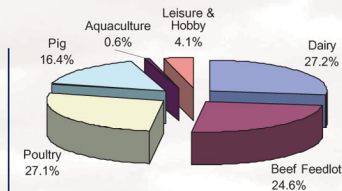




The Australian Stockfeed Industry

Australian livestock owners utilise over 10,000,000 tonnes of stock feed annually. This volume excludes pasture grazing, hay and silage and does not account for spikes in feed usage in times of drought feeding.

Animal feed is supplied from commercial feed mills operated by specialist stock feed manufacturers as well as integrated poultry, pig and beef feedlot operators. A proportion is also supplied from on-farm production either in home-mix mill or simple mixing operations.



Graph: Stockfeed use by industry 2004-05

Livestock Industries Feed Usage

Feed manufacturers are an essential component in the value chain as Australia's raw materials are converted via stock feed into higher value meat, milk, eggs and wool. The stock feed industry also provides hobby farmers, backyard and leisure livestock owners with high quality and reliable feeds for their animals.

Poultry Industry

Over 750,000 tonnes of chicken meat is produced annually within Australia (Source ABS), this is almost entirely consumed within the Australian domestic market. The poultry layer sector produces approximately 150,000 tonnes of fresh eggs annually (Source AECL). Together, feed for chicken meat and laying hens represents over 2.8 million tonnes.

Pig Industry

Australia produces over 5,000,000 pigs annually (Source APL) for the supply of fresh and processed pig meats. Pig producers utilise around 1.7 million tonnes of feed annually.

Dairy Industry

Australian milk production reached 10,124 million litres in 2004/05, and over 60% of Australia's milk production is exported as dairy products (Source Dairy Aust.). Milk production has more than doubled over the last 20 year period. The increased use of supplementary feeds for dairy cows has resulted in significant increases in milk production. Dairy feed use within Australia now exceeds 2.8 million tonnes.

Beef Industry

Through the operation of beef feedlots, Australia has become a major exporter of beef. Through the use of supplementary feeds in addition to feedlot feeding, the sectors use of feeds is around 2.5 million tonnes. Actual feed usage varying with the numbers of cattle which are being fed relative to those finished on pasture.

Sheep Industry

The Australian sheep industry is valued at approximately \$1 billion, with a national sheep and lamb flock of about 15.5 million. Australia exports about 32% of total lamb meat production (Source MLA).

Horse Industry

The contribution of the horse industry to the Australian economy has been estimated to be over \$6.2 billion a year (Source RIRDC). Whilst racing and associated activities (breeding and gambling) contribute a little over half, horse businesses, equestrian and breed events and the maintenance of horses are very large industries in themselves. The stockfeed industry supplies a range of feed products to meet the needs of racing, eventing and leisure horses.

Aquaculture

The value of aquaculture in Australia is \$750 million. The industry has a demand for feeds to meet the requirements of species such as trout, tuna, prawns and barramundi which are commercially farmed.

Leisure and Lifestyle Animal Feeding

Australians benefit from the opportunity to operate hobby and leisure farms, with various animals being reared for the production of meat, milk and eggs as well as the provision of companionship and pleasure pursuits. The stockfeed industry services this market with products for speciality poultry, rabbits, alpacas, goats, etc.





“Feeding for the future”

About the Stock Feed Manufacturers' Council of Australia (SFMCA)

The SFMCA is a National industry association, representing corporate and individual manufacturers of stock feed located throughout Australia. The SFMCA had its beginnings in 1961, when a "Federal Association of Stock Feed Manufacturers" was formed. From the Association's inception, it has played an active role in addressing national industry issues, many of these relating to raw material ingredient supply, quality standards, Federal Government legislation, regulations and grains industry issues.

The SFMCA is structured with a governing Federal Council, comprising elected representatives from each separate State based industry association. There are State Associations of Stock Feed Manufacturers in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria (including Tasmania), South Australia and Western Australia.

Individual stock feed manufacturers are members of a State SFMA. Full (active) Membership of a State Association is available to stock feed manufacturers with milling and manufacturing plant located within Australia.

The State Associations also readily accept Associate Members, these being companies or individuals who have an interest and involvement with the stock feed industry. Many entities supplying products and services to stock feed manufacturers are Associate Members.

SFMCA Objectives

- To take common and co-ordinated action on behalf of the State Associations to address matters affecting or likely to affect the interests of members of the stock feed industry.
- To disseminate information of relevance and interest to the membership.
- To provide a contact point for government and others who need to communicate with the industry generally.
- To address national issues on matters for the improvement, protection or development of the Australian stock feed manufacturing industry.
- To provide a central organisation, through which State Associations and their members may be represented, to form industry policy positions for the general betterment of the stock feed manufacturing industry.
- To organise industry events such as conferences, for the exchange of information and ideas which assist feed manufacturers in their business development.

SFMCA Activities

The SFMCA supports Australian stockfeed manufacturers through the provision of various services.

1. FeedSafe QA Accreditation Programme

FeedSafe is recognised as the programme providing assurance to livestock producers as well as government regulators that the feeds being supplied within Australia meet minimum quality standards. The programme operates with each feed manufacturing site being audited annually and suffering the potential loss of certification should they fail audit. Retention of FeedSafe accreditation is compulsory for membership of the organisation.

2. Industry Communications

Through the website www.sfmca.com.au and via other communication routes, the SFMCA acts a vehicle for the dissemination of information to stockfeed manufacturers. Similarly the SFMCA acts as the route for communications with Federal Government and other industry bodies who are reliant upon the supply of stockfeed.

3. Education and Training

The industry has implemented a national training programme for the provision of vocational training for feed mill operators. Additionally the organisation is seeking to promote the potential career opportunities within the industry for job seekers.

4. Industry Representation

The SFMCA and its State associations play an essential role in co-ordinating the industries response to issues confronting the industry. In recent times issues being addressed have included use of feed grains in ethanol production, GM use in animal feeds, single desk grain marketing, BSE, feed additive use, and matters relating to OH&S and the environment.

For more information about the stockfeed industry and the SFMCA contact: Stock Feed Manufacturers' Council of Australia
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