

# Canadian Beef Advisors – Industry Goals to 2030

## People Health and Safety

These goals are not presented in any particular order:

- Create a culture of safety across the beef industry supply chain
- Reduce serious, fatal, and fatigue-related incidents by 1.5% per year up to 2030, by supporting education, awareness and improvements in farm and ranch safety

## Context

The Canadian beef industry prioritizes the wellbeing of people throughout the supply chain; supporting policies that improve people's health and safety. Canada's red meat processing sector has well-established worker health and safety procedures, systems and practices to help protect its workforce. Throughout COVID-19, organizations and individual companies across the supply chain worked closely with public health and labour officials to develop protocols and implement rigorous risk mitigation practices to help keep people safe while continuing to provide food to consumers.

## How the goals could be achieved

It is recognized that these goals require contributions from all stages of the supply chain. Reaching these goals requires the commitment of producers including the cow-calf, backgrounding and finishing sectors, beef processors, through to the retail and foodservice sectors to measure and monitor progress. The table below provides key drivers that can contribute to achieving the various goals.

Raise Awareness of Resources	Mental Health	Proactively Manage Change
<p>Raise awareness of existing on-farm safety resources available to producers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the number of beef farmers and ranchers that have an on-farm safety plan by 2030</li> <li>• Support the delivery of farm safety training to producers</li> <li>• Build awareness of the beef specific resources around livestock handling</li> </ul> <p>Identify resources to attract and retain people, in rural areas, including but not limited to language support, etc.</p>	<p>Build mental health resiliency by ensuring appropriate support services are available across the supply chain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop local/remote support services that understand the unique challenges facing farmers and remote communities</li> <li>• Reduce the stigma around mental health challenges</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Managing changes are key to reducing risks to agricultural producers/workers.</li> <li>• The best way to manage supply chain disruption is to prepare for it (e.g. crisis management plans, incident response plans, etc.).</li> <li>• Ensure business management advice, tools and training that focus on risk management and preparedness as a means of facing uncertainty are available.</li> </ul>

## FAQs

### Q: What is the basis for the percentage reduction in serious, fatal and fatigue related incidents?

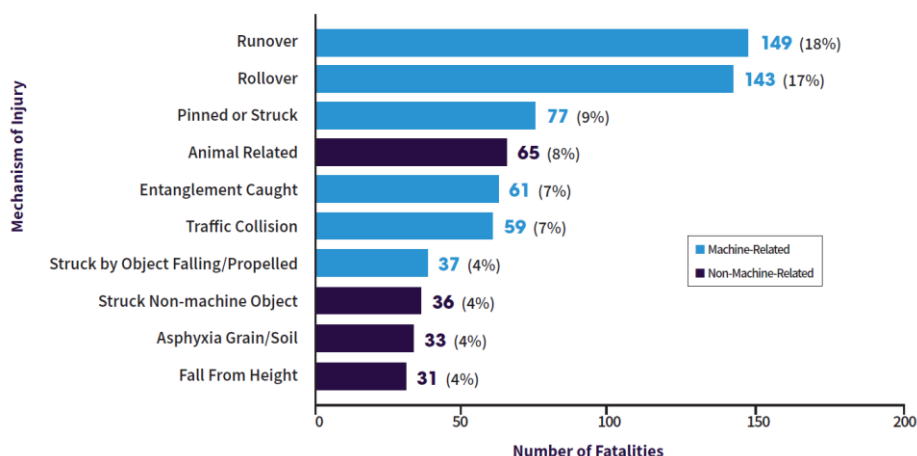
A: Agri-food industries, which include packers and processors, have experienced higher rates of injury resulting from: repetitive work tasks, standing postures, noise, and time spent working in low temperatures. Within livestock production, physically difficult work is decreasing but stress (e.g. financial) has contributed to mental health concerns and high suicide rates among farmers (Dumont et al 2017).

While agriculture fatality rates declined in the latest report, they are still high, and agriculture ranks as the fourth most hazardous industry in Canada. Canadian agriculture had a fatality rate of 11.5 people per 100,000 farm population (including non-workers) from 2003-2012 (CAIR, 2016). Between 1990 and 2012 fatality rates declined on average 1.1% per year (CAIR, 2016). The goal set to reduce incidences by 1.5% per year is designed to accelerate the already good efforts in this area by provincial agricultural safety boards. This recognizes the importance of incremental improvement by supporting education, awareness and improvements in farm and ranch safety.

**Q: Is the data available separated out by sector?**

A: The Canadian Agriculture Injury Report (CAIR) for 2003-2012 breaks out the mechanism of injury. Six of the top seven mechanisms are machine-related. Safety when working in and around machinery should always be a priority in every farming operation. The other top cause comes from animals, so safe animal handling should be a priority.

4.8 FATAL AGRICULTURE-RELATED INJURIES BY THE TOP 10 CAUSES OF INJURY, 2003-2012



**Q: What are some of the underlying causes?**

A: The Canadian Agriculture Safety Association (CASA) outlines conditions, behaviours/actions and circumstances that contribute to incidents.

**Conditions:**

- Uninspected/unsafe machinery, equipment, or systems
- Fatigue (i.e. calving season)
- Distraction (put down your phone)
- Mental health

**Behaviours/Actions:**

- Poor safety culture
- Rushing
- Lack of knowledge/awareness
- Lack of training

**Circumstances:**

- Larger machinery creates more blind spots
- Poor design of animal handling systems (chutes, gates, etc.)
- Weather/environmental conditions

**Q: What resources are available?**

A: There are a number of safety and mental health resources available in Canada.

**Safety:**

- [Canada FarmSafe Plan](#)
- [Canadian Agricultural Safety Association \(CASA\)](#) (Training, Toolbox Talks, Fact Sheets, etc.)
- Provincial Agricultural Safety Associations (i.e. [AgSafe Alberta](#))

**Mental Health:**

- [Mental Health Commission of Canada](#)
- [Canadian Mental Health Association](#)
- [DoMore Ag](#)
- [Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety \(CCOHS\)](#)
- [In the Know](#) – tailored mental health literacy developed specifically for Canadian farms

Campaigns and events tailored to the Canadian agricultural sector help to raise awareness and prioritize safety and mental health, these include:

- Canadian Agricultural Safety Week (3rd week in March annually)
- Mental Illness Awareness Week
- Producer association webinars

**Q: How do these goals take into account risk assessments in decision making?**

A: Decision making at an individual or organizational level remains one that takes into account risk and return.

For further information, go to: [Beefstrategy.com](#)