

# LPA Accredited Producers: Stand by what you sell



MULCAHY & CO AGRI SOLUTIONS | P 1300 204 781 | INFO@MULCAHYAGRI.COM.AU

Did you receive a large envelope in the mail about becoming LPA accredited and have no idea what it meant or what you're supposed to do? Read on...

## WHAT IS THE LPA PROGRAM AND AM I REGISTERED?

- LPA is the red meat industry's Livestock Production Assurance program.
- If you use NVDs (National Vendor Declaration), you are automatically part of the LPA program.
- Being accredited means you agree to abide by the seven LPA rules & standards and commit to undertake specific practices, which means Australian red meat is safely and ethically produced.

## WHO'S IMPLEMENTING THE CHANGES AND WHAT ARE THEY?

The Integrity Systems Company, an MLA subsidiary, administers the LPA program on behalf of industry.

You don't have to do anything immediately. You will already be doing some of the requirements, but you'll need to start thinking about biosecurity on your property. Here is what is currently included in the program:

### Farm inputs - livestock, feed, seed:

- Pre-purchase. Don't buy problems.
- Request animal health and commodity vendor declarations.
- Farm gate- create quarantine areas for newly introduced stock.
- Complete NLIS transfers.
- Make sure you understand RAM (restricted animal material) in feed & fertilisers and ensure they are stored accordingly.

### People, vehicles, equipment:

- Don't risk the incursion of disease by visitors and machinery.
- Have a delegated meeting area, use your own vehicles to travel around the property.
- *'Arrive Clean! Leave Clean!'*

### Farm outputs:

- Check the animals are fit to be loaded?
- Have you checked for applicable withholding periods? Provided the required health status on NVD's and AHD's (Animal Health Declarations).

### Production practices:

#### Train, plan, record:

- Ensure all people on the property are appropriately trained to manage livestock and husbandry events.
- Check staff vaccinations for Q fever and tetanus to prevent these diseases.
- Create/keep a good record keeping system for livestock movements and events.

#### Ferals, pests and weeds:

- Have control systems in place and regularly monitor these populations.

Section Topics	Recommended Practices
Regular animal inspections to detect any sick animals.	Conduct routine stock inspections. Increase frequency during periods of higher risk.
Have you implemented practices that help protect diseases prevalent in your area?	Review management practices for livestock health as updates arise.
Are carcasses and household garbage disposed of properly in contained areas to prevent livestock and wild life access.	Fence off dead animal pits to prevent access. Where possible dispose of carcasses immediately considering environmental and public considerations.
Are fences, including boundary fences inspected regularly and well maintained?	Regularly undertake fence inspections, repair and replace where necessary.



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## Are You Financially Secure?

At Mulcahy & Co we are in a unique position to provide the expert advice and solutions of accounting, financial planning, lending, legal and information technology all under the one roof. This makes a normally complicated process seamless to help you on your way to becoming financially secure.

### WHAT DOES BEING FINANCIALLY SECURE MEAN?

It means assessing your personal and business goals and developing a plan to achieve them.

1. **Goals & objectives**
2. **Estate plan**
3. **Risk plan**
4. **Asset protection plan**
5. **Taxation plan**
6. **Debt plan**
7. **Retirement plan**
8. **Business plan**
9. **Superannuation plan**
10. **Investment plan**

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After reading this you probably realise that you are already completing many of these requirements. The two **new** areas you need familiarise yourself with are:

#### Biosecurity:

You will need to have a biosecurity plan for your property and complete the LPA learning modules to ensure you are meeting the required code. Cattle producers who have a plan in approach to Johne's disease won't need to complete another plan to meet the LPA requirements.

You can use a template to create the biosecurity plan at: <http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/On-Farm-Biosecurity-Plan-Template.pdf> or download the Farm Biosecurity app.

#### Animal welfare requirements:

You'll need to demonstrate that your management and handling of livestock is consistent with Australian Welfare Standards and guidelines. These are available at: [www.animalwelfarestandards.net.au](http://www.animalwelfarestandards.net.au)

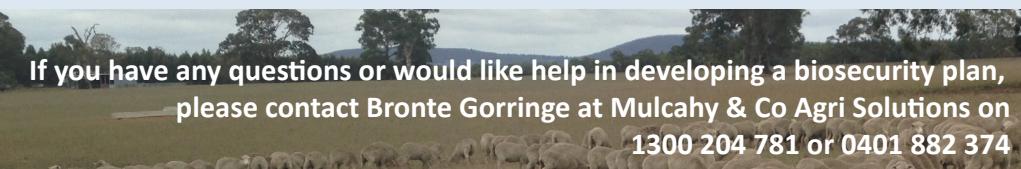
Those involved on your property in livestock management, need to have a copy of the guidelines and must be familiar with the content. Only one module completion per property is required.

#### When are the changes being implemented?

Implementation of these changes occurred from the 1st of October 2017:

- Two new modules were added to the existing LPA rules and standards: biosecurity and animal welfare. Familiarise yourself with the new requirements, and ensure you have a farm biosecurity plan in place.
- Within the next three years, you will need to complete the accreditation requirements. You'll be notified two months before your accreditation is due. You will be required to complete the accreditation process every three years.
- Online leaning modules are available to help producers understand their LPA obligations and prepare for the assessment. Note, these are optional.
- To become LPA accredited, you will have to complete a short assessment and pay a \$66 fee.
- The accreditation process is 14 short questions, which you can re-answer until you get them correct.

For further information, please visit the MLAs website about the LPA changes and watch the handy video: <https://www.mla.com.au/lpachanges>



**If you have any questions or would like help in developing a biosecurity plan, please contact Bronte Gorringer at Mulcahy & Co Agri Solutions on 1300 204 781 or 0401 882 374**