



# Industry Sustainability Framework

## Second Member Benchmarking Survey

### November 2025

## INTRODUCTION

AHSLEA conducted its second sustainability benchmarking survey of members in November 2025, building on the baseline survey undertaken in 2024.

The 2025 survey was more closely aligned to the AHSLEA Sustainability Framework, which comprises 24 commitments assessed through 31 metrics and three derived measures.

To reflect differences in data maturity across the industry, two tailored surveys were deployed to small and large members.

## PURPOSE OF SECOND BENCHMARK SURVEY

- To assess the level of sustainability data collection across industry members.
- To capture reportable data aligned to framework commitments.
- To track progress against the 2024 baseline and inform future reporting.
- To provide an updated industry-wide picture of sustainability performance.

## 2025 SURVEY KEY INSIGHTS

- Data maturity continues to improve, particularly among larger members.
- Climate measurement and advanced traceability represent the largest opportunities for improvement.
- Many non-reported metrics are already being captured, providing a strong foundation for expanded reporting in 2026.



## APPROACH TO SUSTAINABILITY

AHSLEA's sustainability framework confirms the industry's commitment to economic, social, and environmental responsibility.

Developed in collaboration with key stakeholders, the framework involved an extensive review of existing frameworks in the agriculture sector, and a detailed assessment of industry practices and benchmarks.

# Benchmarking Survey Summary

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT



Addressing GHG emissions, chemical management, water usage, and waste.

- Members capture a range of environmental data, including waste, water use, production and traceability, supporting ongoing environmental management.
- Chemical management practices are well established, with no restricted chemicals or environmental breaches reported by survey participants.
- Members are progressively building capability to measure greenhouse gas emissions, supported by actions such as onsite renewable energy.
- Environmental management is supported through a combination of internal monitoring, continuous improvement activities and industry collaboration.

## PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY



Prioritising health and safety, talent development, labour rights, and community contributions.

- 60% of respondents have either reduced or maintained their Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate (40% indicated LTIs were not applicable to their facility).
- A range of workplace metrics are tracked across the industry, reflecting a focus on workforce wellbeing and development.

The framework guides the industry and its members toward continual improvement, strengthening sustainability performance, enhancing transparency, and driving measurable progress across the leather value chain—today and into the future.



## VALUE CHAIN INNOVATION



Enhancing traceability, animal welfare, biodiversity, reducing deforestation, and collaboration across the value chain.

- Hide traceability from farm to first customer is progressing across the cattle industry, supporting transparency in the value chain, with further gains expected as permanent ID tagging becomes mandatory at farm level for all sheep and lambs.
- A range of biodiversity programs are practiced by members, primarily around tree planting.
- Members are actively collaborating across the industry and with key stakeholders.

## ECONOMIC RESILIENCE



Ensuring market access, profitability, and climate resilience.

- Half of respondents were successful in accessing a new overseas market in the past year.
- Customer numbers remained stable for most respondents, indicating consistency in market demand.
- Members continue to operate in a dynamic global market environment, adapting to changing conditions.

