



OESTRADIOL FREE FEMALES



Livestock Production Assurance

The Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) program is the Australian livestock industry's on-farm assurance program covering food safety, animal welfare and biosecurity. It is part of the integrity system used by the red meat industry to meet the stringent requirements of our domestic and export markets. Customer confidence in Australian red meat underpins the success and growth of Australia's livestock industry and protects the livelihoods of more than 174,000 producers.

When a producer becomes LPA-accredited, they promise to meet LPA's requirements and fulfill their responsibility in the production of safe and ethical red meat.

The Oestradiol Free Females (OSF) module is a voluntary opt-in module introduced into LPA. It is available to LPA-accredited cattle producers who **do not** use HGP's or oestradiol on females. Only producers who wish to sell their female cattle into oestradiol free markets need to opt in.

The OSF module strengthens Australia's ability to meet key export market requirements and makes it easier for producers to access high value markets.

What are Hormonal Growth Promotants?

Hormonal Growth Promotants (HGPs) used in cattle are slow-release implants containing oestrogenic or androgenic hormones and are either naturally occurring or synthetic. Examples of naturally occurring hormones include oestradiol, progesterone and testosterone, while synthetic hormones include trenbolone acetate and zeranol. HGPs are placed under the skin on the back of the ear and help cattle convert feed more efficiently which in turn helps them grow faster.

Cattle treated with HGPs are safe to eat and in Australia, HGPs are legal and regulated. Treated cattle must be identified with a triangular ear punch mark and HGP purchase declarations and treatment records must be kept. Producers and Feedlots must also declare HGP treatment on the National Vendor Declaration (NVD). Hormone treated and hormone free cattle must be consigned on separate NVDs.

What is Oestradiol?

Oestradiol is a hormone used in breeding females to bring them into oestrus. It is often used to synchronise breeding cycles, improve fertility and assist in artificial insemination procedures. Examples of oestradiol products available in Australia include Revalor, Synovex, and Bomeral.

While some HGPs contain the hormone oestradiol, administering oestradiol for breeding purposes does not require permanent ear marking, making it difficult to identify female cattle treated with oestradiol for breeding purposes. While safe to eat, some export markets like the United Kingdom (UK) and the European Union (EU) do not permit beef from female cattle treated with oestradiol.

Why does Australia need Hormone Free assurance?

Australia exports around 70% of the red meat it produces, and access to many of these markets depends on meeting the importing country's requirements. The EU and UK require assurances that beef is free from HGPs and that oestradiol has not been used for breeding purposes in female cattle.

What is the Oestradiol Free Female Module?

To support market access and provide producers with a clear, auditable way to demonstrate oestradiol freedom, a new Oestradiol Free Females module has been developed within the Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) program. This voluntary opt-in module allows LPA-accredited cattle producers who do not use HGPs or oestradiol on their female cattle to opt-in and market their animals as oestradiol free.

Producers who complete the module receive a Hormone Free Management Plan and agree to ongoing monitoring.

LPA REQUIREMENTS

- #1 PROPERTY RISK ASSESSMENT
- #2 SAFE & RESPONSIBLE ANIMAL TREATMENTS
- #3 STOCK FOODS, FODDER CROPS, GRAIN AND PASTURE TREATMENTS
- #4 PREPARATION FOR DISPATCH OF LIVESTOCK
- #5 LIVESTOCK TRANSACTIONS & MOVEMENTS
- #6 BIOSECURITY
- #7 ANIMAL WELFARE
- #8 HARVESTED RANGELAND GOAT
- #9 **OESTRADIOL FREE FEMALES**

How do I opt into the Oestradiol Free Females module?

LPA-accredited cattle producers are eligible to opt into the LPA Oestradiol Free Females module.

To complete the Oestradiol Free Females module, producers are required to:

- Complete mandatory Hormone Free eLearning.
- Complete an application form and answer relevant hormone related questions.
- Confirm adherence to the Oestradiol Free Female requirements.

Once the application is submitted, LPA will evaluate the application and inform you if your application is approved, rejected or requires review.

If your application requires review, it will be sent through to ISC to complete an assessment and may require additional follow up activities.

What NLIS statuses are there for Oestradiol Free Females?

Once accredited in the OSF module, the LPA program informs the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) Database which producers are oestradiol free.

An oestradiol free or 'OSF' status is applied to the Property Identification Code (PIC) in NLIS and cattle born on that PIC will also get a 'OSF' status in NLIS. This status follows the animal through the supply chain unless lifetime traceability is lost or the animal moves to another producer's PIC that is not accredited in the Oestradiol Free Females module.

Additionally, producers who indicate they use HGP or oestradiol will have an 'Oestradiol User' (OSU) or 'HGP User' (HGP) status applied to their PIC in the NLIS Database. These statuses do not restrict trade but rather act as a signal for processors to verify declarations on their incoming NVDs.

How do I complete an NVD for HGP and Oestradiol Free female cattle?

Under the OSF module, only female cattle that are oestradiol free and HGP free are eligible.

An oestradiol free declaration is **only** available via electronic NVDs (eNVD).

When consigning female cattle:

1. Select 'OSF' on the form selection page.
2. Answer 'No' to HGP treatment at Question 1 on the cattle eNVD.

If you are unsure or do not know about HGP or oestradiol treatment, you must not declare the cattle as free from treatment.

An additional declaration will be created with the eNVD.

What happens if HGP or oestradiol is detected in a consignment of cattle?

All detections of HGP or oestradiol in cattle will be investigated by ISC and a Hormone Sanction (HOS) PIC status will be applied to your PIC while an audit, investigation and corrective actions are undertaken. This does not impact you trading for non-hormone free markets.

What do I do if I make a mistake and send a HGP and/or oestradiol treated animal as HGP/oestradiol free using an LPA NVD?

Notify ISC and the receiver of the animals as soon as possible (within 24 hours) of identifying the error and provide a new NVD for the consignment. ISC will conduct an investigation with you.

Checklist:

1. Did you check cattle for HGP/oestradiol treatment before dispatch?

Yes No N/A

Prior to dispatching cattle and completing an LPA eNVD you are required to:

- Review treatment and any other relevant records to ensure cattle are not treated with HGPs or oestradiol.
- Segregate treated and untreated cattle prior.
- Inspect cattle in all consignments for presence of triangular ear punch.
- Inspect cattle for triangular ear punch where wandering stock is deemed a risk.

2. Do you use the Oestradiol Free Declaration when moving livestock off your property?

Yes No N/A

It is requirement under the Oestradiol Free Females module that female cattle that have never been treated with oestradiol shall be declared as oestradiol free via the oestradiol free declaration in eNVD. If the oestradiol status of cattle is undetermined or unknown, they shall not be declared as free from treatment.

3. Do you declare HGP use on your LPA cattle eNVD when moving HGP treated cattle off your property?

Yes No N/A

All cattle free from treatment of HGPs can be declared HGP free on a Cattle eNVD. All HGP treated cattle shall be declared as HGP treated on outgoing Cattle eNVDs. If the HGP or oestradiol status of cattle is undetermined or unknown, they shall not be declared as free from treatment.



4. Do you manage HGP use on your property?

Yes No N/A

Cattle on my property are treated with HGPs. The procedures undertaken on our property in relation to HGP use are:

- Records of ordering or purchasing HGPs will be kept for 7 years.
- Records of HGP treatment on all cattle will be kept for 7 years.
- All cattle treated with HGPs will have a triangle ear punch made to their right ear.
- If there are HGP treated and untreated cattle, these are segregated either physically or via identification before consigning them as HGP treated and HGP-free on the Cattle NVD.
- A management representative supervises the application of HGPs and triangular ear punch.
- An animal's HGP or oestradiol treatment record may be linked to their NLIS electronic identification (eID) in on-farm system where this system is in place.

5. Do you have appropriate receival processes in place with managing incoming livestock onto your property?

Yes No N/A

When receiving livestock onto the property the following is undertaken:

- A check of the incoming LPA eNVD for HGP treatment status and an oestradiol free declaration.
- Visual inspection of cattle for a triangular ear punch.
- A check of the NLIS devices status for incoming livestock in relation to oestradiol free or treated status.
- Reporting to Integrity Systems Company (ISC) any HGP or oestradiol treated cattle received that are declared as not treated on an incoming LPA eNVD.

6. Have management and staff been trained in Hormone Free Assurance?

Yes No N/A

It is a requirement that the property owner or management representative has completed the LPA Hormone Free eLearning Module.

Relevant personnel working at your property are required to be provided with training in HGP and oestradiol freedom requirements and correct LPA eNVD completion.

