

Optiweigh - in paddock weighing system

By: Samantha Cullen, Project Officer, SCF



Background

The aim of this MLA-funded Producer Demonstration Site is to utilise an Optiweigh unit on properties in Southern WA to demonstrate the value of in-paddock cattle weighing systems for improved labour efficiency, monitoring animal weights and optimising compliance with target market weight specifications.

The Project

The project will be undertaken on a minimum of six properties and six herds of cattle over three years. Each producer will use the unit for at least one period on one herd of cattle across the project duration. Herd choice will be at the discretion of the producer.

Cattle are enticed onto the Optiweigh with an attractant, such as molasses, a lick block or salt. Stepping on, they have their EID recorded and front feet weighed. This information is sent to the cloud and an algorithm is applied to calculate total body weight.



See weight gain information on your phone or laptop.

Liveweight information is updated multiple times daily and sent to any device type including phone, laptop, or tablet. Users receive a daily email each morning summarising the information gathered by the Optiweigh in the last 24 hours. More detailed information is available to be viewed and downloaded via the Optiweigh website.

Outcomes

Producers will be able to use the data from the Optiweigh in paddock cattle weighing system to monitor overall herd weight and health which will aid in decision making and herd management.

The Optiweigh system will help reduce the time and expense of yarding cattle to be weighed.

The producer can monitor weights with the in-paddock system in real time and respond to growth rate changes by providing additional supplementation or other suitable interventions in a more timely manner.

Acknowledgments

Grateful acknowledgement to Meat and Livestock Australia (and the levy paying producers) for investment in the project.