

ABP

CATTLE
GENETICS



PREPARATION
FOR

Fall

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CONDITION

FEED

LOT
Health

POST-
CALVING
SOIL

Herd Health and
Feedlot Innovators

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Alberta Beef
Producers

Volume 4 Issue 2 JUNE 2024

RETURN UNDELIVERABLE ITEMS TO

ALBERTA BEEF PRODUCERS
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ALL WAYS TO

SALT OF THE EARTH

Early mornings and late nights, the job of a producer is not for the faint of heart. From breeding and calving the next generation to market-ready cattle, these dedicated professionals care deeply about the health and welfare of their animals.

It all starts with sustainable practices from this special group of people who love the land, working outdoors and producing something they're equally proud to serve to their own families.

SINCE  1874
Alberta Beef



RAISE

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ON THE COVER

With the summer months upon us, we start to turn our attention to herd health, sustainability measures and marketing plans for fall. This issue highlights our feedlot sector and the incredible innovations this sector is spearheading to strengthen the beef industry.

#AllForTheBeef

WITH BRAD DUBEAU



With calving, processing, and planting underway and even complete in some areas, it won't be long before producers will be moving the herds to summer pastures.

It's been a 'relocation' time for us here at the ABP office as well. At the end of April, we packed up the headquarters and headed just down the road to a new home base in Calgary. We've managed to reduce our footprint by 3,000 square feet, and still have enough room for our staff, along with Cows and Fish, an organization we helped launch more than thirty years ago. Our main reason for the move was to reduce office expenses, by some \$180,000 annually. That's money we can redirect to important producer programming. It's a much more efficient space and fit for ABP, and we're excited to be here. If you're coming through Calgary, be sure to drop in for a look. Our new address is 120-7777 10 ST NE, Calgary, AB T2E 8X2. Please remember to update your files for any mailing correspondence to the new address.

It was encouraging to see a significant increase in attendance for our producer meetings this winter, right across the province. We appreciated producers' acceptance of the minimal meal cover charge we implemented, which greatly helped in planning for accurate numbers, so we're not overestimating and wasting food or expenses. It's also an important aspect of our meetings – to be able to discuss beef industry issues and ABP's work while connecting as a community over a meal together.

There was also a lot of connection as our AGM was held for the first time in conjunction with the Alberta Beef Industry Conference in February. It was great to be with the other associations, who also held their AGMs with the conference. While it was a successful combination, we also recognize the need to make some scheduling adjustments next year so the timing logistics flow more smoothly. We are encouraging producers from the cow-calf, backgrounding and feeding sectors to consider attending ABIC, as it's an excellent conference you can come away from with learnings that could apply to your operations both now and in the future. From market and weather forecasts to future trends, there's a lot of good content on the program.

The combination of meeting agendas is another example of our commission and fellow industry partners communicating and cooperating, to make sure we understand the issues each is facing. We continue on a path to create a stronger, more unified beef voice as we determine where we can work together, using check-off dollars most effectively when advocating for common goals.


I would also like to personally thank Sheila Hillmer, former Vice-Chair, and Fred Lozeman, former Finance Chair, for all the efforts they gave our organization over the course of the past year on the executive. I would also like to welcome Doug Roxburgh as the new Vice-Chair, while Kent Holowath comes on as the Finance Chair. Brodie Haugan continues his leadership role as overall Chair into this year. We're really looking forward to the participation of the new directors elected at the AGM as well. If you're wanting to see the full board of directors, or who represents your region on ABP, refer to the delegate directory on page 43, or you can head to [ABPDaily.com](https://www.abpdaily.com) and click on contacts, or go to the website albertabeef.org

The Canadian Cattle Association (CCA) AGM was held in Ottawa, and your ABP representatives were active in discussions there. It's always good to connect with other provinces and share ideas around topics where we might view things differently, but still try to find solutions in the best interests of Canadian producers.

One of our major spring activities here at the office has been reviewing the March 31 2023-24 year-end financial reports, plus setting the new budget for 2024-25.

A highlight has been additional interest income from investments. Along with some unspent dollars from the previous budget because of a prudent fiscal approach by leadership, and the CCA levy now being applied to retained marketings, there are some significant dollars we can finally build into the new budget for programs to benefit Alberta producers – advocating to government, marketing and communication, research and keeping beef top of mind for consumers – to keep the industry moving forward in a sustainable way.

Last year's drought and wildfires are still very much on everyone's minds as challenges we could face again this year.



Last year's drought and wildfires are still very much on everyone's minds as challenges we could face again this year. All through winter and spring, ABP has been engaged with the Government of Alberta as it acted proactively to prepare for the year ahead. We're so grateful to see some widespread relief across Alberta with varying amounts of total precipitation. This has provided renewed hope for feed and pasture recovery, but it doesn't mean all moisture shortage concerns have been washed away. ABP will continue to monitor the drought situation as we come into summer. We applaud Agriculture and Irrigation Minister Sigurdson's desire to maintain the water source which ensures Alberta can retain a stable food supply and remain a leader in food production in Canada and the world. We also appreciated the fact additional municipalities impacted by the drought were added to last year's Canada Alberta Drought Livestock Assistance Initiative. We're certainly hoping that won't be needed in 2024. We're also optimistic the Agri-Stability pilot project that AFSC has underway will lead to positive impacts for the cow-calf sector, so the tool performs the way it's supposed to and reacts effectively in times of need.

May the rains come in abundance to bring relief and green grass this summer. 🍷

Meet our 2024 Photography Influencers



HOLLY NICOLL @holly.nicoll

I was called a 'tom boy' growing up on a cattle ranch west of Calgary. Mom couldn't get me in a dress, but she knew how much I loved my cowboy boots and baseball caps. Not much has changed. Horses, branding pens, wheat fields, beautiful skies and dusty backroads make me happy.

For the past 25 years, I have enjoyed an amazing career in agriculture working for crop protection and animal nutrition companies in sales and marketing roles. I started picking up the camera 10 years ago when I couldn't find the visuals to tell the story. Very quickly, I discovered my camera was providing the fuel to ignite the creativity my right brain was craving. Those images I took brought me right back to my childhood grassroots.

Today, my photography focuses on capturing genuine moments of hard-working farmers and ranchers along with their crops and livestock. I am eager to share the story of agriculture through my photos. But I also want my audience to feel the moment like they are there: relate to it, empathize with it and most of all, connect to it.



MORGAN STORCH @ranahanphoto

Hello everyone! My name is Morgan, I'm 23 and recently moved me and my businesses to southern Alberta. Photography has always been a passion of mine and capturing the western world. Bridging the gap between ranchers and farmers and the consumers. Showing everyone who hasn't grown up in this walk of life, all of the beauty it holds! My favourite time of year is branding season. A typical branding day for me means getting all those wicked working shots of some of the handiest cowboys, cowboygals and passing off my camera to be ground crew.

My love for the western world soon turned into working with other small businesses, boutiques and now weddings, couples and families! I've met amazing people in my photo journey and I feel very grateful, past, present and future clients! While I'm not running around with a camera, I own a cleaning company going four years strong! I'm excited to be part of the ABP team and keep sharing photos with all of you amazing people!

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PUBLIC NOTICE:

AFAC Closure

ALBERTA FARM ANIMAL CARE ASSOCIATION (AFAC) WAS STARTED IN 1993 BY ALBERTA LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS.

Throughout the past 30 years, AFAC has developed into the collective voice of the livestock industry on matters of livestock welfare and provided an opportunity for the industry to work together to advance and promote responsible livestock care.

AFAC's vision was to ensure farm animals in Alberta are respected, well-cared for and experience a high state of welfare through collaboration with and support of our members. Our mission was to promote best practices in care and handling, by working collaboratively towards continual improvement in responsible livestock care, and engaging the public to build trust through transparency.

While involved in many projects over the years, we have been especially proud of the Livestock Emergency Trailers developed together with Alberta counties, the ALERT line and many informational programs and resources, including most recently Urban Hens and the Alberta BEE program.

AFAC has been hit hard in recent months, including a lack of government funding. Though the Board heard from members and supporters that AFAC and the ALERT Line were important to Alberta's livestock welfare and organizations, numerous funding sources were investigated and exhausted. Therefore the Board made the prudent decision to dissolve AFAC immediately, closing March 1, 2024.


Work is underway to transition current activities and resources to other partners, including the ALERT Line.

This is by no means the conclusion we wished to see happen, but the Board feels this is the responsible action to follow. We are saddened to see our organization come to an end, but we are proud of the work AFAC and its staff has done over the years.

We would like to acknowledge the great work of AFAC to support farmed animal health and welfare in Alberta over the years, and to express our gratitude to staff, contractors, members and supporters for your engagement and participation.

Sincerely,

M. GISLER, CHAIR
ALBERTA FARM ANIMAL CARE



@holly.nicoll

MOVING THE NEEDLE ON GENETICS:

Creating Feed-Efficient Cattle

BY DIANNE FINSTAD

A drive for cattle with better feedlot performance has led one Alberta outfit into the purebred business. Highway 21 Group wants to emphasize efficiency verified genetics and has created a way to help producers get there. The Miller family and their team believe the move has the potential to be a real game changer for the Canadian beef business.



Photo courtesy of Lyle Miller, Highway 21 Feeders

In the mid-1970s, Ed and Linda Miller began feeding some cattle as a way for their Acme area farm to add value to crops with some quality challenges. Putting these crops through cattle to create beef made sense. Enough sense that the Highway 21 feedlot at Acme was created. The 20,000-head lot, offers both custom feeding with the Millers finishing out their own cattle.

As with any feedlot, economics dictate the importance of efficiency.

“Trying to buy the cattle right and sell the cattle right is one avenue of profitability, but outside of that, trying to get them to perform as efficiently as possible, which is the least amount of dollars for the most amount of growth, is what the feedyard business is all about,” says Lyle Miller, part of the second generation of the family now driving the business, with an enthusiastic next generation not far behind.

“It’s the dollars and sense, and a lot of times you might say the pennies are what make the difference.”

FOR THE MILLERS, IT’S ALL ABOUT THE MATH.

If the average feeder steer is going to gain 3.5 pounds a day, the one gaining that by consuming 4.5 pounds of dry matter for every pound of gain is more desirable than the one needing 5 pounds of dry matter to do the same thing. That ten per cent savings in feed for every pound of growth is where the money is, explains Miller, who now specializes in genetic development, research and bull sales for the Highway 21 Group’s diversified management team.

Those numbers aren’t rocket science, and the numbers are measured in feedlots all the time, however, it’s generally done on a ‘pen’ basis. Miller contends within any one pen, you could have individual animals with a wide range of feed-to-gain conversion rates.

SO, HOW DO YOU DETERMINE THE STAR PERFORMERS AND THE DUDS?

Always with an eye to the future and technology, in the mid-1990s Ed Miller allowed GrowSafe founder, Camiel Hulsma, to install new reader technology over a waterer at the lot. In those days, RFID was being used to measure frequency of animal trips to the water bowl and eating patterns, mostly to get an early warning on health issues. But it wasn’t long before the technology was applied to measuring individual feed intake, especially in the U.S.

When the Millers decided to start raising bulls and replacement females for their own cow herd, they wanted to produce the most feed-efficient progeny for the feedlot. So in 2016, they began testing animals in research at Cattleland Feedyards at Strathmore, AB. By the fall of 2021, they installed GrowSafe (now Vytelle) bunks at their Hanna ranch, headquarters of the seedstock operation, to collect their own data to build into the HerdTrax management system they use. They test all the bulls they use and sell, as well as the cows and replacement females for their herd.

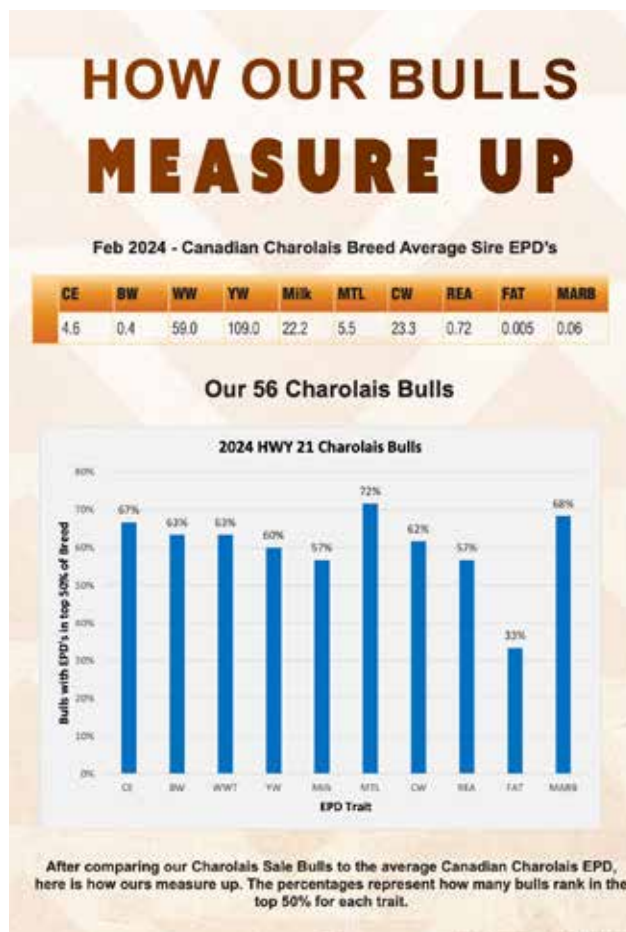
“We can’t measure individual feed efficiency in a big feedlot pen setting,” says Miller. “That’s why we needed to put in the bunks where we could measure each individual animal’s feed efficiency for the genetic side of things. From there we are trying to replicate the ones who are efficient, so we can create feeding cattle out of the ones that we can identify as being superior.”

With eight years of data for their Simmental-Angus purebred herd and three years for the Charolais herd, the Highway 21 Group has focused on stacking the traits of cows and bulls testing in the top half for feed efficiency, and culling those on the bottom end, to move the needle forward each year.

“We came into the purebred industry backwards,” notes Miller. “We’ve been in the feedyard business, always had cows, then got into the purebred business to try and

create bulls so we could buy feeder cattle. In a sense, the seedstock business is the byproduct of the goal, which is producing more feed efficient cattle. The biggest influence we can make is by trying to change the bulls being used to produce the calves.”

Not surprisingly, the bull sale catalogue has plenty of numbers, including the Residual Feed Intake (RFI), as well as the Dry Matter Conversion factor – both indicators of feed efficiency. And after years of flipping pages in purebred catalogues to narrow down selections, Miller has also implemented an innovative approach on the website, allowing users to sort the bulls being offered by their trait rankings with a simple click.



Example of how EPDs are used to compare against national averages of Charolais cattle in Canada.

The Highway 21 Group held its third bull sale this past March. Each year, the average price has climbed, this year coming in at just over \$9,000 per bull. Bulls have gone to buyers from B.C. to Quebec, as well as into Missouri and Idaho.

To fully close the loop, the next step would be accessing calves for their own feedlot from those feed-efficient bulls they’ve marketed, and in theory, creating a higher value for the calf producers.

“Feed efficiency is always worth focusing on,” points out Miller. “If I buy your calves and they didn’t feed very well, I want to pay you less next time. If you shared the feed efficiency scores of the bulls you’re using, as a buyer, I would have no problems paying a premium for that.”

The challenge is dilution – unless a cow-calf producer is ‘all-in’ with using feed-efficient bulls, it’s harder for feedlot buyers to realize gains across the board. Miller sees the whole range among their bull sale buyers, from the dabblers to those fully committed to the program. But they’re now focused on being able to feature feed-efficient genetics in special calf sales, perhaps as early as this fall, in partnership with Southern Alberta Livestock Exchange.

“That’s probably the bridge for the gap for when people were working on it in the past, and trying to prove feed efficiency,” says Miller. “They weren’t trying to help their customer convert buying a feed efficient bull into actually getting paid value for their efforts. I think that’s going to be the difference in trying to help people reap the benefit of buying efficient cattle.”

Producers can learn more about feed-efficient cattle at an upcoming Beef and Barley Day the Highway 21 Group is putting on July 9 in Hanna, including a tour of the research facility, and a session on their learnings about stacking feed efficiency traits.

“Heritability in feed efficiency is 45 per cent, which is one of the most heritable traits there is that animals can pass on to their offspring,” says Miller. “If you can improve feed efficiency by 12 per cent, which is highly supported in the science community, that’s worth about \$160 per head in a feedlot right now (at current feed costs).”

“To me, the science community proves it works. I’ve seen progeny we’ve tested in the years that we’ve been doing it that prove you can make improvement as well.” ▼

From the Government Desk

BY MARK LYSENG

When you think of Mexico, you probably envision Tequila, Mariachi music, beaches and hot weather.

Well, while there might not be beaches, the rest is quintessential Guadalajara, Jalisco - the birthplace of Tequila and Mariachi, and renowned for its hot climate. But what you might not have associated with this vibrant city is a cattle show - yet that's precisely what led me to the Mariachi homeland.

I had the opportunity to join FarmFair International on an Alberta trade delegation to Guadalajara to tour local ranches and attend the Congreso de las Estrellas 2024. Think of it as when the country comes to town, but with a Mexican twist. FarmFair International, Alberta's largest cattle show, was attending alongside representatives from the Alberta and Canadian governments to foster relationships with Mexican producers.

It's impressive how much of an impact Canadian seedstock producers have in Mexico, with 70 per cent of genetic imports originating from Canada. This influence is evident when you peruse a show program for Angus, Hereford, Simmental and Charolais; a significant portion of the class stems from recognizable pedigrees. Even at a glance, the cattle look Canadian - stout, moderate, functional and hormonally balanced.

Mexican producers expressed that they look to Canada for new genetics precisely because of the type we breed for. Canadian cattle have maintained their practicality in the market while enhancing the breeds.

You might wonder if Canadian cattle can withstand the heat in Mexico, but interestingly, they do. In fact, some producers claim that the hair on Canadian cattle is beneficial during the cold, dry season nights. At higher altitudes where temperatures can drop to single digits, Canadian cattle fare better compared to Brahman cattle - or so I've been told!

Despite this, *B. Indicus* breeds were well represented on ranches and at the show. Breeds like Brangus, Brahman, Braford, Simbra, Beef Master and Santa Gertrudis were all present. As you move further south in Mexico, these breeds become more popular due to the humidity and parasitic load.

So, how did Canadian genetics find their way so far south? Relationships play a crucial role in the cattle industry anywhere, but they are particularly significant in rural Mexican culture. Pivotal individuals and



Touring Hereford cattle through cactus at El Centro ranch just outside Guadalajara

organizations like FarmFair International are doing an exceptional job in building connections and capitalizing on relationship-building opportunities in the region.

I was lucky enough to also meet with some of the beef commissions to discuss the issues they're facing. The discussions in their organization are very similar to here and in some cases the same. Different from us, Mexico is facing United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) restrictions with Tuberculosis (TB), which has massively impacted their calf prices. In restricted states prices are about one-quarter of Canadian prices whereas unrestricted states like Chihuahua are about half.

There's an exciting opportunity to collaborate with Mexico as a trade partner, especially in the seedstock industry. It's truly fascinating to see Alberta genetics showcased on a global stage, a testament to the leadership of Alberta seedstock producers and the commercial producers who guide their decisions. 🇨🇦



The Albertan ranchers and representatives in front of the booth at Congreso

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BRINGING TOGETHER BEEF SECTOR, MEDIA AND CONTENT CREATORS TO SHARE FOOD LOSS AND WASTE SOLUTIONS –

Reduce, Reuse, Rumin ate Screenings

BY PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

THE SHORT DOCUMENTARY ‘REDUCE, REUSE, RUMINATE’ PUBLICLY PREMIERED ON YOUTUBE ON APRIL 24, 2024, ALSO KNOWN AS “STOP FOOD WASTE DAY.”

This film is the third in a series of short documentaries from Public and Stakeholder Engagement, a national check-off funded program that works to build public trust in the way beef cattle are raised. Each documentary showcases an environmental benefit of raising beef cattle on the Canadian landscape and include ‘Guardians of the Grasslands’ and ‘Too Close to Home’. ‘Reduce, Reuse, Rumin ate’ highlights the vital role cattle play in diverting food loss and waste from landfills and instead upcycling these items into beef.

In order to amplify the reach of the short documentary prior to its public launch, campus screenings were held at University of Saskatchewan, University of Manitoba and Dalhousie University. As well, exclusive events targeted towards media and content creators (influencers) were held this spring in Toronto, Vancouver and Calgary.

After the screening, attendees heard from an expert panel including feedlot producers, experts in circular food systems and a sustainability lead from Cavendish Farms, the official sponsor of the event series. Since transforming beer byproducts and French fries into beef are two of the incredible sustainability stories featured in the short documentary, beef, potatoes and beer were a natural fit for the menu at each event!

Eastbound Brewing Company was the location of the successful Toronto event, which took place the same week as the Beef Farmers of Ontario annual general meeting. Panelists included seventh-generation producer Allison de Vos from Brown Farms in Kawartha Lakes, John MacQuarrie, Director of Sustainability with Cavendish Farms and Tara Lee, Head Chef and owner of Eastbound Brewing Company. The panel was moderated by Perth County producer and

Since transforming beer byproducts and French fries into beef are two of the incredible sustainability stories featured in the short documentary, beef, potatoes and beer were a natural fit for the menu at each event!



The panel at Eastbound Brewing Company in Toronto, Ontario.



Director of Communications for the Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, Amanda Brodhagen. Media coverage included DINE magazine, who covered the story online and in their print magazine as well as the most recent issue of Foodism Toronto.

The second event was held at Howe Sound Brewing in East Vancouver. Here, university professor and cattle producer Ryan Scorgie moderated a panel that included feedlot owner Andrea van Iterson, Jamie White from Loop Resources, which sources and diverts food from grocery stores to local farms, and again, John McQuarrie from Cavendish. One of the content creators in attendance, Tyler Heppell, showcases potato production on his British Columbia farm across his social channels. You can watch his Instagram Reel from the event by visiting [@potatoty](#) and TikTok [@heppellspotato](#)

Calgary was the final leg of the tour of urban centres. The event was held at Last Best Brewing & Distilling, which diverts their spent grains to cattle. Here, the panel was moderated by Melissa Downing of Alberta Cattle Feeders Association. In addition to the representative from Cavendish, panelists included Ryan Kasko of Kasko Cattle Co. who is featured in the short documentary, as well as Victoria Ross of aGRO Systems, a waste upcycling and livestock feeding service provider.

Combined, the events drew nearly 250 attendees and reached hundreds of thousands of Canadians through content creators on social media, print and digital articles as well as a broadcast TV segment with Global News. 🍷

You can watch this documentary on the [@RaisingCdnBeef](#) Youtube.






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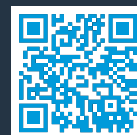
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Tapered Forage Inclusion During Finishing Supports Herd Health

BY ROBIN GALEY

THIS RESEARCH, LEAD BY GABRIEL RIBIERO, WAS CONDUCTED AT THE LFCE AT U OF S AND SUPPORTED BY ABP'S CHECK-OFF FUNDED RESEARCH INVESTMENTS.



A tapered forage finishing strategy is a practical approach beef producers can implement this season that may lower both liver abscesses and antibiotic use, without lowering production outcomes.

The beef industry has seen a significant rise in liver abscesses, which currently generate more than \$60 million in annual losses in Canada. In the U.S., annual losses are more than \$900 million. While in the late 1990s liver abscesses affected about one in five carcasses, that number has risen to one in three.

“Liver abscess is a really big problem, and there is a lot of interest in trying to reduce it,” says Gabriel Ribeiro, Assistant Professor and Saskatchewan Beef Industry Chair at the University of Saskatchewan. “Our research data suggests that including a higher level of forage early in the finishing phase and reducing it gradually may help.”

STUDY IDENTIFIES BETTER FORAGE FEEDING STRATEGY IN FINISHING DIET

The research Ribeiro refers to was conducted at the Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence at the University of Saskatchewan. The study divided beef cattle into four groups and monitored them for 168 days. Researchers compared two control groups to two test groups. The two control groups were both fed 7.5 per cent forage (barley silage) on a dry matter basis consistently, and one was given tylosin. The two test groups were both fed a tapered amount of forage: one tapering down from 15 to nine and then three per cent; and the other fed in the reverse pattern (starting at three, rising to nine and then 15 per cent). Neither test group was given tylosin.



Photo courtesy Gabriel Ribeiro, University of Saskatchewan.

The goal was to see if feeding the same amount of forage but at varying rates would change the prevalence of liver abscess. “We were looking to see if we could prevent liver abscesses with varying feeding strategies using the same amount of forage through the total finishing phase, but using it differently,” explains Ribeiro.

The research found that feeding a higher percentage of forage in the first part of the finishing phase and decreasing it gradually produced similar results in terms of performance and liver abscess to feeding 7.5 per cent forage plus tylosin.

The findings suggest producers may attain better herd health outcomes by slowly tapering the forage inclusion during finishing. The key is making diet changes gradually. “By gradually reducing the forage level, producers can be feeding much less by the end so that, overall, they don’t reduce feed efficiency, but still protect against liver abscess,” says Ribeiro.

This alternative offers the added benefit of reducing antibiotic use at a time when the industry is under increasing pressure to do so. While antibiotics have been used to help reduce liver abscess, there are rising concerns about antimicrobial resistance.

“Finding a way to maintain production efficiency while no longer needing antibiotics in feed is very important,” Ribeiro says. “This finishing strategy provides an alternative to the use of antimicrobials.”

UNDERSTANDING THE ABSCESS PROBLEM

Researchers are continuing to try to identify the causes of liver abscess, which are associated with the starchy, high-energy grain diet fed during finishing. In fact, increasing forage in the diet has been shown to reduce liver abscesses, but comes at a significant cost to production efficiency.

Theories as to the cause of liver abscesses include rumen acidosis causing lesions from which bacteria escape and travel to the liver through blood circulation, or a more aggressive diet. “We have cattle selected to be more productive so they eat more, and cattle that eat more do have more liver abscesses. But we’re still not really sure why we’ve seen an increase in liver abscesses over time,” says Ribeiro.

Antimicrobial resistance may also play a role. “The antibiotics were better at controlling liver abscess, and some resistance is showing up now so that might be part of the cause,” Ribeiro says.

In the study, animals adapted gradually to a low forage diet of three per cent were still very healthy, even while being fed highly fermentable grains. “We found that if you are careful with the adaptation process, and you do it slowly and gradually, they can get adapted to very low levels of forage and do quite well,” he says.

He adds, “The biggest learning is that we can prevent liver abscess and maintain feed efficiency by feeding more forage early in the finishing phase, and gradually decreasing them. If we do that, at least in our study, we found we were able to maintain liver abscess rates similar to those we get using antimicrobials, but without using them.”

The good news is this recommended finishing strategy is a practical option producers can implement right away without lowering production values, and without using antibiotics. “This is not something difficult to implement or to consider for some time in the future. This is something that’s applied and practical, and producers can begin doing it right now,” Ribeiro concludes. ▼

Try this at home

Ready to begin applying this strategy now? Researchers on the project are interested in seeing how this feeding strategy works when applied on a larger scale. “We want to work with producers to see if we can use these strategies and get the same results,” says Ribeiro. “I do believe we will see similar results, but that’s something we’re going to be looking to do in the future.”

Photo courtesy Gabriel Riberio, University of Saskatchewan.



Research Update

BY KARIN SCHMID

ABP'S PRODUCER-LED RESEARCH COMMITTEE CONTINUES ITS COMMITMENT TO INVESTING PRODUCER CHECK-OFF DOLLARS INTO RESEARCH IN 2023 TO IMPROVE THE COMPETITIVENESS, SUSTAINABILITY, AND PROFITABILITY OF BEEF PRODUCERS.

Proposals are received through the Agriculture Funding Consortium, undergo a scientific technical review, and then are evaluated by the producer representatives on the ABP research committee. Decisions are guided by the Five-Year Canadian Beef Research and Technology Transfer Strategy and consider scientific merit as well as benefits for the beef sector in the short, medium or long term.

In 2023, ABP committed \$108,000 to five projects with a total project value of more than \$1.3 million, for a leverage ratio of \$12.77:1, meaning that every dollar spent by ABP was matched by more than \$12 from other funding sources.

PROJECT TOPICS INCLUDE:

- **Evaluating a new biodegradable net wrap product** for safety if ingested by livestock (See page 22 to learn more)
- Rejuvenating saline soils with saline-tolerant forages
- Understanding the relationship between **feed intake, efficiency and environmental stress in first-calf heifers**
- Carcass characteristics of calves whose dams were supplemented with off-grade canola fat
- Improving the establishment and seedling vigour of **cicer milkvetch and Birdsfoot trefoil**

As mentioned in a previous issue of this publication, ABP also supported the hiring of Dr. Erick Santos at the University of Alberta with a \$250,000 investment over 5 years. Erick's focus is forage agronomy, management and integrated crop-livestock systems.

Finally, we would like to thank everyone who attended the 2024 Beef Research Showcase! We look forward to seeing how this event evolves in the future.

Stay tuned to ABP Daily, The Bovine Podcast or visit albertabeef.org for continuing updates on these projects and other research-related information. ▼



Photo by Austin Ruud, Nature's Net Wrap.



Compostable Net Wrap Developed in Central Alberta

BY ROBIN GALEY

GOOD-BYE PLASTIC! NATURE'S NET WRAP, DEVELOPED ON A RANCH EAST OF EDMONTON, WILL PROVIDE RANCHERS WITH A SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVE, ELIMINATING PLASTIC WASTE.

Compostable bale wrap is available for beef producers through CNH Industrial dealers starting May 2024.

Nature's Net Wrap is made from 100 per cent plant-based, renewable resources. Cofounded by Alberta ranchers Austin Ruud and his father Larry Ruud, the innovative product is the first of its kind on the market globally.

"In 2015 we were out cutting net wrap and twine off bales in our pasture, and we thought: there's got to be an alternative to all this plastic waste," explains Austin Ruud, CEO and President of Nature's Net Wrap. "We go through a few thousand bales a year, so you can imagine how much plastic is in our bale yard."



Photos by Austin Ruud

Nature's Net Wrap maintains structural integrity for at least 12 months in storage, and naturally breaks down in the soil.



Since then, Austin has focused on developing a compostable net wrap alternative. “Through our research, we determined that biopolymers would be the best solution to provide the most strength and longevity on the bales,” Ruud says.

They tested several biopolymer blends in the field and determined which could be manufactured, and then came up with a prototype, which started running through balers in 2022, and later went through rigorous testing to ensure it is non-toxic.

Ruud explains, “We’ve now done two years of field testing in different locations across North America, from southern Florida to northern Alberta. We’ve also done more product refinement during that process, such as making rolls longer and changing the size of the squares of the netting.”

Nature's Net Wrap maintains structural integrity for at least 12 months in storage, and naturally breaks down

in the soil. The bales made in the Ruuds' bale yard in 2022 are still intact, suggesting the longevity of the wrap depends on the environmental conditions where bales are stored. “We recommend that producers use the same number of wraps as they do with plastic wrap, and store bales for up to 12 months,” says Ruud.

“Plastic net wrap is a significant challenge to manage on operations due to the lack of end-of-life options and soil contamination,” explains Larry Ruud. He also notes operational challenges, such as entanglement on manure spreaders and time involved collecting and removing it, along with the possibility of animal ingestion.

The Ruud family, who ranch near Vermilion, have shown significant entrepreneurial spirit in the past. Larry and Austin's brother, Braeden, developed the Raised Right pet food brand and brought it to market prior to developing Nature's Net Wrap.

Austin Ruud says, “I think the range of available sustainable products is going to grow exponentially over the next five to 10 years, addressing the growing demand to support the earth by trying to leave it better than we found it.”

Nature's Net Wrap is manufactured in the U.S. and is now available for purchase through Case and New Holland dealerships throughout North America. It is available in 48, 51, 64, and 67-inch widths, standard widths for plastic net wrap. Rolls are 4,000 feet in length and priced at about \$1 per bale higher than plastic wrap. Learn more at naturesnetwrap.com ▼

The development of products such as Nature's Net Wrap is just one example of how ABP supports research and innovation through check-off funded research investments, alongside our colleagues at BCRC.

Importance of Maintaining Cow Weight After Calving

BY BARRY YAREMCIO, YAREMCIO AG CONSULTING

WITH A SMALLER COW HERD IN BOTH CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES, THE DEMAND FOR CALVES IN THE FALL OF 2024 WILL BE HIGH. REDUCING THE NUMBER OF OPEN COWS COULD HAVE FINANCIAL BENEFITS.



© @ranahanphoto

Breeding season starts approximately 81 days after calving. At this point in time, cows are just past peak lactation (56 days post calving) and are not at maximum feed intake (96 days post calving). Two-year-old first-calf heifers are getting their permanent teeth, which reduces their ability to consume feed. If the ration is not providing enough nutrients, especially energy and protein, lactating animals will lose weight and body condition.

In the mid-1960s, research completed at the University of Alberta by Dr. Berg and Dr. McElroy found that maintaining or having a slight improvement in cow weight (9 pounds) between calving and the breeding season improved pregnancy rates by 20 per cent compared to cows that lost 24 pounds. It would be difficult to visually detect less than 100 pounds of weight gain or loss.

If the cow has one cycle prior to bull turn-out, the first service conception rate increases by 20 per cent. This is directly related to cow condition prior to calving and post-calving nutrition. Thin cows at calving take longer to cycle. In a study by Bellows and Short, they found that only 46 per cent of thin cows were cycling 60 days post calving. The number increased to 66 per cent at the time the bulls were turned in. In contrast, 91 per cent of cows in good condition at calving were cycling 60 days post calving and 100 per cent by the time the bulls are turned in. With shorter breeding seasons, some of the thin cows might not be cycling by the time that the bulls are pulled.

It is difficult to get thin cows to gain weight after calving. It can be achieved if higher-quality forage and larger amounts of grain (8 to 10 pounds of barley or oats) is fed prior to bull turn out.

Breeding success depends on many factors. Nutrition needs to be part of a year-round feeding management program. It is especially important to get cows in good condition prior to calving and prevent weight loss post calving. ▼



UNDERSTAND MORE ABOUT THE IMPACTS OF BODY CONDITION SCORES

Developed in partnership with BCRC, we encourage producers to utilize tools such as the Body Condition Score (BCS) calculator. The slider tool shows how pregnancy rates are impacted by an animal's BCS. In addition, calculators are available to estimate feed costs based upon an animal's BCS. **Scan to check it out.**





ABP PRESENTS....

Running with the Ranchers Educational Program

DURING THE PANDEMIC, WE SAW A DRASTIC DECREASE IN REQUESTS FOR EDUCATION AND IN-CLASSROOM PROGRAMMING. WHILE OUR 'BEEF IN THE CLASSROOM' MATERIALS ARE STILL CURRENT, WE DECIDED WE NEEDED A PROGRAM THAT ENCOMPASSED MORE THAN JUST 'THE BEEF,' AND ENGAGED STUDENTS IN A MORE PRACTICAL WAY.

Over the past year, ABP has worked on restructuring the “Beef in the Classroom” programming, and while still offered as a stand alone program for the higher grade levels, we created a program that integrated the content, alongside the teachings from our industry partners. The goal was to better utilize the resources and time it would take from both producers and teachers to bring the story of beef “from farm to plate” to local classrooms. In partnership with Glenbow Ranch Park Foundation, the Running with the Ranchers Program was formed.

Running with the Ranchers (RWR) allows elementary students from kindergarten to grade five to explore raising beef animals

in Alberta. Following the Alberta school curriculum, RWR offers the opportunity for students to gain a better understanding of food production systems by exploring the different stages of beef production and its role in local ecosystems.

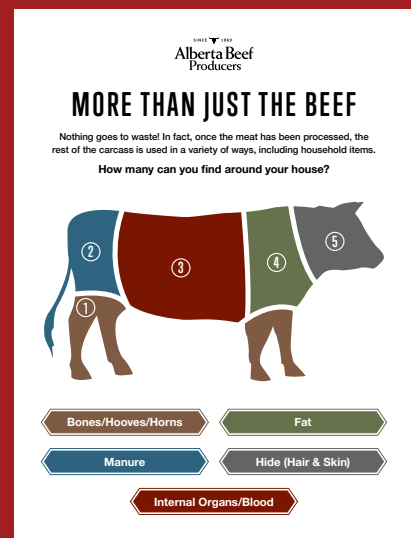
Classes will follow a selected cow from fall gathering to pasture entry the following spring through video content and virtual meetings with their rancher. The aim is to highlight key sectors within the beef industry from cow-calf, background, finishing, auctions and more. Through the months of May and June, students within the Calgary area will join Glenbow Ranch for a day to experience a real working ranch and personally connect the activities to lessons taught throughout the year.

The program is offered to classes across the province of Alberta. Although some classes may not be able to attend the year-end trip at the Glenbow Ranch due to geographical restrictions, they can join our partners at Public and Stakeholder Engagement by viewing the Guardians of the Grasslands documentary. Students may then try their own hand at ranching by playing the Guardians of the Grasslands game online as part of the program wrap-up. 🐾

If you are interested in participating in the program or would like additional information, feel free to reach out to Taylor Kalbfleisch (taylorlk@albertabeef.org)

ABP at Stampede Aggie Days

FROM APRIL 10–14, ABP ATTENDED THE ANNUAL STAMPEDE AGGIE DAYS ON THE CALGARY STAMPEDE GROUNDS. PARTNERING WITH MULTIPLE AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS, WE WERE ABLE TO INTRODUCE THE NEW RWR PROGRAM, AS WELL AS ENGAGE WITH APPROXIMATELY 9,000 STUDENTS BETWEEN THE GRADES OF FOUR AND SIX WHO WERE IN ATTENDANCE.



Our “More than the Beef” animal by-products display was a huge hit with the audience as most were astonished by the types of everyday household items that came from by-products of the beef cow. The displays were opened to the public over the weekend, reaching an audience of approximately 30,000 people, who were equally surprised by the display. It started a conversation in most households that might not have come forth without the encouragement of the take-home scavenger hunt that was offered for individuals to try. ▼

Upcoming 2024 4-H Alberta Achievement Days

CALGARY REGION

Balzac 4-H Beef Club & Crossfield Madden 4-H Beef Club
May 25, 2024, 4 p.m.
Olds Regional Exhibition, Olds, AB

Sundre 4-H Multi Club & Bergen Multi Club
May 27, 2024, 5 p.m.
Timber River Station, Sundre, AB

Swalwell 4-H Beef Club
June 4, 2024, 6:15 p.m.
Olds Cow Palace, Olds, AB

EAST CENTRAL REGION

Czar-Metiskow 4-H Club & Stainsleigh 4-H Club
May 30, 2024, 6 p.m.
4-H Pavillion, Shorncliffe Park, Czar, AB

Iron Creek 4-H Beef Club, Hastings Coulee 4-H Club, Battle River 4-H Club, Wavy Lake 4-H Club
June 2, 2024, 10 a.m.
DLMS online sale

Delia 4-H (Beef) Club & Rumsey Rowley 4-H Club
June 3, 2024, 7 p.m.
Rumsey Ag Society, Rumsey, AB

Consort 4-H Beef Club, Altario 4-H Club, Coronation 4-H Club, Brownfield 4-H Club
June 5, 2024, 2 p.m.
Compeer, AB

NORTHEAST REGION

Innisfree-Minburn 4-H Beef Club
May 29, 2024, 6 p.m.
Minburn Ag Grounds, Minburn, AB

Goodridge 4-H Beef Club, Boscombe 4-H Multi Club, St. Paul 4-H Club, Elk Point 4-H Club, St. Lina 4-H Club
June 6, 2024, 6:30 p.m.
St. Paul Ag Corral, St. Paul, AB
& online DLMS

Edgerton 4-H Multi Club, Chauvin 4-H Club, Greenshields 4-H Club
June 5, 2024, 5 p.m.
Chauvin Arena, Chauvin, AB

Lac La Biche 4-H Club
June 7, 2024, 6 p.m.
Lakeland Agricom, Lac La Biche, AB

Irma 4-H Beef Club
June 10, 2024, 7 p.m.
Irma Fairgrounds, Irma, AB

Vermilion 4-H Sheep Club
July 23, 2024, 6:30 pm
Vermilion Ag Society Grounds, Vermilion, AB

NORTHWEST REGION

Thorsby 4-H Multi Club
June 5, 2024, 6 p.m.
Thorsby Haymaker Center, Thorsby, AB

Drayton Valley 4-H Beef Interclub, Lobstick 4-H Club, Two Rivers 4-H Club, Lin-Berry-Buck 4-H Club
May 27, 2024, 7 p.m.
Drayton Valley Omniplex, Drayton Valley, AB

Bon Accord 4-H Beef Club
May 29, 2024, 6 p.m.
Sturgeon Agriplex, Cardiff, AB

Mayerthorpe 4-H Beef Club, Three Trails Home 4-H Club, Anselmo Willing Workers
June 3, 2024, 7 p.m.
Mayerthorpe Ag. Barn, Mayerthorpe, AB

Leduc 4-H Beef Club
June 3, 2024, 9 a.m.
Leduc Recreation Centre, Leduc, AB

Double Diamond 4-H Multi, Golden Sunset 4-H Beef, Pembina West 4-H Beef
June 3, 2024, 4 p.m.
North Central Livestock Exchange Inc., Clyde, AB

Newbrook 4-H Club
June 7, 2024, 5 p.m.
Victoria Trail Arena, Waskatenau, AB

Carrot Creek 4-H, Knight Riders 4-H Multi, Peers Multi 4-H Club
June 7, 2024, 7 p.m.
Edson District & Leisure Centre, Edson, AB

PEACE REGION

DCC RidgeValley 4-H Multi Club

June 3, 2024, 7 p.m.

Valleyview Ag Plex, Valleyview, AB

Wildrose 4-H Multi Club

June 3, 2024, 7 p.m.

Hollingworth Arena, Hollingworth, AB

East West Woking 4-H Club

June 8, 2024, 7 p.m.

MacLean Arena, Spirit River, AB

Dixonville 4-H Multi Club

June 8, 2024, 7 p.m.

Dixonville, AB

Lakeview 4-H Multi Club & Grand Prairie 4-H Multi Club

June 10, 2024, 2 p.m.

Lyons's Production Services Centre,
Teepee Creek, AB

Fairview 4-H Multi Club

August 24, 2024, 1 p.m.

Fairview Hawker Pavilion,
Fairview, AB

SOUTH REGION

Timber Trails 4-H Beef Club

May 27, 2024, 1 p.m.

Private Treaty Sales

Foothills 4-H Beef Club

May 27, 2024, 7 p.m.

Horseshoe Pavilion,
Pincher Creek, AB

Arrowwood 4-H Beef Club

May 27, 2024, 6 p.m.

Vulcan Rodeo Grounds, Vulcan, AB

Del Bonita 4-H Club

June 1, 2024, 5 p.m.

DLMS online sale

Readymade 4H Multi Club

June 1, 2024, 12 p.m.

Magrath Ag Society,
Magrath, AB

Wild n Woolly Sheep Club

June 1, 2024, 5 p.m.

Taber Agriplex, Taber, AB

Cardston Chinook Beef Club

June 4, 2024, 9 a.m.

Cardston AgriDome,
Cardston, AB

Clareshom 4-H Beef Club, Stavely 4-H Beef, Fort Macleod 4-H Beef

Jun 4, 2024, 6 p.m.

Claresholm AgriPlex,
Claresholm AB

Shortgrass 4-H Beef Club

June 7, 2024, 2 p.m.

North of the Foremost Rodeo
Grounds, Foremost, AB

Retlaw Prairie 4-H, Bon Ayr 4-H Beef, Hays 4-H, New Ewe 4-H, Grassy Lake 4-H, Milk River 4-H Club

June 7, 2024, 4 p.m.

Taber Agriplex, Taber, AB
& DLMS online

Seven Persons Beef Club, Irvine 4-H Beef, Borderline 4-H Multi, Medicine Hat 4-H Beef

June 8, 2 p.m.

Medicine Hat Exhibition and
Stampede, Medicine Hat, AB

Turin 4-H Club

June 8, 2024, 1:30 p.m.

Picture Butte Arena
(North County Recreation Complex),
Picture Butte, AB

Lethbridge Coaldale 4-H Beef Club

June 8, 2024, 1 p.m.

Perlich Brothers Auction,
Lethbridge, AB

North 40 Mile 4-H Club

June 15, 2024, 2:30 p.m.

Burdett Arena, Burdett, AB

John Ware 4-H Club, Dusty Plains 4-H Club, Jenner 4-H Club

June 15, 2024, 7 p.m.

Bow Slope Shipping Association,
Brooks, AB

West Central Region

Central Lacombe 4-H Beef, East Lacombe 4-H Beef, Nebraska 4-H Club

May 27, 2024, 6 p.m.

Lacombe Agricultural Pavillion,
Lacombe AB

KneeHill Valley 4-H Beef Club

May 27, 2024, 6 p.m.

Innisfail, AB & online

Bow Inn Beef 4H Club, Red Deer East 4-H Club, Red Deer West 4-H Club, Delburne 4-H Club

June 2, 2024, 5 p.m.

The Westerner, Red Deer, AB

Gilby 4-H Beef Club, Hazel Dell 4-H Club, Rangeland 4-H 4-H Club

June 5, 2024, 6 p.m.

Eckville Arena, Eckville, AB
Broadcasted on LiveAuction

Most Tags Cannot Meet Our Standards.

The rest...

The Best.

That's why Canada has a Worldclass
Traceability System we can all be Proud of.

To learn more about how the CCIA is supporting you for better tag retention
visit retentionmatters.ca or scan the QR code.



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Know Your Applicator!

AN RFID TAG APPLICATOR, SOMETIMES REFERRED TO AS A “TAGGER” OR AS “PLIERS,” IS THE ONE VITAL TOOL EVERY PRODUCER NEEDS TO MAKE TAGGING CATTLE POSSIBLE FOR OUR NATIONAL TRACEABILITY PROGRAM.

There are a lot of different applicators to choose from, and while they're not all the same, they're definitely not interchangeable with the different brands of tags! So how well do you know your applicator?

The Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) currently offers six different brands of approved RFID tags for animal traceability and identification. Each brand of tag has its own dedicated applicator that must only be used with its respective tag.

For a brand like Shearwell, applicators are straight forward – Shearwell is the only brand, at present, that offers producers a steel “loop” tag, and so both the applicator and tag are both quite distinct, and it is impossible to try and apply one of the other five CCIA tags with their applicator.

However, things can easily get confusing when looking at the other brands on offer, as they are all offering a “button” style of tag. While each of these tags has their own distinctive visual differences, due to their size and colour, it's understandable that some producers can mix these tags up, and believe that, for example, a ComfortEars applicator is good to apply an Allflex tag!

Fortunately, the CCIA, as part of its “Retention Matters” campaign, has a detailed online guide for which applicator goes with which tag. Each brand of tag is given its own individual page with clear images of both the tag and their suitable applicator(s).

Don't be fooled if you see the word “universal” on an applicator's packaging! There are no truly universal applicators for CCIA tags. All the currently approved button tag applicators each uses a pin to help locate the stud portion of the tag with the button portion – each brand uses both a different type of pin in their applicator and a different method of locating the pin through the stud/button combination to pair them together in the ear of the animal. Applicators with “universal” in their description are so named by the manufacturer because they can be used to apply both that manufacturers' RFID tag and their brand of visual tag. However, in these cases, the applicator must be fitted with a small plastic adaptor, or “shoe,” to allow it to apply your visual tag – and that adaptor must be removed to allow the correct application of the RFID tag!

CCIA's “Retention Matters” website has many detailed images of all approved applicators and any relevant adaptors they are supplied with to help you identify the right solution for your situation. We also have a series of short videos that highlight the various approved applicators and their features. If you're having retention issues and think your applicator may be part of the problem, check out retentionmatters.ca/tags-applicators or contact us on toll-free 1-877-909-2333 – and our staff will be happy to help you. 🐾





“STARTING FRESH, BUT NOT OVER”:

The Bovine is Back

BY KARA OOSTERHUIS

Our industry is more than just cattle, pastures and feedlots – it’s a rich tapestry of stories, innovations and flavours. The Bovine aims to capture all of the above, and more.

It’s your backstage pass to the Alberta beef world. The podcast features interviews with a diverse range of guests that each contribute to their unique perspectives, including, but not limited to:

- Researchers, who dive into the latest scientific discoveries shaping the industry.
- Producers, who share firsthand accounts of life both on and off their operations.

- ABP delegates and staff, who offer insights into the organization’s inner workings.
- Chefs and nutritionists, who explore the culinary and healthful offerings of Alberta beef.

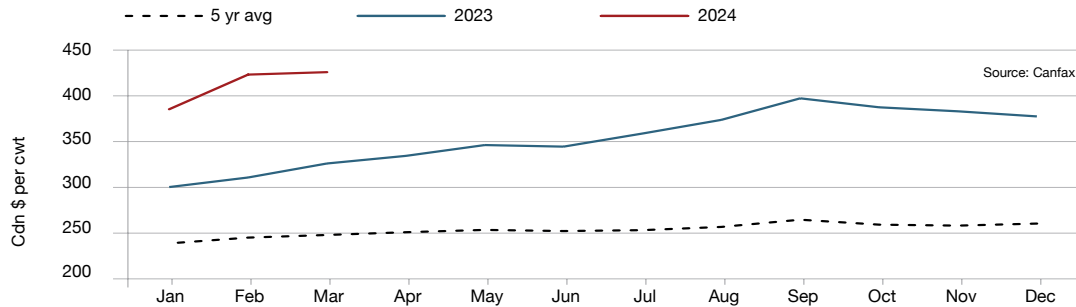
You can catch The Bovine wherever you get your podcasts, such as Apple Podcasts, Spotify and Google Podcasts. If you are new to the podcast world, you can also stream simply by visiting abpdaily.com/podcast

So, whether you’re a seasoned rancher, a foodie or just curious about the industry, The Bovine promises an engaging and informing journey.

We’re working on cultivating a place that answers your questions (and no, there really is no such thing as a dumb question), and to show how the agriculture industry can work together to achieve our goals.

Tune in and savour the flavour of Alberta’s beef industry! 🍖

Alberta 5-600 lb Feeder Steer Price



CANFAX CATTLE MARKET UPDATE

Grass Feeder Prices Strong, Breeding Heifer Replacements Smaller

The 2024 summer grazing season has arrived, and with it a renewed optimism. Feeder prices are historically high, with weather playing a big role. Snow accumulation this past winter raised hopes of increasing sub-soil moisture levels for 2024. However, there have been multiple reports of snow drought conditions, and dugouts that are only partially filled.


The Canadian cattle herd as of January 1, 2024, is down 2.1 per cent from last year to 11.1 million head. The beef cow herd is down 2.4 per cent to 3.46 million head, with beef breeding heifers down 5.6 per cent to 520,000 head. Spotty moisture conditions across a wide swath of the Prairies last summer and fall discouraged herd expansion. As of March 31, the Canadian Drought Monitor shows most of the Prairies to be experiencing moderate to severe drought conditions, with a small pocket of Southeastern Alberta and Western Saskatchewan in extreme drought. Heifer retention in the fall of 2024 will be weather dependant, as supply and demand fundamentals remain largely supportive.

Feeder steers destined for summer grass have seen considerable support so far this spring. Alberta 550 lb feeder steers averaged \$412/cwt in the first quarter of 2024, 32 per cent higher than last year and 69 per cent higher than the five-year average for the first quarter. Since mid-March, Alberta 550 lb steers have moved mostly sideways, ranging \$420-431/cwt.

Alberta 650 lb steers have followed mostly in lockstep with their lighter-weight counterparts, climbing 17 per cent over the first nine weeks of 2024, then trending sideways through March and into April, straddling \$400/cwt.

Alberta 850 lb feeders averaged \$311/cwt in the first quarter, 26 per cent higher than last year and 60 per cent higher than the five-year average for the first quarter. Averaging \$321/cwt in March, Alberta 850 lb feeders were only 2 per cent shy of their all-time highs set in September 2023. The recent decline in the feeder cattle futures threw some cold water on what was shaping up to be a strong spring rally. Seasonality suggests 850 lb feeder prices will remain supported moving through the second and third quarters.

The non-fed market shows no signs of slowing down. Alberta D2 cows averaged \$144/cwt in the first quarter of 2024, 30 per cent higher than last year and 61 per cent higher than the five-year average for the first quarter. Cow slaughter is down 5 per cent YTD in the West, down 11 per cent in the East and down 13 per cent in the U.S. Lean 85 per cent cow trim, the main ingredient in ground beef and burgers averaged US\$308/cwt in March and pushed above \$325/cwt in the first half of April. Increased traffic to fast food restaurants this summer is anticipated to be supportive to lean trim prices.

For ongoing market analysis and to become a Canfax member, visit canfax.ca 

Feedlot Activities on the Olds College Smart Farm

Livestock producers, innovators, and small and medium-sized companies collaborate with the Technology Access Centre for Livestock Production (TACLP) at Olds College of Agriculture & Technology to develop, validate, and showcase new practices and technologies – moving them towards industry acceptance and commercialization. TACLP resources include a 1,000-head capacity feedlot, commercial cow/calf herd, purebred Red Angus herd, sheep flock, broadacre native and tame pasture, and many specialized tools

and leading-edge technologies to help move the Canadian beef industry forward. The TACLP also conducts off-campus projects and fee-for-service work with producers.

Leveraging funding support from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), the TACLP provides access to every stage of the livestock production cycle – from seedstock to feedlot.

Every year, the TACLP evaluates individual animal feed efficiency of approximately 500 non-college

animals during the feeding trial season via Vytelle SENSE systems. From October to June, the TACLP tests animals from producers, the College herd or other post-secondary research partners.

The TACLP is also integrated into Olds College academics supporting knowledge transfer, in-field training and volunteer experiences for students. Visit oldscollege.ca/TACLP to learn more about research activities on the Smart Farm and how you can work with the TACLP.



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2024!**



AgSmart
EDUCATIONAL EXPO

Why Protein is Important

BY BARRY YAREMCIO, YAREMCIO AG CONSULTING

PROTEIN IS CONTAINED IN EVERY CELL IN THE BODY. IT IS ESSENTIAL TO BUILD AND MAINTAIN MUSCLE, SOFT TISSUES AND BLOOD. IT IS A PART OF ANTIBODIES NEEDED FOR IMMUNE FUNCTION. PLUS, IT IS PART OF BIOLOGICAL FUNCTIONS NEEDED TO KEEP THE BODY FUNCTIONING PROPERLY.

A cow that is not receiving adequate protein during pregnancy (7 per cent in mid-pregnancy and 9 per cent in late pregnancy on a dry basis) will decrease calf development in utero. Organs are smaller than normal. This reduces overall calf growth potential and mature size. The quantity and quality of colostrum is reduced if protein needs are not met, which results in the calf being more prone to diseases.

After calving, the protein requirement increases to 11 per cent on a dry basis. Lower milk quality and possibly volume, and repair of the reproductive system to be ready for the breeding season, are impacted by the deficiency.

Small calves grow rapidly. Protein is essential to develop bones and muscles so they can frame out and grow properly. Milk is a good source of protein and requirements of the suckling calf are usually met.

Once weaned, calves continue to require a high protein ration. A 450-pound calf requires approximately 14 to 15 per cent protein (on a dry basis). High-quality hay or silage along with grain is a good base for the ration.

Inadequate protein in cattle rations reduces animal performance and creates various growth and health problems. Supplementing protein when required is not an expense; it is an investment in future returns, be it pregnancy rates or pounds of calf for sale in the fall. ▼

Feed testing is an important tool available to producers to tackle feed management and prevent production limiting issues.



Another free tool available through BCRC, developed alongside ABP and partners such as Yaremcio Ag Consulting, is available through this link.



We are extremely grateful to our sponsors for your generous support and contributions to the success of the Alberta Beef Industry Conference! Your unwavering commitment has played a pivotal role in bringing this event to life, allowing us to create a platform for sharing knowledge, fostering innovation, and building meaningful connections. We extend our heartfelt thanks for your partnership with us. Your support has been instrumental in achieving our goals, and we look forward to the opportunity of continuing this collaboration in the future.

Thank You

Thank you for being an essential part of the conference.

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BEEFTalks

Alberta Beef Industry Conference **2024**

Home for Dinner at Ronald McDonald House

During the month of May, volunteers from ABP, Cattle Feeders and Canada Beef, attended the “Home for Dinner” events at their local Ronald McDonald Houses across the province. This year we made it a goal to attend all four locations for Alberta: Edmonton, Calgary, Red Deer and Medicine Hat.

Depending on the location, the volunteers prepared and served beef inspired dishes such as deluxe burgers and juicy pot roasts with vegetables to those residing in the RMHC locations. After a tour of the locations, and a quick stop in the “magic rooms” to offer a toy donation, everyone left with smiles on their faces, and full of gratitude.

To listen to the stories from the residents and how the house has allowed them to be near their loved ones in times of need was an unforgettable experience. One of our volunteers had to use the house themselves a few years prior for their own child and were more than happy to give back to the organization that had provided them a place to stay.

At the Calgary event on May 10, we were thrilled to join forces with Canada Beef and the Canadian Beef Centre of Excellence (CBCE). President of Canada Beef, Eric Bienvenue, and his family, alongside chef Mathieu Pare, from CBCE, joined ABP General Manager, Brad Dubeau, delegates, producers and staff in curating and serving a lovely feast at the Calgary house.

It’s an event that ABP and our producers are more than excited to attend each year. It is an event that I hope everyone has the privilege to experience. 🍔

ON THE GO WITH ALBERTA BEEF PRODUCERS

June 8 – Rolly View Pitmaster’s Dinner

June 15 – Save On Foods – Meet the Rancher

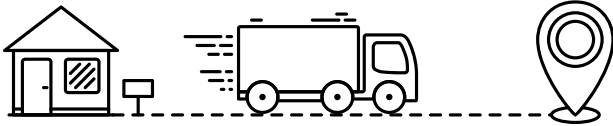
July 5-14 – Calgary Stampede – Cattle Trail

July 10-12 – Calgary Stampede – Kitchen Theatre



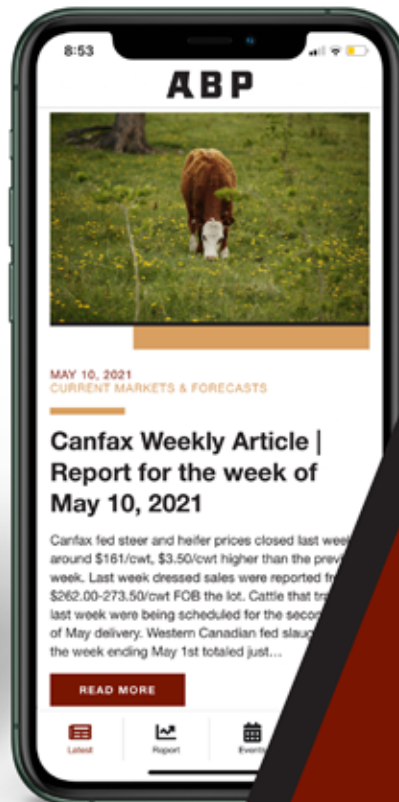
ABP staff, Mark Lyseng, delegates Bernie Doerksen, Miles Wowk and past-chair Melanie Wowk prepared delicious deluxe burgers at the RMHC House in Edmonton.

We've Moved!



OFFICIALLY, AS OF MAY 1, 2024, ABP HAS RELOCATED DOWN THE ROAD TO OUR NEW LOCATION AT 120, 7777 – 10 STREET, NE, CALGARY.

The decision to downsize our office space comes with significant cost savings to the organization over the next 11 years, which will allow us to continue to utilize producer check-off dollars in the most impactful and responsible way. 🐮



**KEEP
UP TO DATE
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ABP
BEEF INDUSTRY
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on your desktop or
mobile device



2024 AGM Recap

This year's Annual General Meeting was held in conjunction with the Alberta Beef Industry Conference in Calgary, AB.

Attendees heard updates from ABP staff; elected the 2024 Board of Directors, CCA and Beef Cattle Research (BCRC) representatives; saw discussion on resolutions; and had the privilege of hearing from the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, RJ Sigurdson. ▼

ABP 2024 FINANCIAL RESOLUTIONS

F-1

Be it resolved the 2022-2023 ABP audited financial statements and auditor's report be accepted.

Carried

F-2

Be it resolved the firm of Kingston Ross Pasnak chartered accountants be appointed as auditors for 2023-2024 year-end audit.

Carried

ABP 2024 AGM RESOLUTIONS

AGM-1 SW ZONE

Be it resolved ABP Lobby the Provincial Government to increase the age limit to 45 years of age or to new ag purchasers regardless of age and lengthen the loan term incentive to 10 years while increasing the maximum borrowing limits to 2 million per individual.

Carried

AGM-2 NE ZONE

Be it resolved That ABP supports and promotes initiatives that enhance young ranchers and farmers ability to purchase and/or finance cattle purchases with limited equity to back cattle loans.

Carried

AGM-3 CENTRAL ZONE

Be it resolved that Auction Markets make it an option to pay via direct deposit or by traditional methods. Paper cheques have to still be an option available the day of the sale.

Defeated

AGM-4 SE ZONE

Be it resolved that ABP lobby the Alberta Government to amend the Veterinarian Professional Act – Statutes of Alberta, under Scope of Practice – Section 2(2) to include in the exception “Any person engaged in pregnancy testing of cattle.”

Carried

AGM-5 SW ZONE

Be it resolved that ABP work with the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association/ Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, CCA, the Alberta Government and Federal Government to investigate the addition of section (d) to 21.1 bi-law to “Streamline” Large Animal Veterinarians who would like to bypass small animal training.

Defeated

AGM-6 NE ZONE

Be it resolved that ABP lobby for a Provincial / National Health Care Program to help with the costs. A health care Insurance inclusiveness on mind, similar to small animal insurance programs.

Defeated

AGM-7 CENTRAL ZONE

Be it resolved that ABP lobby AFSC to reinstate spring moisture in its MDI program.

Defeated

AGM-8 CENTRAL ZONE

Be it resolved that ABP lobby the Alberta Government to expand grazing opportunities in the north.

Carried

AGM-9 NW ZONE

Be it resolved that ABP along with Alberta Grazing Leaseholders Association (AGLA) and Northern Alberta Grazing Association (NAGA) advocate to the Alberta Government that grazing lands are fully utilized for grazing purposes.

Carried

AGM-10 NW ZONE

Be it resolved that ABP work with Alberta Grazing Leaseholders Association (AGLA) and Northern Alberta Grazing Association (NAGA) (Grazing Groups) to advocate to the Alberta Government to review qualification of ownership of grazing dispositions.

Carried

AGM-11 CENTRAL ZONE

Be it resolved that all grazing lands be treated in a fair and equitable basis when ABP lobbies for environmental benefit recognition.

Defeated

AGM-12 NE ZONE

Be it resolved that ABP work with and encourage the Provincial Government to consider the value of grazing as a risk mitigation tool to help control wildfires, and within this context look at expanding public lands available for grazing.

Carried

AGM-13 NE ZONE

Be it resolved that ABP ensure beef producers are adequately compensated, incentivised and/or supported for the sustainable beef product they are creating.

Carried

AGM-14 SW ZONE

Be it resolved that ABP petition the Alberta Government to extend ABP by-law 11.8 to allow landowners alternative seasons or methodology to cull wildlife on pasture for winter grazing, swath grazing, and haystack yards outside of the already posted hunting seasons and during non daylight hours.

Carried

AGM-15 SW ZONE

Be it resolved that ABP examines the Cost of Production formula used by the Dairy sector to ensure revenue from the sale of beef on dairy is included in the cost of production calculations.

Defeated

AGM-16 SW ZONE

Be it resolved that ABP as a member of CCA, align with other member organizations to have CCA better inform and engage producers on the current grassland initiative and on the defined parameters of the initiative.

Carried

AGM-17 SW ZONE

Be it resolved that ABP as a member of CCA, align with other member organizations and industry stakeholders to have CCA park the Grassland initiative until such time that a clear and concise strategy can be communicated to the member organizations.

Carried

AGM-18 NE ZONE

Be it resolved that ABP advocate for an update to the Canadian Cattle Association mission statement to properly represent the structure of their membership organization.

Defeated

AGM-19 CENTRAL ZONE / SW ZONE

Be it resolved that ABP move to regional multi-zone producer meetings that allow any producers regardless of their home zone, from across the province the freedom to attend any regional meeting and vote on any presented resolutions.

Carried

AGM-20 SW ZONE

Be it resolved that ABP take the necessary steps to return to a fully funded Industry resulting in mandatory check off.

Carried

ABP 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS RESOLUTIONS

B-1 CENTRAL ZONE

Be it resolved that Canada advocate for the removal of all present restrictions and reporting requirements currently in effect due to BSE.

Carried

B-2 CENTRAL ZONE

Be it resolved that ABP explores ways to work with commercial and seed stock producers, genetic companies, researchers and applied research associations and funders like RDAR to gather mass data and identify superior genetics in a non-biased way. I believe a collaborative approach would benefit all stakeholders and ABP could be in a position to facilitate this.

Defeated

B-3 CENTRAL ZONE

Be it resolved that ABP lobby the Provincial Government and Federal Government to ban lab grown meats or feed from being produced in Canada or imported.

Defeated

B-4 CENTRAL ZONE

Be it resolved that ABP advocate to the Alberta Government and AFSC to explore options to lengthen the purchase period.

Carried

B-5 NE ZONE

Be it resolved that ABP lobby on behalf of producers to secure our right to access surface and deep-water wells and dug outs.

Carried

B-6 NE ZONE

Be it resolved that ABP develop a provincial and national climate program that promotes existing grassland habitat carbon reimbursement program.

Defeated

B-7 NE ZONE

Be it resolved that ABP develop a committee consisting of all cloven-hoofed animals including wildlife species to develop an emergency response plan with the CFIA and to have a definite date of completion

Carried

B-8 NE ZONE

That ABP lobby the government to change the wildlife damage program to include extended grazing systems and eliminate the end date of Oct 31st

Carried

B-9 SW ZONE

Be it resolved that ABP starts to inform the public on the benefits of C0₂ as a positive showcasing the benefits of the Carbon Cycle and how beef production plays a role in our quality of life.

Defeated

Thank you to everyone who made our AGM possible, with a special shout-out to ABP delegates, past and present, for their ongoing commitment to the industry.

ABP Zones and Delegates

ABP ZONE REGIONAL LISTINGS

SOUTHEAST ZONE

comprises those lands that are located within the following areas:

- (a) Cypress County;
- (b) County of Forty Mile No. 8;
- (c) County of Warner No. 5;
- (d) Municipal District of Taber;
- (e) County of Newell;
- (f) Vulcan County;
- (g) Wheatland County;
- (h) Kneehill County;
- (i) Starland County;
- (j) Town of Drumheller;
- (k) County of Stettler No. 6;
- (l) County of Paintearth No. 18;
- (m) Special Area No. 2;
- (n) Special Area No. 3;
- (o) Special Area No. 4;
- (p) Municipal District of Acadia No. 34;
- (q) any city, town, or village that is encompassed by the land described in clauses (a) to (p).

SOUTHWEST ZONE

comprises those lands that are located within the following areas:

- (a) Cardston County;
- (b) Improvement District No. 4 (Waterton);
- (c) Municipal District of Pincher Creek No. 9;
- (d) Municipality of Crowsnest Pass;
- (e) Municipal District of Willow Creek No. 26;
- (f) Lethbridge County;
- (g) Municipal District of Ranchland No. 66;
- (h) Foothills County;
- (i) City of Calgary;
- (j) Kananaskis Improvement District;
- (k) Rocky View County;
- (l) Municipal District of Bighorn No. 8;
- (m) Improvement District No. 9 (Banff);
- (n) Mountain View County;
- (o) Clearwater County;
- (p) Red Deer County;
- (q) any city, town, or village that is encompassed by the land described in clauses (a) to (p).

CENTRAL ZONE

comprises those lands that are located within the following areas:

- (a) Lacombe County;
- (b) Ponoka County;
- (c) County of Wetaskiwin No. 10;
- (d) Leduc County;
- (e) Strathcona County;
- (f) Improvement District No. 13 (Elk Island);
- (g) City of Edmonton;
- (h) Sturgeon County;
- (i) Thorhild County;
- (j) Athabasca County;
- (k) Municipal District of Opportunity No. 17;
- (l) Municipal District of Lesser Slave River No. 124;
- (m) Woodlands County;
- (n) Westlock County;
- (o) County of Barrhead No. 11;
- (p) Lac Ste. Anne County;
- (q) Parkland County;
- (r) Brazeau County;
- (s) Yellowhead County;
- (t) Improvement District No. 12 (Jasper National Park);
- (u) Municipality of Jasper;
- (v) Improvement District No. 25 (Willmore Wilderness);
- (w) any city, town, or village that is encompassed by the land described in clauses (a) to (v).

NORTHWEST ZONE

comprises those lands that are located within the following areas:

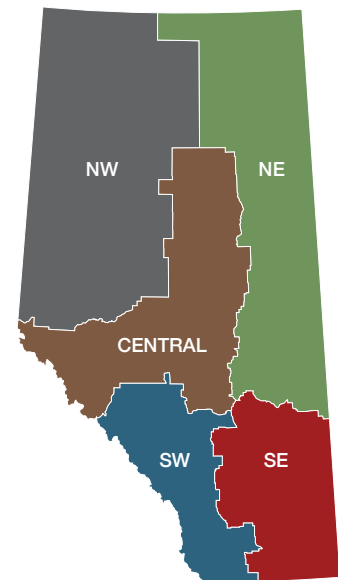
- (a) County of Grande Prairie No. 1;
- (b) Municipal District of Greenview No. 16;
- (c) Big Lakes County;
- (d) Municipal District of Smoky River No. 130;
- (e) Birch Hills County;
- (f) Municipal District of Spirit River No. 133;
- (g) Saddle Hills County;
- (h) Municipal District of Fairview No. 136;
- (i) Municipal District of Peace No. 135;
- (j) Northern Sunrise County;
- (k) County of Northern Lights;
- (l) Clear Hills County;
- (m) Mackenzie County;
- (n) any city, town, or village that is encompassed by the land described in clauses (a) to (m).

NORTHEAST ZONE

comprises those lands that are located within the following areas:

- (a) Camrose County;
- (b) Flagstaff County;
- (c) Municipal District of Provost No. 52;
- (d) Municipal District of Wainwright No. 61;
- (e) Beaver County;
- (f) Lamont County;
- (g) County of Minburn No. 27;
- (h) County of Vermilion River;
- (i) County of Two Hills No. 21;
- (j) Smoky Lake County;
- (k) County of St. Paul No. 19;
- (l) Municipal District of Bonnyville No. 87;
- (m) Lac La Biche County;
- (n) Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo;
- (o) Improvement District No. 24 (Wood Buffalo);
- (p) Improvement District No. 349;
- (q) any city, town, or village that is encompassed by the land described in clauses (a) to (p).

ABP ZONE MAP



ABP WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME OUR NEW DELEGATES AND DIRECTORS, AND THANK OUTGOING REPRESENTATIVES FOR YOUR TIME AND COMMITMENT TO THE ALBERTA BEEF INDUSTRY.

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48th Annual AJAA

August 11-13th

Held in Bashaw, AB

Entry Deadline July 31st



Sunday, August 11

11:00 am - 3:00pm Arrival

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm Registration

4:00 pm Orientation Meeting

5:30 pm Judging

5:30 pm Judging at Miller Wilson Angus with supper

Monday, August 12

7:30 am Breakfast

9:00 am Peewee Showmanship

To follow Showmanship & Show Team Judging

12 noon - 1:00 pm AJAA Lunch

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm Team Grooming

6:00 pm Supper - AGM - Mixer

Tuesday, August 13

7:30 am Breakfast

10:00 am 48th Annual Alberta Junior Angus Show

12:00 pm Lunch

AJAA awards Presentation following the conformation

Scholarship Deadline is July 15th

**Find Us On
Facebook!**



**LIVESTOCK
IDENTIFICATION
SERVICES LTD.**

Livestock Identification Services Ltd. (LIS) is a not-for-profit company that started operations in 1998. They are appointed by the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation as the delegated authority for the *Livestock Identification and Commerce Act* and *The Stray Animals Act* and their associated Regulations.

A 'Livestock Inspector' is responsible for the regulatory requirement of inspection and stray animal management of livestock in the Province of Alberta. In carrying out an inspection the Inspector will examine the brands and other identifiers on the livestock and any bills of sale or any other information or documentation that is reasonably available to determine the right to possession by the person presenting the livestock for inspection. The Inspector will be required to accurately count the livestock, and where there is a question regarding the right to possession, the Inspector will be required to withhold the proceeds or prohibit the sale of the livestock in question. Inspectors will assist the RCMP Livestock Investigators with suspected cases of livestock theft, illegal branding and/or unlawful confinement of livestock.

A minimum high school diploma is required, and an industry related post high school designation is preferred. Experience within feedlots and auction markets is considered an asset and livestock handling skills are essential.

Inspectors must have a working knowledge of computers and must be bondable (no criminal record). The position requires frequent contact with livestock producers of Alberta.

LIS offers:

- Competitive Wages
- Disability Insurance
- Health Benefits
- Health Spending Account
- Dental Benefits
- RRSP Program
- Scholarships

Contact us today for an exciting career as a Livestock Inspector at <https://lis-ab.com/contact/employment/>

STAY PREPARED:

Fire and Drought Resources for Producers

THE START OF 2024 HAS CAUSED MIXED EMOTIONS – SOME AREAS OF THE PROVINCE HAVE RECEIVED MUCH NEEDED RAIN, AND SOME AREAS ARE LOOKING AT ANOTHER YEAR OF DROUGHT AND WILDFIRES. IT'S ESSENTIAL TO TAKE PROACTIVE MEASURES TO MANAGE THESE DIFFICULTIES. HERE'S A BREAKDOWN OF SOME KEY POINTS TO CONSIDER:

LIVESTOCK WATER AND FORAGE

- Building off-site/source watering systems can help ensure sustained water access and quality during drought. Through Resilient Agricultural Landscapes Program (RALP) and Sustainable CAP, Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, can financially assist producers to build sustainable water sources and develop off-source watering systems.
- Keep an eye on grazing changes from relevant authorities such as Forestry and Parks and Alberta Financial Services Corporation (AFSC) as both have been active in responding to drought.
- Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation's water pumping program can assist by helping fill depleted water sources.

- When buying feed, request a feed test and inspect the feed beforehand.
- More information can be found by searching "Farming in Dry Conditions" on alberta.ca

WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS

- Stay updated on fire bans and restrictions, and wildfire situations in your area.
- Have evacuation plans in place for both you and your livestock. This includes knowing where your livestock will go, and how you will transport them safely.
- Avoid locking animals in barns or small enclosures if a fire is approaching.

- To report a wildfire, call **310-FIRE** immediately, or search for updates on alberta.ca

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

- Recognize that droughts and wildfires can take a toll on mental health.
- Specific programs are available to support farmers. For more information, visit AgKnow.ca

In times of adversity, staying informed and prepared is crucial. It's essential to prioritize safety, both for yourself and your livestock, while also seeking support for mental well-being. 🇨🇦

Stay up to date with emerging information by saving abpdaily.com/alberta-wildfires/ to your favourites.





STARTING BID \$5.9M

HAT CREEK RANCH COLLECTION

2P Ranch and Brand 88 Ranch Selling Via Online Escalating Tender August 15th, 2024

Forge your ranching legacy amidst the breathtaking vistas of British Columbia, a land revered worldwide for its natural splendor. Spread across more than 117 square miles of untamed beauty, welcome to the extraordinary **'Hat Creek Ranch Collection'**.

A combination of over 2,387 deeded acres, 61,531 acres in Grazing Licences, 9,518 acres in Grazing Leases, and 1,280 acres in a BC Hydro Agricultural Lease, tabulating an impressive 74,716 acres; including 400 irrigated acres to support hay production to fulfill your wild west dream.

'Hat Creek Ranch Collection' offers an opportunity to live a rancher's life; one steeped in authenticity with all the rewards and the hardships of the celebrated lifestyle. Seize the chance to live on a functioning cattle ranch and raise your family in the old west way, all with quick access to paved roads and grocery stores. A rare find, this ranch offers the opportunity to own a piece of the historic gold rush of the 1860s, while wisely diversifying your wealth portfolio.

The legacy awaits—are you ready to make it your own?

LEARN MORE



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