

Key findings of the MLA 2025 Regional Feedlot Investment Study

In 2023-24, the feedlot industry:

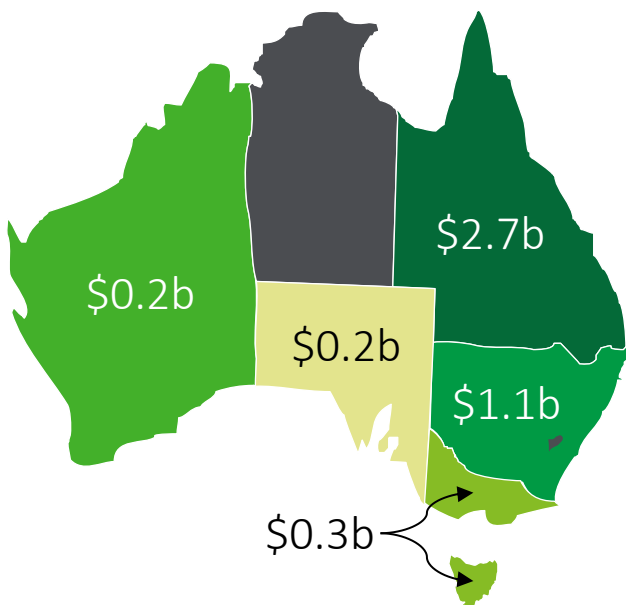
- averaged **1.3 million cattle on feed**;
- **turned off 2.78 million cattle**;
- accounted for **36% of total cattle slaughtered** in Australia;
- reached a **utilisation rate of 87%**, the second highest on record.

In 2023-24, the Australian feedlot industry contributed a total of:

- **\$4.6 billion** to Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
- Supported **2,200 full-time employees** directly in the feedlot industry, and **22,000 full time positions** elsewhere in the economy.

Approximately 60% of the industry's **indirect contribution is generated in the broader agriculture sector** (especially grain and livestock production), which underscores feedlots' critical role in the beef supply chain.

Map: State-level value added generated by the feedlot industry



Feedlots have benefits across the economy:



Graziers

Enables specialisation in breeding and backgrounding, improves national herd stability



Processing industry

Greater productivity from consistent supply of high quality animals



Supply chain

Supports upstream and downstream demand and employment



Economy

Productivity benefits increase GDP and employment

If a hypothetical new 15,000 standard cattle unit (SCU) feedlot was constructed in the Western Downs region of Queensland:

- Employment would increase by **283 full-time equivalent employees** on average each year from 2026-2036
- **\$60.1 million additional value added** would be generated on average per year, stimulated by construction and operation of the feedlot.

In a hypothetical scenario where the feedlot industry ceased to exist in Australia:

- National GDP would be **\$59 billion lower** from 2026-2036
- **28,000 fewer full-time employees** on average would be employed annually between 2026 and 2036.

