



ANIMAL WELFARE



Livestock Production Assurance

The Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) program is the Australian livestock industry's on-farm assurance program covering food safety, animal welfare and biosecurity.

It is part of the integrity system used by the red meat industry to meet the stringent requirements of our domestic and export markets. Customer confidence in Australian red meat underpins the success and growth of Australia's livestock industry, and protects the livelihoods of more than 180,000 producers.

When producers become LPA-accredited, they are promising to meet LPA's requirements and fulfil their responsibility in the production of safe and ethical red meat. **Animal welfare** is just one of seven elements that producers need to satisfy in order to become LPA accredited.

Every LPA accredited producer should ensure the relevant *Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines* are implemented on-farm.

What?

The *Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines* were developed to harmonise and streamline livestock welfare legislation in Australia, resulting in improved welfare in a way that is practical for industry.

The *Standards and Guidelines* cover producers' responsibilities and set out animals' needs in relation to feed and water; risk management in extreme weather, natural disasters, disease, injury and predation; facilities and equipment; handling and management/ husbandry; breeding management; and humane killing. For cattle, the *Standards and Guidelines* also cover castration, dehorning, disbudding or tipping, spaying; calf-rearing systems; dairy management; and beef feedlots. For sheep, additional chapters address tail docking and castration; mulesing; and intensive sheep production systems. For goats, additional chapters address castration, dehorning, disbudding or tipping, dairy management and intensive goat production systems.

How?

LPA accredited producers are required to have access to the current version of the *Standards and Guidelines*. People involved with animal husbandry should be familiar with its content.

The person responsible for farm management on property must have completed training in the *Standards and Guidelines*, which can be done via the LPA Learning tool (www.integritysystems.com.au/on-farm-assurance/lpa-learning/).

From 1 September 2025, LPA-accredited producers are required to have a documented Animal Welfare Management Plan (AWMP) to demonstrate how the relevant *Standards and Guidelines* are being met on farm.

It is also a requirement that all staff be trained in the *Standards and Guidelines* relevant to their role.

The *Standards and Guidelines* can be downloaded from the ISC website at www.integritysystems.com.au/on-farm-assurance/animal-welfare/.

When?

Animal welfare was added to LPA in 2017 which required producers to have access to the *Standards and Guidelines* and complete training.

From 1 September 2025, all LPA accredited producers must have a AWMP to demonstrate how they care for livestock to ensure comfort and quality of its life in accordance with the *Standards and Guidelines*.

Why?

LPA recognise that caring for livestock is fundamental to the success and sustainability of every farm.

Australia's red meat customers and consumers, both domestically and overseas, seek reassurance that livestock are cared for humanely and ethically.

Under LPA, on-farm systems must be implemented to ensure the management of livestock is consistent with the requirements of the *Standards and Guidelines* for cattle, sheep and goats.

This provides customers with the evidence that the animals have been treated ethically.

LPA REQUIREMENTS

- #1 PROPERTY RISK ASSESSMENT
- #2 SAFE & RESPONSIBLE ANIMAL TREATMENTS
- #3 STOCK FOODS, FODDER CROPS, GRAIN AND PASTURE TREATMENTS
- #4 PREPARATION FOR DISPATCH OF LIVESTOCK
- #5 LIVESTOCK TRANSACTIONS & MOVEMENTS
- #6 BIOSECURITY
- #7 **ANIMAL WELFARE**
- #8 HARVESTED RANGELAND GOATS

Checklist:

1. Do you have a copy of the current version of the 'Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines' for cattle, sheep or goats (as applicable to your property) accessible as a reference?

Yes No Unsure

This document can be downloaded from the ISC website at www.integritysystems.com.au/on-farm-assurance/animal-welfare/, and kept available as a ready reference where you and your livestock managers can access it easily.

2. Has the management representative or person responsible for livestock management completed training in relation to the Standards and Guidelines?

Yes No Unsure

LPA offers a free animal welfare training e-learning module that can be completed to meet this requirement.

3. Are staff involved in animal husbandry familiar with the content of the current version of the Standards and Guidelines for cattle, sheep and/or goats (as applicable)?

Yes No Unsure

It is important that staff have access to the Standards and Guidelines and have been trained in animal welfare relevant to their role.

The LPA Animal Welfare e-learning module can be completed by staff to fulfil training requirements.

4. Do you maintain any other procedures or practices that contribute to improved animal welfare outcomes in your operation?

Yes No Unsure

If you have any other procedures or practices in place on your property above and beyond those required by the Standards and Guidelines, record those and add them as a supplement to your copy of the official document.

5. Do you have a documented Animal Welfare Management Plan (AWMP) for your property?

Yes No Unsure

Each LPA-accredited producer is required to have a documented AWMP to demonstrate how they meet the standards contained in the Standards and Guidelines.

The AWMP can be completed at any time in your LPA account and during accreditation and re-accreditation.

Once completed, it will be available as a PDF and can be updated at any time.

Your AWMP needs to be made available at LPA audits from 1 September 2025.

Learn more

A dedicated module within LPA Learning (www.integritysystems.com.au/on-farm-assurance/lpa-learning/) explains what you need to know regarding LPA's requirements for animal welfare. Information and a copy of the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines is also provided on the ISC website at www.integritysystems.com.au/on-farm-assurance/animal-welfare/.

