



## **Cattle producers - part of the environmental solution**

Canada's beef and cattle producers make a valuable contribution to Canada's economy and environment. Their good management practices maintain wildlife habitat and contribute to reducing greenhouse gases (GHG). They are committed to ensuring their practices prove beneficial to the environment, their animals and operations, plus the consumer.

### **Sustaining Canada's agricultural land**

- Canada's cattle producers manage 167 million acres of native grasses for livestock and wildlife - comprising about a quarter of Canada's total agricultural land.
- These native and tame grasses play an important role in sequestering carbon in the soil, filtering water, providing habitat for wildlife and birds and providing high-quality feed for cattle.
- Producers annually convert additional cultivated crop land to tame grasses.

### **Building and maintaining native grasses**

- Native grasses make a significant contribution to feeding practices that reduce methane output from cattle.
- Science has proved that moving cattle from pasture-to-pasture, maintains the healthy, lush green grasses which provide easy-to-digest feed for cattle.
- An easy-to-digest cattle feed promotes good weight gain and reduces methane production.
- With more than 90 per cent of Canada's beef cattle production pasture-based, the added bonus to these planned grazing practices is the flourishing wildlife habitat it creates.

### **Eat meat and sustain the environment**

- Eating less meat will not save the environment. In fact, it may contribute to more demands on it.
- Consuming less meat protein means that to maintain a healthy diet, people must consume more vegetable-based protein. Producing that requires the cultivation of more land, which increases use of fossil fuels and fertilizer application. Unfortunately valuable wildlife habitat is lost in the process.

### **Working together - cattle producers, scientists and government**

- Helping producers to implement optimal management practices is a constantly evolving process driven by scientific research and measurement.
- Agricultural research scientists work closely with Canadian cattle producers to further increase understanding of the digestive process, and continuously make improvements to grazing management practices.
- To foster the evolution of scientific understanding and put new developments into commercial practice, it is imperative that industry and governments continue to work together.

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## 2.2.2 Cattle producers - part of the environmental solution

### Reducing GHG emissions by using agricultural byproducts

- The industry leads in other effective ways to reduce GHG emissions such as innovative uses for agricultural byproducts.
- Manure processed in bio-digesters produces energy.
- Adding products to bio-digesters, including unmarketable crops and other organic byproducts, such as lawn clippings, provides solutions to rural and urban issues.
- More government support for these types of renewable energy solutions creates a sustainable development win for all partners.

### Reducing GHG emissions around the world

- Today, the largest opportunity for reducing agricultural GHG emissions exists outside Canada in developing countries.
- Improving their poor-quality feeding practices could significantly benefit the environment and their people.
- This requires investing in the future of their agricultural sectors to improve access to education and technology.
- Equipping these producers with the knowledge and tools to adopt good management practices will effectively reduce emissions and increase production to provide much-needed, nutrient-rich food for their hungry people.

Learn more about Canada's cattle and beef industry, and the environment at [www.cattle.ca](http://www.cattle.ca).

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