Table 1 Comparison on Agricultural Systems (Grain Fed "Production" Feedlot vs Pre-Export Quarantine Live Export Facility)

Attribute	(Production) Feedlot	Pre-Export Quarantine Depot	Notation
Cattle			Cattle in a feedlots are fed for production; that is for, rapid weight gain so they can be slaughtered. They are fed on a "production" diet designed to "fatten". Cattle transported for live export are held on a depot for an average of 4 days prior to export. They are fed a "maintenance" diet only.
Condition			Feeder cattle going into a feedlot are generally a score 3 or 4 and are in good condition Cattle purchased for live export are "light" and generally in score condition 1-2.

Attribute	(Production) Feedlot	Pre-Export Quarantine Depot	Notation
Gut fill			Feeder cattle going into a feedlot have a full gut. Cattle aggregated for live export have generally been mustered on a rangeland, held in a yards and then travelled long distances. The cattle's gut is empty and it takes 2 to 4 days of feed to fill the gut and re-establish gut function. In this time their gut has emptied and live export defecate little compared with their feedlot counterparts.
Ration fed			Feedlot rations are generated with a large protein and energy component so as to grow and fatten an animal quickly. Protein levels are generally >12%. Live export rations are high in fibre and low in starch and energy. They are a maintenance diet. The protein levels are generally about 6%. The rations fed are fundamentally different in their composition and production outcome.

Attribute	(Production) Feedlot	Pre-Export Quarantine Depot	Notation
Dung			Dung produced by feedlot cattle has a significant amount of “by pass” protein and starch in it; this provides bountiful supply of food for microbes. Dung produced by PEQ cattle is very low in protein and starch because of (a) the compensation of the animal to having an empty gut and (b) being fed a low protein maintenance diet PEQ dung is generally firm, drier and containing large amounts of ruminated fibre and little other nutrient.
Manure Production			Production feedlots produce about 1.5T (DM)/SCU per year. PEQ facilities produce <0.5T (DM)/SCU per year; on a normalised basis. PEQ yards produce substantially less manure with very little nutrient in it.

Attribute	(Production) Feedlot	Pre-Export Quarantine Depot	Notation
Residence Time			"Production Feedlot cattle fully fed in a feedlot as "grain fed" animals and are held and fed **continuously** in the yard for 70-180 days (or longer). Live Export cattle are held temporarily in the yard. **When a shipment is not underway then the yards are empty.** Only sick or injured animals are left behind and these are held until (a) another market can be found for them, or (b) they become well and they can go on the next shipment. If they are held for 30 days then the holding facility is called a "feedlot" by default BUT it is not
Stocking Rate