



# 2025/26 Results Report

Submitted to the Canadian Beef Cattle Research, Market Development  
and Promotion Agency

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## I. Executive Summary

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The Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC) is a producer-led council that leads the Canadian beef industry by investing producer funds into beef and forage research and knowledge mobilization to increase productivity, support growth in beef demand and earn public trust. To advance a transparent, competitive, resilient and sustainable Canadian beef industry, the BCRC works closely with other industry and government funding agencies and extension teams to support strategic and effective research, technology transfer and innovation. The BCRC's model maximizes producer investment by coordinating national priorities, leveraging government funding, and ensuring results are translated into practice.

The BCRC is funded in part through a portion of a producer-paid national levy, the Canadian Beef Cattle Check-Off. In 2025/26, the BCRC received on average \$0.66 (unaudited) of every \$2.50 of the Canadian Beef Cattle Check-Off collected by the provinces. This funding was leveraged under the Beef Science Cluster program with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership funding, where industry contributed 54% (\$2.88 million) and AAFC contributed 46% (\$2.46 million) in 2025/26. In addition, the BCRC leveraged the Canadian Beef Cattle Check-Off for an additional \$4.97 million in research funding and \$89,000 in-kind from government and industry partners through initiatives outside of the Beef Science Cluster.

A division of the Canadian Cattle Association, the BCRC is directed by a Council of 16 beef producers from across the country. Producer representatives on the BCRC Council are appointed by provincial cattle organizations that contribute to the BCRC through the Canadian Beef Cattle Check-Off. Provincial representation is determined by the relative provincial allocation of Check-Off funds to research.

This report covers the period April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026. Programming during this period was centered around the following areas:

- Increase producer profitability by increasing productivity or decreasing costs of production and risks.
- Develop, enhance and encourage adoption of beneficial practices and innovations that maximize the environmental benefits industry provides and continue to reduce our environmental footprint, while supporting industry competitiveness.
- Support continuous improvements in Canadian beef demand through advancements in the quality and safety of Canadian beef.
- Generate science to inform decision makers, policy and best management practices and to support consumer confidence and public trust.
- Develop, enhance and encourage adoption of leading-edge technologies that support industry competitiveness, automation and sustainability.
- Ensure the maintenance and rejuvenation of critical research capacity and infrastructure that facilitate proactive inquiry and innovation to support industry advancement.

Section III (ii) of this report covers projects managed by the BCRC and funded under the fourth Beef Science Cluster. There were 23 research, knowledge mobilization and science coordination Cluster projects reporting activities between April 1, 2025 and March 31, 2026. The third year of the five-year Cluster IV program has now been completed, with yearly activities currently under review.

Section III (iii) of this report covers BCRC priority research projects funded by Canadian Beef Cattle Check-Off dollars and other industry investments through the BCRC's annual call for proposals. In 2025/26, the BCRC received 50 letters of intent from research teams across Canada. Of these, 24 teams were invited to submit full proposals and funding decisions are expected to be finalized in June 2026. Successful applicants will be required to secure funding from other sources (government and industry), matching the Canadian Beef Cattle Check-Off dollars at a minimum of 1:1.

Several projects approved in previous calls (2018 – 2024) are still underway or nearing completion. In one such project, researchers found that greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from pasture wetlands are lower than those from cropland and that Canadian wetlands emit fewer GHGs than wetlands elsewhere in the world due to freeze-thaw cycles. In another, researchers advanced sainfoin and alfalfa breeding to bring us closer to high-lipid-content alfalfa varieties with the potential to reduce feed intake, maintain feed efficiency and reduce methane emissions. Another project found that intranasal bovine coronavirus vaccination, followed by boosting with an injectable vaccine, resulted in the development of a robust immune response and good protection against respiratory disease. A final research team improved our understanding of the diversity, prevalence, and dynamics of respiratory viruses and bacteria early in the feeding period. A summary of BCRC research projects, including the project title, factsheet link and budget is included in Section III (iii) and Appendix III.

Funding was approved for five new Proof of Concept (POC) projects in 2025/26. These are short-term (one to two year) projects to help inform whether it is worth pursuing a larger, more defined research investment. In 2025/26 the BCRC also provided funding for twelve ongoing POC projects. One such project found that if sample preparation and test times can be reduced below the current three minutes, blood biomarkers such as haptoglobin (an indicator of inflammation) could help veterinarians and feedlot staff develop more refined antibiotic treatment protocols for pneumonia. Another research team developed a regional, beef-industry-specific catalogue of antimicrobial resistance genes (ARGs) in pathogens causing respiratory disease in cattle and found that ARGs in North America differ from those in other parts of the world. See section III (iv) and Appendix IV for a complete list of the POC projects and research highlights.

The BCRC continued to support the implementation of long-term research capacity in 2025/26. Three Chairs are currently supported under this program to address industry identified gaps in research capacity: Dr. Flavia van Cleef, Beef Industry Integrated Forage Management and Utilization Chair (University of Saskatchewan); Dr. Cheryl Waldner, NSERC/BCRC Industrial Research Chair in One Health and Production-Limiting Diseases (Western College of Veterinary Medicine); and Dr. Gleise da Silva, BCRC-Hays Chair in Beef Production Systems (University of Alberta). In 2024/25, an additional chair was approved at the University of Manitoba which has yet to be filled. The BCRC also supported start-up and transition funding for four positions in 2025/26 at the University of Alberta, Guelph and Saskatchewan. See section III (v) for additional details on research capacity investments.

Knowledge Mobilization (KMb) activities continue to advance through the Beef Science Cluster, the KMb Network Program, internal initiatives, and regional extension event funding. The Beef Science Cluster KMb program develops and distributes articles, decision tools, videos, blog posts and webinars in both English and French. In 2025/26, the KMb Network contributed funding to: a water quality and management initiative, an initiative to improve genetic literacy of producers, a feed, forage and nutrition collaborative project, and veterinary collaboration and print resource distribution. Seven regional KMb activities were active or completed in 2025/26 and included topics such as water quality and water management, practical biosecurity protocol implementation, and record keeping for herd genetic improvement. Internal KMb programming

continues to focus on mobilization and knowledge transfer of key priority topics and ongoing communication with stakeholder groups. In 2025/26, the BCRC initiated the upgrade to the CowBytes software which has been in high demand since it was transitioned to the BCRC in 2023. See section III (vi) and Appendix V for details on the KMb program and project highlights.

In 2025/26, the BCRC initiated the process of renewing the Five-Year Canadian Beef Research & Knowledge Mobilization Strategy. The Strategy strengthens Canada's position as a global leader in sustainable beef production by aligning high-priority science, innovation and adoption at a national scale. It reflects extensive industry engagement to ensure priorities are grounded in producers' needs and real-world challenges across the value chain. More than 500 stakeholders participated through national surveys, focus groups and engagement sessions involving producers, veterinarians, researchers, government representatives, industry organizations, funders and extension specialists from across Canada. The target publish date for the updated strategy is July 2026. See Section III (vii) for additional details.

In 2025/26, funding continued for the Canadian Cow-Calf Cost of Production Network which supports industry competitiveness by having Canadian beef cattle cost of production data in every province/ecoregion to guide technology transfer and research priorities. See Section III (viii) for additional details.

The BCRC oversees the delivery of the Verified Beef Production Plus (VBP+) program. VBP+ advances producer training objectives and the delivery of on-farm certification services through VBP+ Delivery Services Inc. See Section IV for an update on the progression of VBP+ programming.

The fiscal year for the BCRC is July 1 to June 30, therefore the BCRC audited financial statements are not included in this report and will be available upon request after August 31, 2026. The Canadian Beef Cattle Check-Off funding allocated to BCRC programming in 2025/26 is highlighted in various sections of this report and is projected at **\$6,423,220**.

## II. Background

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The Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC) funds leading-edge research and knowledge mobilization activities to advance the competitiveness and sustainability of the Canadian beef cattle industry. In 2025/26, the BCRC received on average \$0.66 (unaudited) of every \$2.50 of the Canadian Beef Cattle Check-Off. This funding is leveraged under various programs to maximize producer returns on their check-off investment. The BCRC leveraged the industry Check-Off dollars with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (SCAP) Science Cluster funding in 2025/26, where industry contributed 54% (\$2.88 million) and AAFC contributed 46% (\$2.46 million). Through initiatives outside of the Beef Science Cluster, the BCRC leveraged the Canadian Beef Cattle Check-Off for an additional \$4.97 million in research funding and \$89,000 in-kind from government and industry partners.

As the national beef cattle industry research agency, the BCRC plays an important role in identifying the industry's research and development priorities and subsequently influencing and maximizing the benefits of public sector investment in beef cattle research. The BCRC facilitates and encourages collaboration and coordination among researchers, other funding agencies and industry on provincial and national levels. The BCRC continues to lead the implementation of the Canadian Beef Research Strategy and Technology Transfer

Strategy, working in partnership with other beef research funding agencies across Canada, to address key research, capacity and extension priorities as identified by producers and industry partners.

In addition to funding research, the BCRC plays a leading role in increasing industry uptake of relevant technologies through the delivery of its knowledge mobilization program. This information is shared across a broad audience of producers, researchers, funders, policy makers and communication networks across the country.

The BCRC is also responsible for the delivery of the Verified Beef Production Plus (VBP+) program, a program developed to educate producers and facilitate on-farm certification of practices related to food safety, animal care, biosecurity and environmental sustainability. VBP+ training and certification are important in supporting industry efforts to demonstrate to downstream supply chain stakeholders and consumers that Canadian beef is produced in a sustainable manner and that maintaining public trust is a priority.

This report covers the period April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026. During this period, the BCRC's research and knowledge mobilization programming was funded through the Canadian Beef Cattle Check-Off, AAFC under SCAP and other national and provincial industry partners. Programs were centered around the following areas:

- Increase producer profitability by increasing productivity or decreasing costs of production and risks.
- Develop, enhance and encourage adoption of beneficial practices and innovations that maximize the environmental benefits industry provides and continue to reduce our environmental footprint, while supporting industry competitiveness.
- Support continuous improvements in Canadian beef demand through advancements in the quality and safety of Canadian beef.
- Generate science to inform decision makers, policy and best management practices and to support consumer confidence and public trust.
- Develop, enhance and encourage adoption of leading-edge technologies that support industry competitiveness, automation and sustainability.
- Ensure the maintenance and rejuvenation of critical research capacity and infrastructure that facilitate proactive inquiry and innovation to support industry advancement.

### III. Research Activities

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#### i. Introduction

BCRC research activities supported by the Canadian Beef Cattle Check-Off and other industry and government partners for the period April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026 are highlighted in this report. During this period, the BCRC provided funding to beef research projects under the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) Beef Science Cluster program as well as projects in under other BCRC funding streams, including Priority Research, Proof of Concept & Validation Trials, Research Capacity, and Knowledge and Mobilization. All research funded by the BCRC is based on specific needs and opportunities identified by the beef industry and addresses priority outcomes from the Canadian Beef Research Strategy and Technology Transfer Strategy under program areas relating to Animal Health & Welfare and Antimicrobial Use & Resistance, Beef Quality, Food Safety, Feed Efficiency & Utilization, Forage & Grassland Productivity and/or Environmental Sustainability. The BCRC engages internal and external peer reviewers in the process of selecting projects to

fund with final funding decisions made by the producer council. All research funded by the BCRC requires that researchers leverage the Canadian Beef Cattle Check-Off by securing funding from other federal, provincial, and/or other industry funding programs on a minimum 1:1 ratio.

As the BCRC's funding profile has grown, researchers often look to secure BCRC funding prior to applying for matching funding as confirmed BCRC funding provides a higher chance of approval through other research funding agencies. This results in a gap of at least 6-12 months from the time BCRC funding is approved to when it is contracted, forwarded, and the project is started, as matching funding must be in place before contracting. This has resulted in BCRC cashflows being impacted due to the delay between when funds are committed and when funds are spent. Reflecting this in the BCRC budget is difficult due to uncertainty as to when all approved projects will start, following researcher securement of matching funds from other agencies. As a result, BCRC carefully manages funding so that Check-Off dollars are neither overcommitted nor underutilized. At the time of writing, there are two projects approved that are not yet fully contracted. These projects have been included for clarity in Appendix III and IV and have been labelled as approved but with a funding agreement pending. A portion of these will be started before the end of the current fiscal year, with the remaining being carried over and initiated in the next fiscal year. Importantly, this does not include already contracted multi-year commitments through the Science Cluster, Research Chairs, or Priority Research Projects. All of these commitments will heavily draw on the BCRC reserve moving forward based upon the BCRC 10-year cashflow projections.

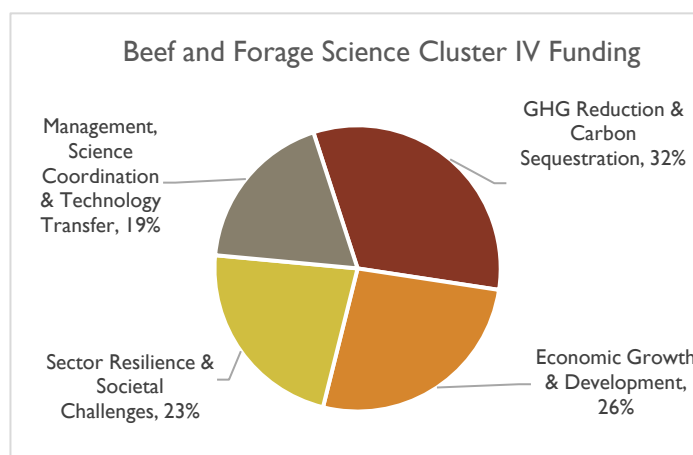
The tables in Appendix II, III, and IV summarize the BCRC funded research projects by program area. The project title, timelines, budget and link to each available project factsheet are listed. Project factsheets, which are available on the BCRC website ([BeefResearch.ca](http://BeefResearch.ca)), provide background, objectives and anticipated project activities and are updated with a summary of results upon project completion. The Research Highlights sections highlight selected research results and benefits to the Canadian beef industry. More detailed results on all projects are available from the BCRC upon request.

## ii. Beef Science Cluster IV

### a. Cluster Program Overview

Beef Cluster IV, titled 'Canada's Beef and Forage Cluster: Driving environmental, economic, and social sustainability', focuses on driving the growth of Canada's beef industry and the overall economy by sustainably advancing Canadian beef and forage production while reducing the industry's environmental footprint.

In 2023, 23 projects were approved for a total Cluster size of \$21.42 million (\$9.28 million from industry and \$12.15 million from AAFC). Under the Cluster IV framework, every activity aligns with AAFC key priority areas: 1) Climate Change & Environment (Greenhouse Gas Reduction & Carbon Sequestration), 2) Economic Growth & Development and 3) Sector Resilience & Societal Challenges. The BCRC was able to ensure that research outcomes identified for the Cluster aligned with these priorities,



while building upon research in previous Clusters and addressing industry priorities. While many activities will have impacts across multiple priorities, each approved project has been categorized under one of the AAFC key priority areas: Greenhouse Gas Reduction & Carbon Sequestration (accounting for 32% of the budget), Economic Growth and Development (26%) and Sector Resilience & Societal Challenges (23%). Mandatory activities under the Cluster IV framework (management, science co-ordination, knowledge and technology transfer and impact assessment) account for the remaining 19% of the budget.

## Research Highlights

Beef Cluster IV projects began in 2023/24. The majority are not scheduled to be completed until 2027/28, but results will be reported as they become available, including through an ongoing series published on the BCRC blog that highlights recent research results of all BCRC-funded projects. The linked fact sheets found in Appendix II discuss each project in more detail.

### ***FOS.01.21C: Development and Validation of Novel "Green" Technologies for Improving the Safety and Shelf Life of Beef - Factsheet***

Dr. Roopesh Syamaladevi (University of Alberta) and his team found that plasma activated water and ultraviolet technology may have potential to maintain or improve food safety in meat processing facilities while reducing the need for hot water and sanitizers, provided the technologies can be scaled up and dwell times reduced.

## **b. Cluster IV Budget Overview**

At the time of writing, most Cluster IV projects are fully spent for 2025/26. The actual expenditures for 2025/26 will be finalized by mid-June 2026.

**A full list of Beef Science Cluster IV Projects can be found in Appendix II**, including the total 5-year budget and 2025/26 yearly budget for each project.

### **Summary of 2025/26 investments in Cluster IV projects:**

| <b>Fund Recipients</b>                       | <b>AAFC \$'s</b> | <b>Industry \$'s</b> | <b>Total \$'s</b> |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| <b>AAFC researchers</b>                      | 805,683          | 884,296              | 1,689,979         |
| <b>Non-AAFC researchers/Universities</b>     | <u>1,651,801</u> | <u>1,998,343</u>     | <u>3,650,144</u>  |
| <b>Total funding for Cluster IV projects</b> | <b>2,457,484</b> | <b>2,882,639*</b>    | <b>5,340,123</b>  |

\* Includes funding provided directly to the BCRC from the following organizations:

Les Producteurs de bovins du Québec = \$30,000; Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association = \$30,000; Dairy Farmers of Newfoundland and Labrador = \$10,000; Fondation de l'Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue = \$10,000

\* varies from value presented in annual budget; this total reflects net project funding excluding the BCRC project management expenses or management reimbursements from AAFC.

**Total 2025/26 projected National Check-Off funding for Cluster IV projects = \$2,802,639**

**Provincial cattle association Cluster IV project investment in 2025/26 = \$30,000**

## **iii. Priority Research Projects**

### **a. Priority Research Program Overview**

Priority research refers to projects that are outside the scope or timeline of the Cluster program but are important to the beef industry. Priority research projects are funded jointly by Canadian Beef Cattle Check-

Off dollars leveraged with a minimum 1:1 match funding from government and/or industry partners. Funding is made available to researchers through competitive calls for proposals aimed at achieving specific priority outcomes in identified program areas aligned with the Canadian Beef Research & Technology Transfer Strategy.

### **b. 2025 Call for Proposals**

Due to higher funding requirements under Science Cluster IV, the BCRC moved from an annual call for proposals to completing a call every 18 months. In addition to offsetting cluster funding requirements, this allows for larger funding calls that attract stronger research proposals and increase efficiency within the proposal evaluation process.

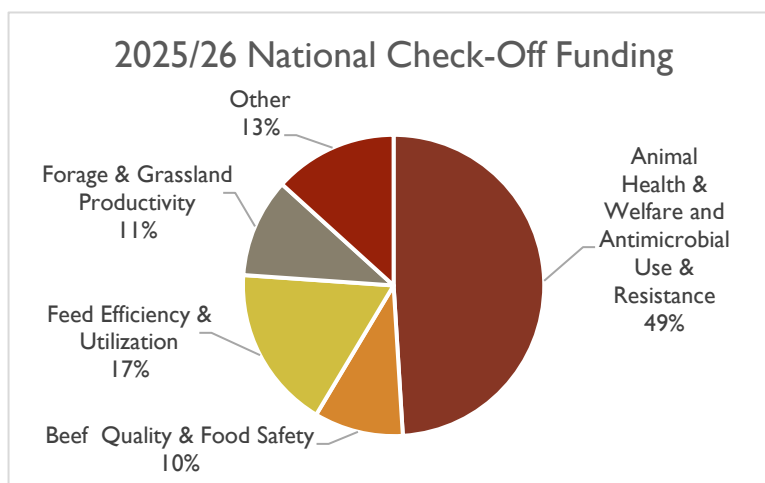
A call for Letters of Intent was launched in June 2025 and received 50 letters of intent. Of these, 24 research teams were invited to submit a full proposal. All proposals addressed priority outcomes as defined by the BCRC under program areas relating to Animal Health & Welfare, Beef Quality, Food Safety, Feed Grains & Feed Efficiency, and/or Forages & Grassland Productivity. The BCRC engaged external peer reviewers as well as a Science Advisory Panel in the proposal selection process, and funding decisions are expected to be finalized in June 2026.

**A full list of Priority Research Projects can be found in Appendix III.** Projects approved through the 2025 call will be reported on in the 2026/27 results report once final funding decisions have been made.

### **c. Current Priority Research**

The BCRC identifies six priority areas for proposals in the Canadian Beef Research & Technology Transfer Strategy. These priority areas are: 1) Feed Efficiency & Utilization, 2) Forage & Grassland Productivity, 3) Environmental Sustainability, 4) Animal Health, Welfare, & Antimicrobial Resistance, 5) Beef Quality and 6) Food Safety.

In 2025/26, the BCRC managed 51 Priority Research Projects with funding made available to researchers through previous open calls for proposals. National Check-Off funding in 2025/26 was allocated to Forage & Grassland Productivity (11%), Animal Health & Welfare and Antimicrobial Use & Resistance (49%), Feed Efficiency & Utilization (17%), Beef Quality & Food Safety (10%) and Other (13%) which includes funding to Surveillance and Living Labs.



**A full list of Priority Research Projects can be found in Appendix III,** including the Canadian Beef Cattle Check-Off allocation to each project.

**Total 2025/26 projected National Check-Off funding for ongoing Priority Research projects = \$915,718**

**Provincial cattle association priority research project investment in 2025/26 = \$0**

## Project Highlights:

### ***ENV.03.19: Prairie Ecosystem Climate and Carbon Project (PECCaP): Quantifying the Contribution of Landscapes That Support Livestock Production - Factsheet***

Dr. Pascal Badiou (Ducks Unlimited) and his team found that Canadian wetlands emit fewer greenhouse gases (GHGs) than wetlands elsewhere in the world due to freeze-thaw cycles. They also found that GHG emissions from pasture wetlands, where beef production is most common, are lower than those from cropland. This is likely due to the forage present in the riparian zones of pasture wetlands. Their findings suggest that beef production landscapes in Canada are important for maintaining wetlands and the ecosystem services they provide, and that there is value in having accurate statistics that are specific to Canada.

### ***FRG.09.18: Enhancement of Total Lipid Content/Composition in Non-GMO Alfalfa and Sainfoin for Improved Energy Density and Reduced Ethane Emissions - Factsheet***

Dr. Hari Poudel (AAFC Lethbridge) and his team advanced sainfoin and alfalfa breeding and the techniques they used brought us closer to high-lipid-content (high energy) alfalfa varieties. These varieties could have the potential to reduce feed intake, maintain feed efficiency and reduce methane emissions.

### ***ANH.04.18: Comparison of Immune Response and Respiratory Disease-Sparing Effect of Homologous and Heterologous Prime-Boost Vaccine Programs in Beef Calves - Factsheet***

Dr. Nathan Erickson (University of Saskatchewan) and his team found that intranasal bovine coronavirus vaccination, followed by boosting with an injectable vaccine, resulted in the development of a robust immune response and good protection against respiratory disease. Killed and modified live boosters provided similar protection from disease, but calves boosted with the modified live vaccine shed less coronavirus than those boosted with the killed vaccine. Furthermore, prime-boost vaccination targeting bovine coronavirus could be a useful strategy to prevent respiratory disease, especially in herds where pneumonia outbreaks caused by the virus have been previously diagnosed.

### ***ANH.20.20: Rapid Characterization of the Viral Microbiome in Arriving Feedlot Calves to Inform Vaccine Gaps and Risk Assessment for Bovine Respiratory Disease - Factsheet***

Dr. Cheryl Waldner (University of Saskatchewan) and her team improved our understanding of the diversity, prevalence, and dynamics of respiratory viruses and bacteria early in the feeding period. Their findings suggested that the Bovine Respiratory Syncytial Viral component of commercial viral vaccines likely needs updating to protect against current field strains. Also, if the association between Bovine Coronavirus (BCoV) and pneumonia is confirmed, viral respiratory disease vaccines may also need to include BCoV. Overall, they found that the new technology was helpful but still needs improvement to also detect Antimicrobial Resistance Genes in bacteria.

## **iv. Proof of Concept & Validation Trials**

The BCRC's Proof of Concept (POC) & Validation Trial program has been very successful since its launch in 2018/19. This program supports short-term (one to two year) proof of concept-based research in an emerging area of research or technology development to determine whether the concept should be pursued as a larger, more defined research program. It is also intended to support clinical trials to validate practices or technologies discovered through research projects and/or to facilitate the adaptation of technologies that have been utilized in other sectors, commodities, or countries. Projects funded to date have achieved what was intended under

this program. Some projects supported under the POC program have provided preliminary data to demonstrate value in further investment in a research area. Other projects have found that further research should not be pursued at a larger scale, saving money and encouraging the redirection of research to more promising concepts.

In 2025/26, the BCRC provided funding to seventeen proof of concept (POC) projects, including five new projects approved for funding in 2025.

**A full list of Proof of Concept Projects can be found in Appendix IV**, including the Canadian Beef Cattle Check-Off allocation to each project.

**Total 2025/26 projected National Check-Off funding for Proof of Concept projects = \$237,649.**

### **Project Highlights:**

#### ***POC.10.24: Development of a Rapid, Chute-Side Diagnostic Test to Aid in the Identification of Feedlot Cattle Requiring Treatment for Respiratory Disease - Factsheet***

Dr. Mike Jelinski (Veterinary Agri-Health Services Ltd.) and his team found that if sample preparation and test times can be reduced below the current three minutes, blood biomarkers such as haptoglobin (an indicator of inflammation) could help veterinarians and feedlot staff develop more refined antibiotic treatment protocols for pneumonia in combination with traditional pen checks and rectal temperature.

#### ***POC.06.23: Learning from the Past: A Universal and Updates Analysis of Environmental and Cattle Metagenomic Information from Beef Operations - Factsheet***

Dr. Antonio Ruzzini (University of Saskatchewan) and his team developed a regional, beef-industry-specific catalogue of antimicrobial resistance genes (ARGs) in pathogens causing respiratory disease in cattle. They identified that ARGs in North America differ from those in other parts of the world, and that bacteria from cattle exposed to antimicrobials carry more ARGs. Future studies should consider an additional step in sample processing to improve ARG detection for surveillance.

## **v. Research Capacity**

### **a. Research Chairs**

The BCRC is committed to developing and maintaining critical research capacity to facilitate proactive inquiry and innovation and support the advancement of the beef industry. The BCRC began developing Research Chairs in partnership with key research institutions in 2018/19 to address industry-identified gaps in research capacity. The evaluation of Research Capacity concepts by the BCRC considers the incremental nature of the proposed research capacity, institutional investments, program support and capacity priorities identified by industry.

The BCRC has held three successful Research Chair calls for proposals with the first two Research Chairs approved by the Council in 2019, a third in December 2020, and a fourth approved in September 2024. The Chairs include:

- **Beef Production Systems Chair** “to increase the competitiveness of those sectors of the Canadian beef industry that rely heavily on grazing-based forage resources, while maintaining a strong focus on beef production and market outcomes”, University of Alberta. Dr. Gleise da Silva was hired in April 2021 to fill this position.
- **Chair in One Health and Production-Limiting Diseases** with the goal “to increase capacity for applied field research and surveillance in specific priority areas outlined by the beef industry including: animal health and welfare, antimicrobial use, resistance and alternatives and on-farm food safety”, Western College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Saskatchewan. Dr. Cheryl Waldner was hired in January 2021 to fill this position.
- **Beef Industry Forage Management and Utilization Chair** with the goal “to develop and evaluate agronomic strategies to optimize forage establishment, yield, quality and stand longevity and identify feeding and grazing strategies that optimize animal performance while contributing to improved soil health and environmental sustainability”, University of Saskatchewan. Dr. Bree Kelln left this position in November 2023 and was replaced by Dr. Flavia van Cleef in March 2025.
- **Research Chair in Beef Cattle Economic Sustainability** with the goal “to improve financial literacy through an improved understanding of differences in risk management and financial returns, as well as the value of programs/policies necessary to mitigate future risk and improve profitability in Canadian cow-calf operations”, University of Manitoba. This position was approved in 2024/25 with the hiring process initiated in 2025/26 and not yet complete.

| Institution                       | Chair                                                                | Chair Term                                       | Total NCO funding (\$) | 2025/26 NCO funding (\$) |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| University of Saskatchewan (WCVM) | BCRC Chair in One Health and Production-Limiting Disease (CHR.01.18) | Dr. Cheryl Waldner<br>2020 - 2030                | 1,750,000              | 200,000 <sup>1</sup>     |
| University of Alberta             | BCRC - Hays Chair in Beef Production Systems (CHR.02.18)             | Dr. Gleise da Silva<br>2020 - 2030               | 1,500,000              | 150,000 <sup>1</sup>     |
| University of Saskatchewan        | Integrated Forage Management & Utilization Chair (CHR.01.20)         | Dr. Flavia van Cleef<br>2021 – 2051 <sup>2</sup> | 2,500,000              | 250,000 <sup>1</sup>     |
| University of Manitoba            | Research Chair in Beef Cattle Economic Sustainability (CHR.01.24)    | Position not yet filled<br>2025 - 2035           | 1,500,000              | 0                        |

<sup>1</sup> Payment has not been made at time of writing but is projected to be made prior to June 30, 2026.

<sup>2</sup> The Integrated Forage Management & Utilization Chair is structured to be a long-term (~30 year) investment where the BCRC's investment, along with matching industry and government funds, are invested in the first five years. The interest earned from those investments will be utilized to extend the chair beyond the typical 10-year format to ideally 30 or more years depending on interest rates and investment performance.

**Total 2025/26 projected National Check-Off funding for Research Chair Positions = \$600,000.**

## b. Start-Up Funding

In 2023/24, the BCRC approved start-up funding for two new positions at the University of Alberta and the University of Guelph. In 2024/25, the BCRC was approached by the University of Saskatchewan to provide start-up and transition funds to replace two retiring researchers. Start-up funds are used by researchers in new positions to build their research program. Transition funds allow for a new researcher to be hired prior to a researcher retiring from their position allowing for crossover and improved training and transition of duties.

All positions were deemed of high importance to Canada's beef & forage research capacity and consequently committing funds to support the recruitment of qualified individuals was considered a high impact investment for BCRC.

| Institution                | Position                                                                                   |                           | Total<br>NCO<br>funding<br>(\$) | 2025/26<br>NCO<br>funding<br>(\$) |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| University of Alberta      | Assistant Professor of Forage Production and Management Science Start-Up Funds (SUF.01.23) | Dr. Erick da Silva Santos | 250,000                         | 20,000                            |
| University of Guelph       | Professor in Ruminant Health Management Start-Up Funds (SUF.02.23)                         | Dr. Kristen Edwards       | 50,000                          | 25,000                            |
| University of Saskatchewan | Start-up Funds to fill Dr. Campbell's position (CAP.02.24)                                 | Position not yet filled   | 50,000                          | 0                                 |
| University of Saskatchewan | Transition Funds to fill Dr. Jelinski's position (CAP.01.24) <sup>1</sup>                  | Position not yet filled   | 200,000                         | 0                                 |

<sup>1</sup> Funding has been approved but the funding agreement is pending

**Total 2025/26 projected National Check-Off funding for Start-Up Funding = \$45,000.**

## vi. Knowledge Mobilization

The transfer of technology and innovation to industry is essential in driving the timely adoption and uptake of research. Industry has been tasked with taking a leadership role in Knowledge Mobilization (KMb) and the BCRC is supporting this through several different programs and initiatives as outlined below.

### a. Beef Science Cluster IV

Under the Cluster IV program, activities completed in 2025/26 supported staff and contract resources to deliver core KMb programming, content development, webinars, decision-making tools, completion of the *2025 Cow-Calf Adoption Rates and Performance Levels Report*, and continued development of resources and awareness for the French version of [BeefResearch.ca](https://BeefResearch.ca).

Topics of interest included farm biosecurity and prevention strategies for foreign animal diseases, stock water quality and management, genetic literacy with a focus on bull management and bull selection, nutrition and feed management and a continued focus on early calf life survival and calf management. Significant emphasis was placed on *communicating results* of the 2025 Canadian Cow-Calf Adoption Rates and Performance Levels Report to those involved in beef sector knowledge transfer nationwide, including through the Canadian Knowledge Mobilization Network.

### Resources created in 2025/26

Resources created in 2025/26 included both English and French versions. Content prioritized for translation was selected based on popularity of the English resource in French-speaking regions. New and innovative resources included: two videos highlighting use of EPDs for bull selection and benefits of the newly updated BCRC Water Systems Calculator; four webinars featuring practical, beneficial practices for using implants, managing stock water and reducing calf losses; 47 podcast episodes delivering the most popular and seasonally relevant content from BeefResearch.ca in audio format; 35 infographics resulting from six topical series (biosecurity, water management and testing, weaning strategies, genetic selection and heritability, beef cattle nutrition and grazing management) as well as 18 infographics translated to French; two interactive calculators with downloadable excel versions including the gross margins calculator and water systems calculator, as well as two interactive calculators translated to French, and three topic webpages with curated resources for corn grazing, lead poisoning and water management for beef cattle as well as one topic webpage translated to French.

Engagement with new resources continues to be high and increasing with 261,505 views on new videos in 2025/26. In addition, 26,456 infographics and PDFs were downloaded from BeefResearch.ca in 2025/26 and there were 24,400 views of interactive calculators (1,121 of which were of two new calculators). There have been 2,305 individuals enrolled in the BCRC's Cow-Calf Record-Keeping Courses to date. There have been 3,361 views of three newly created topic webpages (137,855 for all topic pages). Webinar registrants increased to 1,425 from 1,120 in 2023/24, with 866 live attendees over four webinars. The Canadian Beef Cattle Podcast has gained significant subscribership, with 16,337 podcast listeners and 23,098 downloads. Resource development in 2025/26 held steady with the number of new and updated resources reaching 274. This growing library of tools available to producers and other industry professionals allows for greater responsiveness and flexibility as beef sector needs, industry conditions or other factors change.

### **Regular communication with industry stakeholders**

Communication strategies aimed at increasing viewership, readership and comprehension of beneficial practices include a variety of platforms. In 2025/26, resources were communicated to English- and French-speaking industry stakeholders through: 36 research fact sheets; 65 blog posts with 44 new and past blogs translated to French; 12 issues of The Wire e-newsletter; 18 virtual and in-person presentations; four issues of The Transfer e-newsletter for the Canadian Beef Knowledge Mobilization Network (KMb Network), and two virtual meetings of the KMb Network.

E-newsletter subscription has increased with over 10,391 total subscribers spread over eight subscription lists including The Wire monthly newsletter, As-it-Happens regular subscribers, Vet Tools Newsletter for veterinary professionals, webinar news, researchers, students, journalists and broadcasters lists. Average open rates in 2025/26 for regularly published articles was almost 53%. Average open rates on all subscription lists are substantially higher than MailChimp's average for all users of 36%.

Resources are further amplified through the BCRC's social media channels. Social media subscribers increased by 55% across all platforms in 2025/26. The BCRC Facebook page has 67,000 followers (up 61% from the previous period), with 36,000 page likes (up 42%). Total reach of all Facebook content surpassed 16.3 million views, with the most popular organic social post, Checking the Cervix and Calf Position, reaching over 1.2 million individuals with 20,000 interactions. Other social platforms have increased in followers as well: Instagram (7,092), "X" (9,116), and LinkedIn (2,438). YouTube subscriptions have increased to 11,000 from 8,870 in 2024/25. Total social media presence is almost 97,000 (up from 53,000 followers in the previous period).

Articles and other resources developed through this project are frequently redistributed by veterinary clinics, industry groups, trade magazines and other media, as well as by producers on social media. One notable example is the growth in awareness and use of BCRC resources by 4-H organizations nationwide. Since launching the *For 4-H Leaders* webpage in 2025, it has received 6,220 views. 4-H clubs nationwide have shared their use and appreciation for BeefResearch.ca resources for club meetings and 4-H projects through social media and personal communications at in-person events. For example, 4-H Saskatchewan has created a suite of beef resources that includes a wide variety of printed BCRC materials, which they make available to all members. Furthermore, awareness and distribution of resources for knowledge mobilization continues to be expanded through the BCRC-led Canadian Beef Knowledge Mobilization Network, which has grown to 292 members across Canada. Members are encouraged to share resources, events and strategies for knowledge transfer virtually via the TEAMS platform and continued participation and collaboration through virtual presentations and workshops.

### **Research and Knowledge Mobilization Collaboration**

The BCRC Award for Outstanding Research & Innovation will be awarded in August 2026 at the Canadian Beef Industry Conference (CBIC) banquet and will continue on a new cycle in step with CBIC as the conference shifts to an every two-year in-person event.

The Beef Researcher Mentorship Program continues to be a sought-after opportunity for new researchers nationwide. In 2025/26, seven participants from Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, and Ontario are completing the program. With the addition of the 2025/26 cohort, 53 mentees have participated in the mentorship program from every province, except the Maritimes. Mentees continue to rate the program highly, noting that the connections created with producers are particularly valuable. The program's competitiveness has increased each year, with priority being placed on researchers who have secured full-time positions in Canada such that the benefits of the program remain in Canada with a Canadian beef industry focus.

The budget for this program is included in Section III (ii) above.

## **b. Knowledge Mobilization Network Program**

### **Program Overview**

The Canadian Beef Knowledge Mobilization Network Program is focused on broadening the reach of BCRC's KMB resources by supporting external initiatives through national and/or regional networks to encourage the broader and more rapid uptake of relevant technologies and practices.

Resource development and distribution is led in-house by BCRC staff with the support of external stakeholders and contractors. Work is ongoing to continue developing resources and identifying appropriate distribution mechanisms to encourage broad-scale uptake by producers. Internal development and project oversight ensures adequate resourcing and quality, as well as the engagement of a broader community of extension stakeholders.

The current priority focus areas are water management, genetic literacy, feed, forage & nutrition, veterinary collaboration and print resource distribution.

### **Water Quality and Management Collaborative Initiative**

Development of water resources for Canadian beef producers associated with this project were completed in June 2025. Since that time, all resources have been launched on BeefResearch.ca, through a four-part Case Study series. Promotion is ongoing on social media and through paid advertising with all resources now available in one convenient location.

### **Improving Genetic Selection by Beef Cattle Producers Collaborative Initiative**

Resource development of KMb tools to drive improvements in heritable production metrics are expected to be completed by June 2026. All resources developed through this collaborative project can be found on BeefResearch.ca.

Resources for beef producers that have been developed as a result of this program include:

- Heritability in Beef Cattle table and Highlighting Heritability and Trait Correlations article
- Various resources for improved understanding of Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs): A Practical Guide to Expected Progeny Differences, How to Read EPDs video, Checklist for selecting EPDs, Understanding EPDs article
- Three producer case studies including social media graphics
- Crossbreeding infographic series
- Bull management resources: Genetic Impact of a Bull on the Calf Crop, Road to Bull Sale Season infographic, Sire Selection flow chart, Recommended Steps when Buying a Bull article
- Heifer Selection Considerations
- Genomic Testing Tools Guide and Genomic Testing producer case study

### **Feed, Forage & Nutrition Collaborative Project**

Work is well underway to create resources to increase beef producers' awareness and understanding of beneficial management practices related to feed, forage and nutrition across Canada. This project is strongly supported by a network of applied nutritionists and extension specialists affiliated with Perennia Food and Agriculture, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, as well as consulting ruminant nutritionists, ensuring that all resources are grounded in credible science and practical, regionally relevant expertise. These organizations and individuals bring extensive experience in ruminant nutrition, producer education and knowledge transfer, strengthening the accuracy and applicability of the project outputs. To ensure that materials address priority needs within the industry, focus groups have and will continue to be conducted as required to assess existing knowledge gaps, validate emerging issues and guide the development of targeted resources that are responsive to producer and industry challenges.

Resources created through this project in 2025/26 include:

- Mineral tag sample graphic with pop-up descriptions of key information, and associated blog article (summer 2026)
- Trace mineral functions in beef cattle, impact of mineral deficiencies on beef cattle performance and bioavailability of trace mineral sources, and associated blog article (summer 2026)
- Glossary of nutrition related terms along with simple infographics (DM vs. as fed, ad libitum intake) to visualize terms

- [\*Forage Testing Quick Guide\*](#), sample forage analysis results with pop-up descriptions, updated Feed Testing Laboratories in Canada and associated blog article (summer 2026)

### **Veterinary Collaboration and Print Resource Distribution**

Internal activities that support mobilization and knowledge transfer of key priority topics and ongoing communication with critical stakeholder groups continues to be a focus for the BCRC. Building capacity for further reach to Veterinary Teams is part of this strategy as front-line and producer-facing personnel who advocate for and promote research-based tools for beef production. New resources created and currently underway through this project in 2025/26 include:

- Strategies for Reducing Calf Losses: Webinars for [\*Eastern\*](#) and [\*Western\*](#) Canadian Beef Producers
- New video (associated pdf coming soon): [\*How to Manage Hypothermia in Newborn Calves\*](#)
- Bull Management Resources including an updated [\*topic webpage\*](#), new [\*blog article\*](#) and [\*printable pdf\*](#)

The Vet Tools Newsletter continues to be successful, increasing by over 176 subscribers over the past year. Work is ongoing to ensure that key resources are available to veterinarians and their teams.

Print resource development and distribution continues to be a focus of this and other KMb projects, with ongoing requests from western and eastern veterinary groups and extension agents for print versions of pdfs, infographics and resource guides. In 2025/26, 15,000 copies of material from BeefResearch.ca were distributed nationwide. Planning and coordination of scheduled, twice-yearly printing and distribution of seasonally relevant, key resources is underway and proposed to continue in the future.

### **2025 Regional KMb Initiatives Call for Proposals**

The 2025 Regional Knowledge Mobilization Initiatives call for proposals generated strong national interest, receiving 25 applications from across Canada during the two-week intake period. The call was open from May 30 to June 13, 2025. Applicants were eligible to request up to \$5,000 in funding per activity. While matching funds were encouraged, they were not required.

Priority was given to regional knowledge mobilization activities that focused on:

- New and innovative engagement approaches
- Workshops and tours related to water quality, water management, and the selection of watering systems
- Demonstrations or workshops emphasizing practical biosecurity protocol implementation
- Workshops focused on record keeping tools for tracking herd genetic improvement

### **Project Highlights:**

#### ***KT.T.07.25 – Protecting Your Herd: Practical Biosecurity Implementation for Enhanced Cow and Calf Health***

Organized by the Northern Ontario Farm Innovation Alliance, this workshop attracted 36 beef producers. Participants learned core biosecurity principles, with a detailed focus on best practices for introducing new animals through quarantine protocols, as well as proper cleaning and disinfection of trailers and equipment. The session included a case study exercise that encouraged discussion around real world challenges associated with applying biosecurity measures. Additional topics included disease prevention and vaccination programs. Organizers incorporated several BCRC resources, including the Be a Biosecurity Superhero comic strip series.

### ***KTT.11.25 – Animal Health Workshop***

Initially proposed as a series of four workshops, this initiative was scaled back to a single one-day event due to staffing constraints. Despite the change, the workshop received very positive feedback from producers. Expert speakers delivered sessions on parasite management, nutrition and immunity tools to support calf health, calving demonstrations, and cow body condition scoring.

### ***KTT.10.25 – ‘Bos’ Ladies Round Up***

Held on February 11, 2026, this one-day educational event featured veterinary led presentations on calving tips, cow calf herd health, biosecurity and calfhood diseases. The day also included hands on breakout stations covering proper implant procedures, forage sampling best practices, castration techniques and remote drug delivery. Sixty producers attended, representing cow calf, seedstock, feedlot and mixed farming operations. Organizers made extensive use of BCRC resources, including Calf 911, Remote Drug Delivery Devices and Forage Sampling Best Practices.

**A full list of Knowledge Mobilization Network Projects can be found in Appendix V**, including the Canadian Beef Cattle Check-Off allocation to each project. Some projects from previous knowledge and technology transfer calls wrapped up in 2025/26. They are included in Appendix V with the regional extension activities.

**Total 2025/26 projected National Check-Off funding for Knowledge Mobilization Network activities = \$128,818**

### **c. Knowledge Mobilization Internal Initiatives Program**

Over the last several years the BCRC has invested in internal activities to develop content and resources that are aligned with key Kmb priorities identified by industry. These activities are proposed to continue in 2025/26, with a few key priorities identified and presented to Council for further discussion and refinement in spring 2025. The strategy in this area also accounts for the approach taken under the Knowledge Mobilization Network Program outlined in the previous section to minimize duplication of efforts.

Budget was primarily allocated to contract support to build materials and work with external stakeholders, with some budget allocated to advertisements and promotion as appropriate and the printing of resources.

- Promotion of existing BCRC content and resources to build awareness amongst Canadian producers.
- Continued development of infographics, videos and short-form content to distribute BCRC content in multi-media formats.
- Continued partnerships with veterinary stakeholders and extension groups nationwide to address content priorities with an regional focus.
- Similar to partnerships established with veterinarians, further invest in partnerships with nutritionists and other extension agents to support the broader distribution of BCRC materials.
- Build awareness among 4-H clubs and other organizations of existing content on beefresearch.ca that is applicable to youth in agriculture.
- Continue distribution of hard copies of popular Kmb resources nationwide.

**Total 2025/26 projected National Check-Off funding for Internal Knowledge Mobilization Programming = \$100,000**

#### d. CowBytes Distribution and Enhancement

Developing CowBytes Ration-Balancing Software Version 6.0 is essential to provide Canadian beef producers with an affordable, up-to-date and accessible ration balancing tool. The current version relies on nutrient standards published in 2000, while the new edition will incorporate the 2016 Nutrient Requirements of Beef Cattle for greater precision and efficiency. The updated web-based version will be compatible across all operating systems and include improved functionality—such as enhanced reporting, feed inventory tracking, mycotoxin and nitrate calculations, updated feed tables and trace mineral reporting—within a modern, user-friendly design.

To support the software development, funding was requested and confirmed from Results Driven Agricultural Research (RDAR), Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, and Manitoba Agriculture in the amounts listed in the table to the right. This funding is complemented by retained earnings from CowBytes program sales and in-kind contributions from both BCRC and the extension team with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture.

| <b>Funding Source</b>                | <b>Amount</b>    |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Results Driven Agricultural Research | \$353,000        |
| Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture | \$108,000        |
| Manitoba Agriculture                 | \$36,000         |
| CowBytes program sales               | \$40,000         |
| <i>In-Kind Contributions</i>         |                  |
| Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture | \$33,000         |
| BCRC - project coordination          | \$35,000         |
| BCRC - advertising campaign          | \$40,000         |
|                                      | <b>\$645,000</b> |

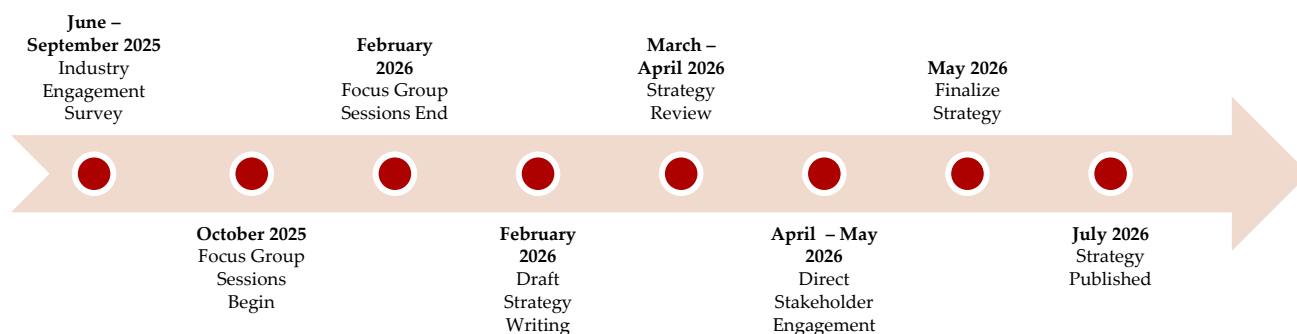
Following the screening of four potential software development firms, Arcurve was selected for the project, and a contract was signed in November 2025. On January 5, 2026, they began the software development process with a target of having CowBytes Version 6.0 ready for Beta Testing in July 2026.

CowBytes Version 6 Development expenses cover the software development process and compensates the Arcurve development team. It includes project planning, setting up login and authentication, implementing and developing the system infrastructure, creating the user interface, extracting calculations from the existing code for reimplementation in the new software, reporting development, importing files from CowBytes Version 5.4.1.

**Total 2025/26 projected National Check-Off funding for CowBytes Distribution and Enhancement = \$0**

#### vii. 5-Year Canadian Beef Research & Knowledge Mobilization Strategy Renewal

The Canadian beef industry has identified research and knowledge mobilization as key investment priorities to achieve the 2030 Beef Strategy goals and ensure the long-term economic and environmental sustainability of the industry. It is also increasingly important to ensure science is available to support communications with the public, consumers and government. The renewal of the Research & Technology Transfer Strategy is timely in reviewing progress to date and setting clear priorities for achieving the 2030 goals. The last Canadian Beef Research and Technology Transfer Strategy was published in July 2021. To target a renewal timeline of 5 years, the BCRC plans to publish an updated strategy by July 2026.



The strategy development process, led by the BCRC, is focused on facilitating and encouraging collaboration amongst producers, researchers, industry stakeholders and other funding agencies to address the key research and knowledge mobilization priorities established. Coordination across funding agencies and research institutions leads to efficiencies and with limited funding, encourages a portfolio approach to research investment, ensuring key research, capacity and extension priorities are addressed.

In 2025/26, the strategy development process included:

- A review of historic funding allocations from the BCRC and partner funding organizations to identify areas of progress and opportunities for further investment
- Open industry engagement survey with 591 responses received in both English and French
- Virtual focus group meetings in each of the following areas: Animal Health & Welfare, Beef Quality & Food Safety, Feed Efficiency & Utilization, Forage & Grassland Productivity, and Knowledge Mobilization with over 160 attendees made up of value chain stakeholders including producers, researchers, government, service providers, and funding agencies
- Direct interviews with key industry players
- Comment period on draft priorities

Additional contract resources were obtained in 2025/26 to assist staff with the survey engagement, 5-year priority and funding review, focus group preparation and execution as well as strategy writing.

**Total 2025/26 projected National Check-Off investment in the Canadian Beef Research and Technology Transfer Strategy Renewal = \$30,000 (included in General Administration and Management Total reported in Section V)**

### viii. Cost of Production Network

In 2025/26, the BCRC continued to fund the Canadian Cost of Production (COP) Network delivered by Canfax Research Services. The COP Network supports industry competitiveness by having Canadian beef cattle cost of production data in every province/ecoregion to guide technology transfer and research priorities.

The second round of data collection continued in 2025/26 with updated benchmarks for Manitoba and the Maritimes. The database currently has 60 benchmarks from coast to coast (BC – 7, AB – 19, AB/SK – 1, SK – 15, MB – 4, ON/MB – 1, ON – 3, QC – 7, MT – 3).

A new series of fact sheets were developed on a variety of topics from the 2024 benchmark results and shared with magazines for re-publication. All of these can be found at [Canfax.ca/resources/cost-of-production/cop-analysis](https://canfax.ca/resources/cost-of-production/cop-analysis). Topics included whole-farm and cow-calf enterprise financial benchmarks, cost structures, productivity optimization, labour, winter feed, calving windows, and forage cost of production.

Five presentations were given at producer events on COP Network results:

- June 2026 – Cows in Control Workshop
- Feb 2026 – Ranching Opportunities – Economics in beef business/profits (Olds, AB)
- Feb 2026 – Celebrating Ranching Women (SK)
- Feb 2026 – BC Peace River Forage Association (PRFA) webinar
- May 2025 – 97th Annual BCCA AGM & Conference, Economics of Replacement Heifers

Alberta AgriSystems Living Lab work continues with the COP Network providing the underlying database for scenario analysis. The second round of management practices include intercropping (west/east), cover cropping, and winter cover crops.

**Total 2025/26 projected National Check-Off funding for Cost of Production Network = \$140,500**

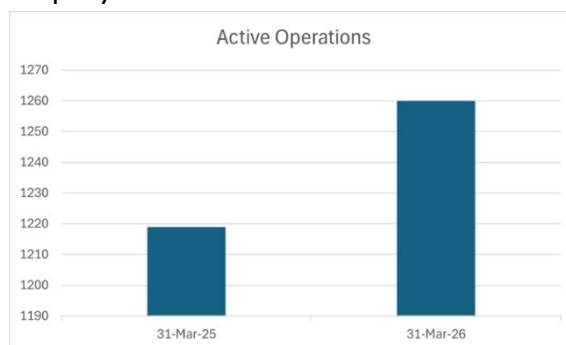
## IV. Verified Beef Production Plus

Verified Beef Production Plus (VBP+) and VBP+ Delivery Services Inc. (VBP+ Inc.) deliver training and certification services to Canadian beef producers across all provinces and industry sectors.

VBP+ delivers training on best management practices and requirements/recommendations for successful certification. Training is delivered three ways; on-line through the [CanadianCattleLearningCenter.com](https://canadiancattlelearningcenter.com), hosted by provincial coordinators in-person, and through webinars.

VBP+ Delivery Services Inc. is the certification arm of the VBP+ program, delivering assessment services across the 5-year certification cycle and achieving and maintaining third-party accreditation.

Certification activity grew again throughout 2025 and the first quarter of 2026, driven in part by incentives available in Alberta and Saskatchewan through cost-shared funding programs that provide producers with rebates for eligible on-farm improvements. Assessment activity reached the highest levels recorded since 2019, while renewal assessment activity continues to demonstrate the producer commitment to maintaining certification. The metrics in the table to the right refer to the full 2025 calendar year with the first quarter of 2026 reported separately to maintain consistency with previous reporting.



VBP+, and jointly delivered CRSB certification, follow a five-year assessment cycle. The cycle begins with an on-farm assessment (Year 1) with the following years (Year 2 to Year 5) featuring annual assessments consisting

of self-declarations and records assessments. The certification cycle then begins again at Year 1 with an on-farm assessment.

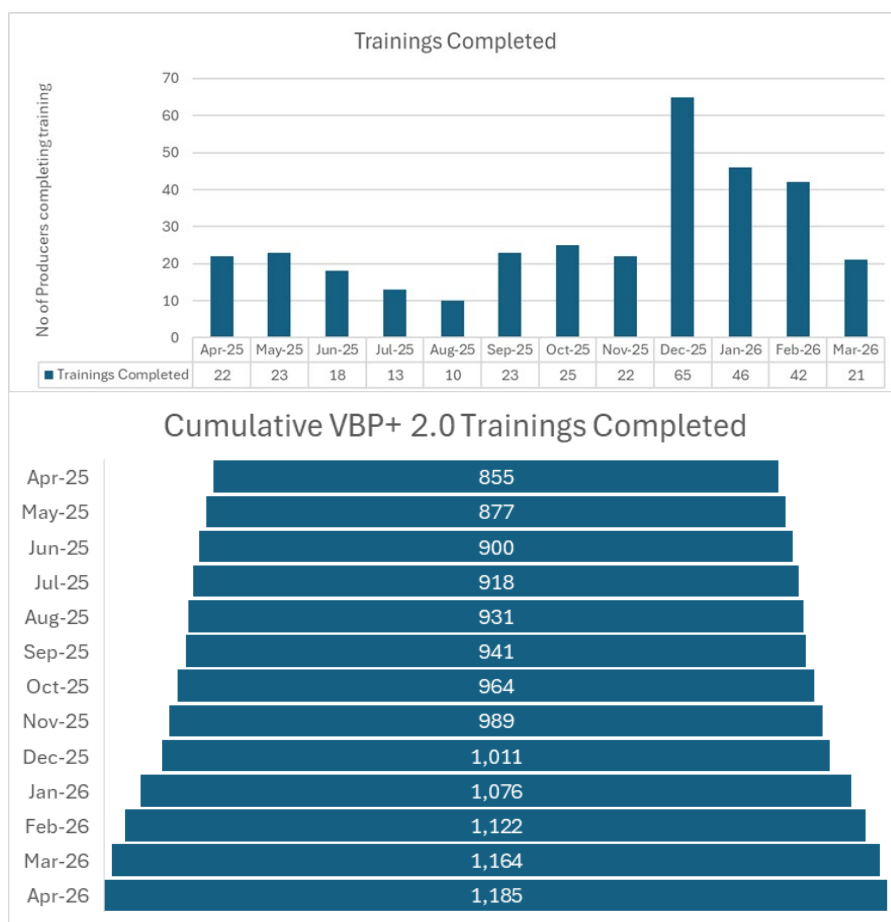
On-farm assessments are a leading indicator of program interest and are categorised in terms of producer participation, initial (first time), renewal (renewal of certification) and re-activated (producer withdrew from certification then re-activated their certification).

Previously, the program has not seen many re-activated certifications. In the 2025 calendar year, five producers re-activated their certifications. These re-activated certifications, combined with 277 renewal and 88 initial on-farm assessments, contributed to a total number of 370 on-farm assessments performed. In the first quarter of 2026, 95 renewal, 35 initial on-farm assessments, and three on-farm assessments for re-activated certifications have been completed.

Annual assessments (Year 2 – Year 5) are also an indicator of producer commitment to certification. 889 annual assessments were completed in 2025, an increase over the same period in 2024. While some producers withdraw their certifications in annual assessment years, more producers maintained their certifications than previous years which is reflected in an increase of certifications with active certifications.

Training completion activity remained consistent throughout 2025/26, demonstrating ongoing producer engagement and continued uptake of program education initiatives. Demand for training completion is driven in part by incentives of up to \$2,500 available in Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Monthly completions ranged from 10 to 25 participants through most of 2025, with notable increases observed in December 2025 (65 completions), January 2026 (46), and February 2026 (42). This sustained participation aligns with overall program growth, as total participation increased steadily from 855 in April 2025 to 1,185 by April 2026. Collectively, these results indicate strong and continued demand for training resources and ongoing commitment to program implementation across the sector.



**Total 2025/2026 projected National Check-Off funding for VBP+ = \$565,225**

**(includes industry allocation for the AgriAssurance project)**

## V. BCRC Administration and Management

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The BCRC is overseen by a Council comprised of industry representatives appointed by provincial cattle organizations that contribute to the BCRC through the Canadian Beef Cattle Check-Off. Producer representatives on the BCRC Council are appointed by provincial cattle organizations that contribute to the BCRC through the Canadian Beef Cattle Check-Off. Provincial representation is determined by the relative provincial allocation of Check-Off funds to research.

The BCRC is led by an Executive Director who oversees research and extension programming development and implementation, playing a key role in establishing and refining industry research priorities in consultation with other stakeholders. The Executive Director acts as a liaison and facilitation link among the BCRC Council and the BCRC staff, CCA, the Canadian Beef Advisors, the Canadian Beef Cattle Research, Market Development and Promotion Agency, technical advisors and national and provincial interest groups with similar research objectives. The Executive Director encourages coordination of priorities and funding allocations between agencies in alignment with the *Canadian Beef Research and Technology Transfer Strategy*.

Supporting the Executive Director, the BCRC Science Director, Science Coordinator, and Science & Mobilization Specialist manage priority research projects as well as projects undertaken within the Beef Cattle Industry Science Cluster. The Operations Manager supports the development and implementation of BCRC's business planning, budget management and reporting processes. The Knowledge Mobilization & Communications Director, Knowledge Mobilization Coordinator and Knowledge Mobilization Specialist support the Technology Transfer & Knowledge Dissemination Strategy. In addition to these positions, administrative, financial and technical expertise support the BCRC operations.

The BCRC Executive Director also oversees the VBP+ Business Manager who works with the VBP+ Technical Manager and VBP+ Operations Manager and various contractors and is directly responsible for delivering the national VBP+ program and overseeing VBP+ Delivery Services Inc. the wholly owned non-profit responsible for delivery of VBP+ audit delivery.

A Science Advisory Panel comprised of industry, academic and governmental scientific expertise, continues to support the BCRC's research program. This expertise helps to ensure the delivery of research plans that are directed towards industry's research objectives and achieve the outcomes desired by industry.

**National Check-Off funding directed to the BCRC general administration and management expenses for 2025/26 is projected at \$887,671.**

## VI. Financial Notes

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The BCRC fiscal year is July 1 to June 30 and therefore the BCRC audited financial statements are not included in this report. In many instances, the projected expenditures in this report reflect the year-to-date expenditures, as of publication date, and do not reflect BCRC's entire fiscal year. Due to the nature of the BCRC's funding cycle, this will result in a variance between this report and the close of BCRC's year end on June 30<sup>th</sup>, as a large volume of BCRC project transactions occur between May and June of each year.

A small number of projects wrapped up in 2025/26 are underbudget. For these projects, unspent funds were returned to the BCRC and will show up in the budget tables as negative values.

The BCRC 2025/26 financial summary and CCA audited financial statements will be available to the Agency after August 2026.

Projected Canadian Beef Cattle Check-Off funding allocated to research programming in 2025/26 is outlined in various sections of this report and includes the following:

Beef Science Cluster Research Projects = **\$2,802,639**

Other BCRC Research Projects = **\$1,938,867**

Knowledge Mobilization = **\$228,818**

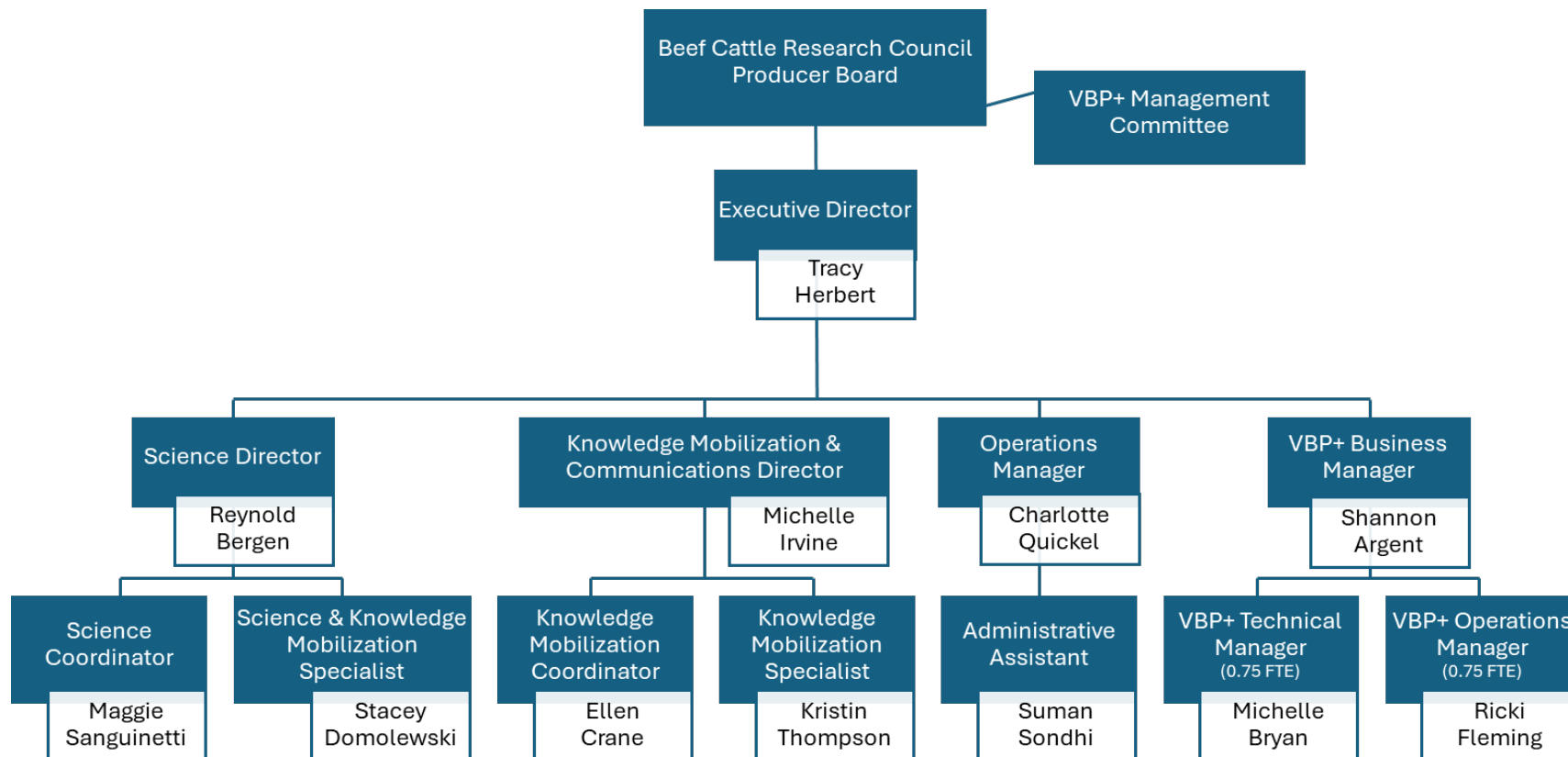
Verified Beef Production Plus = **\$565,225**

BCRC general program management and administration = **\$887,671**

**Total Beef Cattle Check-Off funding = \$6,423,220**

## VII. Appendix I – BCRC Organization Chart

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Note: In addition to permanent positions, BCRC and the VBP+ Program hire services from various experts, on a contractual basis as required

## VIII. Appendix II – Beef Science Cluster IV Projects

| Project Number                                     | Project Title                                                                                                                                                                                                   | End Date | Total 5-Yr Funding (\$) | 2025/26 Funding (\$) | Factsheet Link            |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Climate Change &amp; Environment</b>            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |          |                         |                      |                           |
| ENV.06.21C                                         | Grazing management across western Canada: uncovering the role of the microbiome                                                                                                                                 | Mar 2028 | 2,066,633               | 516,212              | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| ENV.11.21C                                         | Understanding the influence of grazing management regimes on cow methane emissions in Canada                                                                                                                    | Mar 2028 | 980,745                 | 312,530              | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| ENV.12.21C                                         | Potential for dietary mitigation of enteric methane during winter feeding in Canadian beef cows                                                                                                                 | Mar 2028 | 601,163                 | 178,825              | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| FDE.04.21C                                         | Potential for inclusion of surplus food in beef cattle diets                                                                                                                                                    | Mar 2028 | 524,839                 | 148,762              | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| FDE.18.21C                                         | Systematic characterization of the bovine rumen microbiome and determination of its causal roles in cattle feed efficiency and methane emission using machine learning                                          | Mar 2028 | 879,265                 | 193,943              | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| FRG.14.21C                                         | Integration of Livestock on Annual Crop Land                                                                                                                                                                    | Mar 2028 | 1,768,046               | 657,903              | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| <b>Economic Growth &amp; Development</b>           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |          |                         |                      |                           |
| ANH.04.21C                                         | The Canadian Cow-Calf Health and Productivity Enhancement Network (C3H/PEN)                                                                                                                                     | Mar 2028 | 1,528,631               | 510,231              | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| FRG.02.21C                                         | Breeding climate-resilient forage germplasm for the Canadian beef industry: a national collaboration                                                                                                            | Mar 2028 | 1,171,499               | 239,642              | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| FRG.04.21C                                         | Development of Cicer milkvetch (CMV) germplasm for enhanced fitness to alfalfa and improved animal health.                                                                                                      | Mar 2028 | 396,720                 | 88,940               | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| FRG.06.21C                                         | Advancing Canadian sainfoin breeding for profitability, animal health, and a future of sustainable beef and forage production systems                                                                           | Mar 2028 | 571,920                 | 151,147              | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| FRG.08.21C                                         | Winter hardiness of alfalfa                                                                                                                                                                                     | Mar 2028 | 955,580                 | 207,779              | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| FRG.09.21C                                         | Maximizing Use of Forage Legumes to Improve Cattle Productivity and Health and Promote Soil Health and Carbon Sequestration.                                                                                    | Mar 2028 | 1,169,905               | 257,590              | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| <b>Sector Resilience &amp; Societal Challenges</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |          |                         |                      |                           |
| ANH.15.21C                                         | Re-considering treatment strategies: can we accelerate recovery from disease by considering gut health?                                                                                                         | Mar 2028 | 961,858                 | 258,146              | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| ANH.16.21C                                         | Understanding the molecular epidemiology and transmission of antimicrobial resistance in bovine respiratory disease pathogens to improve the precision and reduce the use of antimicrobials in beef production. | Mar 2028 | 698,850                 | 170,450              | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |

|                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                         |          |                   |                  |                           |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| ANH.18.21C                               | Evaluating the efficacy of injectable and oral vaccines for Johne's disease in cattle                                                                                                                   | Mar 2027 | 382,671           | 106,924          | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| ANH.25.21C                               | Establishment of bovine anaplasmosis in Canada: current status and development of rapid tests to control an emerging disease.                                                                           | Mar 2028 | 596,370           | 197,415          | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| ANH.26.21C                               | Application of glycomics to enhance resilience against bovine respiratory disease                                                                                                                       | Mar 2028 | 433,650           | 119,225          | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| ENV.09.21C                               | A comprehensive risk-benefit analysis of ractopamine and common-use parasiticides: Co-occurring impacts on microbial communities, non-target environments, chemical fate, and GHG emissions from manure | Mar 2028 | 478,610           | 108,240          | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| FDE.20.21C                               | A Benchmark study of the Canadian feedlot industry and an evaluation of best management practices (BMPs) to improve the sustainability of feedlots.                                                     | Mar 2028 | 587,997           | 147,796          | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| FOS.01.21C                               | Development and validation of novel "green" technologies for improving the safety and shelf life of beef                                                                                                | Mar 2026 | 657,680           | 224,340          | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| <b>Knowledge and Technology Transfer</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                         |          |                   |                  |                           |
| KTT.01.21C                               | Enhancing Knowledge and Technology Transfer in the Canadian Beef Industry                                                                                                                               | Mar 2028 | 1,772,000         | 336,200          | NA                        |
| <b>Science Coordination</b>              |                                                                                                                                                                                                         |          |                   |                  |                           |
| SCI.01.21C                               | Science Coordination                                                                                                                                                                                    | Mar 2028 | 888,049           | 177,883          | NA                        |
| <b>Retrospective Cluster Analysis</b>    |                                                                                                                                                                                                         |          |                   |                  |                           |
| SCI.02.21C                               | Impact Assessment - Retrospective Cluster Analysis                                                                                                                                                      | Mar 2026 | 70,000            | 30,000           | NA                        |
| <b>Total</b>                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                         |          | <b>20,142,681</b> | <b>5,340,123</b> |                           |

### Summary of 2025/26 investments in Cluster IV projects:

| Fund Recipients                              | AAFC \$'s        | Industry \$'s     | Total \$'s       |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <b>AAFC researchers</b>                      | 805,683          | 884,296           | 1,689,979        |
| <b>Non-AAFC researchers/Universities</b>     | <u>1,651,801</u> | <u>1,998,343</u>  | <u>3,650,144</u> |
| <b>Total funding for Cluster IV projects</b> | <b>2,457,484</b> | <b>2,882,639*</b> | <b>5,340,123</b> |

\* Includes funding provided directly to the BCRC from the following organizations:

Les Producteurs de bovins du Québec = \$30,000; Alberta Cattle Feeders' Association = \$30,000; Dairy Farmers of Newfoundland and Labrador = \$10,000; Fondation de l'Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue = \$10,000

\* varies from value presented in annual budget; this total reflects net project funding excluding the BCRC project management expenses or management reimbursements from AAFC.

**Total 2025/26 projected National Check-Off funding for Cluster IV projects = \$2,802,639**

**Provincial cattle association Cluster IV project investment in 2025/26 = \$30,000**

## IX. Appendix III – Priority Research Projects

| Project Number | Project Title                                                                                                                                                                                   | Start Date | End Date | Total NCO funding (\$) | 2025/26 NCO funding (\$) | Factsheet Link            |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|----------|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| AMR.02.18      | Use of bacteriophage-derived lysins in combatting multi-drug resistant (MDR) pathogens that cause bovine respiratory disease (BRD)                                                              | Oct 2019   | Oct 2025 | 97,565                 | 2,635                    | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| ANH.02.19      | Application of a multi-omics strategy to investigate liver abscess development in beef cattle                                                                                                   | Apr 2021   | Mar 2026 | 419,250                | 11,212 <sup>2</sup>      | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| FDE.01.19      | Canola supplementation of cows in late gestation leads to increased calf growth and modification of epigenetic, gene expression, and blood metabolite profiles                                  | Feb 2022   | Jul 2026 | 137,074                | 0                        | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| FDE.03.19      | Improving feed efficiency in the cow herd: Individual cow variability in fibre digestibility, feed efficiency, and methane emissions.                                                           | Sep 2021   | Dec 2024 | 7,500                  | 2,500                    | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| ANH.08.20      | Infectious causes of calf diarrhea (scours) and efficacy of current vaccination strategies to prevent scours in beef calves in Western Canada (phase I)                                         | Apr 2021   | Dec 2026 | 108,738                | 0                        | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| ANH.17.20      | Assessment of animal condition and welfare outcomes to improve timely euthanasia in feedlot cattle                                                                                              | Feb 2023   | Jan 2026 | 105,625                | 0                        | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| ANH.19.20      | Enhancing respiratory health of beef cattle through modulation of innate immunity, analysis of the resistome, and identification of culturable bacteria                                         | May 2022   | Apr 2027 | 300,000                | 45,000 <sup>2</sup>      | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| ANH.25.20      | Comprehensive evaluation of the effect of extended-term delivery of local anesthetic on mitigating the pain caused by castration                                                                | Aug 2021   | Dec 2026 | 144,914                | 39,833 <sup>2</sup>      | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| ANH.29.20      | Insights into environmental transmission of Escherichia coli in beef production                                                                                                                 | May 2021   | Dec 2025 | 84,000                 | -(4,580)                 | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| ANH.30.20      | Antimicrobial use and resistance in eastern Canadian cow-calf herds - establishing a baseline for antimicrobial stewardship                                                                     | Oct 2021   | Dec 2026 | 155,745                | 23,362 <sup>2</sup>      | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| FDE.04.20      | Level of fat from canola seed supplementation in pregnant beef cow diets - Effects on cow and calf performance                                                                                  | Feb 2021   | Aug 2026 | 139,214                | 0                        | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| FRG.11.20      | Complex forage blends: reducing supplementation costs through strategic forage selection                                                                                                        | Feb 2023   | Nov 2026 | 89,190                 | 8,919 <sup>2</sup>       | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| SRV.02.20      | Surveillance of antimicrobial use (AMU) and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in Canadian feedlot cattle; continuation of bovine respiratory disease pathogen isolation and susceptibility testing | Jan 2022   | Dec 2025 | 370,434                | 55,565                   | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| ANH.23.21      | Development of a bacterial community to enhance the respiratory health of cattle                                                                                                                | Apr 2025   | Mar 2028 | 249,000                | 24,900 <sup>2</sup>      | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |

| Project Number | Project Title                                                                                                                                           | Start Date | End Date | Total NCO funding (\$) | 2025/26 NCO funding (\$) | Factsheet Link            |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|----------|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| ENV.07.21      | Estimating the cost of providing ecosystem goods and services on prairie grasslands                                                                     | Apr 2023   | Mar 2027 | 93,777                 | 0                        | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| FDE.02.21      | Developing strategies to reduce the toxicity of ergot alkaloids in the diet of feedlot cattle.                                                          | Jul 2023   | Jun 2028 | 354,161                | 0                        | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| FDE.19.21      | Novel microbiome manipulation strategies for reducing methane emission and foodborne pathogen colonization                                              | May 2023   | Mar 2028 | 150,697                | 15,070 <sup>2</sup>      | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| FOS.01.21      | To explore conditions for improving the efficiency of water usage during sanitation                                                                     | Apr 2023   | Mar 2026 | 172,050                | 6,150 <sup>2</sup>       | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| FOS.03.21      | Assessment of the population structure of E. coli O157 from cattle and associated food safety risks                                                     | Jan 2024   | Apr 2028 | 170,097                | 0                        | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| FRG.02.21      | Low-cost forage management (hay and pasture systems, legume seeding) impacts on productivity and soil health of old grassland                           | Apr 2022   | Sep 2026 | 235,492                | 0                        | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| FRG.04.21      | Evaluation of polycrop mixtures for swath grazing, soil health and economics                                                                            | Jan 2022   | Aug 2027 | 190,178                | 0                        | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| FRG.13.21      | Generating Climate Smart Alfalfa through an Integrated Approach Targeting Beneficial Root and Carbon Assimilation Traits                                | Jan 2025   | Dec 2028 | 216,158                | 0                        | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| ANH.01.22      | Known unknowns: macrolide resistance at beef cattle feedlots                                                                                            | Apr 2023   | Mar 2026 | 224,772                | 0                        | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| ANH.08.22      | Maternal nutrition, winter feeding, and calf immune fitness in beef cattle                                                                              | Apr 2024   | Mar 2027 | 190,476                | 28,571 <sup>2</sup>      | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| ANH.10.22      | A Microbiome-supported Bovine Reproductive Sequencing Panel (BovReproSeq) for detecting, preventing and mitigating reproductive diseases in beef cattle | Nov 2023   | Oct 2026 | 260,700                | 28,985 <sup>2</sup>      | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| ANH.11.22      | Development of an enhanced early life program (EELP) to improve health and productivity of beef cattle                                                  | Jan 2025   | Dec 2027 | 137,060                | 13,706 <sup>2</sup>      | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| BQU.02.22      | Up-cycling of low valued cattle hides into alternative protein food products                                                                            | May 2024   | May 2027 | 77,050                 | 7,705 <sup>2</sup>       | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| FDE.03.22      | Evaluation of malate potential in beef cattle production                                                                                                | Apr 2024   | Mar 2027 | 109,164                | 14,104 <sup>2</sup>      | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| FDE.05.22      | The impact of early life nutritional management of purebred and crossbred cattle on lifetime feed efficiency and methane production                     | Sep 2023   | Jul 2028 | 193,500                | 19,350                   | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| FRG.04.22      | Evaluating the use of prescribed fire to rejuvenate degraded forage pastures and its impact on soil health                                              | May 2023   | Mar 2027 | 208,955                | 31,343 <sup>2</sup>      | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| FRG.06.22      | Sod-seeded legumes to improve forage production, forage quality and soil benefits                                                                       | Jun 2023   | Jul 2026 | 162,622                | 16,263                   | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| FRG.08.22      | Evaluation of Stocking Rate, Grazing Duration and Recovery Times on Native Grassland: Impact on Forage Production, Livestock Production, and Economics  | May 2024   | May 2027 | 71,745                 | 7,174 <sup>2</sup>       | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| FRG.09.22      | Evaluation of new perennial forages for pasture production selected for improved                                                                        | Apr 2024   | Mar 2027 | 115,202                | 11,520 <sup>2</sup>      | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |

| Project Number | Project Title                                                                                                                                                                                 | Start Date | End Date | Total NCO funding (\$) | 2025/26 NCO funding (\$) | Factsheet Link            |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|----------|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
|                | yield, environment resilience, nutritional value, and carbon hoofprint                                                                                                                        |            |          |                        |                          |                           |
| FRG.13.22      | Evaluation of perennial forages under grazing for enhanced environmental sustainability and animal health                                                                                     | Apr 2024   | Mar 2028 | 220,338                | 22,034 <sup>2</sup>      | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| LAB.01.22      | Integrating beef, forage and cropping systems to improve soil carbon sequestration and reduce greenhouse gas emissions' Alberta Living Lab                                                    | May 2022   | Mar 2027 | 200,000                | 40,000                   | NA                        |
| LAB.02.22      | SODCAP Living Lab                                                                                                                                                                             | Jun 2022   | Mar 2027 | 200,000                | 20,000 <sup>2</sup>      | NA                        |
| LAB.03.22      | BC Living Labs: Extended Grazing Season and Winter-Feeding Strategies                                                                                                                         | Apr 2023   | Mar 2027 | 60,000                 | 6,000 <sup>2</sup>       | NA                        |
| ANH.01.23      | Canadian Integrated Program for Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance (CIPARS): Beef Feedlot Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance: the Beef Feedlot AMR Surveillance Project                 | Apr 2023   | Mar 2028 | 0                      | 0                        | NA                        |
| FDE.01.23      | Barley Cluster                                                                                                                                                                                | Apr 2023   | Mar 2028 | 89,161                 | 25,010 <sup>2</sup>      | NA                        |
| FDE.02.23      | Improving the value and environmental impact of barley through breeding                                                                                                                       | Apr 2024   | Mar 2029 | 60,000                 | 0                        | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| ANH.02.24      | Host-pathogen interactions in Mycoplasma bovis pneumonia of cattle                                                                                                                            | Jul 2025   | Oct 2028 | 58,250                 | 0                        | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| ANH.05.24      | Phenotypic and genotypic characterization of antimicrobial resistance of bovine respiratory disease complex neglected bacteria                                                                | Apr 2025   | Mar 2027 | 95,680                 | 0                        | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| ANH.07.24      | Micronutrient deficiencies in fall-placed calves and increased risk of respiratory disease early in the feeding period                                                                        | Jan 2026   | Dec 2029 | 246,667                | 185,000                  | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| ANH.16.24      | Strengthening the utility/reach of the CIPARS/CFAASP surveillance network: leveraging infrastructure and generating baseline data to facilitate collaborative research in BRD                 | Jan 2025   | Dec 2028 | 351,424                | 50,247 <sup>2</sup>      | NA                        |
| BQU.05.24      | Application of augmented marbling score evaluations on Canada D1, D2, D3 and D4 beef carcass grades                                                                                           | Jan 2025   | Jan 2027 | 45,430                 | 6,814 <sup>2</sup>       | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| FDE.02.24      | Synergistic Rumen Microbial Consortia: A Probiotic Approach to Augmenting Feed Utilization Efficiency                                                                                         | Dec 2024   | Nov 2026 | 108,390                | 16,258                   | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| FDE.12.24      | Effect of divergent fibre digestion efficiency on growth performance, methane emissions, and carcass characteristics of beef cattle, and its association with the host genetic/genomic makeup | Oct 2025   | Sep 2028 | 67,197                 | 50,398                   | To be developed           |
| FDE.13.24      | Developing innovative laser-induced breakdown spectroscopy technology with machine learning capability for rapid analysis of cereal grain and byproduct composition                           | Apr 2025   | Mar 2027 | 177,009                | 17,701 <sup>2</sup>      | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |

| Project Number         | Project Title                                                                                                                     | Start Date | End Date | Total NCO funding (\$) | 2025/26 NCO funding (\$) | Factsheet Link            |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|----------|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| FOS.02.24              | New strategies for prevention and control of pathogenic biofilms in slaughter plants                                              | Jan 2025   | Dec 2028 | 251,561                | 60,000                   | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| FOS.05.24              | Remote ante and postmortem meat inspections using augmented-reality live-stream video software.                                   | Apr 2025   | Mar 2027 | 69,691                 | 6,969 <sup>2</sup>       | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| FRG.02.25 <sup>1</sup> | Impact of annual forage species diversity on fermentation dynamics, digestibility, and nutrient utilization in rumen simulations? | May 2026   | Apr 2029 | 80,012                 | 0                        | To be developed           |

<sup>1</sup>Project has been approved but the funding agreement is pending.

<sup>2</sup>Payment has not been made at time of writing but is projected to be made prior to June 30, 2026.

**Total 2025/26 projected National Check-Off funding for ongoing Priority Research projects = \$915,718**

**Provincial cattle association priority research project investment in 2025/26 = \$0**

## X. Appendix IV – Proof of Concept Projects

| Project #              | Project title                                                                                                                                           | Project end date | Total NCO funding (\$) | 2025/26 NCO funding (\$) | Factsheet                 |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| POC.07.22              | Use of multiple mitigation strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in beef cattle production systems                                              | Feb 2026         | 50,000                 | 7,500 <sup>2</sup>       | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| POC.08.22              | Verification that guanidinoacetic acid supplementation enhances growth and feed efficiency of beef steers without compromising carcass and meat quality | Mar 2027         | 50,000                 | 0                        | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| POC.14.22              | Using a bovine Lactobacillus mixture as a strategy to minimize beef calf stress                                                                         | Nov 2025         | 50,000                 | 7,500                    | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| POC.19.22              | Towards the identification of agents associated with infectious bovine keratoconjunctivitis (IBK, pink eye)                                             | Dec 2025         | 45,943                 | 5,993 <sup>2</sup>       | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| POC.01.23              | Faster, cheaper, more accurate detection of Shiga toxin producing E. coli                                                                               | Jun 2025         | 49,910                 | 7,486                    | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| POC.34.23              | Identification of bacterial enzymes associated with beef production efficiency and carcass quality                                                      | Mar 2025         | 50,000                 | 63                       | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| POC.05.24              | Can vaccination of beef cows against diarrheal pathogens at fall pregnancy check provide sufficient immunity to newborn calves?                         | Jun 2026         | 49,910                 | 0                        | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| POC.07.24              | Anogenital distance as a potential fertility indicator trait in breeding bulls: A proof-of-concept study                                                | Nov 2026         | 11,184                 | 0                        | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| POC.09.24              | Determining whether invariant natural killer T cells play a role in immune responses in cattle                                                          | Apr 2026         | 46,117                 | 6,918 <sup>2</sup>       | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| POC.10.24              | Development of a rapid, chute side diagnostic test to aid in the identification of feedlot cattle requiring treatment for respiratory disease.          | Sep 2025         | 35,706                 | 4,115                    | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| POC.16.24              | Unified PCR-Sequencing panel for bovine infectious diseases to increase diagnostic thoroughness and laboratory operational efficiency                   | May 2026         | 50,000                 | 0                        | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| POC.30.24              | Enzyme supplementation to improve nutrient utilization in forage-based diets                                                                            | Apr 2026         | 50,000                 | 1,875 <sup>2</sup>       | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| POC.05.25              | Enhancing Cicer Milkvetch Germination Rate through Ultrasound Scarification                                                                             | Jul 2026         | 31,050                 | 26,393                   | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| POC.12.25              | Wearable Electrochemical Biosensor Patch for Real-Time Cortisol Monitoring in Cattle                                                                    | Sep 2026         | 50,000                 | 42,500                   | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| POC.18.25              | Are Maternal Vitamin Levels More Reliable Than Fetal Levels for Diagnosing Nutritional Deficiencies in Abortion Cases?                                  | Dec 2026         | 49,791                 | 42,322                   | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |
| POC.26.25 <sup>1</sup> | Evaluation of Ocularly Delivered Bovine Adenovirus Vectored Vaccine for Pink eye                                                                        | Dec 2026         | 50,000                 | 42,500 <sup>2</sup>      | To be developed           |
| POC.34.25              | Nasal and Blood Transcriptomes in Feedlot Calves Using a Bovine Coronavirus (BCoV) Challenge Model                                                      | Feb 2027         | 49,981                 | 42,484                   | <a href="#">Factsheet</a> |

<sup>1</sup> Project has been approved but the funding agreement is pending

<sup>2</sup> Payment has not been made at time of writing but is projected to be made prior to June 30, 2026.

**Total 2025/26 projected National Check-Off funding for Proof of Concept projects = \$237,649.**

## XI. Appendix V – Knowledge Mobilization Network Projects

| Project #                                      | Project title                                                                               | Project end date | Total NCO funding (\$) | 2025/26 NCO funding (\$) | Factsheet |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| KTT.23.24                                      | AHC FMD Resource Development                                                                | Mar 2025         | 0                      | 1,640                    | NA        |
| <b>Total KTT Priority Resource Development</b> |                                                                                             |                  | <b>0</b>               | <b>1,640</b>             |           |
| KTT.20.24                                      | Enhancing Livestock Water Management through Educational Workshops and Farm Tours           | Jul 2025         | 4,200                  | 4,200                    | NA        |
| KTT.01.25                                      | Wintering Cattle in the Peace Seminar                                                       | Nov 2025         | 3,500                  | 3,478                    | NA        |
| KTT.03.25                                      | Ranchers University 2025                                                                    | Dec 2025         | 3,000                  | 3,000                    | NA        |
| KTT.07.25                                      | Protecting Your Herd: Practical Biosecurity Implementation for Enhanced Cow and Calf Health | Feb 2026         | 5,000                  | 5,000                    | NA        |
| KTT.10.25                                      | 'Bos' Ladies Round Up                                                                       | Feb 2026         | 5,000                  | 5,000                    | NA        |
| KTT.11.25                                      | Animal Health Workshops                                                                     | Dec 2025         | 3,000                  | 3,000                    | NA        |
| KTT.24.25                                      | Livestock Water Source Management Strategies                                                | Feb 2026         | 3,500                  | 3,500                    | NA        |
| <b>Total KTT Regional Initiatives Funding</b>  |                                                                                             |                  | <b>27,200</b>          | <b>27,178</b>            |           |

**Total 2025/26 projected National Check-Off funding for Knowledge Mobilization Network projects = \$28,818 (included in KMB Network Activities Total reported in Section III (vi) b)**