

My Background:

I used to be the Queensland representative on the Emu Industry Federation of Australia (EIFA). However several years ago I pulled out as I felt that I was wasting my time. I believed then (and still do) that the emu industry in Australia will be developed by individuals with the passion, perseverance and resources to make it happen.

I have been farming emus since 1993 and am the ex-officio President of the Emu Association of Queensland. I am still involved with emus but no longer have a farm. Since pulling out of EIFA I have been working together with another emu farmer in Victoria to get things to happen. Unfortunately this is taking longer than we expected but I still believe it will happen - it is just a question of when!

Response to Report:

I suspect that the implication of this letter is that the residue testing subsidy, previously available to the raitite industry is about to be removed.

If this is the case, then I am not in a position to argue for its continuation based on the current industry position and throughput. This is even of NO concern to me as an individual emu farmer in Queensland as we not only have no AQUIS accredited processing facilities for emus in this state, we have no processing facility at all. The closest emu processing plant is in Victoria.

The reality therefore is that any so called "Industry" response to this issue should really only come from Victorian Emu farmers, that are getting emus processed! I am not sure how many of these there are but I could find out, if you need to know.

If things go the way, that I hope they will in the future, we will be able to resurrect the abattoir at Cherbourg - which was originally built for emus. However before this happens the markets being negotiated into China have to be finalised and become a reality. Once this happens there will be an opportunity for the emu industry in Australia to regroup and build again.

Conclusion:

The Australian Emu Industry is not in a position today to argue for retention of any subsidies on the basis of an established industry. However it would be of great assistance for the future development of what is still an "Emerging/New" industry if this facility could remain open for the future.