Australia is one of the world’s most efficient producers of cattle and the world’s largest exporter of beef. The off-farm meat value of the Australian beef and cattle industry is $11.6 billion (consumer expenditure plus export value).

Herd facts and figures:
- 79,322 properties with cattle (ABS Agricultural Commodities 2010-11).
- 28.5 million cattle and calves (ABS Agricultural Commodities: September 2012).
- 12.8 million beef cows and heifers (ABS June 2011 final estimates).
- The cattle industry is involved on 58% of all farms with agricultural activity.

People in the industry:
- Around 200,000 people are involved in the red meat industry, including on-farm production, processing and retail.

How much is produced?
- In 2011-12, Australia produced approximately 2.1 million tonnes cwt of beef and veal (ABS).
- In 2011-12, 2.5 million grainfed cattle were marketed – 34% of all adult cattle slaughtered.

What is the value of production?
- The gross value of Australian cattle and calf production (including live cattle exports) is estimated at $7.9 billion (ABARES 2011-12).
- Cattle contributed 16% of the total farm value of $48.7 billion in 2011-12 (ABARES Agricultural Commodities 2012).
- The direct contribution of beef and live cattle to gross domestic product was approximately 1% in 2010-11.

Domestic value and consumption:
- Domestic expenditure on beef was approximately $6.2 billion in 2011-12 (MLA estimate).
- Australians ate around 31.4kg of beef per person in 2011-12 (MLA estimate).
- Around 96% of Australian fresh meat buyers purchased beef in 2011-12 (AC Nielsen Homescan).
- In volume terms, beef is the second most popular fresh meat consumed through the foodservice industry after chicken (BIS Shrapnel).
Export value and volume:
- In 2011-12, Australia exported 66% of its total beef and veal production to over 100 countries (DAFF/ABS).
- The value of total beef and veal exports in 2011-12 was $4.69 billion (ABS).
- Australian live cattle exports were valued at $650 million in 2011-12 (ABS).
- The beef industry (including live cattle) contributes 12% to total the farm export value of $39 billion (FOB) (ABS Agricultural Commodities 2012 estimate).

Australia’s place in the world:
- Australia has 3% of the world cattle inventory, with India, Brazil and China taking the top three places (USDA 2011).
- Australia produces 4% of the world’s beef supply, and in 2011 was the largest beef exporter in the world (USDA 2011).