



Animal Welfare Policy

Policy Statement

As one of the largest cattle producers in the world, the Australian Agricultural Company (AAco) considers the welfare of the animals on its stations and feedlots as a fundamental concern. World's best practice in all areas of animal welfare is sought and implemented with Station and Feedlot Managers responsible for enforcing animal welfare standards at each site. Abuse of animals is not tolerated and all stock staff are trained in animal welfare issues and are aware of the Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals – Cattle¹.

AAco's animal welfare practices are audited as part of AAco's quality management system, which incorporates CattleCare for stations and the National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme for feedlots.

Procedures

The company has identified the following areas and actions as being critical to the promotion of animal welfare.

The provision of water and feed

Grazing management practices adopted across the company ensure an adequate supply of water and feed is available to animals at all times. Pasture monitoring, widespread use of feed supplements, abundant watering points and the ability to move stock between a large portfolio of geographically diversified properties ensure cattle have continuous access to feed and water and prevent losses due to drought.

Feedlot cattle are fed up to three times daily and their water and pen condition monitored daily.

Prevention and treatment of disease



A disease prevention program is adopted on all properties as described in LM 50.80.010 Disease Management, with vaccinations routinely given to cattle to prevent all endemic cattle diseases likely to cause significant production losses. Feedlot cattle are monitored daily for signs of illness and symptomatic cattle provided with appropriate veterinary treatments by trained personnel.

Animal handling facilities and methods

To reduce the agitation and stress of cattle when handled through stockyards and crushes, AAco is adapting the design of all its cattle handling facilities to match the behavioural characteristics of cattle, as identified by animal science research. Training in livestock behaviour is a component in all stock handling training on both stations and feedlots. Use of electric prods is kept to a minimum.

Animal treatment practices

Procedures necessary for the identification and management of stock such as castration, spaying, branding and ear-tagging are carried out using techniques that cause minimum pain and suffering to the animal. Appropriate hygienic precautions are undertaken for all procedures. Stock people are trained and supervised in these practices and cruelty to animals is not tolerated.

¹Prepared by the Sub-Committee on Animal Welfare for Animal Health Committee for Standing Committee on Agriculture and Resource Management

Humane destruction techniques

In the event that animals need to be killed on stations the method used is that recommended in the Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals – Cattle. Stock people are trained in this method before taking responsibility for this task.

Approved supplier program for the provision of goods and services related to livestock

Suppliers of livestock transport, agistment and backgrounding, and other services must meet the Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals - Cattle² as part of documented contractual arrangements.

Discriminating selling policy

AAco will take into account any prospective purchaser's animal welfare record when negotiating sales of cattle. AAco may refuse to sell cattle to any company with a poor record in animal welfare. In such case, AAco will endeavour to communicate to any such company the reasons for AAco's position and will encourage future dealings when the specific animal welfare concerns have been addressed.

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