

LPA Beginner's Guide

What LPA accreditation is, the 8 records LPA wants you to keep, common audit failures, and a 30-day plan if you're starting from zero.

LPA (Livestock Production Assurance) is the on-farm food-safety and traceability program for Australian cattle, sheep and goat producers. Run by Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA). Costs \$77 + GST every three years. Not legally mandatory, but every LPA-accredited buyer (which is basically all of them) demands LPA NVDs from sellers.

Why LPA matters in practice

Without LPA accreditation:

- You can't issue an LPA NVD
- Most saleyards reject your stock or downgrade them
- Direct buyers (abattoirs, feedlots) demand to see your accreditation before settlement
- Pricing penalty per head is real - often \$20-50/head for cattle, \$5-10/head for sheep

Accreditation requires you to keep 8 categories of records. The audit (random, < 5% of producers per year) checks all 8. Most failed audits are not bad farming - they're bad record-keeping.

The 8 records LPA wants you to keep

1. Property risk assessment - Annual review of risks to food safety, biosecurity, animal welfare on your property. One-page form.

2. Animal treatments - Date, animal/mob, product, dose, route, withholding period, batch number, applicator. Every treatment, every time. The single most-audited record.

3. Stock feed records - What you fed, when, source, and confirmation it's restricted-animal-material-free. Includes commercial feed receipts.

4. Fodder crops - Any chemicals applied to pasture or fodder crops in the past 18 months. Date, product, rate, paddock, applicator licence.

5. Chemical inventory and SDS - List of chemicals on-farm. Safety Data Sheet for each (printed or digital). Audited under WHS as well.

6. Livestock transactions - Buy and sell records: PIC, date, count, NVD numbers. Two years minimum retention.

7. Animal welfare - Mulesing dates, dehorning, castration. Anaesthetic used if any. Operator. Sheep require this for AWI declarations too.

8. Biosecurity plan (LBSP) - 22-question template from MLA. Covers visitor controls, stock introductions, feral animal management, emergency response. New as of 2024 audit cycle.

Common audit failures (and how to avoid them)

Treatment record missing the batch number. Photograph every bottle label before you use it. Save with the date in a folder. PaddockMate IQ auto-captures the batch.

No SDS for half the chemicals in the shed. Download every SDS the same week you buy a product - manufacturer websites have them all. Store digital. PaddockMate IQ has an SDS-per-product upload field.

NVDs from 18 months ago can't be found. Two-year retention is mandatory. Scan paper NVDs as you write them. PaddockMate IQ generates NVDs as PDFs that never get lost.

Biosecurity plan from 2018, never updated. Annual review is expected. New 22-Q LBSP template since 2024 - if you haven't updated since then, you're behind. PaddockMate IQ has the LBSP wizard built in.

Stock feed records say 'lucerne hay' with no supplier. Supplier name + date + invoice copy. Restricted-animal-material declaration is on every commercial feed delivery docket.

Welfare records missing for mulesing. Date, lamb count, anaesthetic, operator. AWI Q&A on every wool clip also needs this.

Producer can't show records on-the-spot at audit. Auditors won't wait while you ring your accountant. Records must be accessible the day of the audit. Digital wins because your phone is in your pocket.

Starting from zero - your first 30 days

Period	Action
Day 1	Apply for or renew LPA at https://www.integritysystems.com.au
Day 2-3	Dig out every chemical bottle in the shed. Photograph labels. Download SDSs from manufacturer websites.
Day 4-7	Fill in your Biosecurity Plan (22-Q LBSP from MLA - or use PaddockMate IQ's wizard).
Day 8-14	Record every treatment given in the last 90 days. Best-effort - audit only goes back so far, but go-forward records start clean from now.
Day 15-20	Build a supplier list for feed. Get delivery dockets from the last 12 months.
Day 21-25	List every property movement of stock in the last 12 months. PIC of origin, PIC of destination, count, date.
Day 26-30	Set up reminders: WHP clearance, vaccination boosters, drench rotations, NVD renewal, LPA renewal.

Useful links:

- LPA: <https://www.integritysystems.com.au/on-farm-assurance/lpa>
- LBSP template: <https://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au>
- APVMA chemical lookup: <https://portal.apvma.gov.au/pubcris>
- NLIS database: <https://www.nlis.com.au>