

eNVD's moving closer: MLA

BY ANDREW MILLER

TRIALS on electronic National Vendor Declaration (eNVD) forms were on the horizon, a Melbourne livestock saleyards conference has been told.

Meat & Livestock Australia eNVD trial co-ordinator Ben Lee told the Australian Livestock Saleyards Association conference a fully

electronic system had now been developed.

"The benefits are going to be immediate and tangible, the cost savings are achieved at each point in the chain," Mr Lee said.

"Reprocessing of inaccurate or incomplete NVD's is going to be reduced significantly, as is rekeying of manual information into your saleyard systems."

He said Australia's reputation as a producer of safe, high quality red meat, was supported by the system of declarations, which proved the integrity of the product.

He said a partial electronic system had been introduced in 2004, but advances in technology had now allowed it to be rolled out fully.

"In this full electronic system, producers will use

licenced software to submit NVD's to the MLA's database - they must adhere to the standards, endorsed by Safemeat." Several providers of saleyard software had indicated they should be developing programs next month.

Further savings would be achieved when the system was extended to areas such as MSA declarations, delivery dockets and animal

health statements.

"It's going to save time and money, but for this to occur commercial saleyards software providers will have to upgrade.

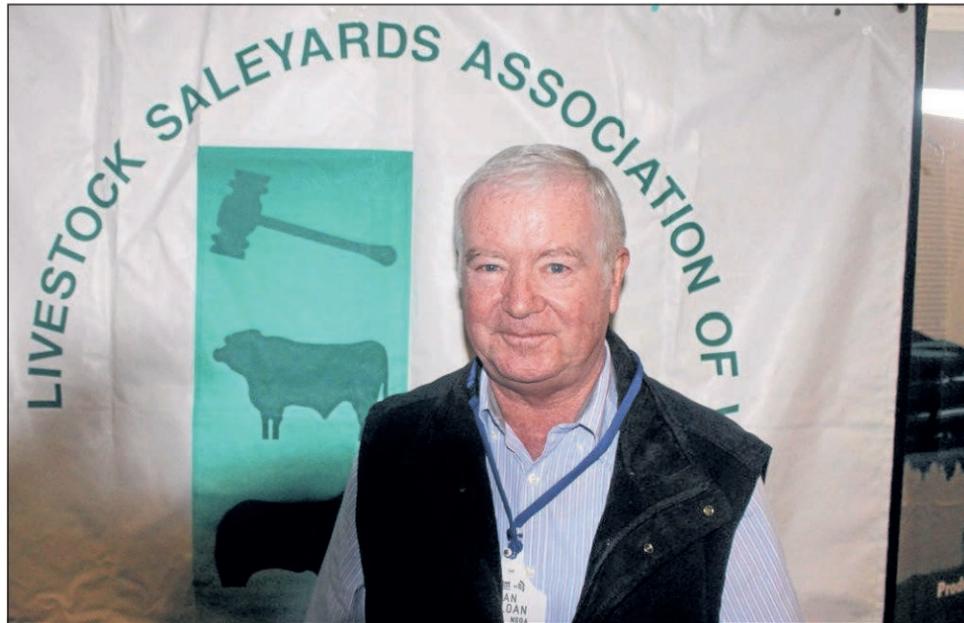
"Several providers of saleyard software have indicated they are beginning development in September, and will conduct trials shortly after that."

Mr Lee said the eNVD trial

would be "very much feet on the ground", identifying any barriers to adoption, along the way.

Mr Lee said the MLA was working towards a process, where waybills would no longer be required.

"The transporter will have to take note of that NVD serial number, or reference number, and carry that along with them on the journey."



UPDATED GUIDELINES: Ian O'Loan, National Saleyards Quality Assurance (NSQA) president said updated standards would provide greater benefits.

Saleyards quality assured

GREATER traceability and more robust animal welfare assurances would result from the update of national saleyards quality assurance standards, a Melbourne conference has been told.

National Saleyards Quality Assurance (NSQA) president Ian O'Loan said the standards were currently being updated, to bring them up to date with challenges from meet animal welfare activists and changes in biosecurity practices.

"The big changes are the public image and traceability factor, which a NSQA saleyard can put forward," Mr

O'Loan told the Australian Livestock Saleyards Association conference.

"This is the real benefit of quality assurance, traceability, training of your personnel, handling of your personnel, and having it all documented - because we are going to see a lot more of these animal welfare people come on the block."

He said over the last nine months, NSQA had updated the standards, which would be used as the basis for audits. "This is not rewriting the Bible, it is actually updating things - some of the things you have been talking about,

animal welfare issues, biosecurity, these are all being taken care of, in the new standards."

He said quality assurance started on the farm, with transporters expected to comply with "safe to load" documents. "If transporters are bringing crap, for want of a better word, into your saleyard the onus is on them not to bring it in," he said.

"We can say the quality of the stock being delivered into the saleyard complies with all the rules and regulations, while they are in the saleyard they have full traceability."

- ANDREW MILLER

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