

## RLA IWG Animal Welfare Task Group

### Meeting #1

June 13, 2018

### Agenda

1. Review role of A/W Task Group
2. Reality Check: LWG research information
3. Proposed Solution: Certificate Trading
4. Discussion

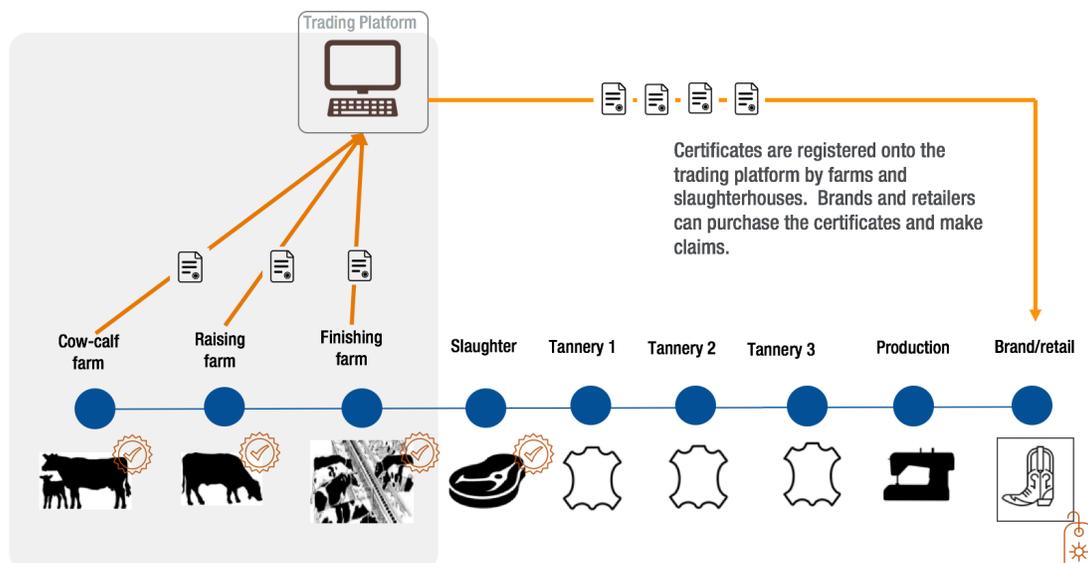
### All Task Group members must sign the RLRT Charter

### Reality Check – LWG Research Information

- What criteria is used to define high and low risk?
  - Considered various aspects: transportation, traceability systems (back to farm, etc.), governance – slaughter legislation, etc. will determine whether country is high or low risk

### Proposed Solution: Certificate Trading (see slides 14-25)

- Want to offer 2 solutions with RLA
  - CoC with verification; reference traceability technology and/or use CCS
    - Very few cases where this can be used to get to farms
    - There are solutions being worked on, but nothing advanced enough to use for our tool
  - Certificate Trading Platform
- Criteria at farm level: certain scopes – environmental, animal welfare, etc.
- Farms can register themselves on Certificate Trading Platform



**Question:** if the initial farms are certified, would the certificate follow through the rest of the value chain?

- Perhaps we can require the certificate from the last farm to be linked to the slaughter, but traceability between the initial farms is pretty near impossible
- The company cannot make a value chain claim – it would be a general claim about “supporting” responsible farming

**Question:** What are the restraints keeping us from full traceability?

- Cattle get lost in transit because of failure to tag properly, use of documents
- Usually go to 3 or 4 different farms
- Very rigid traceability systems make it difficult to keep track of cattle

Claims language – Mostly only corporate level, cannot be product claim

**Critical issues** include painful procedures and it is very difficult to ask farms to use pain relief because it is not readily available

- 2 systems where farms are meeting minimum requirements, and one where farms get extra recognition (last 1/3 of credits) for best practices

**What is the % allocation of credits?**

1/3 1/3 1/3 ?

30% 40% 30% ?

1 pool of funds for critical issues **OR** company can allocate 100% of funds to a specific project?

- Needs a certain infrastructure that we may or may not be able to put together

**Do we require traceability to the direct farm?**

**What are the basic requirements for AW to include?**

**Slaughterhouses**

Question: do you mean that when it comes to environmental, parallel production would not be allowed? Or are we looking into that possibility?

- We are not currently looking into it, but from an environmental perspective, the only way to deal with it from deforestation perspective, we would have to say that ALL farms are 100% deforestation-free

LWG created country profiles of countries that created high volumes of leather

- Looked at traceability aspects, but it's not possible in the vast majority
- Instances where you theoretically could

No current objections to moving forward with keeping both frameworks in mind (certificate trading platform and CoC)

- The solution we look for will work for both systems

**Do we need to set different criteria for different regions?**

- We need to decide on what the goals are for the brands and lay that on top of the geography of the world to see which regions work

- Messaging needs to be consistent

\*\*\*We will need to set firm, minimum criteria to be applied across either system

What are the categories that need to be met and what would it look like to meet that criteria?

- Nutrition: food and water
- Environment/Infrastructure
- Management/Health
- TG member thought: from a small brand perspective, anything that would apply to a human: food, water, handling, compassion, basic needs

If we set the requirements comprehensively and very detailed, then we might recognize and reward those farmers who are already following best practices.

- This may be ideal for a lot of brands.
- A reasonable outcome a standard should thrive for.
- Leaves out farms/regions where they do not have the capacity to meet a third-party standard because of cost of auditing, cost of meeting requirements, etc.
- **Is all of the above an accurate assessment?**
  - Not sure if this is true since even in advanced countries there are a lot of restrictions and not following best practices, but in South America, some requirements may be very to comply with. Depends on the criteria – easier for some countries to comply regardless of the developing or developed

Current standards may be too stringent to be applied across the globe

### **What is our Theory of Change?**

- If we use current standards as our reference point, we see that they are being used in more advanced countries

### **Task Group member input (via email):**

- I prefer the book and claim option, my concern with certificates for full chain of custody is that it is just not feasible at scale. Whilst people will say they want full traceability, I think in reality the book and claim will be the option that can actually be implemented and adopted.
- I was quite confused by the discussion on India and cattle, unless it was related to Buffalo? In terms of cow hide from cattle reared and slaughtered in India, many brands have explicit bans on the use of this material, due to NGO campaigns, us included (we also have bans on Bangladesh) and I think whilst some brands might not have these bans, the ones that do are likely to be the ones engaging in this initiative. I also think that this tool will be taken up only by those undertaking industrial farming methods, with the size and scale to recognise the value of it, for those where they have small numbers of cattle- and here we are getting into the same issue for sheep and goats, a different approach may be needed.
- I do take your point on not setting requirements that are so high few can meet them. I'd be in favour of sticking to core animal welfare principles, and getting backing on these from the animal welfare groups to support our rationale. This is getting into the detail, but I wonder what our view will be on branding of cattle? Traceability vs animal welfare.
- In terms of scope back to birthing farm, it's very difficult to answer, and significantly increases the challenge if it is in scope, I think yes that's where we should aim for, and I'd

question perhaps setting animal welfare standards for only part of a cow's life? Unless the focus was only at slaughterhouse or it was based on data to suggest that key risks happen at fattening, transport and slaughter etc.