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CATTLE

October 26 - ABC National Rural News / Queensland Country Hour / New South Wales Country Hour / Western Australian Country Hour - More export quality beef is being forced onto the domestic market following the surging Australia dollar. In the past week, the exchange rate hit 93 US cents, with economists predicting it will remain strong well into next year. Stewart Hanna, from meat traders Sanger Australia, said the beef industry is facing a tough time.

October 26 - ABC National Rural News / Victorian Country Hour - Australia will export around 40,000 dairy heifers this year, well below expectations. Cameron Hall from LiveCorp said the figure was 10,000 head short and fell a long way below the 58,000 that were exported to more than 15 countries last year. The impact of the global financial crisis, the rising Australian dollar and higher oil prices have been blamed for the lower figures.

October 26 - ABC National Rural News / Queensland Country Hour - The rising dollar could force Indonesia to replace Australian live cattle with cheaper Indian buffalo. Troy Setter from the North Australia Cattle Company is preparing for a downturn but hopes the Indonesian rupiah tracks our dollar. If it doesn't, he fears Australian exports could be slashed.

October 28 - ABC National Rural News - A cattle tick outbreak in New South Wales and Victoria has placed eight properties in quarantine. Seven properties from Kempsey to Macksville are in quarantine after cattle ticks were detected on a herd at Casino abattoirs and traced to a Macksville property. A property near Echuca in Victoria is also in quarantine after owners bought infected livestock from a cattle sale in the region in question. Investigations are underway into tracing cattle movements on and off the property.

October 28 - Queensland Country Hour / Northern Territory Country Hour - Australia's ability to keep up a reliable supply of cattle to Indonesia could threaten our export trade. Last year, Australia exported 868,000 cattle and it is on track to export similar numbers this year. However, the high dollar has dampened demand for exports. Livestock agents claim exporters should not be concerned about the high dollar but Australia's ability to supply of cattle after drought and floods.

October 28 - Queensland Country Hour / October 29 - North Queensland Register - The Beef Marketing Funding Committee is encouraging producers to support the \$5 cattle transaction levy, saying it's good value for money. Chairman Peter Hughes said levy funds are needed more than ever to invest in building and protecting beef markets, in particular the growing market of Indonesia. He said if the \$5 levy is not supported it will revert to \$3.50 and the live export marketing fund could be slashed by \$1.5 million.

October 29 - Stock & Land - Recent rainfall in Victoria has seen graziers in the state experiencing one of the best starts to spring in many years, with encouraging feed growth and a reduction in supply according to Meat and Livestock Australia. Poor export demand and market uncertainty, combined with better seasonal conditions has seen cattle supply fall in the state, with both the Japan ox indicator (seven per cent) and the US cow indicator (nine per cent) falling as a result.

October 29 - Queensland Country Life - An analysis of the claims made by New South Wales parliamentarian, Richard Torbay in his push for reform of meat labelling, has found serious flaws in the claims being made. Reports suggest that even in budget meat outlets, manufacturing grade beef is only used for mince or sausages, with retailers developing a range of systems to ensure appropriate quality for consumers.

SHEEP



October 29 - New South Wales Country Hour - The combination of wet weather and warmth in New South Wales has combined to make prime conditions for fly strike in sheep. Reports suggest the danger has also been increased by unusually high amount of lice infestation, which make sheep even more susceptible to fly strike.

October 29 - Stock Journal - Reports suggest that 1.5 -year-old first cross ewes are likely to tip the \$200 mark at upcoming South Australian sales. Good seasonal conditions, solid prices for cull ewes and a short supply of quality breeding ewes are seen as driving the price hike.

October 30 - New South Wales Country Hour - Australia's biggest sheep meat exporter, Roger Fletcher said the development of the lamb market holds some key lessons for the wool industry. Mr Fletcher said while the lamb industry had crashed in the 1980's, marketing and finding niches has been the secret to lamb now recovering to be a staple meat with massive overseas markets. He said growers need to prepare for better times and obtain replacement ewes to meet anticipated demand.

November 2 – Sydney Morning Herald – The King of Jordan's sister has written to the Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd to stop ritual slaughter, claiming killing without stunning was not necessary under Islamic principles. Princess Alia bint al-Hussein of Jordan said allowing animals to be slaughtered while conscious was not an example that would inspire positive change or encourage the acceptance of pre-slaughter stunning in the Middle East.

GOATS

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October 26 - Western Australian Country Hour – Western Australia's ability to send large male goats by air has positioned it to become a favoured goat supplier to Malaysia and Indonesia. Demand for goat meat is increasing as Muslims prepare for the Haj, one of its most significant religious festivals. Independent Livestock Services has devised a crate, capable of holding around 100 goats, which can be loaded onto a normal commercial type airline. Manager Mick Doak said its goats are mainly 35-40 kg feral males, and after a four-hour flight they arrive in Malaysia at 9 o'clock and by midnight they are all processed.

CIRCULARS

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NO circulars were distributed to LiveCorp Members during the week:

*Logon to the [Members Only](#) section for access or contact LiveCorp

WHAT'S CHANGED – ANIMEX

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No changes in ANIMEX

Following are the changes in ANIMEX

DATE	Country & Species	Comments
2 Nov 09	MEXICAN SHEEP BREEDER	Conditions removed
	MALAYSIAN - CATTLE BREEDER	Provided link to DVS website

*Logon to the [Members Only](#) section for access to the Animex website.

PROCESSING

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October 26 - ABC National Rural News / Queensland Country Hour - A shortage of export mutton has forced the closure of Country Fresh Australia's Wallangarra meatworks. Company director Graham Jackson said the plant will remain closed until conditions improve.

INDUSTRY NEWS

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October 26 - Queensland Country Hour - Queensland's south-east can expect hotter and drier conditions over the next three months, according to the Bureau of Meteorology's latest Summer rainfall forecast. Jeff Sabburg from the Queensland Climate Service said the remainder of the state could expect average conditions between November to January.

October 26 - Western Australian Country Hour / October 29 - Farm Weekly - Recent increases to station rents in Western Australia are right, according to Valuer General Gary Fenner. At present, the assessment on properties, will see some cattle stations in the Kimberley pay over 500 per cent more for their lease. Mr Fenner said if the rents weren't sustainable and the response to phasing them in proves inadequate, that will reflect in the market. Western Australian Premier, Colin Barnett has indicated he will meet with farming industry representatives to discuss the issue.

October 26 & 28 - ABC National Rural News - Governments a round the world are being urged to engage in more private sector partnerships to help solve the global food crisis. The Crawford Fund, which promotes agricultural research, wants multinational companies to form partnerships with research institutions. New figures show reduced investment in agriculture 30 years ago is only just being seen in falling crop yields.

October 27 - ABC National Rural News - It has been revealed, most farmers are not using Commonwealth tax incentives to buy machinery. A Westpac survey has found less than a quarter of farmers are making use of the economic stimulus package, which allows businesses to claim higher rates of depreciation on new farm machinery and other capital investments.

October 27 - Queensland Country Hour - Poor weather conditions are being blamed for the battering of farm businesses in central Queensland, the central west and south-west. A Westpac and Charles Sturt University survey of Queensland farmers has found their economic performance remains positive but the performance of agribusiness has slipped to third in the nation. On the other hand, favourable weather has turned around the performance of South Australian agribusinesses.

October 28 - Times Online / October 29 - The Land - A leading British authority on global warming believes people will need to turn vegetarian if the world is to conquer climate change. Lord Stern of Brentford believes meat is a wasteful use of water and creates a lot of greenhouse gases and puts enormous pressure on the world's resources. He has predicted people's attitudes will evolve until meat eating became unacceptable.

October 28 – FarmOnline / October 29 – The Land - Dairy and meat manufacturing have become the food and beverage sector's two largest industries. A new report has found Australia's food and grocery industry turns over more each year than our automotive or housing sectors, and combined with pre-farm gate agriculture would outstrip mining too. The Food and Grocery Council's 'State of the Industry 2009' shows the food sector's turnover was worth \$100 billion and responsible for more than 38,000 businesses nation-wide.

October 28 - ABC National Rural News - The Queensland Government has been accused of not doing enough to protect graziers against fires. Rural fire brigade warden Tom Wills said more cool burning and firebreaks were needed. Based in Springsure in Central Queensland, Mr Wills said volunteer fire fighters were sick of battling mostly preventable fires emerging from government-land, such as national parks and stock routes.

October 29 – ABC National Rural News – The cleanup is continuing at Floraville Station in north-west Queensland to remove contaminated soil after a failed pipeline at MMG's Century mine caused zinc concentrate slurry to discharge onto a paddock a few weeks ago. While the contaminated soil has been removed, it may take up to 18 months to rejuvenate the area to grazing land. The station had 500 cattle in the paddock at that time of the pipeline failure.

October 29 – Queensland Country Hour / Queensland Country Life / October 30 - Queensland Country Hour - Australian Beef Association director Lee McNicol has been suspended for being too outspoken. While Mr McNicol has criticised the ABA leadership over the decision, it has been suggested that his support of the meat grading system MSA - at odds with the Association line - was behind his suspension. The ABA is currently looking to block the retention of the \$5 per head cattle transaction levy that funds Meat and Livestock Australia and has called for cattle producers to provide them with their proxy votes for the upcoming annual general meeting.

October 29 – The Land / New South Wales Country Hour / Victorian Country Hour – New South Wales authorities have urged producers to be vigilant about checking for cattle ticks, following a period of rain and increasing humidity. Authorities are worried that the extended dry season may have created a lax approach to the coming tick season, with the first spring infestation already recorded on the North Coast.

October 29 – Farm Weekly – The Western Australian Department of Environment and Conservation has told feedlotters that it is not opposed to intensive animal industry and was committed to working with stakeholders to ensure the best possible outcomes were achieved.

DROUGHT

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October 28 - New South Wales Country Hour - Bundarra farmers, in northern New South Wales, have called on Primary Industries Minister Ian Macdonald for help. In April, their application to extend Exceptional Circumstances funding was rejected. The situation has deteriorated since then and most farms around the region are suffering the worst drought in recent memory.

CARBON TRADING

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October 26 - ABC National Rural News / Victorian Country Hour / Western Australian Country Hour / October 27 - South Australian Country Hour - An international energy economist, Professor Tony Owen, from the University College of London, claims a carbon tax would much more effectively reduce emissions and would be easier for people to understand. He said Australia is heading down the wrong road with an emissions trading scheme.

October 27 – FarmOnline / October 29 – The Land – Observers are suggesting that the chances of a climate change treaty being signed in Copenhagen are fading fast with time now running out on a number of critical issues including targets for the developed world, financing for the developing world and the agreement's legal language. Any failure to reach an agreement would have implications for Australian politics, where the opposition has been urging the government to wait for an outcome before committing to its emission trading scheme. If no firm decisions have been taken it is likely that Australia could be waiting for another 12 months for any scheme to be put in place.

October 27 - ABC National Rural News / Queensland Country Hour / South Australian Country Hour - The Australian Farm Institute is rejecting claims its FarmGAS calculator is misleading, saying that it is important that farmers understand what emissions are associated with different farm activities, and the changes required to modify these emissions. The Department of Agriculture has criticised the calculator, claiming it is providing inaccurate estimates on business costs, if agriculture is included in emissions trading.

October 28 - FarmOnline / October 29 – The Land – The Minister Assisting the Minister for Climate Change, Greg Combet has told climate change and emissions trading sceptics to "get out of the way" or they would allow Australia to become irrelevant as the global economy and its competitors move to a low pollution future. He said it was important for this major reform to be properly formulated through a good-faith negotiation, rather than being bogged down in political debate.

TRADE

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SOUTH KOREA

October 26 - www.chinaview.cn / Xinhua - In a bid to meet domestic demand and expand exports, South Korea is planning to increase investment in plant and livestock breeding. The money will be used to develop plants and livestock that are more resistant to pests, disease and grow at a faster rate. The country's exports in the two areas posted just \$US29 million in 2008, while imports hit \$US91 million, with a trade deficit of \$62 million. South Korea wants to achieve \$US200 million in exports by 2020.

TAIWAN

October 26 & 28 – Meatingplace.com - Taiwan's decision to expand United States beef imports has reportedly stirred controversy among Opposition lawmakers and consumer groups. The Taiwan Consumers Foundation has accused the United States of dumping garbage in Taiwan and forcing locals to eat it and is planning to file an international appeal of the protocol, contending it is not legally binding and presents a health risk to consumers.

October 28 – Meatingplace.com - More than 200 stores and restaurants in the Taiwanese capital of Taipei will boycott United States beef offal, ground beef and spinal cords or their use as ingredients, over fears of bovine spongiform encephalopathy. The Taipei City Office of Commerce is urging the city's 15,000 restaurants, supermarket chains, hotels and department stores to form a coalition to ban the sale or use of those products, following the government's decision to expand access to US beef imports.

US

October 31 – Los Angeles Times – United States farmers are facing a growing battle over the practice of feeding chickens faeces and other poultry farm waste to cattle, with a coalition of food and consumer groups now asking the Food and Drug Administration to ban the practice. Coalition members have threatened to file a lawsuit will push for federal legislation if no action is taken to ban the practice. It is estimated that US farmers feed between one and 2 million tones of poultry litter to their cattle annually.

MIDDLE EAST

October 27 – Gulf News – In the United Arab Emirates, public auctions will become the only approved way to sell livestock prior to the Eid Al Adha, the holiday marking the end of the Haj, the annual Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca. The auctions will control prices to ensure livestock sales in the UAE are based on supply and demand. Exporters and traders will auction off the livestock, which in turn will be sold to the public by the winning bidders.

October 27 – The Peninsula - Gulf States are being urged to strongly co-operate to fight the epidemic trans-boundary animal diseases which still pose a threat in the Middle East. Environment Minister H E Abdullah bin Mubarak Al Me'edadi said the nature and the rapid spread of epidemic animal diseases required regional and international cooperation to control and eradicate these biological hazards.

RUSSIA

October 27 – Meat International - The European Union's reported failure to provide some safety guarantees on its meat and livestock could result in Russia slashing imports. The Russian Government will meet with the EU in November in a bid to resolve the issue.

IRELAND

October 27 – Independent.ie - Meat Industry Ireland has dismissed as "absolutely ridiculous", claims that Irish beef processors are undermining the live export trade to Britain. A recent ICOS submission to the Department of Agriculture has warned the potential to develop live exports to Britain was being lost because Irish-owned meat factories in the UK were refusing to process Irish live exports. MII has refuted the accusations.



EXOTIC DISEASE



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BSE

October 26 - ABC National Rural News / Queensland Country Hour / New South Wales Country Hour / Tasmanian Country Hour / Western Australian Country Hour / FarmOnline / October 29 – The Land / Stock & Land / Farm Weekly / Stock Journal / Queensland Country Life – The Senate will investigate the relaxation of rules protecting Australia from mad cow disease. From March next year, Australia will allow beef imports from countries with previous outbreaks of the disease. That's led to criticism that the reputation of Australia's industry is being put at risk. Independent Senator Nick Xenophon believes a deal has been done without proper consultation and thinks most beef producers would oppose the move.

October 29 – Countryman - The Federal Government's controversial decision to lift a ban on beef imports is being supported by the Red Meat Advisory Council. Secretary Justin Toohey said he understood producers' concerns, but their fears did not reflect the scientific reality. The group, whose membership includes the Cattle Council and the Australian Meat Industry Council, said no diseased beef was entering Australia and access to the Australian market would require the strictest animal health assessments.

October 29 – Stock & Land / October 30 - Tasmanian Country Hour / South Australian Country Hour / Northern Territory Country Hour - The Canadian Cattlemen's Association has dismissed claims it will target the Australian market if this country removes import bans and said fears that it will hurt Australian producers are unfounded. The Association is critical of the decision to undertake a Senate inquiry and said there was no need to review the change.

The livestock export program is jointly funded by the livestock exporters and producers of Australia

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