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BEEF CATTLE RESEARCH COUNCIL

The **Canadian Cow-calf Cost of Production Network** launched in 2020 with the objective to benchmark cow-calf production systems across Canada. This year, 21 benchmark cow-calf farms were added to the existing Network, bringing the total to 46 cow-calf and 3 dairy-beef benchmark farms, with data collected from 186 participating producers across Canada.

Farms within the Network represent a wide variety in Canadian production systems, including variation in animal performance, economies of scale, labour productivity, feeding, and farm financials. Since the original set of benchmark farms in the 2020 Network, effort has been made to include production systems previously not represented, including larger herds (particularly in the West), and a broader range of farm sizes within the individual provinces.

Analysis and results from the 2021 reference year are [now available online](#).

For producers, the Network provides opportunity for continuous learning, which is one of the top farm management practices that contributes to financial success. Within the Network, share what you know, learn from others, and find support to attain your goals for the future.

Does your operation look like one of the 49 systems we've modelled so far? Don't hesitate to investigate by reviewing each of the [Farm Summary results](#). These reports provide a valuable starting point for data-driven decision-making, industry competitiveness and continuous improvement within your own operation. In addition, there are future farm scenarios for the initial farms with more coming in January 2023.

In September, we did a BCRC webinar on "[Cost, Profits, and What If? - A Look into the Canadian Cow-Calf Cost of Production Network](#)" that provides an overview of work to date. For more information check out the fact sheets, case studies, and videos available at: <https://www.canfax.ca/resources/cost-of-production/cop-analysis.html>

Canadian Cow-calf Cost of Production Network Producers receive:

- Farm summary of production system including production indicators
- Summary of baseline cow-calf enterprise data; with five years of historical indexing
- Summary of Future Farm scenarios
- Opportunity to learn from and share experience with other producers
- **\$500 honorarium**

Learn more at <https://www.canfax.ca/resources/cost-of-production.html>

What is next for the Network? We're entering our third and final year of data collection. We're inviting producers to **sign-up for focus groups in January to March 2023!** All producers are welcome to apply. *We especially need participation from producers with herds over 500 head, producers from Alberta, Saskatchewan and Ontario!* Follow one of the links below to sign-up by **November 30, 2022**, and a provincial coordinator will contact you in December 2022 with more details.

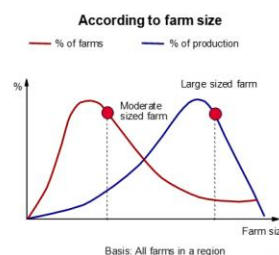
- Cow-Calf Producer (English) [Sign-up](#)
- Cow-Calf Producer (French) [Formulaire d'admission](#)
- [Dairy-beef producers](#)

In the meantime, we are modelling more future farm scenarios to support our current Network participants in their short and medium-term goals. Together, participants developed ambitious but attainable future farm goals during their virtual focus groups. Whether improving grass management, calving distributions or winter feed practices, we're calculating what those goals might look like for profitability, and what trade-offs may need to be made to get there.

Figure 1. Missing Production Systems

Missing Production Systems...

- Identify prevailing production systems
 - Important regions
 - Farm size and distribution
- Targeted sign-up for Sept-Dec 2022
 - Larger Herds (e.g. >500 head) in the West
 - Year-Round Grazing
 - Regenerative / organic
 - Grass-finished
 - Purebred
 - *Anything else ... ?*
- Sign-up by **November 30, 2022**
- Data Collection Jan-March 2023



Related articles

- [Why a Cost of Production Network?](#)
- [Networks Make the Dream Work](#)
- [A New Approach to Cost of Production Benchmarking](#)
- [Calculation Choices for Evaluating Cost of Production](#)
- [Summary of the 2020 Results](#)
- Methods for understanding and reducing [Cow Depreciation](#)
- [Recommendations for Young Producers](#), from those who have lived and learned
- [What is a Successful Farm](#), according to Canadian Cow-calf producers
- [Cost, Profits, and What If?](#) - A Look into the Canadian Cow-Calf Cost of Production Network