



# Safe livestock feed: Alternate feedstuff (cotton trash)



LIVESTOCK  
PRODUCTION  
ASSURANCE

## What do I need to do to source cotton trash?

As a Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) accredited red meat producer you can access cotton trash from approved gins as a form of feed for your livestock or for use as mulch. This is permitted under a strict protocol developed by industry, approved by SAFEMEAT and incorporated into the LPA program.

Before taking delivery of cotton trash you should understand how this will affect your LPA accreditation and the implications it will have for your Property Identification Code (PIC) on the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) database.

You should also be aware that some buyers may choose not to purchase cattle or sheep that have been fed cotton trash. This may compromise the value of your livestock and/or your ability to sell into your usual markets.

As an LPA-accredited red meat producer you are responsible for making sure contaminants from feedstuffs given to your livestock do not enter the human food chain. LPA allows the feeding of cotton trash and its use as mulch under strict conditions.

Whenever you acquire cotton trash from an approved gin, as the owner/manager of the property receiving the shipment you must:

1. Complete and sign an Alternate Feedstuff Declaration (Cotton Trash) which can be downloaded from [www.mla.com.au/lpa-alternative-feedstuffs](http://www.mla.com.au/lpa-alternative-feedstuffs). This document records the details of the gin; your trading name and details; and the amount and delivery date of the cotton trash order. In making this declaration you agree to abide by all requirements of LPA and NLIS in relation to cotton trash.
2. Send the completed Alternate Feedstuff Declaration (Cotton Trash) to the approved Supplying Gin prior to delivery, and to LPA Administration at [operations@integritysystems.com.au](mailto:operations@integritysystems.com.au) within seven (7) days of receipt. The Supplying Gin must also then send a copy of the Declaration to LPA Administration.
3. Receive a completed Commodity Vendor Declaration (CVD) from the supplying gin.
4. Retain copies of the Alternate Feedstuff Declaration (Cotton Trash) and Commodity Vendor Declaration for three years as part of your LPA record keeping practices. Provide these documents on request to an LPA auditor.

## Steps to source cotton trash to feed to livestock:

1. Producer contacts approved cotton gin ([www.cottonaustralia.com.au/latest-campaigns/approved-gins-supplying-cotton-gin-trash](http://www.cottonaustralia.com.au/latest-campaigns/approved-gins-supplying-cotton-gin-trash))
2. Gin checks producer LPA accreditation via the LPA Service Centre
3. Producer completes Alternate Feedstuff Declaration (Cotton Trash) downloaded from [www.mla.com.au/lpa-alternative-feedstuffs](http://www.mla.com.au/lpa-alternative-feedstuffs) and provides a copy to:
  - Supplying gin to secure order
  - LPA Administration
4. Gin delivers cotton trash and a completed Commodity Vendor Declaration to the producer
5. Gin lodges copy of Alternate Feedstuff Declaration (Cotton Trash) with LPA Administration (at [operations@integritysystems.com.au](mailto:operations@integritysystems.com.au)) to activate NLIS status
6. The Property Identification Code (PIC) and individual devices are automatically assigned an Accessed Cotton Trash status on the NLIS database
7. Producer files the Commodity Vendor Declaration and Alternate Feedstuff Declaration as per LPA record keeping requirements

## LPA requirements

- #1 Property risk assessment
- #2 Safe & responsible animal treatments
- #3 Safe livestock feed
- #4 Preparation for dispatch
- #5 Livestock transactions & movements
- #6 Biosecurity
- #7 Animal welfare

## Does this affect my NLIS status?

Once you sign the Alternate Feedstuff Declaration (Cotton Trash) and it is sent to LPA Administration, the status "Accessed Cotton Trash" will be assigned to your PIC on the NLIS database and will show against your individual NLIS devices (eartags and boluses). This information will be available to potential buyers of your livestock.

The PIC status will remain in place until it has been independently verified that cotton trash is no longer accessible to cattle or sheep on your property. The device-based status will be removed only after your livestock have been quarantined from cotton trash for a "60 days on clean feed" period (during which time they can be fed pasture, crop, fodder, silage or any other feed, but not cotton trash).

### Steps to remove the Accessed Cotton Trash status on the NLIS database:

1 Producer stops feeding cotton trash to livestock



2 Producer engages independent approved auditor



3 Approved Auditor provides verification that animals no longer have access to cotton trash



4 Producer lodges verification form with LPA Administration at [operations@integritysystems.com.au](mailto:operations@integritysystems.com.au)



5 LPA Administration initiates the 60 day countdown period on animals verified to be grazing on clean feed

## How do I get the status removed?

Before consigning your livestock for slaughter or live export make sure they complete the required Export Animal Feed Interval "60 days on clean feed". This has been set by SAFEMEAT as the minimum time needed to allow potential residues from cotton trash to leave your animals, thereby making their meat eligible for the domestic and export markets.

This must be verified at your expense by an Approved Auditor. A copy of the resulting signed verification form must be sent to LPA Administration within two days. Once received by LPA Administration, the 60 day countdown period will be automatically initiated on the NLIS database.

Producers should be aware of the need to schedule an appointment for the verification audit with their preferred Approved Auditor at least two to three weeks in advance. Currently AUS-MEAT is the only Approved Auditor for clean feed period audits. Contact AUS-MEAT on telephone 07 3361 9200, fax 07 3361 9222 or email a [ausmeat@ausmeat.com.au](mailto:ausmeat@ausmeat.com.au)

## Can I still move my livestock?

While your PIC has an "Accessed Cotton Trash" status, whenever you move livestock to another PIC (whether it's your own or someone else's) you must complete the declaration at Question 9 (cattle) or Question 7 (sheep) on the relevant LPA National Vendor Declaration (NVD) by writing "Accessed Cotton Trash".

Within two days of having moved them you must also notify the NLIS database of the individual animal ID numbers for cattle or of any mob-based sheep movement.

## Where do I send a copy of my signed Alternate Feedstuff Declaration to?

The producer must send the signed Declaration to the supplying gin AND to LPA Administration at [operations@integritysystems.com.au](mailto:operations@integritysystems.com.au).

## Where do I send a copy of the signed Verification report to?

The producer must contract an Approved Auditor, and then lodge their verification of 60 days on clean feed with LPA Administration at [operations@integritysystems.com.au](mailto:operations@integritysystems.com.au). This will initiate a 60 day countdown on the NLIS database. Once completed, the Accessed Cotton Trash status will be automatically removed from the PIC and individual devices.

## Why do I need to follow this protocol?

Following the requirements of LPA ensures that potential chemical residue from cotton trash does not pose any risk to markets and protects the integrity of the red meat industry as a whole.

This is critically important, as in the 1980s and 1990s some of Australia's trading partners stopped importing Australian beef after chemical residues were detected in meat from cattle fed cotton trash or that has been grazed on land where cotton had been grown. The chemicals that caused these problems are no longer registered for use in Australia.

## Is there anything else I need to know?

Producers who have an Approved Auditor verify that cotton trash is no longer available on the PIC and that the "60 days on clean feed" period has commenced, will still be subject to normal random and targeted audits under the LPA program rules.

## Where can I find out more?

Red meat producers can access further information via LPA. Resources developed specifically to cover feeding cotton trash to cattle and sheep or for use as mulch include this factsheet, frequently asked questions, the Alternate Feedstuff Declaration (Cotton Trash), and the NLIS Database User Guide. The "LPA Requirements: #3 Fodder crop, grain and pasture treatments and stock foods fact sheet" may also be useful.

Visit [www.mla.com.au/lpa-alternative-feedstuffs](http://www.mla.com.au/lpa-alternative-feedstuffs), call 1800 683 111 or email [info@integritysystems.com.au](mailto:info@integritysystems.com.au)

## Who is responsible for this protocol?

The protocol has been decided by SAFEMEAT in collaboration with the cotton industry. Integrity Systems Company (ISC), a wholly owned subsidiary of Meat & Livestock Australia is responsible for the Administration of the LPA program, which underpins the protocol. ISC delivers the red meat industry's integrity system. This include the LPA program, the National Vendor Declarations and the NLIS.





# Alternate Feedstuff Declaration (Cotton Trash)

*This declaration **must** be completed and signed by the owner / manager of the Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) accredited property receiving each consignment of cotton trash before it is released from the gin or cotton trash storage site.*

## Supply Details

PART A: SUPPLIER DETAILS		
Trading name of the cotton gin supplying cotton trash to the property identified below ( <b>Supplying Gin</b> )	..... ..... .....	
Physical address of the Supplying Gin	.....	
PART B: RECEIVER DETAILS		
Name of the property receiving cotton trash ( <b>Property</b> )	.....	
Property Identification Code (PIC) of the Property receiving cotton trash	..... .....	
Trading name of the business operating the PIC and Property	..... .....	
Full name of owner / manager of the PIC and Property	.....	
Physical address of the Property	..... ..... .....	
PART C: DELIVERY DETAILS		
Amount of cotton trash to be delivered to the Property	..... .....	Date of first delivery: .....

## Declaration

I, ..... (print full name), declare that I am the owner / manager of the Property and PIC identified above, and I agree to abide by the following requirements as a condition of receiving cotton trash from the cotton gin named above. Specifically, I warrant that:

1. The Supply Details given above are correct and I authorise and direct the Supplying Gin to provide this form signed by me to the Livestock Production Assurance (**LPA**) administrator.
2. I will provide a copy of this declaration to the LPA administrator within seven (7) days of it being signed.
3. I have been provided by the Supplying Gin with a completed Commodity Vendor Declaration for the supply of this cotton trash.

4. I have been provided with, read and understood the fact sheet attached to this declaration which lists the residue and commercial risks associated with having cotton trash delivered to the Property for feeding to livestock or for use as mulch.
5. In accepting delivery of cotton trash to the Property, I agree that the Property Identification Code (PIC) for that Property will have an "Accessed Cotton Trash" status applied which will be disclosed on the NLIS database.
6. Livestock that have had, or may have had, access to cotton trash either as stock feed or as mulch must be grazed on clean feed for a period of at least 60 days prior to dispatch for slaughter or export (**Clean Feed Period**).
7. Livestock resident on the Property will have an "Accessed Cotton Trash" device-based status applied to their individual NLIS devices and that status will be disclosed on the NLIS database; this status will remain active until the livestock have been verified as having completed the Clean Feed Period.
8. The commencement of the Clean Feed Period will be verified by an Approved Auditor who will sign a declaration form provided by the LPA administrator to verify the commencement date of the Clean Feed Period (**Verification**). This Verification will be arranged by me at my own cost.
9. If livestock are moved to another PIC prior to the completion of their Clean Feed Period, this status will remain active until this Clean Feed Period has been completed.
10. Movement of any livestock from the Property within their Clean Feed Period will be notified by me to the NLIS database within one (1) day of that movement having taken place.
11. If moving livestock to another PIC prior to the completion of the Clean Feed Period, I will disclose on the LPA National Vendor Declaration (NVD) that these livestock have, or may have, accessed cotton trash.
12. I will provide to the LPA administrator this Verification within two (2) days of it having been signed, together with a list of NLIS devices attached to the livestock that are verified as being grazed on clean feed.
13. I have a management plan in place to ensure the production system allows access to clean feed for 60 days, and I acknowledge that the Property will be subject to the LPA random audit process to ensure such a management plan is in place.

DATE: ..... SIGNED: .....

*The producer must retain a copy of this Alternate Feedstuff Declaration (Cotton Trash) for three (3) years for LPA audit purposes and provide a copy of it to an approved LPA auditor on request.*