



Integrity Systems

red meat customer assurance

About Livestock Data Link (LDL)



Livestock Data Link (LDL) is an online program that enables the smooth, timely sharing of carcass information between processors and their producers with the aim of optimising supply chain performance.



Why is LDL important?

Through LDL, beef and sheepmeat producers can receive, analyse and compare feedback on how their consignment complied to carcass grids and obtain prompt notification of any animal health conditions detected during processing.

Being able to see all of their feedback in one place – grid compliance, animal disease and defect information and Meat Standards Australia (MSA) performance, where available – helps producers make better-informed decisions about farm management.

LDL's modules

Currently there are four modules in LDL:

1 Carcass compliance

Users can see how the carcasses they consigned comply with their target grid. Where carcass performance is not in line with the grid – for example a carcass is too fat, too heavy or too light – a library of solutions is provided for producers to address non-compliance issues on farm.

2 Animal disease and defects (sheep)

Users can view animal disease and defects that were identified as part of post-mortem inspection. Currently, LDL provides feedback on the majority of the disease and defect issues collected through the National Sheep Health Monitoring Project.

Work is underway to also provide beef disease and defect feedback. It is anticipated this information on cattle will be made available through LDL during 2019.

3 Breeder information (beef)

Beef cattle breeders can access carcass information for animals they have bred but not directly consigned to a processor. This enables breeders to follow the performance of stock born on their properties but later transferred to another producer along the supply chain – for example backgrounder, finisher or feedlot.

Having this information available through LDL means breeders can monitor the performance of their herd's progeny and, where necessary, make changes to their breeding programs to improve future performance.



4 Lean meat yield

LDL provides a predictive Lean Meat Yield (LMY) measure that indicates the percentage of meat recovered from a carcass – a key driver of profitability. This information is provided for sheep carcasses, as well as beef carcasses that have been through MSA grading. As more technology comes on board, greater precision and accuracy of measurement will be achieved. DEXA is one of these technologies and is currently being rolled out in some plants.

What are LDL's benefits to producers?

LDL helps producers increase carcass compliance through analytics and reporting, thereby improving the bottom line for both themselves and red meat processors.

How can producers use LDL on farm?

Producers can use LDL to understand why their consignment did or did not comply with market requirements, including carcass compliance and animal health issues.

Processors have customised grids based on individual market requirements, so producers can easily see if a carcass was downgraded (i.e. discounted) and the reason why. Producers can access solutions to address non-compliance issues to help them decide what changes to make to increase compliance, and ultimately their returns.

Producers can also compare their own carcass performance figures to industry benchmarks within their region, state or the whole country, to identify further areas of improvement.

What are the benefits of LDL to the broader industry?

Non-compliance with market specifications costs up to \$163 million a year across the beef industry. This is caused largely by downgrades (i.e. discounts) for out-of-specification carcasses, carcass condemnation, and loss of meat and offal due to animal health conditions and/or disease. The potential cost to the Australian lamb industry of non-compliance to market specifications is in excess of \$8.4 million per year.

Additional benefits include:

- Enhanced flow of information about carcass performance and animal health post-slaughter to improve value chain efficiency and performance.
- A centralised information depository enables performance benchmarking at an enterprise, regional, state or national level
- Tailored research, development and extension activities for supply chains and geographic areas facing particular carcass performance or animal disease and defect issues.

How can producers access LDL?

- Producers can register to use LDL, and subsequently log in, at ldl.mla.com.au
- Registration requires your NLIS user ID and password. If you don't have an NLIS account, visit nlis.com.au and follow the on-screen prompts.
- Once logged into LDL, producers are taken directly to the dashboard containing information from their recent consignments.

WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

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