**NSQA**

**Newsletter**

October 2021

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**National Saleyards Quality Assurance Inc.** IAN A0050263X ABN 76 657 458 542

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President: Ian O’Loan OAM Executive Officer: Mark McDonald

**President’s Report**



AGM REPORT OCTOBER 15, 2021

The challenge we started last year has continued. Covid is here to stay and some permanent changes although not documented as such are locked in for future operations.

The restrictions on operating procedures at Saleyards and restrictive employment numbers at processing plants have had a major effect on saleyards. More smaller saleyards have cut the sale numbers so much so a number mostly Local Government yards have had their support funding withdrawn. This has meant that NSQA has had a diminishing membership from these yards, the majority of these members were not accredited.

However, on the bright side the prices being obtained at NSQA Saleyards for both Cattle and Sheep have never been seen in prior years. Through put in some cases has restricted supply due to drought has also reduced numbers, but in some southern yards the numbers have been the best in 5 years.

NSQA saleyards who have up graded facilities with covered selling areas and re constructed pens, complying with Animal Welfare standards are well and truly standing well in the marketplace, also the ones using interfacing sales are not only gaining record prices but enhancing throughput.

ISC continues to push producers into using electronic NVDs , this does not take into account that 100% of producers do not have electronic connectivity and experience, this is causing a lot of NVDs being presented at saleyards in unsaleable status, this is time consuming to saleyard and agent staff processing documentation prior to sale.

Electronic ear tag devices for sheep are gaining more momentum to give lifetime traceability for sheep meat. There is still some resistance from governments, even though Victoria has clearly demonstrated its benefits. For saleyard implementation nationally a federal Government subsidy is required plus similar subsidy and education at producer level.

Animal Welfare is a continuing concern to NSQA, the Board is currently considering some changes to our standard to enhance our present system. However, we are still having producers consigning livestock to saleyards which do not comply with Fit To Load standards and agents not refusing both on farm and at saleyards to receive these stock, also transporters for carrying such stock.

The board was also aware of a number of OH&S incidents in the sector during the last 12 months. The use of the NSQA system continues to support yards when they need to deal with these sort of incidents and are a valuable tool when presenting documentation to investigating parties.

Visits by activists such as AAA are also not assisting our operations when they condemn actions due to fit to load or off water when details are clearly stated on sheep LPA NVDs. These actions cause unnecessary publicity due to their broad spread circulation and reflect badly on NSQA members who are doing their best to comply with regulations.

I thank the Board for their input and support over the last period.

Grant Johnson who has filled a vacancy after serving previously also for some years, has not sought re-election as his employment is no longer saleyard related. Thank you, Grant, for your sound guidance over your time with NSQA.

I would also like to welcome on board Mr Paul Christopher from Horsham saleyards as a new NSQA board member following this years election. He joins Mr Brendan Carey (Scanclear) who joined the board in 2020.

Our Executive Officer Mark McDonald has had a particularly difficult personal time during this year’s administrative operation, but as usual has coped admirably.

Well, done Mark.

At times of attempted change we must remember that NSQA is the only independent organisation devoted entirely to Saleyard Quality Assurance and regardless of other pressures is still setting the standards for full traceability through an annual audit system, these pressures continue and NSQA members can at all times present a system which covers all requirements.

Lastly I would express my thanks to NSQA contract independent auditors AUSMEAT for their continued service and support through their programme manager, Wayne Williamson.

*Ian O’Loan OAM President*

**COVID STATUS**

The industry continues to manage the Covid situation very well. As we move back to a more normal saleyard experience across the country the sector can take great pride in their efforts to keep the industry open and provide an ongoing service rto producers.

An appendix to the current NSQA standard related to covid management was sent to members late in 2020 that covered the issues related to pandemic/emergency management.

**NSQA ELECTIONS 2021-2023**

The NSQA election process has been completed prior to the AGM on October 15.

Following the election process the current NSQA board is as follows.

* President – Mr Ian O’Loan
* Vice President – Mr Ken Rogers
* Mr David Saunders
* Mr Brendan Carey
* Mr Paul Christopher
* Secretary/Treasurer – Mr Mark McDonald.

**NSQA AUDIT CARS (CORRECTIVE ACTION REPORTS)**

The NSQA board receives the saleyard audit reports from Ausmeat following each audit. These are considered at each board meeting and in some cases will result in a support contact with a saleyard. This is designed to help yards address their CAR.

Most of the CARS received relate to missing or incomplete paperwork which is relatively easy to correct and will not require any further assistance. Recently a number of CARS have appeared related to the dead stock procedure. Members are advised that this is a two stage process. This includes updating local records of disposed stock as well as updating the NLIS database with the relevant NLIS IS.

If members are unsure how to manage any CAR’s raised in their annual audit they should contact the executive officer. We can provide advice on how to rectify any issues raised and direct you to relevant material for this purpose.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT NSQA THEN CONTACT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER – 0422 312607**

[**nsqaadmin@bigpond.com**](mailto:nsqaadmin@bigpond.com)

***Details are also at the AUSMEAT website***

[www.ausmeat.com.au](http://www.ausmeat.com.au/)

Just click on the NSQA Logo

**Audits should be arranged by direct contact with Wayne Williamson at AUSMEAT**

**Phone: 07 3361 9211 0427 610 463**

**LIST OF CURRENT NSQA**

**ACCREDITED SALEYARDS**

05/1998 Casino, NSW

29/2001 Coonamble, NSW

37/2002 Cowra, NSW

18/2000 Deniliquin, NSW

07/1998 Dubbo, NSW

14/1999 Finley, NSW Cattle only

41/2002 Glen Innes, NSW

39/2002 Gloucester, NSW

44/2003 Grafton, NSW

01/1998 Inverell, NSW

34/2001 Kempsey, NSW

40/2002 Lismore, NSW

36/2001 Maitland, NSW Cattle only

09/1999 Mudgee, NSW

35/2001 Narrabri, NSW Cattle only

47/2004 Bairnsdale, Victoria

19/2000 Bendigo, Victoria

51/2014 Casterton, Victoria

08/1998 Colac, Victoria

33/2001 Echuca, Victoria

27/2000 Hamilton, Victoria

31/2001 Horsham, Victoria

46/2003 Kerang, Victoria

38/2002 Ouyen, Victoria

10/1998 Shepparton, Victoria

04/1998 Swan Hill, Victoria

12/1999 Wangaratta, Victoria

49/2010 Warracknabeal, Victoria

50/2011 Wycheproof, Victoria

06/1998 Millicent, S.A.

26/2000 Mount Gambier, SA

28/2000 Naracoorte, SA

11/1999 Biloela, Qld.

48/2005 Charters Towers, Qld

03/1998 Gympie, Qld.

32/2001 Moura, Qld.

52/2016 Warwick, Qld

24/2017 Dalby, QLD