

# AM I READY TO ENTER AN AGISTMENT ARRANGEMENT? CHECKLIST FOR AGISTING STOCK

If you are considering agistment of your stock in order to grow your business or rest your pastures, we are here to assist you!

This factsheet provides a handy checklist to understand how to best prepare for, and manage, your lease. Remember, we have a bevy of resources in the [Leasing & Agistment Toolkit](#) to help you work through this list!



## Before you commence

### Business Fit & Capacity

- What are your goals for agistment and how do these relate to your existing business, personal and family goals?
- Do you have the resources to undertake the agistment (e.g. labour, transport, funding of stock and working capital)?
- Will your overall business profitability increase by putting your livestock on agistment?



### Due Diligence

- Have you done your research on the owner? You could politely approach your trusted advisors, peers or neighbours to get their opinion. You will need to understand from them the level of support and management they would provide your stock.
- Conduct a joint inspection the agistment and fill in a condition report/pre-property inspection checklist with accompanying photographs. Take special note of condition livestock handling facilities, loading ramps, ease of access, quality of fencing and improvements.
- Inspect and measure the pastures and available water. Is the feed base appropriate for their diet and will it last the duration of the agistment period? Is there a weed burden? Is the water suitable and easy to access?
- Record how long it took you to get to the property, km's travelled and approximate fuel cost.

### Agistment Budget

- Have you researched agistment market rate and discussed current agistment rates with trusted advisors/peers?
- Have you prepared a [budget](#)? This is critical to inform your conversations with the land owner. You must include your key assumptions around DSE rating, weight of stock entering and leaving, expected weight gain, and expected income generated.
- What are the inputs you require (e.g. additional labour, fuel, insurance and legal feeds)?
- Have you calculated transport and inspection costs?
- Remember to analyse a number of agistment rate options!
- Have you prepared a plan incorporating agistment into your current business?
- Have you determined how much extra working capital is needed?
- Remember to calculate an agistment breakeven period if you also have the option to supplementary feed your stock at home as an alternative.

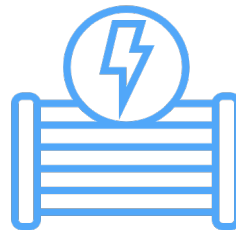
### How do you find available agistment country?

- [Agistment.net.au](#)
- [Farm Tender](#)
- Word of mouth
- Stock agent
- Newspaper classifieds and advertisements



## Agistment agreement

- Has an agistment agreement been drafted that includes all the necessary elements relevant to your circumstances? Be clear on who will be responsible for the day-to-day inspection and husbandry of the stock.
- Has the agistment agreement been reviewed and approved by your solicitor?
- Remember that both parties need to sign the agistment agreement!



## Agistment management

- Ensure livestock are fit for travel and acclimatise to the new environment and pasture.
- Are you and the landowner managing the stock in an appropriate manner and in accordance with the agreement?
- Are you fulfilling your NLIS (and LPA if relevant) obligations?
- Are you having regular (at least every second week) conversations with the landowner to discuss and resolve any issues?
- Are you inspecting your livestock and the pasture base periodically?
- Are you communicating openly and honestly with the owner of the land?
- Have you paid your agistment rate on time and as per the agistment agreement?
- Are you appropriately managing [biosecurity](#) and [animal welfare](#)?



## Agistment resources

IN THE YOUNG FARMER [LEASING & AGISTMENT TOOLKIT](#) WE HAVE A NUMBER OF RESOURCES TO HELP YOU PREPARE FOR AGISTING YOUR LIVESTOCK:

1. A guide to Agistment Calculations
2. Agistment Calculator
3. Agistment Checklist
4. Sample Agistment Agreement
5. Videos with experts

- [NLIS Cattle: agistment requirements \(NSW Department of Primary Industries\)](#)
- [NLIS Sheep and Goats: agistment requirements \(NSW Department of Primary Industries\)](#)
- [Meeting LPA requirements for agistment \(Integrity Systems\)](#)
- [Agistment guidelines \(NSW Department of Primary Industries\)](#)
- [Legally speaking: Don't lose your interests in livestock, crops and plant \(McCullough Robertson | Beef Central\)](#)
- [Smooth grazing - trouble-free agistment \(Thynne + Macartney\)](#)
- [Agistment: An Overview \(Farm Table\)](#)



**Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979:** The objects of this Act are to prevent cruelty to animals, promote the welfare of animals by requiring a person in charge of an animal to provide care for the animal, and to treat the animal in a humane manner, and to ensure the welfare of the animal.

**Your role in Biosecurity:** Biosecurity is the protection of the economy, environment and community from the negative impacts of pests and diseases, weeds and contaminants. We can only successfully manage biosecurity when every person plays a part.