

final report

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Prepared by: Sally Wernham
Australian Business Training
Solutions
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Feedlot WH&S workshops 2014

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Abstract

This report provides details regarding the completion of the B.FLT.0483 'WH&S workshops 2014' project. The project delivered WH&S training to feedlot operators and employees in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia through a series of six workshops conducted during the period June – August 2014. A summary of information outlining the delivery and completion of the training workshops, together with feedback from participants, is provided. Recommendations on next steps to ensure the WH&S system is incorporated into feedlot operating procedures are also provided for future consideration.

Executive summary

Australian Business Training Solutions was contracted to deliver a series of seven WH&S training workshops for feedlots in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia. The workshops were organised and coordinated by Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) and the Australian Lot Feeders' Association (ALFA).

This project followed on from an earlier project (B.FLT.0471 'Update of feedlot sector WH&S program') conducted by Australian Business Training Solutions, which updated the feedlot sector's WH&S program, and developed the training materials utilised in the delivery of the current project.

The training provided an overview of the feedlot WH&S Safety Management system, and direction regarding the development of individualised systems within feedlot workplaces. It was successfully completed, with training delivered to a total of 87 participants at six workshops across the eastern States. The workshop planned for Western Australia was cancelled due to a lack of participant interest.

Feedback received from participants during the training workshops revealed a need for further assistance with the development and implementation of individual WH&S management systems. While, a number of feedlots indicated they have various components of a WH&S management system in place, general feedback indicated that further assistance for the development of a customised system within their enterprise would be useful. MLA and ALFA are currently considering how this further assistance might be made available.

Table of Contents

1	Background	5
1.1	Project summary.....	5
2	Objectives.....	5
2.1	Project objectives	5
3	Methodology	6
3.1	Project requirements	6
3.1.1	Customisation of training materials	6
3.1.2	Delivery of workshops.....	6
3.1.3	Course materials.....	6
4	Results	6
4.1	Project outcomes.....	6
4.1.1	Workshop content.....	6
4.1.2	Delivery of WH&S workshops	7
4.2	Project results.....	7
4.2.1	Participant feedback	7
5	Discussion/conclusions.....	8
5.1	Project completion.....	8
5.1.1	Training delivered	8
5.1.2	Further requirements identified	8

1 Background

1.1 Project summary

In May 2014, Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) contracted Australian Business Training Solutions (ABTS) to deliver a series of WH&S training workshops to feedlot operators under project number B.FLT.0483 'WH&S workshops 2014'. This followed the completion of a previous project (B.FLT.0471 'Update of feedlot sector WH&S program') in which ABTS reviewed and completed the update of the existing workplace health and safety program for the feedlot industry. The project also included the development of training materials for the current project.

The purpose of project number B.FLT.0483 was to deliver WH&S training to feedlot operators and employees in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia, through a series of workshops conducted during the June – August 2014 period. The workshops were intended to assist feedlot operators and employees to identify and manage potential WH&S risks and hazards that could be encountered in their feedlot businesses, enhancing the safety management credentials of individual feedlots and the broader industry.

This project has been completed, with delivery of training being undertaken in all locations, except Narrogin. The training for Narrogin was cancelled at the request of MLA, as a result of insufficient participant numbers.

2 Objectives

2.1 Project objectives

The objective of this project was to deliver seven training workshops to:

1. Educate and assist feedlot operators and employees regarding the identification and management of potential WH&S risks and hazards experienced at a feedlot.
2. Familiarise feedlot operators with the Feedlot WH&S Management System so they can then integrate it into their business.

In undertaking this project, ABTS sought to provide a training program which not only delivered the stated objectives, but also empowered feedlot operators with the knowledge to develop a culture within their individual businesses to achieve optimal safety outcomes.

3 Methodology

3.1 Project requirements

3.1.1 Customisation of training materials

Customisation of the ABTS WH&S workshop delivery modules was undertaken as part of the earlier (B.FLT.0471) project in order to address the specific needs of the feedlot sector.

3.1.2 Delivery of workshops

A series of seven workshops were scheduled for the locations of Dalby, Emerald, Tamworth, Wagga Wagga, Moama, Murray Bridge and Narrogin. These workshops were to be presented by Ken Golden, principal trainer for ABTS.

3.1.3 Course materials

During the workshops, all participants were provided with a workshop manual and notes for use during the training, together with a copy of the Feedlot WH&S Management System for them to use as a resource as they developed and/or updated a WH&S management system for their individual feedlot enterprise.

4 Results

4.1 Project outcomes

4.1.1 Workshop content

The workshops presented an overview of the revised safety management system for the feedlot sector, as well as general safety workplace safety practice and current legislative responsibilities relevant to the state where the workshop was being delivered. The workshops were directed to delivering sufficient information to enable individual feedlot operators to adopt safety principles from the system into their business practices.

4.1.2 Delivery of WH&S workshops

The workshops were delivered during the June – August 2014 period at the locations shown below:

Location	State	Date of delivery	Participants
Dalby	Qld	11 June	38
Emerald	Qld	17 June	4
Tamworth	NSW	8 July	22
Wagga Wagga	NSW	10 July	5
Moama	Vic	22 July	12
Murray Bridge	SA	19 Aug	6
Narrogin	WA		0
Total	All		87

Training was conducted in all locations, with the exception of Narrogin, which was cancelled due to lack of participant numbers, with a total of 87 participants attending.

All workshops were presented by Ken Golden, principal trainer for ABTS, which ensured a consistent delivery of training materials so that the necessary knowledge was transferred to participants.

An additional 70 copies of the training materials were produced for future distribution to feedlot operators unable to attend the scheduled training workshops.

4.2 Project results

4.2.1 Participant feedback

In general, few workshop participants were aware of, or familiar with, the original 2005 WH&S management system developed by FarmSafe Queensland. Only one participant claimed to have implemented the 2005 system. Verbal feedback from participants suggested that the workshops were valuable in raising their awareness of their legislative safety responsibilities, and the updated feedlot WH&S management system.

Feedback was collected at all locations, and rated all sessions as very good or excellent, with comments suggesting the interaction, relevance of WH&S to feedlots, and risk management elements were well received and valuable to feedlot operators.

A number of attendees suggested additional assistance in the following form would assist them to more confidently implement a WH&S management system:

- Further mentoring, site inspections or individual business assistance through the ABTS WH&S specialists;
- ALFA mentors to share solutions to common risk situations; and
- Provision of a WH&S DVD to take back to their operation to show to other workers.

5 Discussion/conclusions

5.1 Project completion

5.1.1 Training delivered

The WH&S training workshops were successfully delivered, along with course materials, to 87 participants at the following locations:

- Dalby
- Emerald
- Tamworth
- Wagga Wagga
- Moama
- Murray Bridge

The training provided an overview of the feedlot WH&S Safety Management system, and provided direction regarding the development of individualised systems within feedlot workplaces.

5.1.2 Further requirements identified

Feedback received from a number of the participants during the training workshops revealed a further requirement for assistance to feedlots for the development and implementation of individual WH&S management systems. While, a number of feedlots indicated that they had various parts of a WH&S management system in place, general feedback indicated that further assistance for the development of a customised system within their enterprise would be useful.

The original project proposal by ABTS offered a consulting service to individual worksites to follow on from delivery of training workshops. This was intended to protect the investment made by MLA in the system development and training delivery project phases, and maximise the implementation of safe work practices across individual enterprises in the feedlot industry. The provision and format of these services is the subject of further discussion with MLA.