

Steer Feedback Trial Specifications

2011 BEEF SPECTACULAR AND FARM TRADE EXPO

The objective of this trial is to evaluate the performance of teams of five animals in achieving the commercial requirements of Cargill Beef Australia's 100 day grain fed beef program (targeting the branded products of Riverine Premium Beef and Certified Australian Angus Beef).

Entrants will be evaluated on their ability to supply steers that meet feedlot entry specifications, perform well in the feedlot and produce high yielding, good eating quality carcasses that meet the market specifications.

Feedlot Feeder Entry Specifications – 25 points/animal (125 points/team)

Animals will be assessed at induction to determine how successfully they meet the feedlot feeder entry specifications. Animals will receive higher points if they are within the optimum range of specifications. Animals that fall outside the specifications will either receive penalties or, zero points for the traits that fall outside specifications. The feeder entry specifications are:

- Breed most breeds and crosses accepted (maximum of 50% *Bos indicus* content)
- Sex steers only
- Live weight (shrunk) 400-480 kg, optimum 420-450 kg
- P8 fat (scanned) 3-10 mm, optimum 5-8 mm
- Dentition milk tooth only
- Frame score 4 to 6
- Muscle score D to A
- Vaccination One shot of Bovillis-MH prior to 7 October

Points will be deducted for incomplete National LPA Vendor Declarations and cattle consigned from an incorrect PIC number on the NLIS database.

Feedlot Performance – 65 points/animal (325 points/team)

Feedlot performance will be assessed based on the average daily weight gain (ADG) of each animal and the health of each animal. Animals with higher rates of gain will be awarded higher points, while points will be deducted for animals that require treatment for illness or deaths.

Carcase Specifications – 110 points/animal (550 points/team)

Carcasses will be assessed on their meeting the carcass specifications for Cargill Beef Australia's 100 day grain fed beef (targeting the branded products of Riverine Premium Beef and Certified Australian Angus Beef). Carcasses will receive higher points if they are within the optimum range of specifications and zero points for each trait that falls outside specifications. The carcass specifications are:

- Hot standard carcass weight (HSCW) 330-429.5 kg, optimum 370-400 kg
- P8 fat 10-32 mm, optimum 12-20 mm
- Dentition 0-4, optimum 0-2
- Marbling Aus-meat 1-9, optimum 2+ (MSA marbling 400)
- Meat colour Aus-meat 1A-3, optimum 1B-1C
- Fat colour Aus-meat 0-3, optimum 0-1
- Meat pH 5.30-5.69

Points will be allocated for the dressing percentage, yield of saleable meat and the eating quality of each carcass, with higher points allocated for higher performing carcasses.

Overall Point Score – 200 points/animal (1000 points/team)

Individual animals will be assessed and feedback provided to entrants on the performance of each animal in the above areas. Prizes will be awarded based on the performance of the teams of five. Should an animal die in the feedlot, the cause of the death will be investigated. If the death is found to be accidental then allowances will be made for that animal/team, however any other deaths will result in zero points for feedlot performance and carcass specifications for the animal.

