

MEDIA RELEASE
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WELLARD RURAL EXPORTS

FOCUS ON TRAINING TO IMPROVE ANIMAL WELFARE

Livestock exporter Wellard Rural Exports is leading the way on animal welfare issues with the introduction of a unique new training program as part of its commitment to improving standards of animal wellbeing.

Wellard Managing Director Steve Meerwald said the voluntary program would take up to three months to complete and covered all aspects of animal husbandry across the production and supply network.

“The program will provide intense, on-the-job training with a focus on stock handling, animal health, feedlot preparation, animal nutrition and management on board livestock carriers,” Mr Meerwald said.

“Our aim is to ensure Wellard continues to meet the highest possible standards in terms of animal welfare. We are totally committed to a sustainable Australian livestock industry.”

Mr Meerwald said the Wellard program would be conducted in two stages and would initially target shipboard stockmen before being phased in across the company. He said three crew members from the livestock carrier MV Becrux had already commenced their training.

“The first stage includes a three day accredited training course run by LiveCorp and Meat and Livestock Australia as a joint program for live animal exporters.

“The second stage is an extended program concentrating on every aspect of our business, from procurement at the farm-gate through to handling during transport to overseas markets,” he said.

Mr Meerwald said there were 80 stockmen currently working aboard ships carrying both sheep and cattle for Wellard.

“With the commissioning of two new livestock vessels towards the end of next year, we expect to have around 110 stockmen directly involved in the livestock industry.

“While many are already very experienced, some with more than 25 years in the trade, our training program will reinforce the importance of animal welfare and good animal handling more generally,” he said.

Wellard Rural Exports has supplied quality Australian sheep and cattle to the world for more than 25 years. Based in Fremantle, the company’s operations cover every aspect of the export chain, including feed and high fibre milling, road transport, feedlot facilities and modern shipping.

Wellard has priority access to the most modern fleet of livestock carriers on the ocean through its association with Siba Ships. The company's flagship carrier, the MV Becrux, is a purpose-built livestock carrier capable of carrying 75,000 sheep or 14,000 cattle from Australia to major markets around the globe. She was commissioned in 2002.

Further information:

Steve Meerwald
Managing Director
0403 389189