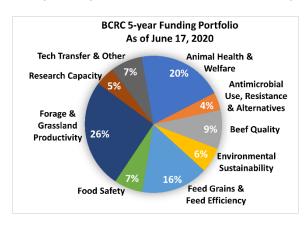


Update on Forage-Focused Research Projects and Extension Resources

The Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC) is the national industry-led funding agency for beef, cattle and forage research. We are funded by cattle producers and led by cattle producers from across the country,

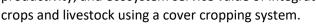
supporting projects that have the greatest potential to improve the competitiveness and sustainability of Canada's beef industry.

There are currently more than 80 research and extension projects underway that are funded in part by the BCRC. Forage and Grassland Productivity is one key priority area and includes many innovative projects including:



Forage Research Projects

- <u>Developing improved native and tame forage varieties for Western Canada</u>: results from this study provide producers with information when considering establishing or rejuvenating pastures.
- Evaluating corn silage: study results showed that earlymaturing corn silage is an appropriate forage source for backgrounding cattle, but nutritive value of corn silage is highly variable.
- Evaluating forage species for stockpiled forages: this project evaluated annual and perennial forage species for their potential as stockpiled forages for overwintered beef cattle, beef heifer performance during stockpiled forage grazing in late fall/early winter, and the economic impact and risk analysis of overwintering systems.
- Assessing the impact of grazing annual forage cover crops in an integrated crop-livestock
 system: this in-progress study aims to provide scientific data around the soil health, economics,
 productivity, and ecosystem service value of integrating







Forage Extension Resources

- <u>Carrying Capacity Calculator</u>: a tool to balance forage demand and supply with available forage based on provincial forage production estimates OR field-based sampling.
- Forage Record Keeping: the newly released record keeping and benchmarking resource includes a forage and grassland module outlining metrics targeting range health, winter feed inventories, and carrying capacity.
- <u>Forage U-Pick</u>: an interactive tool including forage species selection, seeding rate/cost calculation, and forage weed management.









- <u>ForageBeef.ca</u>: information has been updated and transitioned to BeefResearch.ca, including a wide range of forage-related topics from <u>Grazing Management</u> to <u>Water Systems</u>, <u>Weed and Brush Control</u>, and <u>Forage Establishment</u>. All Topic Pages can be found under the <u>Forage & Grasslands section of BeefResearch.ca</u>.
- <u>Feed Testing & Analysis</u>: from obtaining feed samples to interpreting results, this resource provides answers and tools to assist producers in meeting the nutritional requirements of their animals.
- <u>Blog posts</u>: a range of <u>forage topics</u> are frequently covered in BCRC blog editions, including <u>rejuvenating</u> <u>forage stands</u>, adding diversity through <u>intercropping</u>, and <u>principles</u> of grazing management.
- Webinars: our annual webinar series includes a range of forage and beef-related topics including this year's final instalment, Record Keeping for Forage and Grassland.



Providing relevant resources to producers across Canada is a priority for the BCRC. We recognize gaps in our current extension resources applicable to Eastern producers and are working with partners to deliver resources of priority to those regions. As an example, a project will soon be underway to expand the Forage U-Pick Tool to include Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes.



You can find all of our resources at BeefResearch.ca. Subscribe to our mailing list with options to receive our BCRC Blog as articles are posted or on a monthly basis, and *The Wire*, our monthly enewsletter that includes a collection of seasonal information, production tips and research news.

You can also stay connected via Facebook, Twitter or YouTube by following @BeefResearch.







The Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC) is Canada's industry-led funding agency for beef, cattle and forage research. The BCRC is funded through a portion of the Canadian Beef Cattle Check-Off as well as government and industry funding and is directed by a committee of beef producers from across the country.