How Is The Ruminant Feed Ban Enforced?

Your State/Territory DPI officers carry out random inspections of producers and stock food manufacturers to ensure compliance with the legislative requirements. Heavy penalties can be applied to anyone found guilty of:

- selling stock feeds without the legislated warning label/s
- allowing cross contamination of feed stuffs for ruminants with RAM
- supplying RAM or feedstuffs containing RAM to anyone for feeding to ruminants.

For more information:

Contact your local State Department of Primary Industry representative, district veterinary officer, stock inspector or producer organisation or log on to the following site:


REMEmBER

1. Ensure the appropriate warning labels are provided with the stock feed being sold
2. Prevent contamination of ruminant feeds with RAM through the use of feed sequencing, flushing and thorough cleaning procedures
3. Do not supply RAM or feedstuffs containing RAM to anyone for feeding to ruminants
4. Keep records of your purchases and sales for each transaction.

“help keep Australia BSE free”
If you manufacture livestock feeds you need to understand Australia’s Ruminant Feed Ban

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 initially and was formally legislated in all States and Territories of Australia in 1997. The ban further insures the provision of safe beef and beef products to international markets.

International markets increasingly seek assurances from Australia 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 legislative provisions and the associated policing of these provisions are aimed at providing such assurances.

Compliance with the ban will help keep BSE out of Australian livestock.

The ban means that you, as a manufacturer, must meet defined levels of operation in order to prevent contamination of ruminant feed with RAM.

How should a manufacturer deal with the Ruminant Feed Ban?

It is important that as a manufacturer of stock feed you understand your obligations associated with the ruminant fed ban.

Specifically, as a manufacturer of stock feed YOU must:

• ensure stock feed containing RAM is not deliberately sold for the purpose of feeding ruminant animals
• store RAM & stock feeds containing RAM and those for ruminants separately from each other so that cross contamination does not occur
• ensure all stock feed (containing RAM) sold has the following warning label affixed to the bag or if sold in bulk on the delivery docket/invoice and meets State legislation
  
  This product contains restricted animal material
  DO NOT FEED TO CATTLE, SHEEP, GOATS, DEER OR OTHER RUMINANTS

• ensure that all stock feed (not containing RAM) sold has a negative RAM statement on the label affixed to the bag or if sold in bulk on the delivery docket/invoice and meets State legislation
  
  This product does not contain restricted animal material

• ensure that cross contamination of ruminant stock feed does not occur after manufacturing feed containing RAM through the use of feed sequencing, flushing and thorough cleaning procedures
• not recycle bags that contained RAM for holding ruminant feeds
• ensure that records are kept of purchases and sales of stock feed and their individual ingredients (it is encouraged that the details of any cash sales of meat and bone meal are kept for reference).

Ruminant Feed Ban – Manufacturer Checklist

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

Questions YES NO

1. Do you ensure that all products sold by you have the appropriate labelling as per state legislation?  
2. Do you ensure that RAM & products that contain RAM are stored separately and securely from feed commodities that will be fed to ruminant livestock?  
3. Do you maintain and implement cleaning, flushing and sequencing procedures that prevent cross contamination of feed that may contain RAM with feed that does not contain RAM?  
4. Do you maintain records that verify the stock feed does not contain RAM?  
5. Do you maintain records of purchases and sales of stock feed or RAM?

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

RAM (Restricted Animal Material) is:

… meat, meat and bone meal, blood meal, poultry offal meal, feather meal, fishmeal or any other animal meals or manures.

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.