

services & information for new landholders



*Do you own a small property in rural Victoria?*

# small property agistment

Agistment is the placement of livestock from one farm onto another for food, water, and shelter - in return for a fee (usually cost/head/week).

The owner of the livestock is usually responsible for getting the livestock to and from the agistment property and retains ownership except under certain circumstances (such as non-payment of fees).

For a landholder accepting livestock on agistment there are some points that need to be negotiated and agreed upon,

usually in writing (it does not have to be typed).

An agreement needs to have the names and signatures of each party, date agreement signed, period for which the agreement applies, and a description of what is being agreed upon.

To help avoid potential disputes it may be useful to make notes using the following tables as a discussion prompt and go over the checklist of issues to agree on.

**Table 1:** Issues to agree on

Issue	Comments / Details	Person Responsible
Number of stock to be agisted	No:	
Description of livestock on arrival (base the condition score on those used by the Meat & Livestock Authority for sheep and cattle)	Breed.....	
National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) numbers (attach sheet with extra details if necessary)	Age.....	
Property Identification Code (Associated with NLIS)	No. Male .....No. Female.....	
	Weight average..... Range.....	
	Condition score average..... Range.....	
Expected period of agistment	From (date)..... to (date).....	
	No. weeks.....Price/head/week.....	
Expected description of livestock on leaving (base the condition score on those used by the Meat & Livestock Authority for sheep and cattle)	Weight average..... Range.....	
	Condition score average..... Range.....	
The paddocks (mark on map) that the livestock have access to whilst on agistment	Paddock names:	
Any restrictions with bringing supplementary feed on to the farm (e.g. source of feed) in relation to weed seeds		
When is payment to be made, or payments (if progressive)		
What is the plan if agistment fees are not paid by the due date		
The period of notice required by the owner of the land to notify the owner of the livestock to remove livestock from the farm? What penalty may occur if insufficient notice given.		
Does the herd/flock have a disease free status?		

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Issue	Comments / Details	Person Responsible
Does the property have a residue/disease free status? (this refers to things such as Johnes disease and persistent Organochlorine residues in soil)		
How and where are livestock to be loaded and re-loaded at the agistment property?		
Means by which owner of the agistment farm can be contacted.		
Name of third party that may be used to resolve disputes		

**Table 2: Who is responsible for what?**

Person Responsible	Owner of Agistment Farm	Owner / Agent of Livestock	Other
Who is responsible regarding how water is to be provided, and putting a contingency plan in place should supply of water be interrupted?			
Who is responsible for supply of hay and other supplementary feed, who will pay the cost of feed, and who will feed out the hay?			
Who is responsible for maintaining fences and watering facilities whilst stock are on agistment, including labour and materials where needed?			
Who is responsible for weed control – labour, equipment and chemicals – where stock is agisted?			
Who is responsible to monitor the livestock and initiate corrective action of issues with their welfare – wandering stock, sick animals, mating, extra hand-feeding, NLIS?			
Who is responsible for supply of chemical, equipment and labour for animal husbandry requirements – drenching, fly-strike, mating?			
Option to appoint someone local to have access to the property to monitor stock if the landowner is not able to do this.			
Option to store supplementary feed and equipment on the agistment farm if needed.			
Option to have bulls and rams on the property if needed for mating.			
Who is responsible for collection, removal and disposal (according to EPA guidelines) of dead livestock?			
Who is responsible for determining when stock need to be removed in order to maintain sustainable ground cover (that is, a minimum 70% of the ground covered by grass)?			

Name of Agistment Property Owner.....	Name of Livestock Owner / Agent.....
Phone.....Mobile.....	Phone.....Mobile.....
Email.....Fax.....	Email.....Fax.....
Postal address.....	Postal address.....
Postcode.....	Postcode.....
Signature.....	Signature.....
Date signed.....	Date signed.....

## Further Information

This template was originally developed by Max Coster and updated in 2007 by the New Landholder team.

## Disclaimer

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