



Middle Eastern feedlot

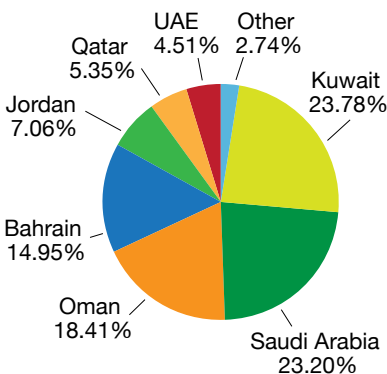


Australian animal welfare experts



Testing water temperature

The Middle East is Australia's main market for live sheep exports



www.mla.com.au
www.livecorp.com.au

Australia's livestock export industry is committed to supplying safe, healthy and quality livestock to the Middle East

The Middle East is a very important market for live animals and for chilled and frozen meat products. Australia provides all of these products as they are complementary and serve different needs for Middle Eastern consumers.

Countries throughout the Middle East rely heavily on the livestock trade to provide an essential supply of affordable protein. The supply of live animals is important to the region for religious reasons and cultural festivals and celebrations.

In less developed countries many people do not have the luxury of home refrigeration, and supermarkets are often inaccessible and unaffordable to those living in regional villages.

Australia's livestock export industry is committed to working with the many cultures across the Middle East to implement programs that improve the welfare of Australian animals exported to the region.

Australian animal welfare experts based in the region provide training and education to stockmen, veterinarians and people who handle Australian animals. They teach locals how to work with the natural instincts of Australian livestock, which are not domesticated like Middle Eastern livestock and therefore behave differently. They also improve infrastructure to ensure Australian animals are well looked after during local transport and in feedlots and marketplaces.

There is evidence that if Australia withdrew from the trade there would not be an increased trade in chilled meat. For example, in 2007, due to drought and restricted shipping capacity Australia could not meet the Middle Eastern demand for live animals. The gap between the demand and supply was not filled by Australian boxed meat, but by live animals from Sudan, Somalia and Iran, which do not share Australia's commitment to animal welfare.

Every country in the Middle East is different. Together with the Australian Government, industry works with importers, local governments and the people of each country to deliver the appropriate animal welfare improvements.

Australia's involvement in livestock export trade to the Middle East is helping to improve animal welfare standards across the region. There is more work to be done, but we are committed to continuing to improve animal welfare in the Middle East and all countries we export Australian animals to.

