

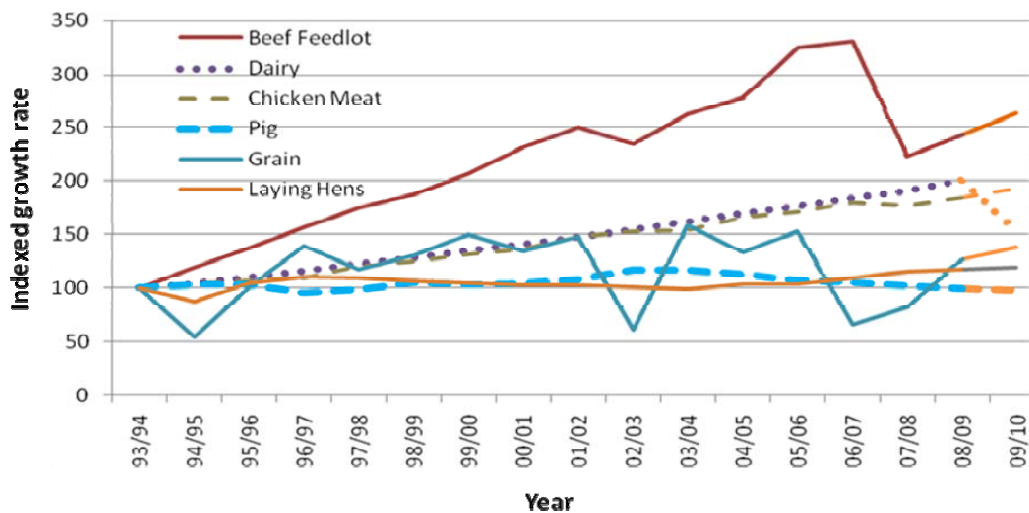
## The Australian Feedgrain R&D Partnership – Explanatory Notes

### IMPORTANCE OF THE AUSTRALIAN FEEDGRAIN INDUSTRY

The following facts show the critical importance of the feedgrain industry;

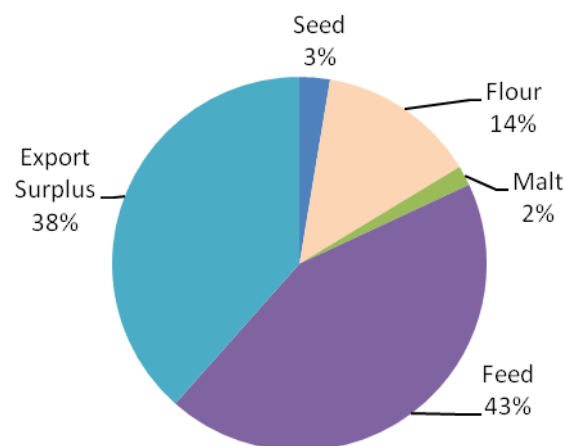
- Livestock production has intensified, resulting in higher volumes of feed and feed grains being utilized.
- The livestock industries effectively 'value-add' to grains by converting them into a range of high-protein food sources - meat, milk and eggs. These industries are reliant on access to satisfactory supplies of feed grains to achieve this.
- Demand for feedgrains from livestock industries in Australia is growing and the increase in demand has been greater than the growth in grain production. This trend poses challenges for grain growers, livestock industries and supporting infrastructure. Figure 1 illustrates relative industry growth from 1992/93 to 2009/10.

**Figure 1. Industry growth, indexed from 1993/94**



- Livestock industries are the largest, and fastest growing market for grain growers in Eastern Australia.

**Figure 2. Market destinations for grain grown in Eastern States (Qld, NSW, Vic)**



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### **WHAT ARE FEEDGRAINS ?**

There are two basic categories of grain used for feed:

- (i) grain types that are entirely, or mostly, grown for livestock feeding (sorghum and triticale); and
- (ii) multi-purpose grains that can be used for human food or livestock feeding, depending upon circumstances (major examples are wheat and barley).

Sorghum, as a summer crop, plays an important role in the supply of feedgrains as it supplements the winter crop harvest.

### **THE PURPOSE OF THE AUSTRALIAN FEEDGRAIN R&D PARTNERSHIP**

The Australian Feedgrain R&D Partnership provides a forum for achieving a national, coordinated focus for feedgrain-related R&D.

The Australian Feedgrain R&D Partnership is comprised of the following R&D agencies that fund research on feedgrain related issues:

- Grains Research and Development Corporation
- Meat and Livestock Australia
- Dairy Australia
- Australian Pork Limited
- Pork Cooperative Research Centre
- Australian Egg Corporation Limited
- Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation –Chicken Meat Program
- In addition, the Stockfeed Manufacturers' Council of Australia contributes to the decision-making and management of the Partnership as a financial partner.

The Partnership members recognize that the feedgrain industry extends from the grain farm through to the livestock end user, so the Partnership aims to take a whole of supply chain approach to feedgrain-related R&D and to identify opportunities for cross-agency collaboration where there are shared goals.

The Partnership members take advice from the industry through an annual Forum, and are guided by the goals and priorities documented in the Partnership R& D strategy.

The agencies meet regularly to ensure cross agency co-ordination, and to agree on jointly funded activities. Agencies are free to fund projects outside the Partnership process.

### **BENEFITS OF THE AUSTRALIAN FEEDGRAIN R&D PARTNERSHIP**

The benefits of the Australian Feedgrain R&D Partnership include:

- More efficient use of levy funds: the feedgrain industry extends from the farm through to end users, and it makes good sense for R&D agencies funding research through this

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chain to work together where possible. Such collaboration drives R&D levy funds further.

- Better understanding of common interests: Growers, buyers, sellers and end users will, of course, often have competing interests. However, there are also common interests which can be supported by joint funding
- Some problems are best solved by working together: key R&D priorities such as developing better performing feedgrain varieties can be best achieved by drawing on the knowledge of end users of feedgrain, as well as the knowledge of those involved in growing them.

### **KEY FEEDGRAIN R&D ISSUES**

**The Partnership welcomes industry feedback on the following key R&D issues:**

- the narrowing margin between available feedgrain supplies in eastern Australia, and domestic demand
- the altered temperatures and rainfall patterns and climatic volatility, forecast across the grain belt attributable to climate change
- fostering incentives for growers to increase feedgrain production
- identifying, and rewarding, feedgrain quality attributes
- transitioning from publically funded plant breeding to commercial funding
- a more transparent feedgrain market; during droughts, in particular, lack of critical and timely data, such as grain stocks, distorts decision making.

### **FEEDGRAIN R&D PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES**

The Partnership is currently progressing the following issues:

- a) Funding a major project through CSIRO to enhance sorghum attributes
- b) Providing interim funding of feedgrain stocks pending government and industry decisions on long term data collection and funding arrangements for this collection
- c) Ensuring that individual agencies complement the R&D of others in feedgrain work, and jointly fund where it makes sense to do so, by working within a common feedgrain strategy
- d) Participating in the 2010 Grain Industry Conference program
- e) Regularly updating the Partnership R&D five year strategy
- f) Providing advice on plant breeding issues and end point royalty collection from the livestock industries
- g) Funding an annual statistical update of the Australian feedgrain industry
- h) Promoting NIR laboratory analysis capability to the industry

The Partnership activities evolve with industry needs.

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## FEEDGRAIN PARTNERSHIP CONTACTS

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