



2023-24 CANADIAN COW-CALF SURVEY

PREVIEW DOCUMENT

On behalf of the Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC), thank you for taking the time to fill out the online version of the Canadian Cow-Calf Survey. We greatly appreciate your participation.

www.beefresearch.ca/survey

This version is for preview purposes only for those who wish to prepare in advance. The survey must be completed online.

The deadline to complete the survey is **March 31, 2024**.

As a small token of appreciation, the first 200 producers that answer 100% of the questions are eligible to receive a BCRC toque and pair of gloves.

Remember that your identity and information will remain anonymous. Individual results will remain in the strictest of confidence. Your information will be pooled with other respondents before being published in aggregate. Information collected will be subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Once opened, the survey will take **approximately 30-60 minutes to complete**. Participants can take **breaks of up to four hours** before the session times out and must be restarted from the beginning.

Before starting: Have on hand some important dates and numbers about your 2022 breeding season and 2023 calf crop including: number of head exposed (naturally or by AI), number of females that calved, females sold, kept for re-breeding, dead's, date of first and last calf, percentage of calves in each 21 day window during the calving season, number of calves weaned, weaning weight, cow weight, and percentage of calves polled.

Once again, thank you very much for your participation! More responses we receive, the better decisions we can make on industry-led research and extension.

Tracy Herbert | Extension and Communications Director, BCRC

CORE_PRODUCER DEMOGRAPHICS

1. What province are you from? Check one

- a. British Columbia
- b. Alberta
- c. Saskatchewan
- d. Manitoba
- e. Ontario
- f. Quebec
- g. Maritimes

2. Which beef enterprises are on your operation? Check all that apply.

- Cow-Calf
- Breeding Stock Replacements
- Backgrounder
- Grasser/Stocker
- Finisher/Feedlot
- None of the above (end survey)

Questions relate to your **2023 calf crop**, starting with breeding in Summer 2022 and ending with weaning in Fall 2023. Only answer those questions that you are comfortable with answering. If you don't have an exact date or number for any of the questions asked, respond with your best estimate. If you don't record information related to a specific question, please note this in the "Other, please specify" section.

3. What percentage of your breeding herd is:

Commercial: _____ % Purebred _____ %

SECTION 1: IMPORTANT DATES AND NUMBERS RELATED TO YOUR CALF CROP

CORE_KPI_COW:BULL RATIO

4. For the 2022 breeding season, please answer the following:

Answer separately for COWS and HEIFERS. "Heifers" refers to 2021-born females that were exposed to their first breeding in 2022. **NOTE: Questions will appear differently in the online version but it is asking for the same data.**

		COWS	HEIFERS
Number of bull(s) used for natural service <i>(if heifers and cows bred together, provide number of bulls in COWS box)</i>	A		
Number of females exposed to natural service ONLY <i>(do not include females that were exposed to a clean-up bull after AI)</i>	B		
Number of females bred using artificial insemination (AI)	C		

Number of females used as recipients for embryo transfer	D		
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Total Number of Females Exposed to Any Breeding in 2023 **(B+C+D) (B+C+D)**

CORE_KPI_BREEDING SEASON LENGTH

5. For the 2023 breeding season, please provide the following DATES:

Please provide dates for both COWS and HEIFERS. Date format: MMM-DD, e.g., JAN-01. If you had more than one start or end date, provide the date for the majority of the herd.

	COWS	HEIFERS
Breeding season START date (MMM-DD)	_____	_____
Breeding season END date (MMM-DD)	_____	_____

CORE_KPI_CONCEPTION RATE OR OPEN RATE

6. After Breeding in 2022 up until Calving Start in 2023 tell us how your breeding FEMALE inventory changed, please provide head counts for each of the following: Please answer separately for COWS and 2021-born HEIFERS.

	COWS	HEIFERS
# OPEN females TOTAL	_____	_____
# OPEN females SOLD	_____	_____
# OPEN females KEPT to be re-bred	_____	_____
# Breeding females that DIED	_____	_____
# BRED females SOLD	_____	_____
# BRED females PURCHASED	_____	_____

SECTION 2: ABOUT YOUR CALVING SEASON

CORE_CALVING SPAN

7. What date was the first and last calf born in your 2023 Calving Season? (live or still-born) If your operation has both a spring and fall calving herd, only provide details for the season when the majority of your calves are born.

Please answer separately for COWS and HEIFERS. (Date format: MMM-DD, e.g. JAN-01).

	COWS	HEIFERS
Date first <i>full term</i> calf born (MMM-DD)	_____	_____
Date last calf born (MMM-DD)	_____	_____

CORE_KPI_CALVING DISTRIBUTION

8. For your 2023 Calving Season, estimate the percentage of your females that calved in each 21-day timeframe as indicated below.

	COWS	HEIFERS
Number of females that calved from Day 1-21		
Number of females that calved from Day 22-42		
Number of females that calved from Day 43-63		
Number of females that calved from Day 64+		

CORE_KPI_CALF DEATH LOSS %

9. For your 2023 calving season, provide the number of head for each statement below:

	COWS	HEIFERS
Number of females that calved		
Number of <u>sets</u> of twins		
Number of females that aborted		
Number of calves born dead or died within first 24 hours <i>(including stillbirths)</i>		
Number of calves that died between Day 1 and weaning		

SECTION 3: ABOUT YOUR WEANING SEASON

CORE_ADJUSTED 205 DAY WEANING WEIGHT / WEANING DATE

10. **What DATE did you or will you WEAN your 2023-born calves?**

Please answer separately for calves from COWS and HEIFERS even if all calves were weaned on the same date. For operations with multiple weaning dates, please respond based on when the majority are weaned (e.g. NOV-01).

	COWS	HEIFERS
WEAN DATE (MMM-DD) _____		

CORE_KPI_ AVERAGE WEANING WEIGHT (ALL CALVES)

11. Please provide the NUMBER of 2023-born CALVES THAT HAVE BEEN OR WILL BE WEANED on your operation.

Please answer separately for STEERS and HEIFERS, if possible.

The weaning weight should be at or shortly after weaning. Do not use post pre-conditioned weights.

	COWS			HEIFERS		
	Steers	Heifers	All Calves Sold	Steers	Heifers	All Calves Sold
Number of Calves Weaned						
Average Weaning Weight (Provide weight in lbs per head)						
Weaning Weight provided is:	<input type="checkbox"/> Estimate (e.g. based on a sample of calves) <input type="checkbox"/> Actual scale weight					

CORE_KPI_POUNDS WEANED AS % OF MATURE COW WEIGHT

12. What is the average mature cow weight for your operation in pounds? _____

13. Weight provided is: Estimate (e.g. based on weights of cull cows) Actual Scale weight

NOTE: This does not provide an adjustment for bred heifer weights.

OPTIONAL_PRE-CONDITIONING

14. In the last THREE years have you retained ownership of the majority of your calves after weaning?

Yes No (move to next section)

15. If yes, for how many days? (Select timeframe most typically used.) less than 30 days 30 days

31-45 days 46-60 days 61-90 days 91-120 days more than 120 days

16. What was the motivation for retaining ownership? (Check all that apply?) Improve calf health

Meet buyer requirements Sell into a different time period Secure a higher price Other, please specify

17. What practices were part of this retained ownership period? booster vaccines 2 weeks before weaning

dehorn and castrate before weaning introduced to feedstuffs bunk break calves

introduced to water bowls low stress weaning (e.g. fence line or two-stage) other (please specify)

18. Please SELECT YOUR TOP REASON WHY you don't retain ownership of your calves from the list of options below: Choose only one from the list below.

- Lack of feed
- Lack of pen space
- Need the cashflow
- No premium
- Happy with current practices

- Concerned about production risk, not getting a target average daily gain
- Concerned about price risk, with the market moving against me
- I am not confident it would be profitable on my operation
- Other, please specify: _____

SECTION 4: REPRODUCTIVE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND TECHNOLOGIES

TEC_PREGNANCY CHECK

19. Over the last three years (2021-2023), please indicate the frequency that you PREGNANCY CHECKED MOST of your COWS AND HEIFERS.

ALWAYS or ALMOST ALWAYS (at least twice in last 3 years)		RARELY (only once in the last 3 years)		NEVER (not once in the last 3 years)	
COWS	HEIFERS	COWS	HEIFERS	COWS	HEIFERS

20. If you selected that you “RARELY” or “NEVER” pregnancy checked cows or heifers, please SELECT YOUR TOP REASON WHY from the list of options below:

Choose only one from the list below.

- Too expensive/Financial benefit is not high enough.
- I can tell which females are open (e.g. observe mounting).
- No need to, I just sell the opens after calving when cull price is higher.
- Lack of facilities.
- Lack of labour.
- Other farming activities take priority at that time.
- Veterinarian was unavailable.
- Other, please specify: _____

TEC_BULL TEST

21. Over the last three years (2021-2023) did a veterinarian test ALL of your breeding bull(s) for the following:

	ALWAYS or ALMOST ALWAYS (at least twice in last 3 years)	RARELY (only once in the last 3 years)	NEVER (not once in the last 3 years)	Not ALL breeding bull(s) were tested
Breeding Soundness Evaluation				
Trichomoniasis				
Vibriosis				

22. If you indicated you “RARELY” or “NEVER” have a veterinarian perform a Breeding Soundness Evaluation on your breeding bulls, please SELECT YOUR TOP REASON WHY from the list of options below: *Choose only one from the list below.*

- Tested at time of purchase
- Too expensive/Financial benefit is not high enough.
- I'm happy with my conception rate, so there is no need to test bulls.
- Lack of facilities.
- Lack of labour.
- Other farming activities take priority at that time.
- Veterinarian was unavailable.
- Other, please specify: _____

SECTION 5: CALF MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

23. If you need to RESUSCITATE AN UNRESPONSIVE NEWBORN CALF, indicate how often you use each of the following techniques:

	0	1	2	3	4
	Never for any calf	Sometimes, for certain calves	Often, for many calves	Usually for most calves	Always for all calves
Rub vigorously					
Hang calf upside down for a period of time (lift hind end so fluid drains out)					
Pour cold water in its ear					
Poke straw or a finger in its nose					
Place the calf in the calf recovery position (i.e. sitting it up on its chest)					
Other (please specify): _____					

24. How often do you use the following practices in newborn calves and their dams WHO ARE ASSISTED DURING CALVING? Please score according to the scale provided.

	0	1	2	3	4
	Never	Sometimes, for certain animals	Often, for many	Usually for most	Always for all
Administering an anti-inflammatory drug (e.g. meloxicam, dexamethasone) to the calf					
Administering an anti-inflammatory drug (e.g. meloxicam, dexamethasone) to the cow					
Applying a navel dip or spray					
Give vitamin/mineral injections to the newborn calf					

Tube feeding colostrum shortly after birth (e.g. immediately, prior to reuniting with the dam)					
Other (please specify): _____					

TEC_POLL GENETICS, DEHORN AGE, METHOD, PAIN CONTROL

25. **What percentage of your calves were born polled?** _____% *If 100%, please proceed to Q29.*

26. **If you dehorn, when do you TYPICALLY dehorn most of your calves?** *Check only one.*

- Shortly after birth
- Spring processing
- At weaning
- After weaning
- Not applicable – I don't dehorn
- Other, please specify: _____

27. **What is your TYPICAL method used to dehorn calves?** *Check only one.*

- Disbudder (electric)
- Dehorning paste
- Spoons, Saw, Wire, Key or Guillotine
- Other, please specify: _____
- I have horned calves, but I do not dehorn.

28. **Do you use pain control when dehorning your calves?** *Check only one.*

- YES, all the time
- YES, depending on age and method
- NO. *Proceed to Q28.*

29. **If you selected one of the "YES" options, please specify:**

- Local anesthetic/nerve block only (e.g. *Lidocaine, Lurocaine*)
- Anti-inflammatory (analgesic) only (e.g. *Meloxicam, Metacam, Rheumocam, Anafen, Banamine, Flunazine*)
- Local anesthetic plus anti-inflammatory
- Other/Not Sure (list product name): _____

30. **If you DO NOT use pain control when DEHORNING, please select your TOP REASON WHY from the list of options below:** *Check only one.*

- Too expensive/Financial benefit is not high enough.
- I dehorn my calves before the horn buds are attached to the skull (prior to 2-3 months of age)
- Other, please specify: _____

TEC_CASTRATION AGE, METHOD, PAIN CONTROL

31. **What is your TYPICAL age when bull calves are castrated?** *Check only one.*

- <3 months old
- 3 months to less than 6 months old
- 6 months to less than 9 months old
- 9 months or older
- Never

32. **What is your TYPICAL method used to castrate bull calves?** *Check only one.*

- Rubber band
- Surgical (*blade, scalpel*)
- Clamp/Burdizzo
- Other, please specify: _____

33. **Do you use pain control when castrating your calves?** *Check only one.*

- YES, all the time
- YES, depending on age and method
- NO *Proceed to Q33.*

34. **If you selected one of the "YES" options, please specify:** *Check only one.*

- Local anesthetic/nerve block only (*e.g. Lidocaine, Lurocaine*)
- Anti-inflammatory (analgesic) only (*e.g. Meloxicam, Metacam, Rheumocam, Anafen, Banamine, Flunazine*)
- Local anesthetic plus anti-inflammatory
- Other/Not Sure (list product name): _____

35. **If you DO NOT use pain control when CASTRATING, please select your TOP REASON WHY from the list of options below:** *Check only one.*

- Too expensive/Financial benefit is not high enough.
- I castrate when my calves are less than 3 months of age.
- Other, please specify: _____

OPTIONAL_IMPLANT

36. **Did you implant any of your 2023-born calves?**

- YES
- NO *Proceed to Q36.*

37. **If "YES", when did you implant your 2023-born calves?**

	All Calves	ONLY calves NOT INTENDED for replacement breeding stock	Only Steer/bull Calves
Prior to weaning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
At weaning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

38. **If you DO NOT IMPLANT your calves, please SELECT YOUR TOP REASON WHY from the list of options below:** *Check only one from list below.*

- Too expensive/See no financial benefit.
- I get a better price if I do not implant my calves.

- Lack of labour
- Do not know how to implant.
- I am philosophically opposed to using implants.
- I market my calves through a natural program.
- Unsure of which implant to use
- Other, please specify: _____

TEC_WEANING METHOD

39. Which **WEANING METHOD** do you **TYPICALLY** use on your operation? *Check only one.*

- Traditional separation
- Fenceline separation (*e.g., Cows can see calves; nose to nose contact possible*)
- Nose paddle/Two-stage
- Natural (*e.g., Leave on cow*)
- Other, please specify: _____

40. If you selected “Traditional separation” in Q39, please select your **TOP REASON WHY** from the list of options below. *Check only one.*

- I sell my calves right after they are weaned.
- I see no financial benefit from weaning them using a different method.
- I do not have the time/labour/infrastructure to wean them any other way.
- Other, please specify: _____

SECTION 6: GRAZING AND FEEDING MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

TEC_FEED TESTING

41. Do you lab test any of your feed for quality?

- YES, multiple times per year
- YES, at least once per year
- YES, but not annually
- NO *Proceed to Q43*

42. If you answered “YES” to Q41 (otherwise proceed to Q43), do you use the results of the feed test to develop rations?

- YES, with a nutritionist
- YES, with my extension specialist
- YES, I develop my own rations
- NO, (please provide reason why): _____

43. If you answered “NO” to Q41, please **SELECT YOUR TOP REASON WHY** from the list of options below: *Check only one.*

- It is too expensive to test.
- My cattle seem healthy, so I see no need to test.

- I buy in all my feed and rely on the feed test from the seller.
- I am not sure how to collect a feed sample and send it away for analysis.
- I am not confident that I can make or implement plans based on the results of feed tests
- Other, please specify: _____

TEC_WATER TESTING

44. In the last 3 years (2021-2023), how often have you lab tested your livestock's drinking water?

- EVERY YEAR
- TWICE in the last 3 yrs
- ONCE in the last 3 yrs
- NEVER

45. If at least once in last 3 years, which season did you test?

- a. Summer
- b. Winter
- c. Both

46. If you answered "NEVER" to Q44, please select your TOP REASON WHY from the list of options below: *Check only one.*

- It is too expensive to test.
- My cattle seem healthy, so I see no need to test.
- My water is spring fed, so I assume it is good quality.
- We drink from the same water source – if it is okay for us, it must be okay for the cattle.
- I am not sure how to collect sample and send away for analysis.
- I am not confident that I can make or implement plans based on the results of water quality tests
- Other, please specify: _____

TEC_BODY CONDITION SCORING

47. Do you regularly perform body condition scoring for your breeding females? Where "body condition scoring" is an evaluation of the fat reserves on an animal using a 1(thin) to 5 (fat) point scale.

- YES, using hands on
- YES, using visual appraisal
- NO

48. If you selected "YES, using visual appraisal" or "NO" in Q47, please SELECT YOUR TOP REASON WHY from the list of options below:

- I am not sure how to hands on body condition score.
- My cattle seem healthy, so I see no need to score.
- I do not have the time to do this.
- I do not have the facilities (handling system, chute) or labour to do this.
- Visual appraisal is good enough.
- I am not confident that I can make or implement plans based on my animal's body condition scores
- Other, please specify: _____

49. If you selected one of the “YES” options in Q47, do you use the body condition score to manage your cows differently (i.e. sort for winter feeding)?

- YES
- NO

OPTIONAL_ WINTER FEEDING

50. Do you feed in an open field or pasture during the winter for your cows?

- Yes, all winter
- Yes, for the majority of the winter (confined during calving <60 days)
- No, confined during winter feeding period

51. If Yes, during a TYPICAL winter what WINTER FEEDING methods are utilized? *Check all that apply*

- Year-round grazing (e.g. no supplementation on pasture or just a protein cake)
- Swath grazing
- Standing corn
- Unrolled bales (e.g. Hay, greenfeed, straw)
- Bale graze (e.g. Hay, greenfeed)
- Crop residue
- Other, please specify: _____

52. If you DO NOT extensively winter feed your cows, please SELECT YOUR TOP THREE REASONS why from the list of options below: *Check only three from list below.*

- Too cold.
- Too much snow.
- Concerned about wasted feed
- Unpredictability or lack of control around animal performance
- Concerned about animal health and welfare
- No winter watering systems on pastures
- Start calving during winter months
- Unaware of winter grazing techniques
- Topography or soil type limiting
- Wildlife eat/wreck the feed
- Lack an accessible site that is fenced
- Lack of shelter, wind protection
- No insurance for wildlife-damaged feed if left in field
- Other (please specify) _____

OPTIONAL_FORAGE REJUVENATION

53. In general, how often are your tame perennial forage stands reseeded? *(Check only one)*

- Every 1 - 5 years
- Every 6 - 10 years
- Less frequently than every 10 years
- Never

54. **SELECT YOUR TOP THREE REASONS** why tame perennial forage stands are reseeded this often from the list of options below: *Check only three from list below.*

- Pasture productivity gets too low and rejuvenation is required
- Establishing a good stand has a high probability
- High productivity is required due to land values
- Pasture productivity can be maintained through grazing management
- Risk of poor stand establishment is high
- The percentage of legumes in the stand has declined, reducing gains on cattle
- I'm not concerned about my pasture productivity
- Other, specify _____

SECTION 7: ANIMAL HEALTH MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

TEC_VACCINATION

There is a high degree of variability among regions regarding vaccination, which occurs partly because different areas have different herd health needs.

55. **In the last 12 months, did you vaccinate any cattle in your herd?**

- YES
- NO

56. **Do you TYPICALLY vaccinate your females pre-calving?** *(in two of the last three years)*

- YES
- NO

57. **For the last 12 months, check the boxes corresponding to each disease each animal type was vaccinated for, otherwise leave unchecked.** *If you are UNSURE what diseases you vaccinated for, you can provide product names in the box below this table.*

	COWS	REPLACEMENT HEIFERS	BULLS	CALVES	NONE
7, 8 or 9 way for Clostridial disease <i>(e.g. blackleg, red water, malignant edema, etc.)</i>					
Reproductive Diseases <i>(e.g. BVDV, IBR)</i>					
Bovine Respiratory Disease (BRD) <i>(Includes numerous pathogens such as: BVD, IBR, BRSV, PI3, Mannheimia haemolytica, Pasturella multocida and Histophilus Somni)</i>					
Scours <i>(rotavirus, coronavirus, E. coli)</i>					
Vibrio <i>(Campylobacter fetus or Cfv) /Lepto</i>					
Other (please specify)					

If you are unsure about what diseases you vaccinated for, **list the product names and animal types (cow, replacements, bulls, calves) that received each product** in the box below:

58. If you DID NOT vaccinate your BREEDING FEMALES for REPRODUCTIVE DISEASES (e.g. IBR, BVDV) in the last 12 months, please SELECT YOUR TOP REASON WHY from the list of options below:

Check only one from the list below.

- It is too expensive to vaccinate for reproductive diseases like IBR and BVDV.
- I'm happy with my conception rates, so I see no need to vaccinate.
- I have a closed herd (e.g. no purchased cattle, no contact with neighbours' cattle or wildlife that carry diseases across fences)
- I do not have the facilities (handling system, chute) to vaccinate.
- I do not have the labour to vaccinate.
- Veterinarian was unavailable to develop a Herd Health program.
- Other, please specify: _____

59. If you DID NOT vaccinate your 2023-BORN CALVES for BOVINE RESPIRATORY DISEASE, please SELECT YOUR TOP REASON WHY from the list of options below: Check only one from the list below.

- It is too expensive / Financial benefit not high enough.
- My calves are healthy, so I see no need to vaccinate.
- I have a closed herd (e.g. no purchased cattle, no contact with neighbour's cattle or wildlife that carry diseases across fences)
- I market/sell my calves right after they are weaned.
- I do not have the labour/facilities to vaccinate.
- Veterinarian was unavailable to develop a Herd Health program.
- Other, please specify: _____

OPTIONAL_REMOTE DRUG DELIVERY DEVICE

60. How many treatments in a year were done using a remote drug delivery device (i.e. dart gun, crossbow, pole syringe)? (select one)

- A. None
- B. Less than 5
- C. 5 to 10
- D. 11 to 20
- E. 21 to 30
- F. More than 30 treatments

61. What conditions were treated using a remote drug delivery device (i.e. dart gun, crossbow, pole syringe)? (rank all that apply most to least)

- G. Foot rot/septic arthritis/lameness
- H. Pinkeye/eye infection
- I. Pneumonia/Bovine Respiratory Disease

- J. Diarrhea
- K. Mastitis
- L. Sedation prior to handling for treatment (Dangerous behaviour, abscess)
- M. Other. Specify: _____

TEC_PARASITE CONTROL

62. Do you **TYPICALLY** use any of the following parasite control on your cow herd (e.g. at least two of the last three years)?
- External parasites (e.g. *Eliminator, Protector, Optimizer – ear tags; CyLence, Boss*)
 - Internal parasites/coccidia (e.g. *Safeguard, Pancur, Valbazen; Rumensin, Coban, Monensin*)
 - External/Internal parasite control (e.g. *Bimectin, Ivomec, Noromectin; Cydectin, Dectomax, LongRange*)
 - Not Sure (list product used): _____
 - No, don't use parasite control on cow herd
63. When do you **TYPICALLY** apply the above parasite control?
- a. Winter
 - b. Before Spring turnout onto grass
 - c. Summer
 - d. Fall
64. Which statement best describes your parasite control strategy?
- a. Tend to use the same product
 - b. Alternate products
65. If you **DO NOT TYPICALLY** use any parasite control on your cow herd, please **SELECT YOUR TOP REASON WHY** from the list of options below: *Check only one from the list below.*
- It is too expensive / Financial benefit not high enough.
 - Organic production
 - Concerned about product effectiveness (e.g. formulation of generics)
 - Resistance concerns
 - Other, please specify: _____

OPTIONAL_MINERAL SUPPLEMENTATION

66. Do you supply any **minerals or vitamins** to your cows in any of the following time periods? *Check all that apply*
- Year round
 - During calving season
 - While on summer pasture
 - During the breeding season
 - Winter feeding (as part of feeding program)
 - Other, specify _____
67. How do you provide these **minerals or vitamins**? *Check all that apply*
- ad libitum (free-choice)
 - measured/provided amount
 - part of a total mixed ration

- injectable
- boluses

68. Are any of your mineral formulations **Chelated**?

- Yes
- No

69. If you **DO NOT** provide mineral year-round to your cow herd, please **SELECT YOUR TOP REASON WHY from the list of options below**: *Check only one from the list below.*

- It is too expensive / Financial benefit not high enough.
- Don't see a benefit
- Don't have a herd health problem requiring mineral supplementation
- Not recommended by nutritionist
- Cows are on community pasture (do not have control)
- Labour limitations
- Other, please specify: _____

TEC_OPTIONAL_VETERINARY COMMUNICATION

70. In the last 12 months, how many times did you meet/correspond with a veterinarian for the following reasons?

of times

- To purchase antibiotics, vaccines or other supplies
- Emergency animal health or calving problem
- Pregnancy checking
- Bull soundness evaluations
- Consultation/advice on herd health program
- To ask questions/learn about best management practices
- To ask questions/learn about new scientific information, technologies, innovations
- Other (specify)

SECTION 8: ABOUT YOU AND YOUR OPERATION

TEC_TECHNOLOGY ADOPTION

71. Which of the following equipment and technologies do you have and use on your operation. For each item, please place an "X" in the column if you use the item.

Item	USE
Electronic and/or bluetooth-enabled RFID reader	
Ultra-High Frequency Tags	
Weigh scale (conventional or Bluetooth equipped)	
Manual or hydraulic squeeze	
Handling system (e.g. chute, alley way or tub)	
Watering systems	
Remote water monitoring system	
Electric fence	
Virtual fencing	
Automatic syringe/dosing gun	

Intra-nasal vaccine	
Drones to monitor pasture and/or cattle	
DNA testing (for parentage, hybrid vigor, GE-EPDs, etc.)	
Sexed Semen	
Polycrops (e.g. complex mixtures of annuals, cover crops)	
Total mixed ration	
Ionophores (e.g. Rumensin, Bovatec, Deccox)	

TEC_RECORD KEEPING

72. **What record-keeping do you employ on-farm?** (Check all that apply.)

- None
- Paper records
- Spreadsheets (i.e., MS Excel, Google Sheets)
- Accounting software
- Electronic cattle management software (i.e. HerdTrax, CattleMax, Herdly, etc.)
- Other, please describe: _____.

73. **How are these records used?** (Check all that apply)

- Part of a farm journal of activities
- Qualification for programs (e.g. Verified Beef Production Plus)
- On-farm decision making (e.g. tracking performance from year to year to reach a goal, culling decisions)
- As part of financial analysis (e.g. per unit cost of production)
- Supporting documentation for obtaining financing (e.g. loan, line of credit)

74. **If you DO NOT keep any records, please SELECT YOUR TOP REASON WHY from the list of options below:** Check only one from the list below.

- Lack of time
- Used to, but never used them so I stopped
- I don't see the value in having records
- Inexperienced with technology
- Worried about data privacy with electronic record keeping
- Other, please specify: _____

Research funded by your Canadian Beef Cattle Check-Off sometimes relies on participation by active beef cattle producers. The end of the survey will ask: Are you willing to be contacted by the BCRC in the future when farmers and ranchers are needed to participate in high-priority industry-funded research? Producers who participate in research often benefit. For example, they may get to interact with their veterinarian more regularly at no extra cost, learn how their herd is performing compared to others, get a heads-up on some potentially costly problems before they occur, and get help to overcome long-standing health and reproductive problems. If you are interested, you will be prompted to enter your email address on a screen that will not be connected to your other responses for anonymity.