



Lambs to the slaughter PETA targets live exports

THE impact of the drought is evident in a higher rate of lamb slaughter during August, with kill numbers in the eastern states 10 per cent above the five-year average for that month.

According to Meat and Livestock Australia, 1,085,166 lambs were processed during the month as producers offloaded stock due to a lack of feed and water.

However, MLA says slaughter levels are now slowly on the decline due to high quantities already processed.

And with processors having access to such large numbers of lambs during August, prices in the saleyard and direct to works rates experienced a sharp downward

trend.

Over the hook rates fell from 400¢/kg, to now range between 280¢/kg and 340¢/kg (dressed).

MLA reports that processors have been trying to pull back rates in an attempt to offset the higher forward contract rates that were offered previously for August to September delivery.

However, in marked contrast to the lamb slaughter trends, sheep slaughter figures were 15 per cent below the five-year average, with a total of 513,402 head processed.

MLA says sheep slaughter levels were below average also due to the drought, which has cut flock numbers over recent years.

RADICAL animal rights group, the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, has launched a new campaign against Australian live exports, this time targetting Middle Eastern consumers.

PETA has launched a new ad in Kuwait entitled 'Before they're cooked in yoghurt and spices, they're marinated in urine and faeces'.

According to news letter Animal Activist Watch, published by public relations firm Wilkinson Media on behalf of the Australian livestock industry, the PETA ad claims live sheep imports from Australia are "cruel and unsanitary".

"We're calling on the people of Kuwait to stand up against the cruel transport and prolonged suffering of sheep by demanding an end to live imports," the news letter quotes PETA activist, Nadia Montaser.

"Crowding tens of thousands

of animals on ships amid their own waste for weeks on end should be unacceptable to halal Muslims who believe that 'an act of cruelty to a beast is as bad as an act of cruelty to a humanbeing'."

PETA says the ad is set to be released in Jordan, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

PETA is also seeking a meeting with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture in Qatar to discuss Australian live exports.

PETA's director of animal transport and live market campaigns, Maya Linden, says the campaign has been well received in the Middle East.

"The response to PETA's tour of the Middle East this year was overwhelmingly positive and we believe that the need to end these cruel practices is increasingly shared by citizens of Qatar and other countries in the region," she said.