

21 September 2017

To whom it may concern

The RSPCA Qld have received an application from Nettco of Ipswich, Qld, manufacturers of Australian made shade and netting products at their textile facility in Ipswich, for approval of their feedlot shadecloth, and the supporting structure, as used in Whyalla and Myola feedlots, seen below.

We note in the documentation provided the structure design and cloth has received the Beefex94 new product award from the ALFA.

After review of the technical information, and review of supporting documentation from the Whyalla feedlot and Nippon, the RSPCA Qld have no hesitation in approving the use of this structure design and shadecloth, as being highly recommended for use in providing solar heat protection for animals held in feedlots.


Significant factors were the dispersal of shade within the pen area to reduce congregation, creation of an artificial airflow under the shade structure, and unrestricted access for animals to feed and water.

The design includes tensioned strips of a specially made structural shadecloth, which provides sunlight access alleys between the shade areas.

The strips of shade move with the sun to encourage the cattle to feed and water and reduce the bog areas normally associated with feedlot shade. The design produced significant reduction in animal water intake during hot weather and reduces costs of water provision.

We understand the original engineering design and special heavyweight cloth has now provided in excess of 20+ years of service.

The final innovative design has been recognised by University of Qld, Qld Department of Primary Industry, and the Federal Government inquiry into the beef feedlot industry.

  
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