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Northern Territory Government

Pastoral Market Update

May, 2003

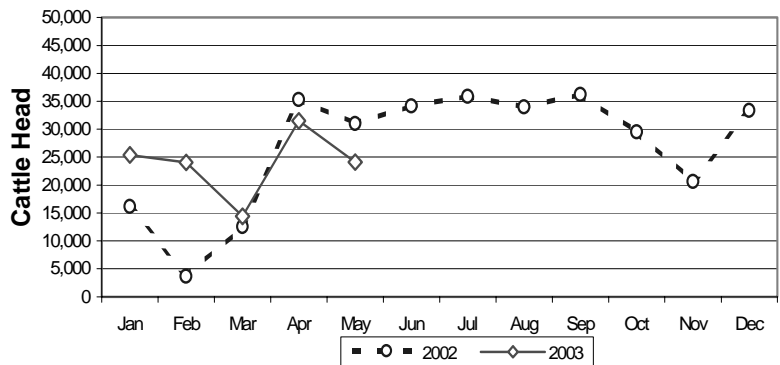
LIVE CATTLE EXPORTS VIA DARWIN PORT

Destination	Total Cattle (including interstate)							NT Cattle only						
	2001	2002	Last year 31.05.02	YTD 31.05.03	1-31 May	Previous Month	Difference	2001	2002	Last year 31.05.02	YTD 31.05.03	1-31 May	Previous Month	Difference
BRUNEI	16,155	19,085	7,244	9,168	1,631	1,794	-163	11,003	12,012	3,665	6,482	691	663	+28
EGYPT	52,692	10,873	0	0	0	0	0	30,376	10,873	0	0	0	0	0
INDONESIA	151,190	199,327	59,220	90,947	22,163	23,440	-1,277	121,632	133,763	41,612	62,288	16,253	12,922	+3,331
PHILIPPINES	31,984	65,931	27,452	11,720	0	3,433	-3,433	25,701	52,692	24,469	8,203	0	3,433	-3,433
SABAH	110	318	0	0	0	0	0	110	17	0	0	0	0	0
SAUDI ARABIA	0	6,550	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,066	0	0	0	0	0
SARAWAK	0	1,033	0	320	0	0	0	0	846	0	92	0	0	0
VIETNAM	941	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
W-MALAYSIA	5,055	18,765	4,828	7,301	341	2,830	-2,489	4,350	13,839	4,088	5,328	341	2,830	-2,489
EAST TIMOR	0	32	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
JORDAN	0	688	0	0	0	0	0	0	688	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	258,127	322,602	98,776	119,456	24,135	31,497	-7,362	193,172	229,796	73,834	82,393	17,285	19,848	-2,563
				+20,680							+8,559			

"May at a glance"

- 24,135 head through the Port of Darwin during May. 7,362 head less than April, and 6,912 less than May last year.
- Nasty turn of the worm!

Live Cattle Exports thru Port of Darwin
2002 v 2003



'OTHER' LIVESTOCK EXPORTS VIA DARWIN PORT (incl. NT and Interstate Stock)

Destination	Buffalo			Camels			Goats			Deer			Horses			Sheep			Pigs			
	2002	YTD 2003	1-31 May	2002	YTD 2003	1-31 May	2002	YTD 2003	1-31 May	2002	YTD 2003	1-31 May	2002	YTD 2003	1-31 May	2002	YTD 2003	1-31 May	2002	YTD 2003	1-31 May	
BRUNEI	3,359	1,361	310	144	46	15	2,439	1,610	463	37	0	0	0	0	0	430	0	0	0	0	0	0
EAST TIMOR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
W-MALAYSIA	173	32	0	609	145	0	7,182	4,286	3,303	0	0	0	4	0	0	1,573	5	5	0	0	0	0
SAUDI ARABIA	0	0	0	118	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SARAWAK	57	0	0	64	100	0	225	239	0	0	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PHILIPPINES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29	6	0	0	0	0	686	0	0	0
INDONESIA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
THAILAND	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	320	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	3,589	1,393	310	935	291	15	9,846	6,135	3,766	357	60	0	44	6	0	2,003	5	5	686	0	0	0

PREVIOUS 6 YEARS

Total Cattle, Port of Darwin
1996 383,535
1997 448,196
1998 219,439
1999 280,011
2000 299,179
2001 258,127
2002 322,602

NT Cattle, Port of Darwin
1996 189,918
1997 246,389
1998 160,412
1999 192,441
2000 222,669
2001 193,172
2002 229,796

EXCHANGE RATES

Key Currencies 1 Australian Dollar =	Current 30.05.03	Previous week 23.05.03	3 months ago 28.02.03	1 Year ago 30.05.02	Pre-devaluation 01.07.1997
Brunei Dollar	1.1514	1.162	1.0502	1.01	1.076
Egyptian Pound	3.8685	3.9642	3.3323	2.6239	2.56
Euro	0.5483	0.5631	0.5628	0.6023	N/A
Indonesian Rupiah	5425.42	5556.3	5391.35	4995.35	1830
Libyan Dinar	0.7989	0.8057	0.7384	0.755	0.27
Malaysian Ringgit	2.4652	2.5039	2.3017	2.142	1.9
Philippine Peso	34.7485	34.8628	32.9687	28.253	19.84
Thai Baht	27.2903	27.6932	25.8337	23.9579	18.6744
US Dollar	0.6528	0.6587	0.6054	0.5634	0.752

NATIONAL CATTLE PRICES - W/E 30/05/03

JAPANESE STEER									KOREAN STEER								
Estimated dressed weight price (cents/kg)									Estimated dressed weight price (cents/kg)								
SALEYARDS				O.T.HOOKS					SALEYARDS				O.T.HOOKS				
NSW	QLD	SA	AV (Aust)	NSW	QLD	SA	AV (Aust)	NSW	QLD	SA	AV (Aust)	NSW	QLD	SA	AV (Aust)		
This week	310	295	304	306	286	278	285	285	This week	303	278	315	291	282	263	nq	273
Last week	303	293	nq	303	275	270	280	280	Last week	303	264	nq	298	271	255	nq	263
Year ago	253	236	nq	250	267	250	267	270	Year ago	254	239	271	252	255	247	nq	251
US MANUFACTURING COW									DOMESTIC TRADE STEER								
Estimated dressed weight price (cents/kg)									Estimated dressed weight price (cents/kg)								
SALEYARDS				O.T.HOOKS					SALEYARDS				O.T.HOOKS				
NSW	QLD	SA	AV (Aust)	NSW	QLD	SA	AV (Aust)	NSW	QLD	SA	AV (Aust)	NSW	QLD	SA	AV (Aust)		
This week	232	232	219	231	212	213	195	198	This week	330	299	321	326	286	258	285	304
Last week	206	210	232	212	213	199	192	195	Last week	323	304	342	324	273	249	285	300
Year ago	202	191	213	202	213	216	216	230	Year ago	302	270	315	303	267	243	300	297
LIVE EXPORT QUOTES																	
Estimated <u>live</u> weight price (cents/kg)																	
LIGHT STEERS (280-400 kg)				HEAVY STEERS (400+ kg)													
Darwin	T/ville	F/mantle		Darwin	T/ville	F/mantle											
This week	145	nq	nq	145	nq	nq											
Last week	145	130	nq	145	130	nq											
Year ago	nq	nq	nq	150	nq	nq											

Prices courtesy of:
Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA).

NLIS What is happening in other STATES

SA announces \$6M for NLIS uptake

South Australia's Rann government announced a funding allocation of more than \$6 million for livestock identification over the next four years. The money will be made available for the rapid uptake of the NLIS in South Australia.

Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Minister, Paul Holloway announced that \$3.2 million would be provided next financial year to allow SA livestock producers and others in the industry to buy state-of-the-art ear tags and equipment to read the tags.

"The aim is to achieve complete livestock identification within three years and a similar system for the states sheep flock will be implemented immediately following the introduction of the NLIS."

South Australia's livestock exports are worth \$600 million annually, being made up of approximately 1.2 million cattle and 13.9 million sheep.

"Developing a robust identification system will protect these valuable markets, as well as regional areas of the state heavily dependent on the sector," Mr Holloway said. "It would also be an integral tool in the event of an exotic disease outbreak because of the increased traceability of infected animals," he said.

More Information?

Denice Rendell, PIRSA, Ph: (08) 8207 7911.

Could market forces be driving NLIS in Victoria?

Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) President Simon Ramsay is encouraging VFF Pastoral Group members to preferentially purchase cattle identified with NLIS tags in order to maximise buyer interest when those purchased cattle are subsequently sold.

Mr Ramsay announced that there was an emerging market preference in Victoria for NLIS identified cattle, reflected as a discount in the relative value of non-NLIS identified animals and further, that it did not matter whether cattle were being sought for domestic or export processing, for fattening or as breeding stock.

"Cattle introduced onto a Victorian property that are not already NLIS identified must be tagged with an orange Postbreeder tag within 30 days of arrival. It is therefore not surprising that buyers of store cattle are discounting pens that are not NLIS identified."

Mr Ramsay said that the message for buyers and sellers should be clear; the full traceability, and the enhanced level of integrity that NLIS provides is becoming increasingly important to consumers both in Australia and overseas. "Victoria's beef industries have a commitment to food safety, and through the NLIS will be able to meet the requirements of our most demanding customers in relation to cattle traceability,"

More Information?

Simon Ramsay, VFF

Ph: (03) 9207 5550.

TAS government to provide \$1M in NLIS funding

The Tasmanian Primary Industries Minister Bryan Green announced that the Tasmanian government would be providing \$1 million for the implementation of NLIS infrastructure over the next three years. Speaking at Killafaddy saleyards on 3 June, Mr Green congratulated Tasmanian Livestock Agents for their role in encouraging producers to participate in the scheme. Almost half of the weaners at the 2003 autumn sale were NLIS identified.

AQIS at WORK

PASSENGER TELLS PORKIES, BUT CAN'T DUCK BIGGEST-EVER QUARANTINE FINE

A woman who attempted to smuggle uncooked Pig and Duck meat from Asia was last month found guilty of breaching Australia's quarantine and custom laws and fined close to \$14,000.

This is the heaviest penalty for a quarantine smuggling offence ever issued, and it sends a clear message that Australia will not be put at risk of diseases such as foot and mouth or exotic strains of bird diseases.

AQIS officers at Sydney Airport caught the Australian resident. Her bag contained 3.5 kilograms of uncooked pork and 2.5 kilograms of pork sausages, half a kilogram of duck gizzards and 250 grams of duck tongue.

The woman pleaded not guilty, but the magistrate fined her \$13,608 for deliberately breaching quarantine laws. Any of these products could have caused immense damage to Australia's agriculture industries and the environment. The pig meat could introduce foot and mouth, swine fever, surra or swine vesicular disease-potentially destroying an industry worth \$1.45 billion in the past year alone.

The duck products could have been contaminated with exotic diseases such as duck plague, duck virus hepatitis, infectious bursal disease, and exotic strains of avian influenza or Newcastle disease. The potential impact on Australia's native animals could be even greater, since they have no resistance to these exotic diseases

THE TALE OF THE MYSTERY SUITCASE

AQIS officers swung into action recently when staff at Sydney Airport discovered a suitcase containing 43 packages of chrysanthemum plants and 25 packages of seeds which were all heavily infested with insects.

The suitcase had an airline ticket attached naming a Chinese farmer travelling to Australia he denied knowledge of the suitcase.

AQIS suspecting a smuggling scam trying to import illegal plant material into Australia sifted through diaries and business cards in the suitcase that revealed the owner of the suitcase was involved in the horticulture industry and travels regularly.

Inquiries soon discovered that the suitcase had become missing in transit during one of his overseas visits. He was contacted and it was confirmed that the suitcase went missing during his trip from Taiwan to Bangkok. He described the contents of the suitcase accurately and indicated that the contents were for a client in Bangkok.

What appeared to be a potential breach of the *Quarantine Act* turned out to be a mix-up with luggage with Mr X innocently collecting the wrong suitcase. The plants and seeds arrived in Australia as a result of a genuine mistake, fortunately AQIS's surveillance once again prevented a potentially disastrous introduction of exotic insects and possibly disease-infested plant material.

AQIS at WORK

DARWIN DEFEATS DISEASE CARRYING HITCHHIKERS

AQIS Darwin officers recently foiled deadly hitchhikers hidden in cargo when they discovered exotic *Aedes albopictus* adult mosquitoes and larvae during inspection of a cargo carrier. *Aedes albopictus* is an important vector of the potentially fatal disease dengue fever and dengue haemorrhagic fever and is an accomplished hitchhiker having travelled from SouthEast Asia to as far a Mauritius, Korea, Guam, Hawaii and other Pacific Islands.

In 1985 it was reported from Texas in the USA and is now established in 26 other states.

Quarantine office Sui Ying Soong found the mosquitoes; larvae and pupae in deep folds in the plastic lining of crates visually obscured by the cargo. With her colleague Hugo Espinoza they collected samples for identification. AQIS believes the most likely scenario is that the mosquitoes stowed away on the vessel in Singapore when it docked there in early March

Water was drained off the plastic lined crates and a fumigation program with methyl bromide was conducted on the ships holds and the wharf area while cargo movements were suspended and the area received extra surveillance.

With tiny insects and even tinier weed seeds combined with difficult access areas to contend with the challenge to Australia's AQIS officers is huge but with diligent inspectors and strict inspection and follow-up procedures give Australia a valuable safety net in the fight to keep these pests and diseases out of Australia.

AQIS HELPS FMD FIGHT IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

AQIS and the CSIRO are continuing to work together to combat the spread of foot and mouth disease (FMD) throughout Asia, in a new and exciting project involving CSIRO's Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL) in Geelong Victoria.

The target of the project is to control and eventually eradicate FMD from the region with CSIRO controlling the project and supply diagnostic reagents for FMD testing in the region. AQIS, Biosecurity Australia and other Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry-Australia (AFFA) scientific staff will provide technical, veterinary and disease control expertise.

Improved information about the spread of this dreaded livestock disease will be gained and by making affordable diagnostic test available to quarantine agencies in the region thus strengthening links between national and international laboratories. The project will set up systems to build greater levels of knowledge on the location and spread of all the strains of this disease. CSIRO will help laboratories in other countries set up quality controls and regional proficiency testing programs.

Participating countries are Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

Australia's borders will be strengthened by the project's development as improved knowledge about the FMD threat will help quarantine resources keep the disease out.

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TO THE GRAZIER

Your invitation to attend the
Cattle Profit Workshops™ in the NT

Cattle Profit Workshop™

This new RCS 2 day course will link grazing management and ecology with cattle nutrition and reproduction to lead you towards a more profitable business.

Times: 8am - 6pm

TENNANT CREEK 27 - 28 July 2003

KATHERINE 4 - 5 August 2003

ALICE SPRINGS 8 - 9 August 2003

Cattle Profit Workshop™

Would you like to improve gross margins with better livestock management?

COST - \$780 first person and \$580 each other person attending from the same business. GrazingforProfit™ School & Ruminant Nutrition Workshop Graduates - \$580

Workshop notes and a day catering package are included in the price. The workshop is GST free.

Eligible for FarmBis support, for details contact Ian McLean, Alice Springs, 8951 8537 or RCS

RSVP to RCS - Phone: 1800 356 004 Mail: RCS, PO Box 633, Yeppoon Qld 4703 Fax: 07 4939 5144

Please register me/us for the Cattle Profit Workshop to be held at

- TENNANT CREEK, 27 - 28 July 2003**
- KATHERINE, 4 - 5 August 2003**
- ALICE SPRINGS, 8 - 9 August 2003**

NAME(S):.....

ADDRESS:.....PC:.....

PHONE:..... FAX:.....

EMAIL:.....

No. attending:..... Cheque enclosed (*payable to RCS*)

- Yes** (*Phone Credit Card facilities available.*)

FarmBis Funding is available for 75% of the course cost.

ECONOMICS

- Discover how to structure profit into your business.
- Apply the three secrets for improving profit and eliminate deadwood from your operation.

ECOLOGY

- Learn how an understanding of basic ecology determines your profitability.
- Link the soil – plant – animal interface.
- Learn about the water, mineral and energy flow cycles.
- Learn how livestock can be used to improve ecosystem processes

REPRODUCTION

- Link nutrition with reproductive performance.
- Discuss the Wiltbank Principles and timing of mating to optimize breeder performance.
- Learn how to improve the gross margin in your breeding enterprise.

Cattle Profit Workshop™



GRAZING

- Learn how to lift carrying capacity WITHOUT seed, fertilizer, machinery or chemicals.
- Discuss the concept of overgrazing and understocking.
- Explore different methods to match stocking rate with carrying capacity more effectively.
- Explore a number of grazing management regimes including the 4 paddock system that links nutrition and reproduction with grazing management.

NUTRITION

- Learn about rumen function and the role of microbes.
- Discuss animal requirements for water, energy, degradable and bypass protein, minerals and vitamins.
- Learn how to diagnose when to feed supplements, what to feed, how to feed and how much to feed stock at different times of year.
- Plan a profitable supplement program.

DBIRD Primary Industries News

Notes from the Regional Director

In the last 3 years the Central Australian Camel Industry Association has been successful in developing export markets for live camels.

Increasingly both pastoralists and some indigenous communities have been harvesting feral camels.

The live export trade only takes younger camels mainly males. This is based on height restrictions on ship for animal welfare reasons. Consequently only 20% of mustered feral herds can be exported live.

The association has been trying to obtain access to export abattoirs without success. To assist the further development of the red meat industry in the Northern Territory, the Northern Territory Government has recently funded a study into a small modern multi species abattoir.

The report on this study was presented by the consultant, David McKinna, last week at the Arid Zone Research Institute. The report indicates that such a facility is feasible providing the supply of 10,000 head comprising cattle, camels and possibly buffalo is guaranteed and export markets for boxed meat are developed.

The report is now being finalised for possible investors.

For a copy of the report please contact Christine Ussher, DBIRD Alice Springs on 89518101.

Monthly Review of Temperature and Rainfall for June 2003

Temperature

In the Alice Springs district the mean monthly maximum temperatures were about normal in the southeastern corner, with Yuendumu about 2-3 °C above normal and the remainder of the district 1-2 °C above average.

The highest mean monthly maximum temperature was 29.6 °C at Elliott and the lowest was 20.0 °C at Kulgera. The hottest day reached 35 °C at Elliott, on the 29th, and the coolest day reached 14.5 °C at Arltunga, on the 16th.

The mean monthly minimum temperatures were mostly normal throughout the district except for two patches of 1-2 °C below normal around Rabbit Flat and in the centre of the Alice Springs district. The lowest mean monthly minimum temperature was 3.6 °C at Arltunga and the highest was 12.7 °C at Tennant Creek Airport. The coolest night reached -3.0 °C at Kulgera and Arltunga on the 22nd and 23rd respectively with the warmest night at Curtin Springs on the 18th reaching 18.0 °C.

Rainfall

In parts of the Alice Springs district falls of (1-14 mm) were reported, no rainfall occurred in the northern areas of the district. Above average falls of (8-30 mm) occurred in the southwestern quadrant on the 29th and 30th due to a northwest cloudband. Palm Valley reported the highest monthly rainfall and the highest daily rainfall of 35.2 mm on the 30th. Kulgera had the highest number of raindays at three with rainfall being reported from the 24th till the end of the month.

Fire Weather

There was no major fire activity in central and southern parts of the Territory this month. In the south, fuel loads were low, and people seemed to be taking more care with fire after the dangerous fire season last year.



WEATHER DETAILS PROVIDED COURTESY OF
THE BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY, DARWIN.
PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS INFORMATION IS
BASED ON UNCONFIRMED DATA