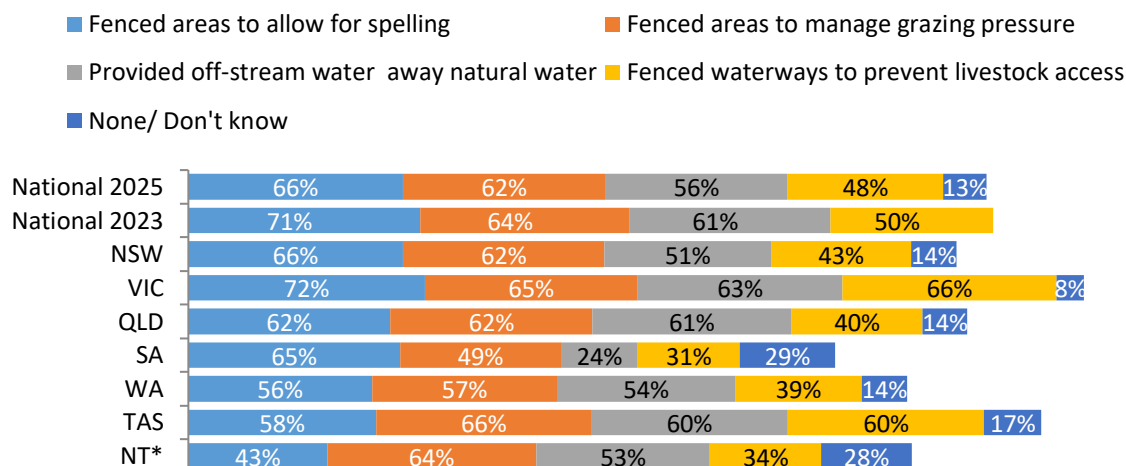


12.2: Of the total area of your property, what is the total area that you carried out these land management activities on, or the area that directly benefited from these activities?

* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

Figure 78: Grazing management activities undertaken

Base: All producers n = 838



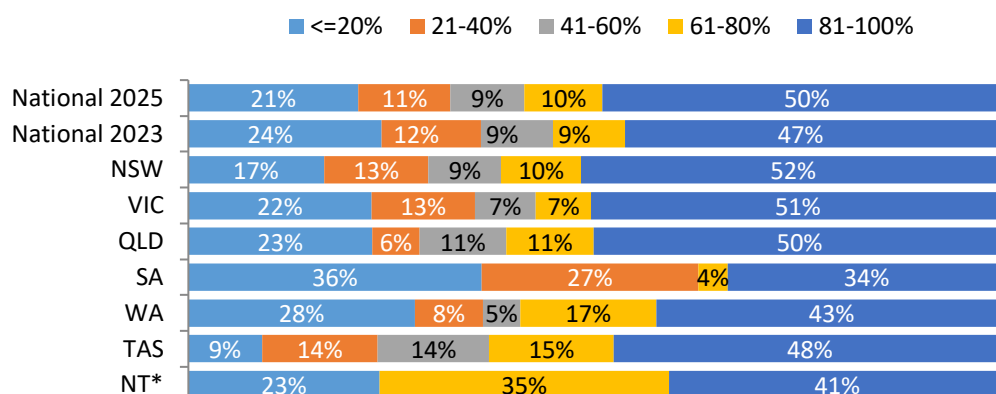
12.3: Have you previously (in 2025 or earlier) undertaken any of the following grazing management activities on your property/ies?

* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

NB. Multiple responses allowed

Figure 79: Total area on which grazing management activities undertaken

Base: Producers who conducted grazing management n = 727

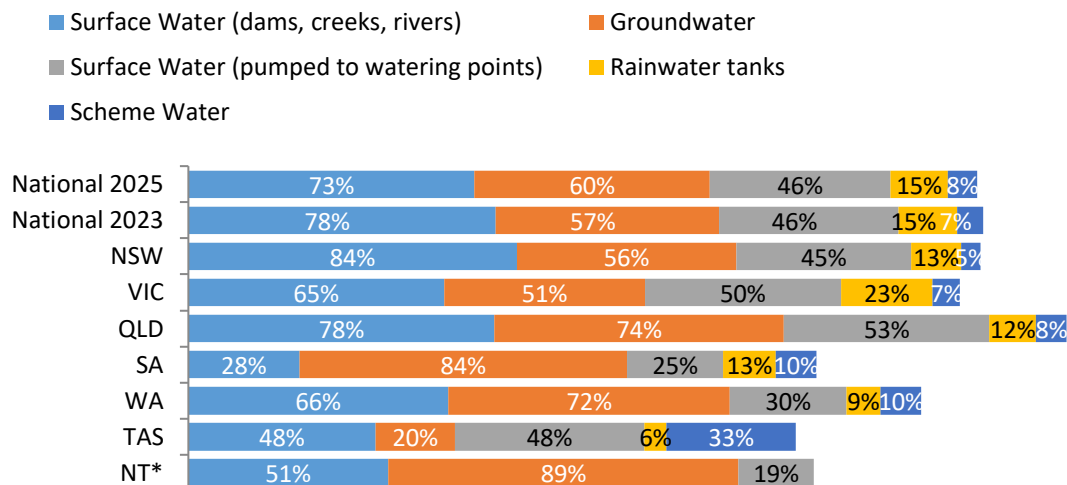


12.4: Of the total area of your property, what is the total area that you carried out these grazing management activities on, or the area that directly benefited from these grazing management activities?

* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

Figure 80: Cattle water source

Base: All producers n = 838



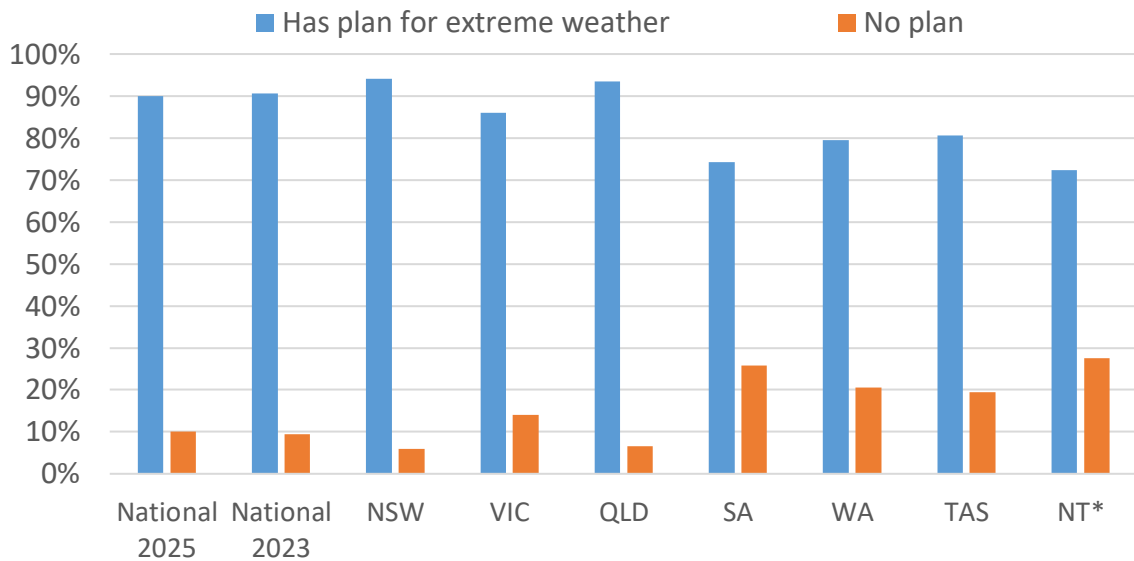
12.5: What is the source of water for your cattle?

* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

NB. Multiple responses allowed

Figure 81: Plans for managing farm and cattle in extreme weather

Base: All producers n = 838

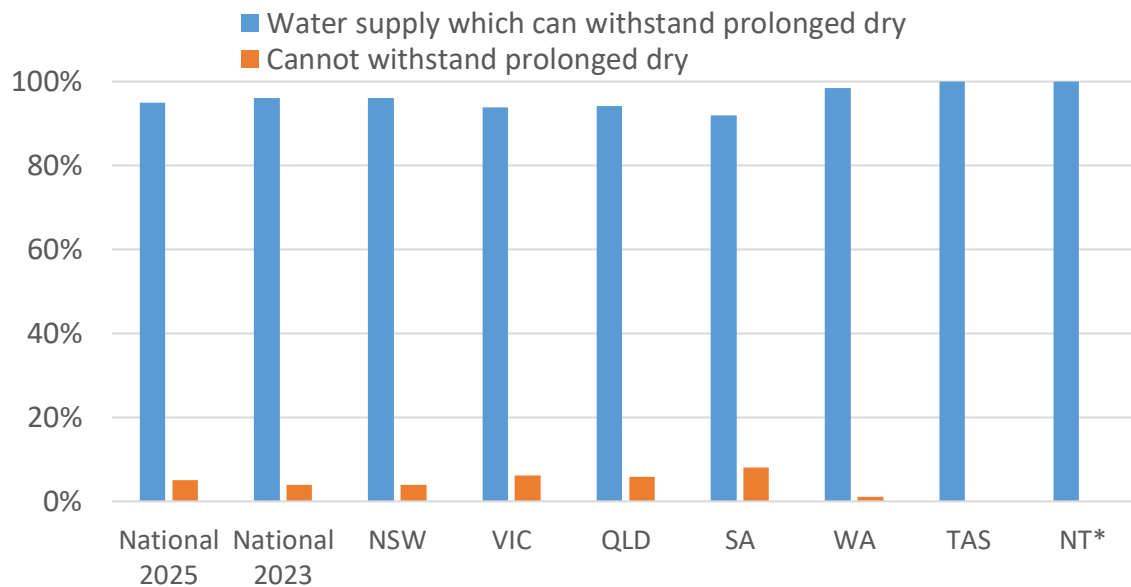


12.6: Do you have a plan for managing the farm and your cattle during extreme weather e.g. droughts, extreme heat events and floods?

* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

Figure 82: Ability of stock water supply to withstand prolonged dry periods

Base: All producers n = 838

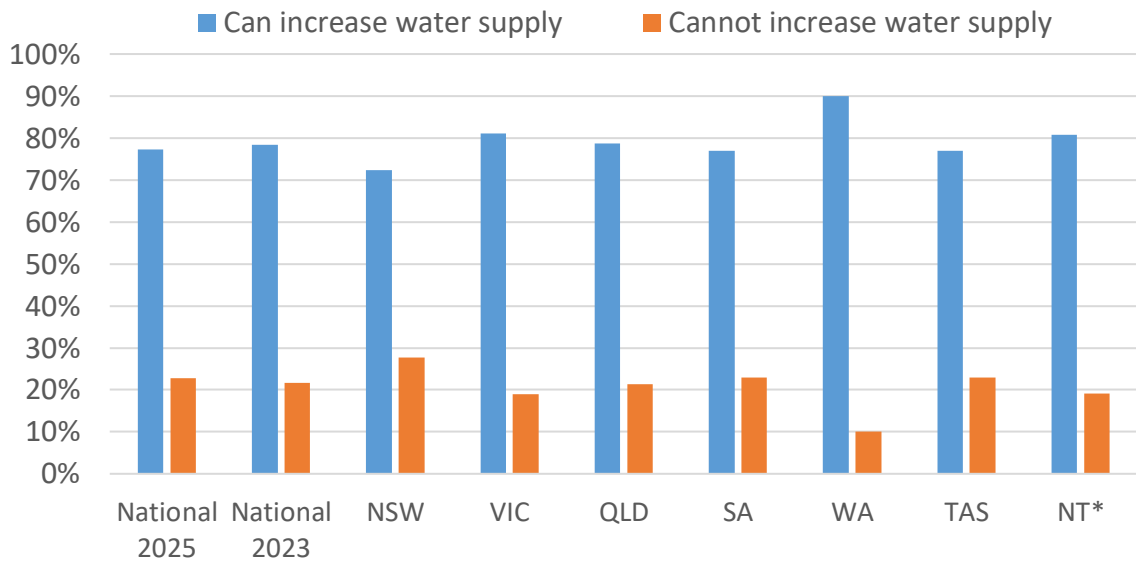


12.7: Can your stock water supply withstand prolonged dry periods?

* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

Figure 83: Ability to increase stock water supply

Base: All producers n = 838

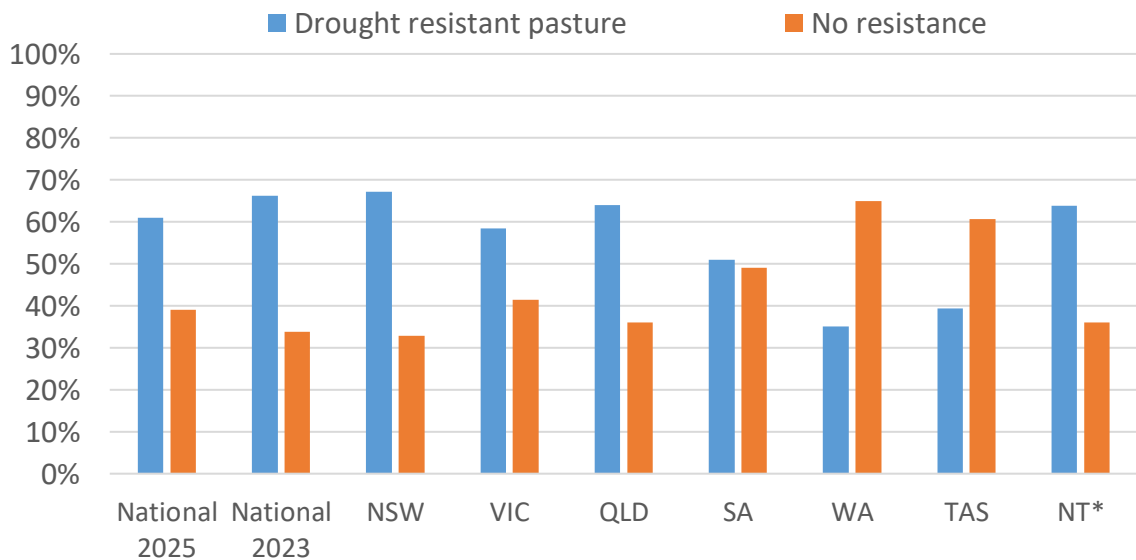


12.8: Can you increase stock water supply if needed?

* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

Figure 84: Pastures managed to have diverse, drought resistant species

Base: All producers n = 838



12.9: Do you manage your pastures to have diverse drought resistant species?

* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

4.9 Soil management

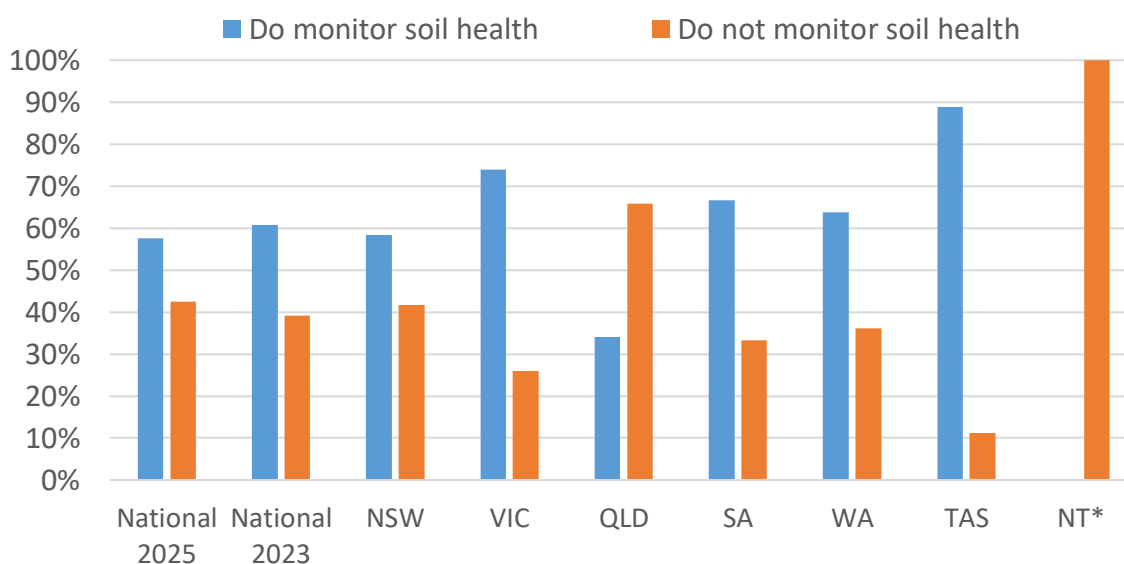
Well over half (58%, was 61% in 2023) of producers test and monitor their soil health (**Figure 85**).

Among producers who do test and monitor soil health, over three quarters (78% from 75% in 2023) utilise lab tests, 39% (41%) test on-farm and 23% (31%) measure groundcover percentages (**Figure 86**).

Almost three quarters (74% up from 69% in 2023) of producers have changed practices based on monitoring of their soil health (**Figure 87**), and the majority of producers (76%, was 81%) undertake practices to improve soil water retention (**Figure 88**).

Figure 85: Testing and monitoring of soil health

Base: All producers n = 838

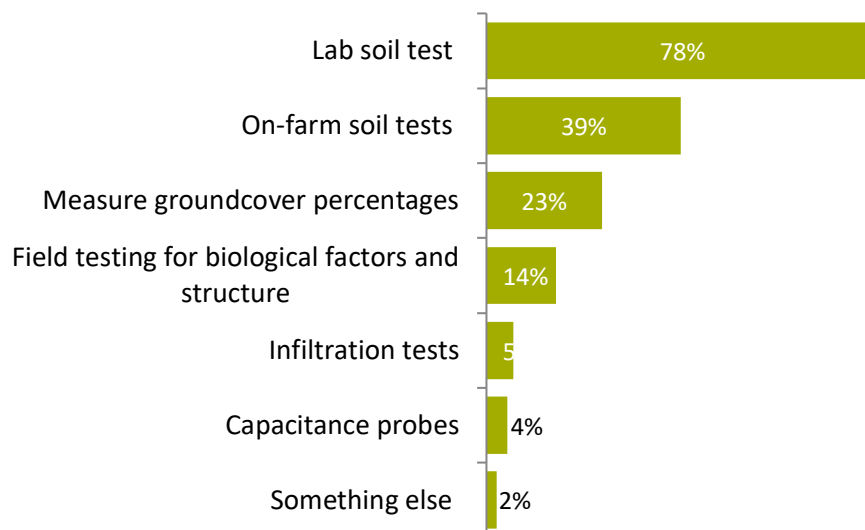


13.1: Do you test and monitor your soil health (excluding soil carbon)?

* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

Figure 86: Method of testing and monitoring of soil health

Base: Producers who test and monitor soil health n = 500

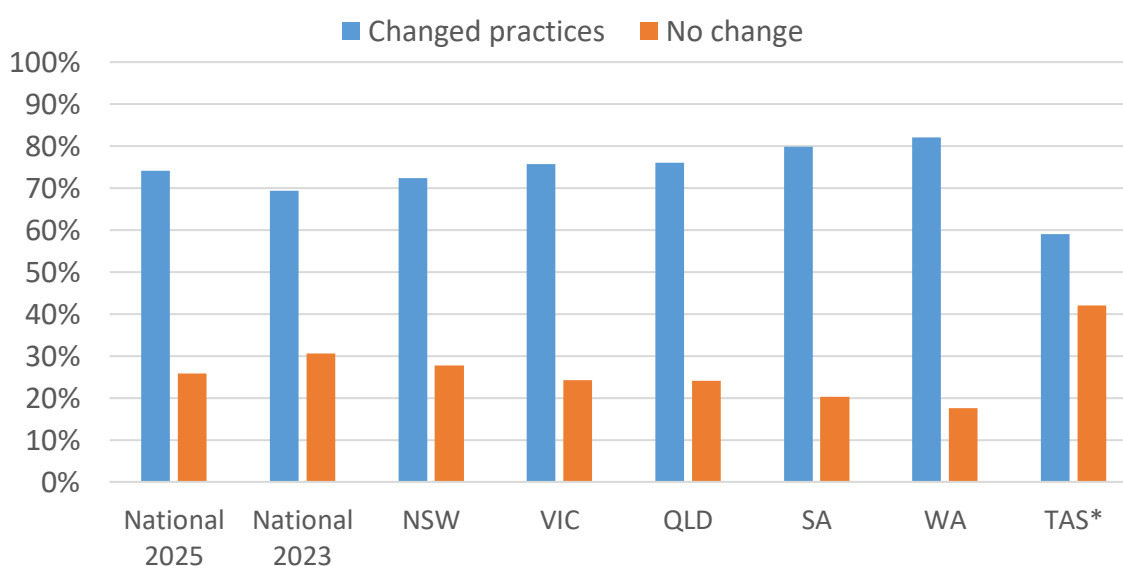


13.2: How do you test and monitor your soil health?

NB. Multiple responses allowed

Figure 87: Changes in practices following testing and monitoring of soil health

Base: Producers who test and monitor soil health n = 500

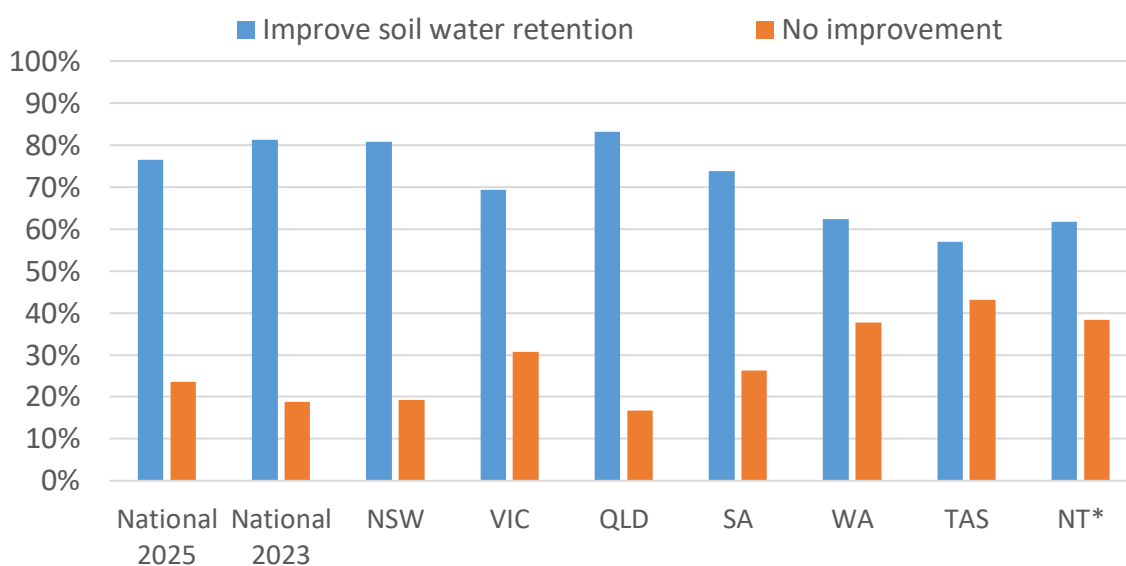


13.3: Have you changed practices based on the monitoring of your soil health?

* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

Figure 88: Improvements to soil water retention

Base: All producers n = 838



13.4: Did you undertake practices to improve your soil water retention?

* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

4.10 Waste management

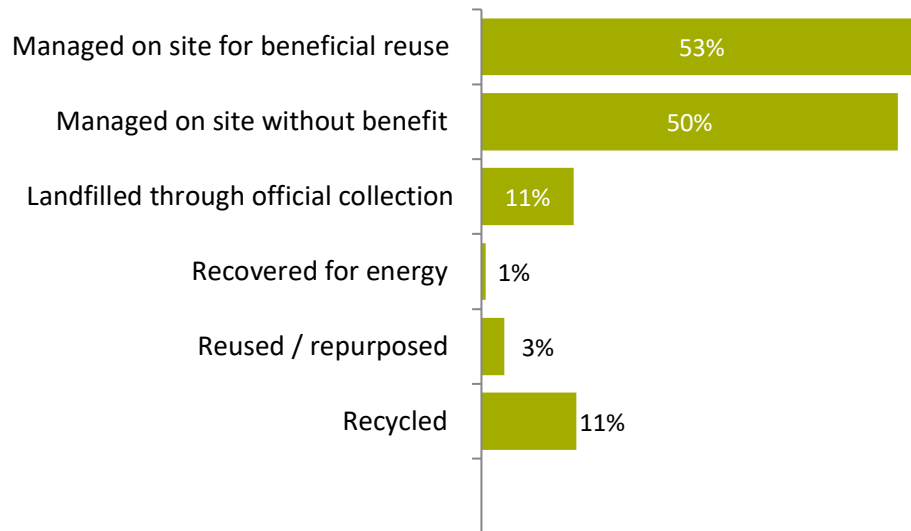
Waste management strategies were dependant on the type of waste, with little variation between states. Organic waste was primarily managed on site, both for beneficial reuse (53%, was 50% in 2023) and without benefit (50%, was 48%) (**Figure 89**).

Plastic waste (**Figure 90**) was often sent to landfill (58% compared to 61% in 2023) or recycled (41%, was 45%), with almost a quarter (23%, was 20%) of producers saying they managed plastic waste on site.

The majority of producers sent workshop waste for disposal offsite, with 63% (was 64% in 2023) sending it for recycling and 51% (unchanged) sending it to official landfill (**Figure 91**). A quarter (25%, was 22%) managed workshop waste onsite.

Figure 89: Management of organic waste

Base: All producers n = 838

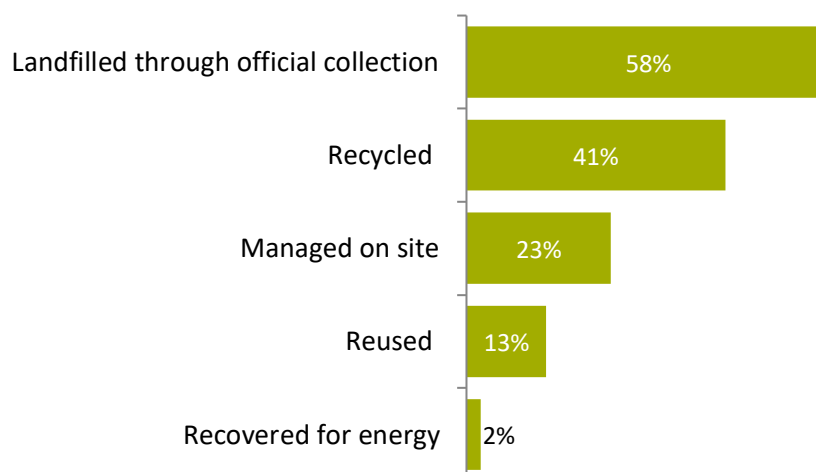


14.1: For waste on your property, which of the following best describes your management of organic waste

NB. Multiple responses allowed

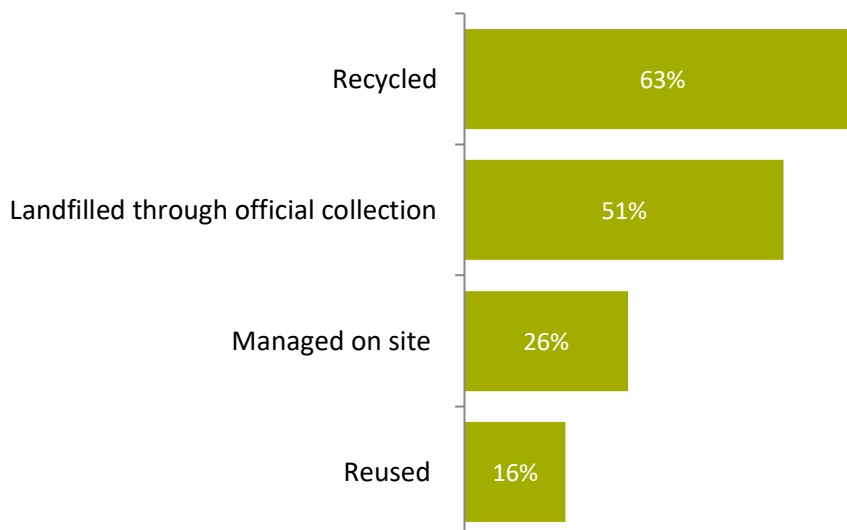
Figure 90: Management of plastic waste

Base: All producers n = 838



14.2: For waste on your property, which of the below best describes your management of plastic waste

NB. Multiple responses allowed

Figure 91: Management of workshop waste*Base: All producers n = 838*

14.3: For waste on your property, which of the below best describes your management of workshop waste

NB. Multiple responses allowed

4.11 Training and Workplace Health and Safety (WHS)

Producers cited a combination of sources for their animal husbandry training. The majority of producers have had informal training with 77% (83% in 2023 and 80% in 2021) citing that this had been shown to them by someone else and 54% (was 52% in 2023 and 2021) saying they had been self-taught. 50% (48% in 2023 and 2021) also stated that they had attended formal training. An additional 2% circumvented a lack of knowledge by using contractors (**Figure 92**).

Most producers interviewed (83%, unchanged from 2023 and 80% in 2021) stated that they obtained formal animal husbandry training through a variety of courses, workshops, and field days (**Figure 93**). 32% (was 39%, 31%) obtained a degree or attended an Ag college with 29% (was 28%, 25%) holding a TAFE or Ag Certification. 27% (31% in 2023 and 2021) of producers took specific courses on AI, pregnancy testing or spaying, with 33% (was 38% and 37%) attending a low stress livestock handling course. 10% (was 5% and 8%) of producers had completed a farm apprenticeship.

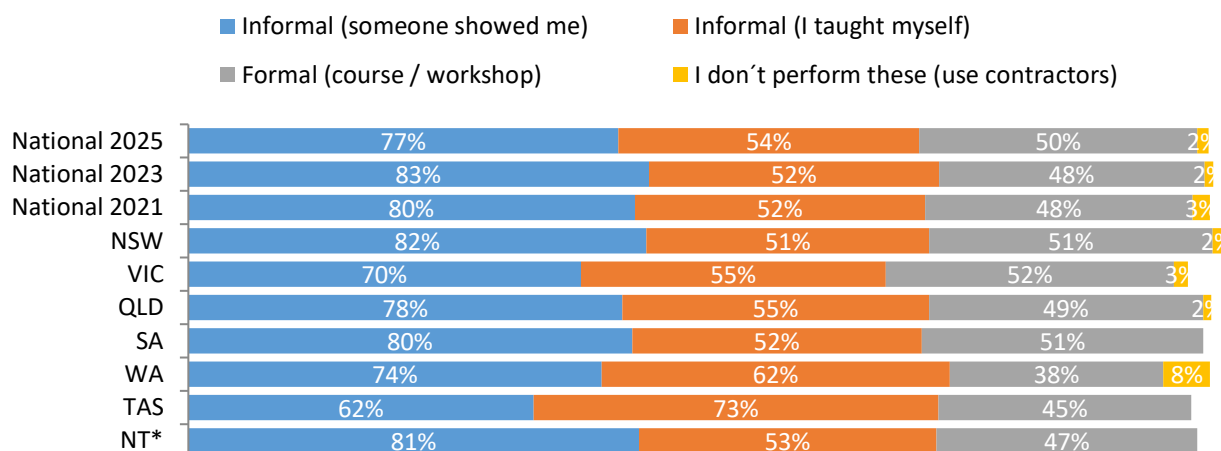
Over half of producers (53% was 51% in 2023) have a WHS plan (**Figure 94**).

Almost two thirds (63% unchanged since 2023) of producers undertake WHS risk assessments, and nearly half (49%, was 47%) induct their workers in WHS obligations. 42% (unchanged) induct visitors in WHS obligations.

Nearly three quarters (72%, was 70% in 2023) of producers encourage workers to identify safety concerns. Half (50%, was 48%) of producers exclude children from farming activities. Almost four fifths (79%, was 73%) have roll over bars on appropriate vehicles.

Figure 92: Animal husbandry education

Base: All producers n = 838



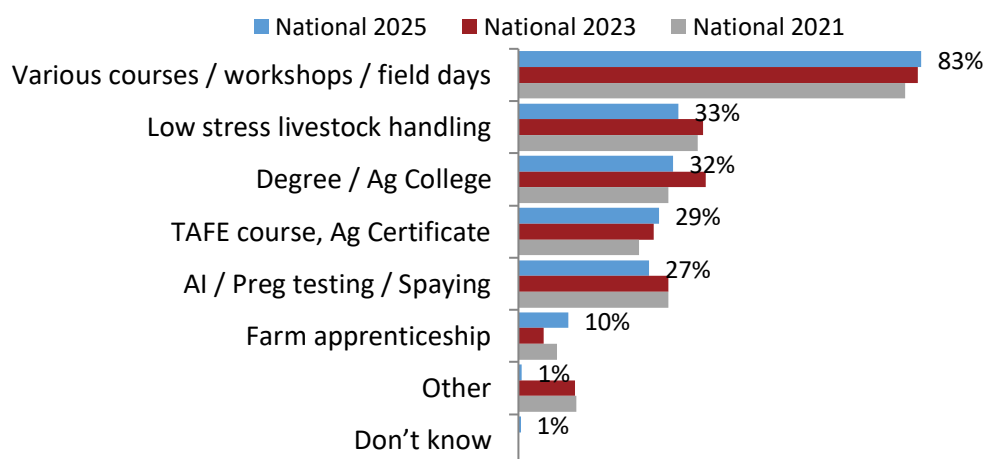
15.1: How did you learn to perform the various animal husbandry practices undertaken on farm?

* Small sample (less than 20 producers)

NB. Multiple responses allowed

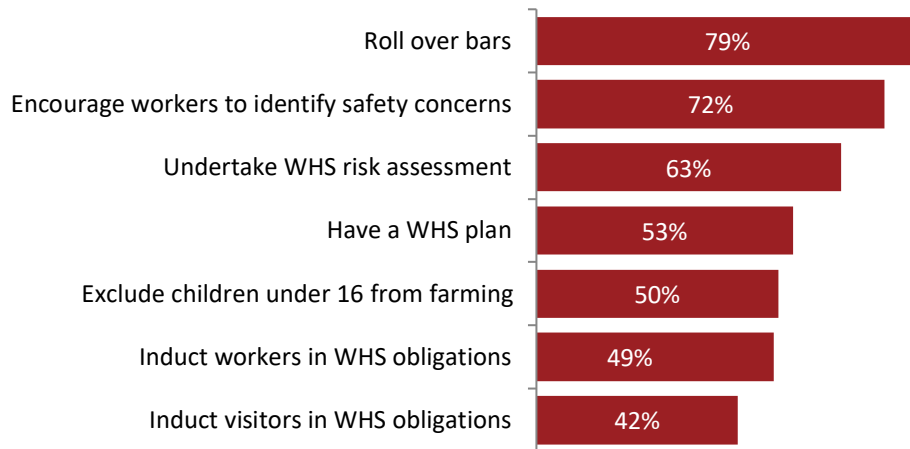
Figure 93: Courses in animal husbandry taken

Base: Producers who undertook formal husbandry training n = 409



15.2: What course or workshops did you attend to learn about these practices?

NB. Multiple responses allowed

Figure 94: Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) practice implementation*Base: All producer n = 838*

15.3: Do you have, or are you doing, any of the following in regards to Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) on your farm?

5. Comparison with 2010, 2016, 2021 and 2023 Results

Where relevant, comparisons have been made between the survey results in 2010, 2016, 2021, 2023 and 2025. These results are shown in tables **Table 2** to **Table 5** below.

Castration

The use of rubber rings for castrating calves has increased consistently from 41% in 2010 to reach 72% in 2025. In contrast, the use of knife and scalpel has declined from 60% in 2010 to 30% in 2025 (**Table 2**).

Table 2: Calf castration methods

	2010	2016**	2021	2023	2025
Knife*	41%	18%	40%*	33%	30%
Scalpel*	19%	27%			
Rubber Rings	41%	51%	65%	69%	72%
Cryptorchid / Short Scrotum	0%	0%	3%	3%	2%
Burdizzo	3%	2%	2%	3%	2%
Tension Bander	1%	1%	4%	3%	5%

*Knife and Scalpel have been combined since 2021

**Single responses in 2016

Dehorning

Scoop or cup dehorner remained the main calf dehorning method in 2025 (46%), a decline from previous years (**Table 3**).

Table 3: Calf dehorning methods

	2010	2016	2021	2023	2025
Scoop or cup dehorner	68%	55%	55%	55%	46%
Gouging knife	23%	30%	7%	5%	6%
Hot iron / heat cauterising	6%	4%	10%	11%	11%
Knife	NA	4%	15%	14%	11%
Guillotine	3%	1%	4%	4%	6%
Tippers / Cutter	3%	1%	6%	6%	19%
Dehorner (various)	NA	3%	-	-	-
Other	NA	1%	3%	4%	1%

Spaying

The incidence of spaying remained low, with only 2% for heifers and <1% for cows spayed in 2025 (**Table 4**). Spaying sample sizes are small however and this difference is not likely to be significant. The Willis Dropped technique remained the primary method in 2025.

Table 4: Spaying incidence and methods

	2010		2016		2021*		2023*		2025	
	Heifers	Cows	Heifers	Cows	Heifers	Cows	Heifers	Cows	Heifers	Cows
Producers Spaying	7%	4%	9%		3%	2%	2%	2%	2%	<1%
Willis Dropped Method*	62%	58%	91%	68%	77%	56%	79%	42%	78%	39%
Flank and removal*	22%	18%	2%	0%	5%	15%	14%	14%	-	35%
Flank and webbed*	17%	5%	4%	19%	8%	15%	5%	6%	3%	NA
Passage*	NA	20%	2%	13%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Use pain management	NA	NA	2%		9%		15%		39%	

*Small sample sizes

Drenches and Vaccines

The overwhelming majority of producers (76%) treated their cattle for clostridial diseases in 2025, similar to the levels in previous years (**Table 5**). Treatment for other diseases such as Botulism and Bovine Ephemeral Fever were lower at the national level however as these diseases largely vary with geography, treatment levels in particular states and regions were higher.

Table 5: Drenches and vaccines

	2010	2016	2021	2023	2025
Botulism	23%	26%	27%	23%	23%
Clostridial Vaccines	74%	71%	76%	76%	76%
Endoparasiticides	79%	75%	85%	NA	NA
Ectoparasiticides	70%	68%	77%	NA	NA
Bovine Ephemeral Fever (Three-Day Sickness)	8%	8%	10%	9%	8%
Pestivirus (BVDV)	NA%	17%	23%	23%	20%

6. Conclusion and recommendations

6.1 Conclusions

The research indicates that cattle producers are implementing a range of practices and behaviours that support the sustainability of the Australian beef industry. These include:

1. Husbandry practices such as castration, dehorning, spaying, vaccination, and drenching;
2. Management approaches and standards relating to animal welfare, land and water stewardship, and training; and
3. Environmental initiatives, including the use of renewable energy, soil monitoring, waste management, carbon accounting, and emissions measurement and reduction.

While the researchers are unable to determine whether the level of adoption of these practices meets the industry's specific sustainability targets, the study provides valuable tracking data. By comparing these findings with results from 2023 and earlier surveys, the research helps inform MLA's investment decisions and project planning initiatives aimed at supporting cattle producers.

6.2 Recommendations

Based on the survey findings, the following recommendations target key gaps, risks, and opportunities across animal welfare, workforce capability, adoption of best practice, and sustainability.

1. Animal Welfare Adoption

Drive uptake of best-practice welfare by simplifying protocols, improving access, and addressing misconceptions through clear, outcome-focused messaging.

Why: Adoption remains low (e.g. only 27% use pain relief for castration), with up to 40% citing impracticality and many perceiving it as unnecessary—indicating clear gaps in awareness, access, and usability.

2. Training and Extension

Modernise extension by scaling peer-led learning and delivering accessible, practical training that reinforces correct and timely application of best practices.

Why: Most producers rely on informal learning (77% peers, 54% self-taught), contributing to inconsistent practices, delayed interventions, and misuse of products.

3. Herd Health Management

Strengthen preventative herd health by increasing vaccination coverage and compliance through simplified approaches and behaviour-focused engagement.

Why: Vaccination uptake is low (e.g. ~20–23% nationally for key diseases), with low booster compliance driven by perceptions of low value or impracticality.

4. Workforce Capability and Safety

Build a safer, more resilient workforce by embedding simple WHS practices into daily operations while supporting succession and labour efficiency.

Why: Only around half of producers have WHS systems in place, child safety practices are inconsistent, and 54% of producers are aged 65+, creating capability and continuity risks.

5. Sustainability and Resource Stewardship

Accelerate sustainability by improving carbon capability and linking environmental practices to productivity and resilience outcomes.

Why: Capability is low (83% lack carbon training, 86% do not measure emissions), despite strong uptake of related practices like renewables (66%), indicating readiness but limited know-how.

6. Producer-Focused Delivery

Maximise impact by delivering integrated, low-complexity solutions tailored to smaller, time-poor operations.

Why: Most producers operate at smaller scales (<500 ha; 50–199 head) and frequently cite impracticality as a key barrier, requiring simpler, more scalable approaches.

7. Priority Actions (Short-Term)

- National campaign on practical pain management adoption.
- Rapid awareness push for “Boss” and Immune Ready resources.
- Rollout of simplified WHS and animal welfare toolkits.
- Targeted vaccination extension in under-performing regions.
- Launch of carbon literacy and measurement pilot programs.

8. Strategic Focus (Long-Term)

- Repeat the full survey every two years to track industry progress
- Expand the profile of MLA’s Member database and ensure accuracy with regular updates
- Transition to polled, low-intervention production systems.
- System-wide normalisation of pain management.
- Digital and peer-led extension models.
- Workforce renewal and succession.
- Integrated productivity–sustainability frameworks.

These recommendations aim to align animal welfare, productivity, and sustainability outcomes while addressing structural challenges such as ageing producers, knowledge gaps, and operational constraints. Continue to develop strategies to address the main barriers to adoption of sustainable practices.

Appendices

Details of land management activities

	Total	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT
Weed Control	90%	92%	93%	89%	83%	80%	92%	81%
Control of pest animals (e.g. wild dogs, dingos, foxes, cats, pigs, horses, cane toads)	69%	78%	56%	75%	61%	67%	33%	92%
Control of kangaroos and wallabies to better manage total grazing pressure	43%	49%	40%	33%	39%	62%	82%	36%
Carried out prescribed burning to reduce weeds, control regrowth, or improve pasture condition	21%	19%	12%	37%	6%	15%	9%	28%
Revegetated areas with native or indigenous plant species	26%	21%	42%	15%	40%	23%	37%	0%
Erosion control (e.g. contour banks, deep ripping)	35%	38%	25%	51%	6%	22%	17%	72%
Applied soil treatments or amendments other than fertilisers (e.g. lime, dolomite, gypsum, compost, green manure crops, biochar)	36%	37%	50%	20%	32%	53%	46%	17%
Regular pasture and land condition monitoring (photos or documenting change)	30%	30%	32%	33%	15%	25%	8%	36%
Maintained areas remote from reliable water sources for livestock	18%	18%	25%	11%	22%	5%	47%	17%
Destocked, protected, or spelled pastured areas	57%	62%	53%	64%	34%	44%	31%	75%
Destocked, protected, or spelled bushland areas	30%	32%	30%	30%	19%	18%	13%	38%
Destocked, protected, or spelled riparian areas and other natural water features	35%	38%	38%	32%	26%	24%	18%	55%
Regular plant and animal biodiversity monitoring	35%	33%	36%	40%	28%	29%	33%	21%

Sampling

Table 6: State and herd size quotas and samples

	50 – 399 head		400 – 1,599 head		1,600 + head		Total	
State	Quota	Sample	Quota	Sample	Quota	Sample	Quota	Sample
NSW	205	182	51	86	7	20	263	288
VIC	146	150	19	45	3	19	168	214
QLD	105	109	48	61	64	44	217	214
SA	13	26	24	14	13	10	50	50
WA	28	27	13	11	5	3	46	41
TAS	25	14	4	4	2	3	31	21
NT	-	1	-	-	25	9	25	10
Total						20	800	838

Due to the small number of producers in the NT and the difficulty in contacting them and gaining their participation (despite multiple contacts), a final sample of only 10 NT producers was possible. Results for the NT should therefore be treated with caution.

Table 15: Margin of error* for survey results based on different sample sizes

	Survey Result									
Sample	5%/95%	10%/90%	15%/85%	20%/80%	25%/75%	30%/70%	35%/65%	40%/60%	45%/55%	50%
25	7	10	12	13	14	15	16	16	16	16
50	5	7	8	9	10	11	11	11	12	12
75	4	6	7	8	8	9	9	9	9	9
100	4	5	6	7	7	8	8	8	8	8
200	3	3	4	5	5	5	6	6	6	6
300	2	3	3	4	4	4	5	5	5	5
400	2	2	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4
500	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	4
600	1	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
700	1	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3
800	1	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3
900	1	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3

*Based on 90% confidence level, consistent with MLA's 2021 and 2016 surveys

As a guide to interpretation, a survey result of 30% from a sample of 838 respondents (eg National) would have a margin of error of 3 percentage points, that is, you are 90% confident that the true answer would lie between 27% and 33%. A result of 30% from a sample of 288 respondents (eg New South Wales) would have a higher error of plus / minus 4% (ie 26% - 34%).

Survey questions

Section 1: Demographic Screeners

S1	Which state is your main cattle enterprise located?			CHECK QUOTA
		NSW	1	
		VIC	2	
		QLD	3	
		SA	4	
		WA	5	
		TAS	6	
		NT	7	

S2	What is the postcode of your main cattle enterprise?				
	Postcode <table border="1" style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> </tr> </table>				

S3	To make sure we are interviewing a representative cross section of producers, over the last 3 full financial years, what percentage of your gross farm income, that is, only income from your property, came from the following activities? <i>STOP WHEN TOTAL REACHES 100%</i>		Record %	
		Beef cattle		
		Sheep for wool and mutton		
		Lambs for meat		
		Lambs for wool		
		Grains		
		Sugar cane		
		Other crops		
		Other livestock		

TO CONTINUE, RESPONDENT MUST HAVE BEEF INCOME IE IF BEEF CATTLE ZERO AT S3, CLOSE

S4	What is the total area of your property, including all leased land and any unused land? SHOW. SINGLE		
			Hectares
			Square kilometres

S5	Which of the following describes the business purpose or purposes of your beef operation? SHOW. MULTIPLE	
	Commercial breeding operation	1
	Trade cattle: buy and sell cattle	2

S6.1	ASK IF CODE 1, AT S5 As at 31 December 2025, how many breeding cattle did you have on your property? SHOW	Number
	Breeding cows	

S6.2	ASK IF CODE 2 AT S5 How many cattle do you trade (buy and sell) in a typical year? SHOW	Number
	Cattle traded annually	

S6.3	As at 31 December 2025, how many of cattle did you have in total on your property? SHOW	Number
	Total herd	

S7	Which of the following types of cattle do you run on your property? SHOW. MULTIPLE	
	Bos Indicus (Brahman)	1
	Bos Taurus – pure breeds (British breeds i.e. Angus, Hereford or Euro breeds i.e. Charolais, Limousin.)	2
	Bos Taurus x Bos Indicus	3
	Bos Taurus cross breeds (e.g. Angus x Hereford)	4
	Beef/Dairy cross breeds (beef from dairy cows)	5

SHOW: For the remainder of this survey, when we refer to 2025 we mean the 12 months to December 2025 i.e. the calendar year

Section 4: Castration

We now like to ask you some questions about castration in your cattle operation.

4.1	Do you castrate bull calves? SINGLE		
	Yes	1	CONTINUE
	No	2	GO TO 4.17.0
	Not applicable	3	GO TO 4.17.0

4.2	How many bull calves did you castrate in 2025?	Number

4.3	At what age do you castrate bull calves? SHOW. SINGLE	
	Under 1 month	1
	1 – 2 months	2
	3 – 4 months	3
	5 – 6 months	4
	7 to less than 12 months	5
	12 months or over	6
	At first muster	7

4.4	ASK IF CODES 4 OR 5 AT 4.3 Why did you castrate your bull calves at (INSERT CODE 4 OR 5 RESPONSE AT 4.3)? SHOW. MULTIPLE. RANDOMISE	
	All procedures are done at the same time (eg weaning, branding)	1
	First muster	2
	Gives time for growth	3
	Reduces risk of calf struggling / better recovery	4
	See if they will grow out to be good bulls	5
	Size of testes suits rings	6
	Other (Please specify)	98

4.5	What method of castration do you use to castrate your bull calves? SHOW. MULTIPLE. RANDOMISE	
	Burdizzo	1
	Knife / Scalpel	2
	Rubber rings	3
	Short scrotum / cryptorchid using rubber ring	4
	Tension bander eg Callicrate	5
	Other (Please specify)	98

4.6	ASK FOR CODES 1 – 5 SELECTED AT 4.5 Why do you use (SHOW METHOD SELECTED AT 4.5) to castrate your calves? SHOW. MULTIPLE. RANDOMISE	
	Appearance / Preservation of Codbag / Selling Point	1
	Better / Preferable Method, Suits My Operation / Program	2
	Better For older / bigger animals	3
	Better for younger / smaller calves	4
	Clean / neat	5
	Easy to use / simple	6
	Efficient / Quick	7
	Followed veterinary advice	8
	Good for weight gain / condition	9
	Less infection	10
	Less Stress / Harm To Cattle / Better Recovery	11
	Low Cost	12
	No bleeding	13
	Safer For Operator	14
	Works / Effective	15
	Other (Please specify)	98

4.11	Did you use any product for pain management for castrating your bull calves in 2025? SHOW. SINGLE	
	Yes	1
	No	2

4.11.1	ASK IF CODE 1 AT 4.11 Of the (SHOW NUMBER AT 4.2) bull calves you castrated in 2025, how many did you use pain management on for castrating? NUMBER CANNOT BE GREATER THAN 4.2	Number

4.12	ASK IF CODE 1 AT 4.11 What type of product/s did you use? Examples of product types are shown in brackets SHOW. MULTIPLE	
	Anaesthetic injection at the surgery site (e.g. Lignocaine)	1
	Anaesthetic and antiseptic spray at the surgery site (e.g. Tri-Solfen)	2
	Analgesic / pain killing injection (e.g. Meloxicam)	3
	Analgesic / pain killing oral gel – veterinary prescribed (e.g. Buccalgesic)	4
	Analgesic / pain killing oral gel – non-veterinary prescribed (e.g. Butec)	5
	Other (Please specify)	98

4.13	ASK IF CODE 2 AT 4.11 Why didn't you use pain management? SHOW. MULTIPLE. RANDOMISE		
	Not necessary	1	
	Quick procedure / not practical	2	
	Vet hasn't suggested it	3	
	Added stress / time	4	
	Too expensive	5	
	Don't know what to use	6	
	No reason / have not considered it	7	
	Nothing readily available	8	
	Other (Please specify)	98	
	Don't know	99	

4.14	When do you check your calves following castration? SHOW. MULTIPLE. DO NOT RANDOMISE		
	1 day	1	
	2 days	2	
	3 days	3	
	4 days	4	
	5 days	5	
	6 days	6	
	1 week	7	
	2 weeks	8	
	3 weeks	9	
	1 month or longer	10	
	Don't check	11	
	Other (Please specify)	98	

4.17	Do you castrate bulls (entire males over 12 months of age)? SINGLE		
	Yes	1	CONTINUE
	No	2	GO TO SECTION 5
	Not Applicable	3	GO TO SECTION 5

ASK 4.17.1 – 4.22 IF CODE 1 AT 4.17

4.17.1	How many bulls (entire males over 12 months of age) did you castrate in 2025?	Number

4.18	What method of castration do you use to castrate your bulls? SHOW. MULTIPLE. RANDOMISE	
	Burdizzo	1
	Knife / Scalpel	2
	Rubber rings	3
	Short scrotum / cryptorchid using rubber ring	4
	Tension bander eg Callicrate	5
	Emasculator	6
	Other (Please specify)	98

4.20	Did you use any products for pain management for castrating your bulls in 2025? SHOW. SINGLE. DO NOT RANDOMISE	
	Yes	1
	No	2

4.20.1	ASK IF CODE 1 AT 4.20 Of the (SHOW NUMBER AT 4.17.1) bulls you castrated in 2025, how many did you use pain management on for castrating? NUMBER CANNOT BE GREATER THAN 4.17.1	Number

4.21	ASK IF CODE 1 AT 4.20 What type of product/s did you use? Examples of product types are shown in brackets SHOW. MULTIPLE	
	Anaesthetic injection at the surgery site (e.g. Lignocaine)	1
	Anaesthetic and antiseptic spray at the surgery site (e.g Tri-Solfen)	2
	Analgesic / pain killing injection (e.g Meloxicam)	3
	Analgesic / pain killing oral gel – veterinary prescribed (e.g. Buccalgesic)	4
	Analgesic / pain killing oral gel – non-veterinary prescribed (e.g. Butec)	5
	Other (Please specify)	98

4.22	ASK IF CODE 2 AT 4.20 Why didn't you use any products for pain management? SHOW. MULTIPLE. RANDOMISE	
	Not necessary	1
	Quick procedure / not practical	2
	Vet hasn't suggested it	3
	Added stress / time	4
	Too expensive	5
	Don't know what to use	6
	No reason / have not considered it	7
	Nothing readily available	8
	Other (Please specify)	98
	Don't know	99

Section 5: Dehorning

Could you now please think about polled and horned cattle.

5.1	In 2025, did you intentionally breed livestock to be naturally polled (for example, by selecting animals with the polled gene)? SHOW. SINGLE		
	Yes - always	1	CONTINUE
	Yes – sometimes	2	
	No	3	GO TO 5.18
	Don't know	99	

5.2	In 2025, approximately what percentage of your herd carried the polled gene or was naturally polled? (Please do not include those that have been dehorned.) SHOW. SINGLE		
	0%	1	CONTINUE
	1 – 25%	2	CONTINUE
	26 – 50%	3	CONTINUE
	51 – 75%	4	CONTINUE
	76 – 100%	5	CONTINUE
	100% (all naturally polled)	6	GO TO SECTION 6
	Don't know	99	CONTINUE

5.18	Do you dehorn or disbud cattle? SHOW. SINGLE		
	Yes	1	CONTINUE
	No	2	GO TO SECTION 6

5.19	Which of the following classes of cattle do you dehorn or disbud? SHOW. MULTIPLE		
	Calves	1	
	Mature cattle (12 months of age and over)	2	

5.20.0	How many calves did you dehorn or disbud in 2025?	Number

5.20	At what age, in months, do you dehorn or disbud your calves?	
	1 – 2 months	1
	3 – 4 months	2
	5 – 6 months	3
	7 to less than 12 months	4
	12 months or over	5

5.21	What method of dehorning or disbudding do you use on your calves? SHOW. SINGLE. RANDOMISE	
	Scoop or cup dehorner	1
	Gouging knife	2
	Knife	3
	Hot iron / heat cauterising	4
	Embryotic	6
	Guillotine	7
	Tippers / cutter	8
	Other (Please specify)	98

5.22	ASK FOR CODES 1 – 5 SELECTED AT 5.21 Why do you use (SHOW METHOD SELECTED AT 5.21) to dehorn or disbud your calves? SHOW. MULTIPLE. RANDOMISE	
	Better / preferable method	1
	Better for calves	2
	Cleaner / neat	3
	Ease of use	4
	Followed veterinary advice	5
	Less blood	6
	Less damage / harm / stress	7
	Precise / efficient	8
	Quick	9
	Tradition / always done	10
	Works / effective	11
	Other (Please specify)	98
	Don't know	99

5.27	Did you use any products for pain management for dehorning or disbudding your calves in 2025? SHOW. SINGLE	
	Yes	1
	No	2

5.27.1	ASK IF CODE 1 AT 5.27 Of the (SHOW NUMBER AT 5.20.0) calves you dehorned or disbudded in 2025, how many did you use pain management on for dehorning or disbudding? NUMBER CANNOT BE GREATER THAN 5.11.0	Number

5.28	ASK IF CODE 1 AT 5.27 What type of product/s did you use? Examples of product types are shown in brackets SHOW. MULTIPLE	
	Anaesthetic injection at the surgery site (e.g. Lignocaine)	1
	Anaesthetic and antiseptic spray at the surgery site (e.g. Tri-Solfen)	2
	Analgesic / pain killing injection (e.g. Meloxicam)	3
	Analgesic / pain killing oral gel – veterinary prescribed (e.g. Buccalgesic)	4
	Analgesic / pain killing oral gel – non-veterinary prescribed (e.g. Butec)	5
	Other (Please specify)	98

5.29	ASK IF CODE 2 AT 5.27 Why didn't you use pain management? SHOW. MULTIPLE. RANDOMISE	
	Not necessary	1
	Quick procedure / not practical	2
	Vet hasn't suggested it	3
	Added stress / time	4
	Too expensive	5
	Don't know what to use	6
	No reason / have not considered it	7
	Nothing readily available	8
	Other (Please specify)	98
	Don't know	99

5.30	When you do you check your calves following dehorning or disbudding? SHOW. MULTIPLE. DO NOT RANDOMISE	
	1 day	1
	2 days	2
	3 days	3
	4 days	4
	5 days	5
	6 days	6
	1 week	7
	2 weeks	8
	3 weeks	9
	1 month or longer	10
	Don't check	11
	Other (Please specify)	98

5.33.0	How many mature cattle did you fully dehorn in 2025?	Number

5.34	At what age in months, do you typically fully dehorn mature cattle?	
	12 to under 24 months	1
	24 to under 36 months	2
	36 months or more	3
	Don't know	4

5.35	What method of fully dehorning do you use on your mature cattle? SHOW. MULTIPLE. RANDOMISE	
	Scoop or cup dehorners	1
	Gouging knife	2
	Hot iron / heat cauterising	3
	Saw including wire	4
	Guillotine	5
	Tippers / cutters	6
	Hydraulic	7
	Other (Please specify)	98

5.37	Did you use any products for pain management for dehorning mature cattle in 2025? SHOW. SINGLE. DO NOT RANDOMISE	
	Yes	1
	No	2

5.37.1	ASK IF CODE 1 AT 5.37 Of the (SHOW NUMBER AT 5.33.0) mature cattle you fully dehorned in 2025, how many did you use pain management on for dehorning? NUMBER CANNOT BE GREATER THAN 5.33.0	Number

5.38	ASK IF CODE 1 AT 5.37 What type of product/s did you use? Examples of product types are shown in brackets SHOW. MULTIPLE	
	Anaesthetic injection at the surgery site (e.g. Lignocaine)	1
	Anaesthetic and antiseptic spray at the surgery site (e.g. Tri-Solfen)	2
	Analgesic / pain killing injection (e.g. Meloxicam)	3
	Analgesic / pain killing oral gel – veterinary prescribed (e.g. Buccalgesic)	4
	Analgesic / pain killing oral gel – non-veterinary prescribed (e.g. Butec)	5
	Other (Please specify)	98

5.39	ASK IF CODE 2 AT 5.37 Why didn't you use pain management? SHOW. MULTIPLE. RANDOMISE		
	Not necessary	1	
	Quick procedure / not practical	2	
	Vet hasn't suggested it	3	
	Added stress / time	4	
	Too expensive	5	
	Don't know what to use	6	
	No reason / have not considered it	7	
	Nothing readily available	8	
	Other (Please specify)	98	
	Don't know	99	

Section 6: Spaying

We would now like to ask you some questions about spaying.

6.1	Do you spay cull heifers and / or cows? SHOW. SINGLE		
	Yes – cull heifers	1	CONTINUE
	Yes – cull cows	2	CONTINUE
	No	3	GO TO SECTION 7

6.2	How many cull heifers and / or cows did you spay in 2025?	Number
1	(SHOW IF CODE 1 AT 6.1) Cull heifers	
2	(SHOW IF CODE 2 AT 6.1) Cull cows	

6.3	ASK IF CODE 1 AT 6.1 Are cull heifers routinely pregnancy tested prior to spaying? SHOW. SINGLE		
	Yes	1	
	No	2	

6.4	ASK IF CODE 2 AT 6.3 Why don't you routinely pregnancy test cull / surplus heifers prior to spaying? SHOW. MULTIPLE. RANDOMISE		
	No need / keep separate	1	
	Not enough time	2	
	Not practical	3	
	Do not think it's important	4	
	Other (Please specify)	98	

6.5.0	ASK IF CODE 2 AT 6.1 Are cull cows routinely pregnancy tested prior to spaying? SHOW. SINGLE		
		Yes	1
		No	2

6.5	ASK IF CODE 2 SELECTED AT 6.5.0 Why don't you routinely pregnancy test cull / surplus cows prior to spaying? SHOW. SINGLE. RANDOMISE		
	No need / keep separate		1
	Not enough time		2
	Not practical		3
	Not required due to time of year / not joined		4
	Do not have the expertise		5
	Do not think it's important		6
	Other (Please specify)		98

6.6	What spaying methods do you use to spay your heifers and / or cows? SHOW HEIFERS IF CODE 1 AND 6.1. SHOW COWS IF CODE 2 AT 6.1. SINGLE FOR HEIFERS; SINGLE FOR COWS			
		Heifers	Cows	
	Flank and removal of ovaries	1	4	
	Willis dropped ovary and removal of ovaries	2	5	
	Flank and webbed (removal of fallopian tubules)	3	6	
	Other (Please specify)	98	98	
	Don't spay this stock	00	00	

6.7	ASK IF CODE 1, 2 OR 3 SELECTED AT 6.6 Why do you use this method to spay your heifers? SHOW. MULTIPLE. RANDOMISE		
	Clean / Neat / No Wound		1
	Easy / Simple Procedure		2
	Efficient / Successful		3
	Followed veterinary advice		4
	No Infections		5
	Preferred method / know how		6
	Quick		7
	Safer / Painless / / No Losses / Recovery		8
	Other (Please specify)		98

6.8	ASK IF CODE 4, 5 OR 6 SELECTED AT 6.6 Why do you use this method to spay your cows? SHOW. MULTIPLE. RANDOMISE	
	Clean / Neat / No Wound	1
	Easy / Simple Procedure	2
	Efficient / Successful	3
	Followed veterinary advice	4
	No Infections	5
	Preferred method / know how	6
	Quick	7
	Safer / Painless / / No Losses / Recovery	8
	Other (Please specify)	98

6.10	When you spay your cull heifers / cows who performs the spaying? SHOW. SINGLE. DO NOT RANDOMISE	
	Vet	1
	Non-vet contractor	2
	Self or other staff members	3
	Other (Please specify)	98

6.11	When do you check on your heifers / cows following spaying? SHOW. MULTIPLE. DO NOT RANDOMISE	
	1 day	1
	2 days	2
	3 days	3
	4 days	4
	5 days	5
	6 days	6
	1 week	7
	2 weeks	8
	3 weeks	9
	1 month or longer	10
	Don't check	11
	Other (Please specify)	98

6.14	Did you use any products for pain management for spaying heifers or cows in 2025? SHOW. SINGLE. DO NOT RANDOMISE	
	Yes	1
	No	2

6.14.1	ASK IF CODE 1 AT 6.14 AND IF CODE 1 AT 6.1 Of the (SHOW NUMBER AT 6.2 CODE 1) cull heifers you spayed in 2025, how many did you use pain management on for spaying? NUMBER CANNOT BE GREATER THAN 6.2 CODE 1	Number

6.14.2	ASK IF CODE 2 AT 6.14 AND IF CODE 2 AT 6.1 Of the (SHOW NUMBER AT 6.2 CODE 2) cull cows you spayed in 2025, how many did you use pain management on for spaying? NUMBER CANNOT BE GREATER THAN 6.2 CODE 2	Number

6.15	ASK IF CODE 1 AT 6.14 What type of product/s did you use? Examples of product types are shown in brackets SHOW. MULTIPLE	
	Anaesthetic injection at the surgery site (e.g. Lignocaine)	1
	Anaesthetic and antiseptic spray at the surgery site (e.g. Tri-Solfen)	2
	Analgesic / pain killing injection (e.g. Meloxicam)	3
	Analgesic / pain killing oral gel – veterinary prescribed (e.g. Buccalgesic)	4
	Analgesic / pain killing oral gel – non-veterinary prescribed (e.g. Butec)	5
	Other (Please specify)	98

6.16	ASK IF CODE 2 AT 6.14 Why didn't you use pain management? SHOW. MULTIPLE. RANDOMISE	
	Not necessary	1
	Quick procedure / not practical	2
	Vet hasn't suggested it	3
	Added stress / time	4
	Too expensive	5
	Don't know what to use	6
	No reason / have not considered it	7
	Nothing readily available	8
	Other (Please specify)	98
	Don't know	99

6.17	If a non-surgical sterilisation method was available (like a single-dose, 12 month-acting, injectable compound), how likely would you be to use it? SHOW. SINGLE	
	Very unlikely	1
	Unlikely	2
	Neutral	3
	Likely	4
	Very likely	5

Section 7: Vaccines

We would like to capture your use of vaccines and drenches in your herd.

7.1	Do you vaccinate against botulism? SHOW. SINGLE		
		Yes	1
		No	2

ASK 7.3 – 7.4 if CODE 1 AT 7.1

7.3	Do you give the follow-up booster for botulism? SHOW. SINGLE		
		Yes - always	1
		Yes - sometimes	
		No	2

7.4	Which cattle do you vaccinate against botulism? SHOW. MULTIPLE		
		Calves under 1 year of age	1
		Weaners / steers or heifers 1 – 2 years of age	2
		Cattle older than 2 years	3

7.5	Do you vaccinate against other clostridial diseases, e.g. tetanus, blackleg etc? SHOW. SINGLE		
		Yes	1
		No	2

ASK 7.6 – 7.9 IF CODE 1 AT 7.5

7.6	What vaccines do you use? SHOW. MULTIPLE		
		5 in 1	1
		7 in 1	2
		Don't know	99

7.7	Do you give a booster vaccination within 6 weeks of the initial dose? SHOW. SINGLE		
		Yes	1
		No	2

7.8	ASK IF CODE 2 AT 7.7 Why don't you give a booster vaccination within 6 weeks of the initial dose? SHOW. MULTIPLE. RANDOMISE	
	Not needed / not necessary / not important	1
	Not practical / inconvenient	2
	Give booster but later than 6 weeks	3
	Do not have enough labour	4
	It takes too much time	5
	Never have / just don't	6
	Didn't know necessary / lack of awareness	7
	Sometimes do if needed	8
	Cost outweighs the perceived benefit	9
	Other (Please specify)	98

7.9	Which cattle do you vaccinate? SHOW. MULTIPLE	
	Calves under 1 year of age	1
	Weaners / steers or heifers 1 – 2 years of age	2
	Cattle older than 2 years	3

7.10	Do you vaccinate against BVDV (Pestivirus)? SHOW. SINGLE	
	Yes	1
	No	2

7.11	ASK IF CODE 1 AT 7.10 Which cattle do you vaccinate against BVDV (Pestivirus)? SHOW. MULTIPLE	
	Heifer calves under 1 year of age	1
	Weaners / heifers 1 – 2 years of age	2
	Cows older than 2 years	3

7.12	Do you vaccinate against the Three-Day Sickness (Bovine Ephemeral Fever or BEF)? SHOW. SINGLE	
	Yes	1
	No	2

7.25	There are a number of online parasite management information resources available to producers. Which of the following websites have you heard of? SHOW. MULTIPLE	
	ParaBoss	1
	WormBoss	2
	TickBoss	3
	LiceBoss	4
	FlyBoss	5
	None	0

7.26	Are you aware of the 'Immune Ready Guidelines' for cattle? SHOW. SINGLE	
	Yes	1
	No	2

Section 11: Carbon Activities

Turning now to the topic of renewable energy.

11.1	Which of the following best describes your use of renewable energy on your farm? SHOW. MULTIPLE	
	I use renewable energy that I generate myself	1
	I use renewable energy from my energy retailer	2
	I don't generate or buy any renewable energy	3

11.2	ASK IF CODE 1 AT 11.1 Which of the following types of renewable energy do you generate and use on your farm? SHOW. MULTIPLE.	
	Solar without battery	1
	Solar with battery	2
	Wind	3
	Geothermal	4
	Biomass	5
	Hydroelectric	6
	Something else (Please specify)	98

11.3	Have you undertaken any carbon neutral or carbon accounting training? SHOW. SINGLE	
	Yes	1
	No	2

11.4	Do you estimate the net greenhouse gas emissions produced in your operation using carbon calculator or another process? SHOW. SINGLE		
		Yes	1
		No	2

11.5	Have you implemented any activities to reduce your net greenhouse gases while producing livestock? SHOW. SINGLE		
		Yes	1
		No	2

11.6	ASK IF CODE 1 AT 11.5 Which of the following activities have you implemented? SHOW. MULTIPLE. RANDOMISE		
	Carbon storage (manure, plant debris and composts applied to the soil, permanent planting of pastures, tree planting/revegetation, dung beetles)		1
	Herd management (increasing fertility, decreasing average age, reducing proportion of unproductive animals)		2
	Management systems (stocking rates, improved nutrition/rates of liveweight gain)		3
	Manure management (manure stockpile aeration, adding urease inhibitors)		4
	Pasture management (grazing management, grass species, legumes, perennial pastures)		5
	Reducing livestock numbers overall		6
	Savanna burning management		7
	Feed additives		8
	Improving dung beetle populations		9
	Something else (Please specify)		98

11.7	ASK IF CODE 1 AT 11.4 Have you undertaken a second or subsequent carbon account on your property after the initial measurement? SHOW. SINGLE		
		Yes	1
		No	2

Section 12: Biodiversity and Land and Water Management

We would now like to ask you some questions about biodiversity and land and water management.

12.1	Which of the following land management activities did you undertake on your property/ies in 2025? SHOW. MULTIPLE. RANDOMISE	
	Weed Control	1
	Control of pest animals (e.g. wild dogs, dingos, foxes, cats, pigs, horses, cane toads)	2
	Control of kangaroos and wallabies to better manage total grazing pressure	3
	Carried out prescribed burning to reduce weeds, control regrowth, or improve pasture condition	4
	Revegetated areas with native or indigenous plant species by either direct seeding or planting seedlings (including wind-breaks, shelterbelts, around dams, or within pastures)	5
	Erosion control such as construction of contour banks, deep ripping etc	6
	Applied soil treatments or amendments other than fertilisers (e.g. lime, dolomite, gypsum, compost, green manure crops, biochar)	7
	Regular pasture and land condition monitoring (through photos or documenting change)	8
	Maintained areas that are remote from reliable sources of water for livestock	9
	Destocked, protected, or spelled pastured areas	10
	Destocked, protected or spelled bushland areas	11
	Destocked, protected or spelled riparian areas and other natural water features	12
	Regular plant and animal biodiversity monitoring	13

12.2	SHOW IF ANY CODE SELECTED AT 12.1 Of the total area of your property of (SHOW AREA AS EITHER HECTARES OR SQUARE KILOMETRES FROM S5), what is the total area that you carried out these land management activities on, or the area that directly benefited from these activities? SHOW. SINGLE PROGRAMMER: AREA AT 12.2 CANNOT BE GREATER THAN AREA AT S5	
		Hectares
		Square kilometres

12.3	Have you previously (in 2025 or earlier) undertaken any of the following grazing management activities on your property/ies? SHOW. MULTIPLE. RANDOMISE	
	Fenced areas to land type to better manage grazing pressure	1
	Fenced areas to allow for spelling or to prevent livestock access (including protection of paddock trees)	2
	Fenced waterways to prevent livestock access	3
	Provided off-stream water for livestock away from riparian areas and other natural water features	4

12.4	SHOW IF ANY CODE SELECTED AT 12.3 Of the total area of your property of (SHOW AREA AS EITHER HECTARES OR SQUARE KILOMETRES FROM S5), what is the total area that you carried out these grazing management activities on, or the area that directly benefited from these grazing management activities? SHOW. SINGLE PROGRAMMER: AREA AT 12.4 CANNOT BE GREATER THAN AREA AT S5	
		Hectares
		Square kilometres

12.5	What is the source of water for your cattle? SHOW. MULTIPLE. RANDOMISE	
	Scheme Water	1
	Surface Water (direct from dams, locked dams, creeks, rivers)	2
	Surface Water (pumped to watering points such as troughs)	3
	Groundwater (bores, siphons, springs)	4
	Rainwater tanks	5
	Something else (Please specify)	98

12.6	Do you have a plan for managing the farm and your cattle during extreme weather e.g. droughts, extreme heat events and floods? SHOW. SINGLE	
	Yes	1
	No	2

12.7	Can your stock water supply withstand prolonged dry periods? SHOW. SINGLE	
	Yes	1
	No	2

12.8	Can you increase stock water supply if needed? SHOW. SINGLE		
		Yes	1
		No	2

12.9	Do you manage your pastures to have diverse drought resistant species? SHOW. SINGLE		
		Yes	1
		No	2

Section 13: Soil Management

13.1	Do you test and monitor your soil health (excluding soil carbon)? SHOW. SINGLE		
		Yes	1
		No	2

ASK 13.2 – 13.3 IF CODE 1 AT 13.1

13.2	How do you test and monitor your soil health? SHOW. MULTIPLE. RANDOMISE		
	Measure groundcover percentages		1
	Lab soil test for nutrients, organic matter, pH, conductivity, cation exchange capacity etc		2
	On-farm soil tests for nutrients, organic matter, pH, conductivity, cation exchange capacity etc		3
	Infiltration tests		4
	Capacitance probes		5
	Field testing for biological factors and structure		6
	Something else (please specify)		98

13.3	Have you changed practices based on the monitoring of your soil health? SHOW. SINGLE		
		Yes	1
		No	2

13.4	Did you undertake practices to improve your soil water retention? (e.g. leaving tall pasture grass stubble, greater grazing rotation, cover cropping, claying, aeration)		
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	SHOW. SINGLE		
		Yes	1
		No	2

Section 14: Waste Management

14.1	For waste on your property, which of the following best describes your management of organic waste (e.g. manures, animal bedding, sediment traps, prunings, tree residues) SHOW. MULTIPLE. RANDOMISE	
	Managed on site for beneficial reuse (e.g. left on/plough into ground, fed to animals, composted on site)	1
	Managed on site without benefit (i.e. stays on site)	2
	Landfilled through official collection/disposal location	3
	Recovered for energy (e.g. anaerobic digestion, furnace, biofuel)	4
	Reused / repurposed (e.g. food donations for human consumption, secondary production/sales, fed to animals off-site)	5
	Recycled (e.g. sent for composting, mulching)	6

14.2	For waste on your property, which of the below best describes your management of plastic waste (e.g. protective film, piping, irrigation, drainage, nets, mesh, bags, rope) SHOW. MULTIPLE. RANDOMISE	
	Managed on site (i.e. stays on site/stockpiled)	1
	Landfilled through official collection/disposal location	2
	Recovered for energy (e.g. furnace, biofuel)	3
	Reused (e.g. reused for another purpose or sold)	4
	Recycled (e.g. sent to recycler)	5

14.3	For waste on your property, which of the below best describes your management of workshop waste (e.g. oils, electronics, batteries, timber posts, tyres, veterinary products, rubber, scrap metal, cardboard) SHOW. MULTIPLE. RANDOMISE	
	Managed on site (i.e. stays on site)	1
	Landfilled through official collection/disposal location	2
	Reused (e.g. reused on site, reuse shop/sale)	3
	Recycled (e.g. sent to recycler)	4

Section 15: Training and WHS

15.1	How did you learn to perform the various animal husbandry practices undertaken on farm? SHOW. MULTIPLE		
	Informal (someone showed me)		1
	Informal (I taught myself)		2
	Formal (course / workshop)		3
	I don't perform these (use contractors)		5

15.2	ASK IF CODE 3 AT 15.1 What course or workshops did you attend to learn about these practices? SHOW. MULTIPLE. RANDOMISE		
	Various courses / workshops / field days		1
	Degree / Ag College		2
	TAFE course, Ag Certificate		3
	AI / Preg testing / Spaying		4
	Low stress livestock handling		5
	Farm apprenticeship		6
	Other (Please specify)		98
	Don't know		99

15.3	Do you have, or are you doing, any of the following in regards to Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) on your farm? SHOW. SINGLE			
		Yes	No	
	Have a WHS plan	1	2	
	Undertake WHS risk assessment	1	2	
	Induct workers in WHS obligations	1	2	
	Induct visitors in WHS obligations	1	2	
	Encourage workers to identify safety concerns	1	2	
	Exclude children under 16 from farming activities	1	2	
	Appropriate farm vehicles have roll over bars	1	2	

Section 16: Final Demographics

16.01	How many years have you been involved with farming?	
		years

16.2	What is the highest level of education you have achieved? SHOW. SINGLE	
	Year 9 or less	1
	Year 10 - 11	2
	School Leaving Certificate (eg HSC)	3
	TAFE	4
	Tertiary Graduate	5
	Post Graduate	6
	Prefer not to say	99

16.3	Into which of the following age groups you fall? SHOW. SINGLE	
	18 – 24	1
	25 – 34	2
	35 – 44	3
	45 – 54	4
	55 – 64	5
	65 and over	6
	Prefer not to say	99

16.4	What is your gender? SHOW. SINGLE	
	Male	1
	Female	2
	Prefer not to identify	3
	Other	4