

Restocking considerations

Rain brings some much needed relief however some warnings still apply

Western Local Land Services is reminding landholders to do their homework and prepare prior to restocking after recent rainfall across the region.

Animal health statements

When purchasing stock always request an animal health statement (national sheep health declaration/national cattle health declaration). This can give critical health information on the vaccination status, drench history, freedom from certain diseases or other treatments the animals may have received. Ideally, inspect all stock prior to purchase if possible. More information can be found at www.farmbiosecurity.com.au.

Fit to load / transport guidelines

Guides such as Meat & Livestock Australia's 'fit to load' aim to help livestock producers and transporters meet the [Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for the Land Transport of Livestock](#), as well as decide whether an animal is fit to be loaded for the intended journey. Landholders and transporters must abide by maximum transport times, minimum spelling times, stocking densities and maximum times off water and feed for each class of livestock. Cold weather, long journeys, young animals or animals that are pregnant or lactating, place increased demands and stressors on the animal. Increased occurrence of metabolic disease such as transport tetany, milk fever or pregnancy toxemia can result. Extra care and preparation should be taken with these animals. More information can be found at www.mla.com.au.

Vaccinations

Restocking is a good time to ensure all animals are current with required vaccinations. Sudden changes in feed, in particular lush green feeds, can predispose animals to sudden death from clostridial disease such as pulpy kidney. Always ensure vaccinations are appropriate for the class of stock and use as per manufacturer recommendations.



Quarantine of new arrivals / WormTest

New arrivals to a property should be quarantined/ isolated from other stock for at least seven days. This allows for monitoring of any signs of disease and allows them to empty out any noxious weed seeds prior to entering the rest of the property. Depending where the animals have been purchased from, a quarantine drench or faecal egg count (WormTest) should be performed to prevent drench resistant worms entering the property or to assess requirement for drenching newly acquired stock. More information can be found at www.wormboss.com.au.

Induct new stock slowly to pasture

It is important to allow new stock to adjust slowly to feed changes, this is due to time required for microbial populations in the rumen to adjust to the new feed source. Often, the safest methods are providing good quality hay as stock arrive to fill up their rumens before allowing them access to pasture. This can be provided for several days as the animals adapt to the new pastures. There has been several cases of stock losses where hungry, recently transported animals have been let out to eat large amounts of lush pigweed and caltrop containing large amounts of nitrate.



Local Land
Services

For more information contact your local district veterinarian:

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