

## APPENDIX 1

### On-Farm Self-Assessment Chart for Cattle Graziers

On-farm Animal Welfare is the focus of increasing interest to a significant proportion of Australians. By its very nature, welfare status is hard to quantify but most producers take their responsibilities very seriously. There are written Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for cattle, sheep, goats, land transport and saleyards.

The object of this Self-Assessment Chart is to allow owners / managers of grazing cattle to assess their own animal welfare status at any time, including difficult times such as the current drought. It tries to highlight areas of strength and weakness by giving a Score (Excellent = 4, decreasing to 0).

Although seasonal variation in body score is acceptable and occasional injury or death are, sadly, inevitable, any significant losses or disease outbreaks should be investigated and explained. By seeking relevant veterinary and nutritional advice, it shows that you are diligent producer who is showing 'due diligence'. Self-assessment and upgrading of any weaknesses identified is the best method of proving positive intent and preventing compulsory certification by outside inspectors.

A score 0 indicates that you are not meeting required standards. Some of these are easily corrected but others may indicate a basic management weakness.

While it is based on national standards, this *is an* informal document to make producers aware of aspects of animal welfare they may not know. Any owner / manager who identifies a weakness is advised to contact NTLIS for a confidential discussion with a District Vet or Livestock Officer to identify the best way to bring about improvements.

Measure		Descriptor	Score
<b>General</b>			
<b>1</b>	Do you have a copy of "Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Cattle"?	Yes	<b>4</b>
		No	<b>0</b>
<b>2</b>	What condition are your adult cattle?	All healthy and with body score 3 or above	<b>4</b>
		More than 10% are body score 2	<b>3</b>
		More than 5% animals are very thin – body score 1 or less	<b>2</b>
		More than 2 animals in High Risk category	<b>1</b>
		More than 1 animal at BCS High Risk 2 or collapsed	<b>0</b>
		More than 2% animals have died in the last year	
<b>3</b>	What condition are your calves/weaners?	All healthy and with body score 3 or above	<b>4</b>
		More than 10% are body score 2	<b>3</b>
		More than 5% animals are very thin – body score 1 or less	<b>2</b>
		More than 2 animals in High Risk category	<b>1</b>
		More than 1 animal at BCS High Risk 2 or collapsed	<b>0</b>
		More than 2% animals have died in the last year	
<b>4</b>	Do you routinely call a vet to look at sick or dying animals and follow the advice?	Yes	<b>4</b>
		Sometimes	<b>2</b>
		No	<b>0</b>

<b>Freedom from Thirst</b>			
<b>5</b>	Animals have access to water (except for prescribed 'time-off-water')	Full-time with stream, dam or reticulated water checked frequently	<b>4</b>
		Muddy dams nearly empty	<b>2</b>
		Only get access to water once a day	<b>1</b>
		Sometimes they go without water for a day or so	<b>0</b>
<b>6</b>	Number of animals dying in dams in last year	None	<b>4</b>
		1	<b>3</b>
		More than 1	<b>0</b>
<b>Freedom from Hunger</b>			
<b>7</b>	Do you think your animals are getting enough food?	Yes	<b>4</b>
		No	<b>0</b>
<b>8</b>	Is supplementary feeding being given to animals	None needed – or adequate if being given	<b>4</b>
		Yes and animals maintaining above fat score 2.5	<b>4</b>
		It is - but they are still losing weight	<b>0</b>
<b>9</b>	Is there adequate feeding space for all animals to access supplementary feed at the same time?	Yes	<b>4</b>
		No	<b>0</b>
<b>10</b>	Total ration	Feed analyses carried out + ration balanced using an advisor	<b>4</b>
		Effective balanced ration based on experience Shouldn't this depend on outcome	<b>3</b>
		Ration is estimated on what is available	<b>2</b>
		Ration nutritionally inadequate and stock losing condition	<b>1</b>
		Ration inadequate and causing disease	<b>0</b>
<b>Freedom from Discomfort</b>			
<b>11</b>	Can your cattle get protection from wind, sun, rain, inclement weather?	Yes	<b>4</b>
		Yes but probably not enough	<b>2</b>
		No	<b>0</b>
<b>Freedom from Pain</b>			
<b>12</b>	Do you use anaesthetics for castrations	Always on animals over 6 months old	<b>4</b>
		Sometimes on animals over 6 months old	<b>0</b>
		Never in animals under 6 months of age	<b>0</b>
		Never	<b>0</b>
<b>13</b>	Do you use anaesthetics for dehorning	Always on animals over 6 months old	<b>4</b>
		Sometimes	<b>0</b>
		Never	<b>0</b>

Freedom from Injury			
14	Do you get cattle injured	No more than 1% a year	4
		From time to time	2
		In certain parts of the property	0
		Frequently	0
15	Farm cleanliness	Tidiness is important to me - all rubbish, wire, metal etc is collected and stored/disposed of safely	4
		Some debris lying around is normal	3
		Trying to improve this area of the property	2
		Too much other more important stuff to do	0
16	Do you have control programs for feral animals?	Yes - including coordinating with neighbours	4
		Sometimes I do baiting	2
		No	0
Freedom from Disease			
17	Do you have written Farm Biosecurity Plan	Yes	4
		No	0
18	Do you get veterinary advice for unexplained deaths	Always	4
		Usually	3
		Sometimes	1
		Never	0
19	Do you get veterinary advice for unexplained disease	Always	4
		Usually	3
		Sometimes	2
		Never	0
20	Do you have a written health program developed with veterinary advice	Yes	4
		No	0
21	Do you have a program for assessment and treatment of downer cows?	Yes	4
		No	0
22	Do you and your staff attend workshops and / or training on livestock management and disease?	As often as possible	4
		Sometimes	2
		Staff rarely do	1
		No	0
Freedom to Express Normal Behaviour			
23	Are all cattle able to behave normally with other cattle or are they limited	Kept in a mob with adequate feed and water and protection from the elements	4
		Always kept with at least one other animal	4
		Kept in limited space but with adequate feed, water and shelter	3
		Kept in limited space but shelter is not big enough for all animals	1

### Freedom from Fear and Distress

24	Are the cattle handling facilities safe for all animals?	As good as they get	4		
		Pretty good - but could be improved	3		
		About time they were replaced	2		
		Really a bit of an embarrassment but.....	1		
25	What is the level of cattle handling skills of all the staff on the property?	Everyone is highly trained, uses minimal goading and has been through a stock handling training course	4		
		Most people are well-skilled	3		
		Some staff need more training	2		
		Animals don't move easily through some parts of our system	1		
<b>Natural Disasters and Extreme Weather</b>					
26	Do you have written plans to minimise cattle welfare in the event of emergency	Yes	4		
		No	0		
27	Do you have a drought strategy with specific trigger points for decision-making?	Yes	4		
		No	0		
<b>Destruction of Livestock</b>					
28	Are you skilled in shooting cattle?	Yes - only need one shot	4		
		Reasonable	2		
		No – I really should get a bit of training	0		
29	Which of these signs of death should be seen when cattle are shot? (ONE POINT FOR EACH)	Absence of eye movement and a corneal 'blink' reflex when the eyeball is touched,	1		
		Dilated pupils that are unresponsive to light	1		
		Absence of rhythmic respiratory movements for at least 5 minutes	1		
		Flaccid jaw	1		
		Flaccid tongue	1		
30	Which method of carcase disposal do you use	Burial	4		
		Allow to decompose on a heap	0		
		Knackery	4		
		Composting	4		
		Burning	4		
<b>Maximum Score</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>Number of Score 0</b>		<b>My Score</b>	