

When does animal welfare become part of LPA?

From 1 October 2017, animal welfare and biosecurity will be included in the LPA program. Every LPA-accredited producer must ensure animal welfare requirements are fulfilled by following the Australia Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for cattle, sheep and/or goats (as applicable).

Customers increasingly expect and ask for evidence of ethical production from Australian livestock producers. Producer commitment to animal welfare is important to customers. Integrating animal welfare into LPA strengthens the promise made to customers that Australian red meat is produced ethically.

Animal welfare practices will be auditable and will be part of the accreditation assessment process.

What are the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines?

The Australian Animal Welfare 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 and spaying; calf rearing systems; dairy management; and beef feedlots. For sheep, additional chapters address tail docking and castration; mulesing; and intensive sheep production systems. The Standards and Guidelines for goats cover both dairy management and intensive goat production systems.

What do producers need to do on farm to meet LPA animal welfare requirements?

Under LPA, on-farm systems must be implemented to ensure the handling of livestock is consistent with the requirements of the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for cattle, sheep and goats (as applicable).

There is a checklist of activities that can assist producers in meeting the animal welfare requirements of LPA.

Producers must keep a current copy of the Standards and Guidelines accessible as a reference and that all people involved in livestock husbandry on their property are familiar with its content.

Does LPA accreditation need to be renewed?

Producers are required to keep their LPA accreditation current. This ensures their knowledge of program requirements is always up to date. Traditionally, producers have needed to recommit every 12 months. This is being changed to an accreditation renewal once every three years, beginning on 1 October 2017.

How do producers renew their LPA accreditation?

From 1 October 2017, producers can log in to the LPA Service Centre and complete a short assessment to renew their accreditation. They will need to answer all questions correctly to have their LPA accreditation renewed. They will also have to agree to abide by the LPA program requirements and pay a fee.

How will producers know when it is time to renew their accreditation?

They will be notified by email or post two months before it is time to renew their accreditation. This has traditionally happened annually but will now be done once every three years, on the anniversary of their original sign-up date.

For producers to follow up please use these links:

- www.lpa.nlis.com.au
- www.mla.com.au