



## CCA IS THE NATIONAL VOICE OF CANADA'S 60,000 BEEF FARMS

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## Record attendance at Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (CRSB) AGM in Calgary



The CRSB held its 2018 Annual General Meeting in Calgary September 19-20, in partnership with the Canadian Cattlemen's Association, which hosted a delegation of International Beef Alliance (IBA) visitors from Canada, United States, Mexico, Brazil, Australia and New Zealand. The event proved to be a great opportunity for CRSB members and observers to connect with, and learn from, beef producers and organizations on a global scale. Attendees from both groups enjoyed a pre-meeting joint tour of beef production operations in southern Alberta, as well as opportunities to connect during evening social events.

The industry tour featured Kolk Farms at Iron Springs, AB, a family feedlot operation, where attendees learned about animal care and environmental considerations of a large operation, as well as innovations such as:

- automated chutes with world-class tracking technology including information such as individual animal health history, identification and feed efficiency data;
- evaluating the transition to new pen floor material to reduce strain on animals' joints;
- efficiencies by growing crops and making feed pre-mix and feed rations on-site using state-of-the-art equipment and technology.

## Record attendance at Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (CRSB) AGM in Calgary *continued*

The group enjoyed a hearty lunch in the warm shop before heading to Lowe's Ranch in the Alberta foothills, followed by a tour of Spruce Ranch, a grazing cooperative run by a group of over 40 producers. Attendees learned about some of the habitat enhancement projects for species at risk producers completed thanks to a project lead by MultiSAR, with partners Canadian Cattlemen's Association, Alberta Beef Producers, Cows & Fish Riparian Habitat Management Society and the CRSB. Habitat Conservation Strategies have been identified and implemented on over 60,000 acres in the grassland regions of southern Alberta since 2016, and an additional 70,000 acres are planned in 2019. A similar project is in the works for northern regions of Alberta in the coming years.



Attendees enjoyed a pre-meeting tour of beef operations and grasslands in southern Alberta

The next day CRSB held a jam-packed AGM with over 95 attendees. The day began with a Continuous Improvements Workshop featuring mini presentations from speakers spanning the goals in the National Beef Sustainability Strategy. This was followed by group discussions to guide CRSB in further developing its projects pillar to foster communication, collaboration and progress across all three pillars of sustainability: environmental, social and economic. The afternoon session of the meeting included updates from Council and CRSB's committees, updates on activities from the Global and US Roundtables for Sustainable Beef and the Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Crops, and CRSB Council elections. The event wrapped up with an evening banquet for CRSB and IBA attendees where outgoing chair

Cherie Copithorne-Barnes was honored. Anne Wasko takes the reins as the CRSB's new chair.

CRSB thanks their event sponsors - Cargill and Elanco. Part of Cargill's support included supplying the beef for the event, some of which was sourced from CRSB Certified Sustainable Operations.

For more information about the CRSB and the AGM visit [CRSB Website](#).



## CCA looks ahead at the fall session of Parliament

Parliament returned in late September for its fall session, which will run until mid-December. There are several studies and pieces of legislation that CCA will be watching and engaging on while both the House and Senate undertake their work. We are also hearing about the potential for Parliament to prorogue at the start of the Winter 2019 session, which will add pressure to pass certain legislation.

On the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), the House moved quickly upon return to pass the implementation of Bill C79. They completed second reading, Committee review of the bill, report stage and third reading in less than three weeks. After the Thanksgiving break week, we expect the bill to be introduced in the Senate. CCA and our CAFTA colleagues are already communicating with Senators on the need to pass the bill quickly.

The discussion on the **USMCA** will continue as further details unfold and movement is made towards ratification. We understand the text of the agreement is still undergoing legal “scrubbing” and there may still be some tweaks. The next step will be for the three countries to sign the agreement, which is expected to happen by November 30, so that the outgoing Mexican president can sign before his successor takes office on December 1. The results of the US Congressional elections on November 6 could have implications for the timing of ratification in the US. If any legislative changes are required in Canada, we expect these to be brought forward after the process in the US Congress becomes clearer.

The Government is keeping front of their mind the \$75 billion agri-food export goal, which came out of the **Barton Report**. The House Agriculture Committee has heard from the Agriculture & Agri-Food Economic Strategy Table on how to advance competitiveness, undoubtedly more to come.

Continuing the competitiveness issue, we are anticipating the release of regulations on transportation and traceability soon and hoping these regulations will be constructed to enhance the competitiveness of the Canadian beef sector. Of course, labour issues have far from disappeared and CCA continues to stand with every other segment of Canadian agriculture and primary processing in supporting swift implementation of the recommendations of the **Agricultural and Agri-Food Workforce Action Plan**.

Outside of economic and market issues, we were pleased to see the House Agriculture Committee kick off their fall session with a study on farmer mental health. We strongly support this attention considering the high year-in and year-out stress of producing food and placing the livelihood of a family on factors largely outside of one’s control. Certainly, we have seen Mother Nature have her impact yet again on this year’s harvest.

Several federal departments have been working on the **Healthy Eating Strategy** and **Food Policy**. It is anticipated that this fall a new rendition of the **Food Guide** will be released, CCA, along with many agriculture industry associations and individuals, submitted comments last year and we’re eager to see many of these recommendations in the new release.

On the environment front, the Senate will be reviewing changes to the **Fisheries Act** to which we are hoping imperative changes will come forward. We would not be upset if Parliament prorogues in January with this bill remaining unfinished. It will also be interesting to see how the **Pan Canadian Framework on Climate Change** will adapt or evolve in the face of the significant opposition to the current approach being raised by several provincial governments.

## The Cattle Cycle – a CRS Fact Sheet sponsored by Merck Animal Health

This fact sheet from Canfax Research Services (CRS) reviews the last six cattle cycles in Canada (1960-2018), keying on some differences between the provinces. Provinces that have seen the largest declines since 2000 have the greatest potential to expand in the coming cycle.

Several factors influence the cycle including the financial condition of producers, weather (feed availability), trade barriers and market access, the exchange rate and consumer demand domestically and internationally. When market signals are mixed, highly uncertain, or when outside forces such as trade barriers or drought occur, the cattle cycle may be delayed or even reversed for a period. In years when the cycle is not necessarily followed it still exists, but those outside forces are temporarily limiting or having a larger influence on producer decisions.

Go to <http://canfax.ca/FactSheets.aspx> for the full article.



CANADIAN  
CATTLEMEN'S  
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## CANFAX MARKET BRIEFS

Week ending October 12th, 2018

(in Cdn\$)	This wk.	Change
↑ Fed Steers	152.36	+1.54
↑ Fed Heifers	151.27	+1.65
↑ Feeder Steers	---	+1.13
↓ Feeder Heifers	---	-1.01
↓ Cdn Feeder Index	207.88	-1.05
↓ Cdn Calf Index	220.80	-1.53
↓ D2 Cows	84.17	-2.33
↓ Slaughter Bulls	99.00	-1.32
(in US\$)		
↓ CDN Spot Dollar	76.70	-0.82
↓ Oct Live Cattle	112.63	-1.00
↓ Oct Feeder Cattle	156.73	-0.25

## Restrict grazing on public rangelands – increase habitat loss on private lands: US Study

If governments impose restrictions to cattle grazing on publicly managed rangelands, the likely result will be increased loss of habitat for species like the sage-grouse on private lands. This is one of several findings by a team of US researchers in their study published in the September 26, 2018 issue of the *Journal of Applied Ecology*.

The study area covered counties within 10 states (Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, Montana, South Dakota, North Dakota, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming) that contain sage-grouse habitat. The researchers used econometric modelling to predict changes in ranch profitability and factored in historical data on land use changes as well as profits on rangelands and cropland. A key assumption in the study is that rangeland is more likely to be converted to cropland when the benefits obtained by having the land under crop outweigh all other benefits a rancher might obtain by keeping the land as range.

A lot of other variables were accounted for in the study design and methods, including the understanding not all ranchers would have the same economic trigger-point to convert their rangeland into cropland.

The authors conclude that restricting grazing of public lands in the study area by 50% would result in the loss of an additional 171,400 ha of sage-grouse habitat on private lands by 2050, on top of the 842,000 ha predicted loss if the rate of conversion continues as it has in recent years. The authors also estimate an additional 105,700 ha (3.24%) of sage-grouse mesic habitat, vital to the species during brood rearing, held on private land in the study region would be lost by 2050.

In short, efforts to improve habitat on public lands using grazing restrictions are apt to result in greater system-wide fragmentation of sage-grouse habitat from unintended habitat loss on private lands.

“Policy that manages resources on public lands while also supporting sustainable, economically viable ranching operations on private lands is a promising approach to maximizing sage-grouse habitat”, the authors conclude.

The full article, ‘Unintended habitat loss on private land from grazing restrictions on public rangelands’, is on-line at: [Unintended Habitat Loss](#) and appears in the *Journal of Applied Ecology* 2018; 1-11.

## Five tips for grazing corn this fall and winter

Corn grazing is becoming more popular across Canada because producers can grow more biomass on less land. If you are planning on grazing corn this winter, these five tips can help you make the most of the corn grazing season:

1. Ease cattle in
2. Limit them to 3-4 days worth of feed
3. Protect them from the elements
4. Feed test, feed test, feed test!
5. Have a plan B

Learn more at <http://www.beefresearch.ca/blog/5-tips-for-grazing-corn-this-fall-and-winter/>



Grazing corn without a hitch means paying attention to the details.



## Industry takes stock of achievements guided by the National Beef Strategy

October 3, 2018



Calgary, AB – The Canadian Beef Advisors today released a status update on the 2015-19 National Beef Strategy. The report summarizes progress towards achieving the outcomes outlined in the Strategy since its launch. As of June 2018, 15% of outcomes have been completed; 5% are in progress (have an end); 61% are ongoing (and expected to continue); 7% have not been started (primarily due to funding constraints); 8% need modification; and 5% have mixed status (due to multiple objectives at different stages).

Target outcomes in the Strategy fall within four pillars: connectivity, productivity, competitiveness and beef demand. Industry leaders representing five national beef sector organizations developed the Strategy in 2014. The collaborative effort provided the framework for how the organizations can work together to best position the Canadian beef industry for greater profitability, growth and continued production of a high quality beef product of choice in the world.

“The industry set a number of specific, ambitious goals for itself to increase demand for our products globally, while overcoming significant challenges like tight cattle supplies and competition for arable land, and we’re making good progress,” said David Haywood-Farmer, current Chair of the Beef Advisors and President of the Canadian Cattlemen’s Association. “This industry is moving forward because of collaborative effort, and we expect substantial progress over the next five years with the increased funding from the Canadian Beef Cattle Check-Off.”

Progress of note includes the development of the Public and Stakeholder Engagement program, the Canadian Beef Industry Conference, the AAA cutout remaining 19.6% above the target of \$224/cwt, and the launch of the Certified Sustainable Beef (CSB) Framework with a consumer facing logo. Work continues on the traceability and labour files as well as enhancement to research capacity and programs.

The National Beef Strategy Status Update is delivered by the Canadian Beef Advisors – made up of the Beef Cattle Research Council, Canadian Beef Breeds Council, Canada Beef, Canadian Cattlemen’s Association, Canadian Meat Council, Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef and National Cattle Feeders Association.

An update of the National Beef Strategy, covering the period 2020-2024, will be released in 2019 with outcomes that respond to current and future needs. The Beef Advisors are currently seeking feedback from producers through provincial cattlemen associations to ensure new and innovative ideas are included in the process.

Learn more about how stakeholders can achieve a dynamic and profitable Canadian cattle and beef industry at [www.beefstrategy.com](http://www.beefstrategy.com).

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[Download](#) Canada’s National Beef Strategy - Status Update 2015-2018 Full Report

[Download](#) Canada’s National Beef Strategy - Status Update 2015-2018 SUMMARY

[Watch](#) Canada’s National Beef Strategy - Status Update Webinar [video]

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## CCA Action News

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The Canadian Cattlemen's Association is the national voice for Canada's beef cattle industry representing 60,000 beef farms and feedlots.

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