

REMEMBER

1. **Read the label – ensure the feed does not contain RAM**
2. **Thoroughly clean your machinery of all RAM to prevent cross-contamination of ruminant feeds**
3. **Ensure your stock do not have access to feed containing RAM**
4. **Keep records of your purchases and Commodity Vendor Declarations for each purchase**

How is the Ruminant Feed Ban enforced?

Your state/territory Department of Primary Industry officers carry out random inspections of producers and stock feed manufacturers to ensure compliance with legislative requirements.

Heavy penalties can apply to anyone found guilty of:

- feeding products containing RAM to ruminants
- providing ruminants access to RAM or products containing RAM without taking reasonable measures to prevent such access
- deliberately supplying RAM or feedstuffs containing RAM to anyone else for feeding to ruminants.

In addition to these measures, all production based food safety assurance schemes (for example Livestock Production Assurance, National Feedlot Accreditation Scheme, Cattlecare and Flockcare) audit livestock producers as to the feeding of RAM to ruminants. If found in breach of the relevant food safety assurance standards, producers may lose the ability to use their national vendor declaration or be excluded from the food safety assurance program/s.

For more information:

Contact your local state Department of Primary Industry representative; district veterinary officer, stock inspector or producer organisation or visit: www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/ruminant-feed-ban

AUSTRALIAN RUMINANT FEED BAN

LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS

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Understanding Australia's Ruminant Feed Ban for livestock producers

Since 1996, the Australian Ruminant Feed Ban has helped prevent the establishment of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in Australia. The ban was introduced by the Australian livestock and stock feed industries and was legislated in all states and territories of Australia in 1997. The ban ensures the provision of safe beef, and beef products, to international markets.

International markets seek assurances from Australia and other importing nations, that there are appropriate measures in place to ensure that Restricted Animal Material (RAM) is not being fed to ruminant livestock species (e.g. cattle, sheep, goats or deer). The legislation and associated policing of these provisions are aimed at providing such assurances.

Australia has always been free of BSE and compliance with the ban will continue to help keep it out of Australian livestock. The ban means that you, as a livestock producer, cannot feed RAM to ruminants.

RAM (Restricted Animal Material) is:
meat, eggs, meat and bone meal, blood meal, poultry offal meal, feather meal, fishmeal or any other animal meals or manure.

It does not include:
tallow, gelatine, milk and milk products. These products are exempt from the definition of RAM and may be used in ruminant feeds. Tallow includes used cooking oils, provided they have been treated to remove RAM and should meet the *National Standard for Recycling of Used Cooking Fats and Oils Intended for Animal Feeds*.

How can you comply with the Ruminant Feed Ban?

As a livestock producer, it is important that you understand your obligations under the Ruminant Feed Ban.

As a livestock producer you:

- are not permitted to feed any RAM to ruminant animals
- are not permitted to allow ruminant animals access to the feed, the feed mixing area or any discarded feed which is labelled for pigs, poultry, dogs, cats or other non-ruminant animals which may legally contain RAM
- should choose only those products designed and labelled specifically for feeding to ruminant animals when selecting proprietary stockfeeds
- should ensure all containers, machinery, augers or areas coming in touch with stockfeed that includes RAM are thoroughly cleaned prior to using or holding stockfeed for ruminants
- must keep any meals (that fall within the definition of RAM) that you use as soil conditioners isolated from livestock (i.e. fenced off and incorporated into the soil prior to grazing)
- must ensure ruminant animals are not fed any stockfeed with the following label warning:

**This product contains restricted animal material
DO NOT FEED TO CATTLE, SHEEP,
GOATS, DEER OR OTHER RUMINANTS.**

Ruminant Feed Ban – Producer checklist

Complete this checklist to ensure you are meeting the requirements of the ban.

This checklist can be used as part of the internal audit for Industry Food Safety/Quality Assurance Programs.

Questions	YES	NO
Do you purchase feed products that may contain RAM?	☐	☐
<i>Note: In the case of home mixers, feed products produced on the property must also be recorded.</i>		
If the answer is Yes please proceed		
1. Do you require all feed commodities/products brought onto your farm/feedlot be accompanied by a Commodity/Byproduct Vendor Declaration (CVD/BVD) providing product history at time of purchase?	☐	☐
OR		
2. Do you maintain records that verify the feed commodities do not contain RAM?	☐	☐
3. Do you ensure that products that may contain RAM are stored separately and securely from feed commodities that will be fed to ruminant livestock?	☐	☐
4. Do you maintain and implement cleaning procedures that totally remove all feed residues from within the material's handling and mixing systems, preventing cross-contamination of feed containing RAM with feed destined for ruminants?	☐	☐
5. If you sell the product you mix, do you label all product in accordance with your state or territory labelling requirements?	☐	☐
6. Do you maintain records that verify questions 4 and 5 above?	☐	☐

If you answered NO to any questions (1 to 6) you are NOT complying with the requirements of the Australian Ruminant Feed Ban. You MUST implement measures to rectify the non-compliance/s.