

## Accredited competent laypersons for pregnancy testing slaughter or feeder female cattle for export.

### Background:

Version 2 of the Australian Livestock Export Standard (ALES) requires competency standards for pregnancy testing slaughter or feeder female cattle and buffalo for export. The relevant standard (S1.9) is attached (Attachment 1).

The revised standard will be operational from 1 July 2006. AQIS has been requested to defer implementation until 1 January 2007 so that assessment and training can be completed. In all other jurisdictions pregnancy testing for commercial gain eg sale must be done by a registered vet.

### Verification:

AQIS will require evidence that:

1. veterinarian who pregnancy tested the cattle or buffalo is a registered vet; or
2. the person who pregnancy tested the cattle and buffalo is accredited by the Northern Territory Government.

Northern Territory Government (Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines) will accredit competent non-veterinary pregnancy testers by a Memorandum of Grades (MOG) of unit RTE4124A of the RTE03 (Rural Production), a nationally accredited training package provided by the Charles Darwin University (CDU) Rural Campus, Katherine. Accreditation will last for 3 years. Maintenance of accreditation will rely on ongoing pregnancy testing activity.

The Charles Darwin University (CDU) Rural Campus, Katherine, a Recognised Training Organisation (RTO), will assess competency based on recognised prior learning (RPL), theory examination and practical test or conduct training followed by a theory examination and a practical test.

## **Current Pregnancy Testers**

Current pregnancy testers can apply for RPL/Recognition of Current Competency for unit RTE4124A.

Applicants would:

- Provide proof of sufficient recent experience for inclusion (CDU application form);
- Undertake a practical examination in diagnosing 20 animals as pregnant or non-pregnant (100% accuracy)
- Undertake a theory examination (minimum score of 80%);
- Pay current fee (\$80 in 2006).

Candidates would be provided with study materials prior to the theory examination.

Non-pregnant for the purpose of the assessment is non-pregnant or foetal age less than 8 weeks. As pregnancy testing must be done within 30 days of export, calves will not be born during the voyage to South East Asia or during the typical period in the feedlot.

Estimated time to complete the RPL exams (theory and practical) is 1-2 hours. It is estimated that 5 students can be assessed daily by an examiner.

The assessment can be done on pre-arranged dates at Mataranka Station or on a commercial cattle property with a suitable crush, race and forcing yards with prior arrangement with the CDU Rural Campus at Katherine. The assessment can be combined with normal management activities - at least 100 females would be required for 5 students.

## **New Pregnancy Testers**

New pregnancy testers or those students who did not pass the practical test would enrol in RTE4124A. CDU would provide instruction in pregnancy testing utilising facilities at:

- Mataranka Station
- Private location

Requires:

- Suitable infrastructure
- Access to non-pregnant cattle and cattle at a variety of stages of pregnancy.

Course requires 2.5 day period (0.5 day theory and 2 days practical experience). Groups size of 6 to permit adequate practical experience.

Cost to enrol in 2006 is \$136.00.

Assessment by theory exam and practical examination will be as above.

### **Maintenance of Competency:**

Following the assessment of competency ongoing current experience is required to remain a competent pregnancy tester for the purpose.

A moving average over a 3 year period of at least 500 a year is required to maintain competency.

Evidence of activity can be provided by:

- Export pregnancy testing records;
- Production pregnancy testing corroborated by employer.

The maintenance of accreditation will be reviewed annually by DPIFM.

In the event that the moving average of at least 500 over a 3 year is not maintained, recertification by CDU is required. In 2006 the cost is \$200 (no funding support is provided by governments).

### **Record Keeping by DPIFM**

The pregnancy tester assessed to be competent in unit RTE4124A will apply for accreditation to the Chief Inspector at DPIFM with evidence of competency (a copy of the Memorandum of Grades provided by CDU). The application form is attached.

A certificate of accreditation will be provided with an accreditation number.

The Chief Inspector will maintain a Register and provide a list of accredited pregnancy testers to AQIS.

### **Certification Required by AQIS**

AQIS will require the accreditation number provided by DPIFM on the declaration forms for export related to pregnancy testing.

**Brian Radunz**  
**Chief Veterinary Officer**  
22<sup>nd</sup> May 2006

**Australian Livestock Export Standards Version 2 S1.9**

*Cattle and buffalo sourced for export as slaughter and feeder animals:*

- a) *must have been weaned at least fourteen (14) days before sourcing for export;*
- b) *must have an individual liveweight of more than 200kg and less than 650kg or, if outside these weights, have written prior approval from the relevant Australian Government agency;*
- c) *must have been determined not to be pregnant, using the following criteria:*
  - i. *have been pregnancy tested during the thirty (30) day period before export and certified as not detectably pregnant; or*

*Note: A declaration must be made in writing by the registered veterinarian or competent pregnancy tester\* who pregnancy tested the cattle or buffalo.*

- ii. *be accompanied by a vendor declaration that certifies that they have been spayed using the Willis dropped ovary technique not less than thirty (30) days before export; or*
- iii. *be accompanied by a vendor declaration that certifies that they have been spayed not less than two hundred and eighty (280) days before export.*

**(Footnote on the Standards)**

*\*A competent pregnancy tester is a person accredited by the Northern Territory Government.*