

WHAT IS THE NATIONAL FEED STANDARD FOR FOOD ANIMALS?

AND HOW DOES IT APPLY TO EGG FARMING?

Egg farmers have been keeping up to date with the latest progress on the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Poultry.

But industry leaders say farmers should also be keeping an eye on new standards being developed by the stock feed industry for rural sectors, such as egg farms, which produce feed for laying hens.

Recently, EFA CEO Melinda Hashimoto met with the Executive Officer of the Stock Feed Manufacturers' Council of Australia (SFMCA), Duncan Rowland, to discuss the standards which fall under the organisation's FeedSafe® banner.

Below is information on FeedSafe® and the soon to be implemented **National Feed Standard for Food-Producing Animals**.

"This is important information for farmers who mix their own feed, and for those who are supplying or purchasing stock feed from others," Mrs Hashimoto said.

Mr Rowland explained that FeedSafe® was the animal feed industry's sponsored program for quality assurance, when it comes to the manufacturing of food for animals, such as laying hens, that go on to produce food for human consumption.

"The Stock Feed Manufacturers' Council of Australia (SFMCA), as the national representative body of feed manufacturers, is the owner and manager of the FeedSafe® program on behalf of the industry," he said.



Image: Duncan Rowland (Executive Officer of Stock Feed Manufacturers' Council of Australia) and Egg Farmers of Australia CEO Melinda Hashimoto.

The purpose of FeedSafe®

FeedSafe® certification enables animal feed manufacturers to demonstrate that they are meeting relevant State and Federal legislation and following good manufacturing practices when it comes feed/food safety, traceability, biosecurity, environment, transport and overall systems management.

For farmers, the [SFMCA website](#) lists manufacturers who are FeedSafe® accredited.

National Feed Standard for Food-Producing Animals

Meanwhile, the stock feed industry has had a long term goal to achieve a consistent approach to the legislation and policy affecting the production of feed in Australia.

Mr Rowland said: "There has been a need for one set of rules that we as an industry can follow."

The goal is being driven through a new initiative called the National Feed Standard for Food-Producing Animals.

"Any person who is manufacturing feed for food producing animals for their own purpose on farm or selling to another will be required to adhere to the National Feed Standard," Mr Rowland said.

"This standard will require feed manufacturers to undertake an audit. There are a number of third party companies that are able to undertake audits, most likely these will be the same auditors that do the egg industry E.S.A accreditation."

If a third party is not engaged, government officials will undertake the audit.

"Current manufacturers, who do not currently hold FeedSafe® accreditation, are encouraged to check out the information on the SFMCA website and consider becoming a member of SFMCA and commencing the training for FeedSafe®," Mr Rowland said.

For further queries in relation to becoming a SFMCA member or requirements to undertake the FeedSafe® training visit the [SFMCA](#) website or send an email to: contact@sfmca.com.au