



Wellard

MEDIA RELEASE
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Ship shape success rates

Wellard Rural Exports' new vessel, the MV Ocean Swagman, has successfully completed her first five voyages.

The MV Ocean Swagman was launched by Wellard in January 2010, setting a new benchmark for safety of the livestock, crew and vessel, with its dual, independent propulsion system and enhanced ventilation.

With the vessel's first five voyages now complete, the MV Ocean Swagman is matching Wellard's high expectations.

In its first five voyages (see log below) it has carried 19,341 beef cattle, 2,956 dairy cattle and 25,612 sheep with success rates of 99.999% (beef cattle) and 99.998% (dairy cattle) and 99.184% (sheep).

"The decision to build the Ocean Swagman was a substantial investment in the future of the live export and agriculture industries, and that investment has been vindicated," Wellard Rural Exports Managing Director Steve Meerwald said.

"We are now looking forward with even greater anticipation to the maiden voyage of her sister ship, the MV Ocean Outback, in the middle of this year."

After undergoing a comprehensive inspection from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority prior to its most recent voyage, another Wellard vessel, the MV Ocean Shearer, departed Fremantle with 85,420 sheep and 266 cattle for the Middle East.

The vessel finished discharge on Sunday, and recorded a 99.5 per cent success rate for sheep and a 100 per cent success rate for cattle.

"This is typical of the overall performance of our vessels and our commitment to animal welfare," Mr Meerwald said.

"Not only does it support our assessment that the ship's livestock services worked normally during a recent, disappointing voyage to Egypt, it is a more accurate reflection of the ship's performance."

Since 2006 Wellard has shipped almost 1 million cattle, with a 99.86 per cent success rate.

“For every 1000 cattle that have walked on our ships, 999 have walked off at their destination, and in better condition than when they started the voyage,” Mr Meerwald said.

The two most recent voyages are in addition to the biggest ever shipment of cattle to Russia aboard another Wellard vessel, the MV Ocean Drover. Carrying 7111 cattle from Portland and Fremantle to the Black Sea port of Novorossiysk, Russia, the vessel achieved a success rate of 99.998 per cent and provided an important marketing option for cattle producers in the south-west of Western Australia.

MV Ocean Swagman – inaugural five voyages

Voyage	Route	Livestock	Success rate
1	Fremantle - Jakarta	6500 beef cattle	99.999%
2	Fremantle - Jeddah	25612 sheep	99.184%
3	Darwin – Jakarta	7000 beef cattle	100.00%
4	Portland – [China]	2956 dairy cattle	99.998%
5	Darwin – Jakarta	6719 beef cattle	99.999%

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Background – Wellard Rural and Trading

Wellard Rural and Trading is the Wellard Group’s agriculture and international trade division.

Its two largest subsidiaries are, Wellard Rural Exports, Australia’s largest livestock exporter and ship owner, and Wellard Agri, a mixed farming land owner and operator specialising in the production of grains, legumes and livestock.

Wellard Rural Exports has supplied quality Australian dairy and beef cattle and sheep and goats to the world for 30 years, and its investment in the live export industry is without peer. Based in Fremantle, the company’s operations cover every aspect of the export chain, including feed milling, road transport, feedlot facilities throughout Australia and modern shipping.

The company’s flagship carrier, the MV Ocean Drover (formerly the MV Becrux), is a purpose-built livestock carrier capable of carrying 75,000 sheep or 18,000 cattle from Australia to major markets around the globe. She was commissioned in 2002.

Its other vessel, the MV Ocean Shearer (formerly the MV Stella Deneb) can carry 125,000 sheep or 23,000 cattle, or a combination of both.

A new, technologically advanced, purposed built vessel, the MV Ocean Swagman sailed on its maiden voyage in January 2010. The Swagman's sister ship, the MV Ocean Outback, is due for launch in mid-late 2010. In August 2008 Wellard and Siba Ships announced a US\$250 million contract to build an additional two new livestock vessels which will be able to carry 17,000 cattle or 70,000 sheep or a combination of the two.

Wellard Agri owns and operates seven farms across two agri-hubs, one located at Watheroo in Western Australia's central midlands and one located at Kojonup in the Great Southern region of WA.

Its total landholding is more than 18,000 hectares, of which 14,000 hectares is cropped to a variety of grains and legumes. The remaining land is devoted to sheep production, including the famous Hyfield Poll Merino stud at Kojonup.

In November 2009, Wellard Agri announced it was entering the farm machinery sector, when it commenced management of the CLAAS Harvest Centre at Katanning for the Landpower range of farm machinery.

In January 2010 Wellard Agri purchased the 14,500 hectare, mixed farming property, The Grange, at Dongara, WA. Long considered one Western Australia's blue chip properties, The Grange will continue to be run as a grazing property, with some cropping.

It is located only 64 kilometres from the port of Geraldton and possesses three centre pivots to irrigate 140ha, for intensive grazing.

For more information visit: www.wellard.com.au