



WA College of Agriculture, Cunderdin, farm manager Brett Cox with Amanda Colli who featured in the livestock export industry's new city promotional campaign.

## Teaching animal care

AMANDA Colli, a city girl who was last year's dux of the WA College of Agriculture, Cunderdin, was one of the first people to be featured in the livestock export industry's new city promotional campaign.

Animal behaviour is one of the skills Amanda not only practices in her new role managing a specialised animal production unit at Cunderdin, it is an important component of the course she is teaching the school's next generation of students.

"If you handle animals quietly and positively, they will do everything you expect of them and more," she said.

"Treat them negatively and they will work against you and suffer in the process."

Cunderdin and other Agricultural Schools throughout WA, follow world class animal welfare standards under a code of ethics designed to prepare not only farmers, but students going on to work in every aspect of the animal production industries.

## A new generation of stock handlers

A Shipboard Training Program started by Livecorp four years ago, is proving to be one of the most effective components of the industry-wide campaign to upgrade livestock export standards.

Nearly 300 stockmen, more than half of them from WA, have completed the course and are now assisting the crews and veterinarians aboard livestock vessels, as well as fulfilling valuable roles in industry.

Livecorp chief executive Cameron Hall said the courses were held in Fremantle or Darwin as required by the industry.

They had evolved to include the best aspects of Australia's traditional stock handling skills, to avoid all practices that placed animals at risk or under stress, and to take in any tested new ideas and experiences.

"Even critics of the livestock export industry would be impressed at the level of expertise, enthusiasm and innovation of these graduates and the way they dedicate themselves to the welfare of animals under their supervision," Mr Hall said.

"Farmers, their sons and daughters, people with a range of traditional stock handling skills, and more recently, seamen from other countries, are learning the specialised skills required to care for animals at sea."



Livecorp chief executive Cameron Hall

## RSPCA DIALOGUE

LIVESTOCK industry representatives have agreed to an ongoing dialogue with the RSPCA and other groups over animal welfare issues.

The industry is keen to keep RSPCA representatives informed on its restructuring and upgrading processes and to ensure that the organisation receives accurate information.

A recent meeting at RSPCA headquarters was convened by WALEA chairman John Edwards to discuss industry concerns over a recent editorial in the organisation's newsletter, which claimed that live exports were unnecessary and could be replaced with processed chilled and frozen product.

"We are keen to correct damaging claims of this nature and at the same time to ensure that the RSPCA and similar organisations are aware of the significant changes and improvements taking place in the industry."

Mr Edwards said there was a positive outcome to the meeting with invitations to RSPCA to witness the successful Shipboard Training Program, and to the Livestock export industry to address future state and national policy conferences of the RSPCA.

A separate committee formally involving all sectors of the animal welfare and export industries has been formed by Local Government Minister Jon Ford to discuss welfare issues.

## Positive Points

How important is the livestock export industry to your farming enterprise?

What are you doing to improve animal welfare standards in the industry?

How can you help to improve public perceptions of live exports?

If you wish to put forward any suggestions that may assist the live export industry to improve public understanding please email Live Export Update via [plang@inet.net.au](mailto:plang@inet.net.au) or [ggare@inet.net.au](mailto:ggare@inet.net.au) and we will contact you.