

# CATTLE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Producers Working for Producers



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## BEEF CATTLE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT FUND

### A BONUS FOR BC, ON PAUSE FOR NOW



In British Columbia, since 1994, the beef industry has had the advantage of being able to trigger matching dollars from the Beef Cattle Industry Development Fund (BCIDF). The BCIDF is a \$9.3 million trust fund that industry is able to access when matching dollars are committed to beef industry projects. This doubles every dollar paid by producers, and enables funds for projects beyond the usual scope of the associations. With the current investment climate, the Trust has not had sufficient earnings to match dollars at the usual level. For this reason, Council members took the prudent step to close the BCIDF to applications in 2023 until the Trust recovers sufficiently to again be accessed. Since 1994 the BCIDF has enabled \$50 million to be spent on 383 projects for the beef industry.

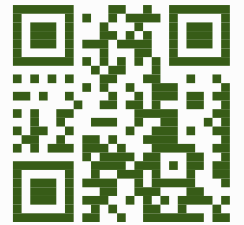
Initially a twenty-year fund, through work of the cattle industry and the CIDC, the term was extended for the longest term possible, and will remain in place to benefit the beef industry until 2075!

## 5-YEAR EVALUATION

### BEEF CATTLE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT FUND EVALUATION (2018-2022)

A five-year evaluation of the BCIDF projects was completed in 2023, with favourable comments from the Evaluation Team noting that for the 46 completed projects, \$2.2 million was triggered from the BCIDF Trust, and matched with \$5.3 million other contributions, for a total of \$7.6 million spent for the good of the beef industry in BC.

The latest 5-year evaluation of projects demonstrated that for every \$1 of BCIDF funds spent, \$3.45 was contributed from other sources (\$2.54 for the previous term). This points to a very successful term for the Fund, excellent leverage achieved even with the reduced number of projects.



**SCAN ME**  
to view the  
Evaluation Report

- Evaluation Team

### Provincial Check-off Supports:



### National Check-off Supports:





# Beef Cattle Industry Development Fund supports **NEW FORAGE RESEARCHER IN BC**

## — Research Team —

Jillian started her career with AAFC in Swift Current, Saskatchewan in 2017, and relocated her program to Agassiz in fall 2022. There wasn't technical support available for her new program, so she applied for funding from the Beef Cattle Industry Development Fund. Funding from BCIDF allowed Jillian to hire Ben Frey, a term technician, who started in April 2023. Ben's help has been critical in getting three new research projects up and running, all of which have a strong BC component. Jillian and Ben are excited to work with the BC cattle industry and are very grateful for the support from the Cattle Industry Development Council.

## — Grazing management —

The first two projects are funded by the AAFC Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership Agri-Science Program, Beef Cluster Component, with industry support from the Beef Cattle Research Council. Jillian is co-leading a project called "**Grazing management across western Canada: uncovering the role of the microbiome and implications for forage productivity, carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas emissions**", with Dr. Luke Bainard at AAFC.

This project has collaborators within AAFC and from Thompson Rivers University, University of British Columbia, University of Alberta, and University of Saskatchewan. Researchers will try to understand the role of the soil microbiome (the living components of the soil, such as bacteria and fungi) in grazing systems across western Canada (including many sites in BC). They will study how to improve beneficial grazing management practices for productivity and nutritional quality, while effectively providing ecosystem goods and services such as carbon sequestration.

*Dr. Jillian Bainard is a research scientist with Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), working out of the Agassiz Research & Development Centre (RDC) in British Columbia, and the Lacombe RDC in Alberta. Jillian's research program focuses on grazing systems science, and explores forage production and nutrition under different grazing systems and how these systems impact environmental outcomes.*



AAFC Grazing Trial

## — Livestock on Annual Crop Land —

The second Beef Cluster project is the "**Integration of Livestock on Annual Crop Land**", led by Dr. Emma McGeough, Dr. Yvonne Lawley (University of Manitoba), and Dr. Kim Schneider (University of Guelph) with additional collaborators from AAFC, U of S, and U of G. This project is looking at how livestock can be integrated into annual crop land using forage cover crops. In 2023, Jillian and Ben seeded ten different treatments at ARDC, ranging from one to nine annual forage crops grown together to be used as a late summer and early fall forage source. In September 2023, six different winter mixtures were seeded and will be assessed for production and nutrition in spring 2024. The results from these plot trials will be used to develop grazing trials in 2025.



AAFC Small Plot Trial

## — Prescribed Fire —


The third project is called "**Evaluating the use of prescribed fire to rejuvenate forage pastures and its impact on soil health**", co-led by Nadia Mori at the Peace Region Forage Association and funded by the AAFC Sustainable Agricultural Partnership Agri-Science Program, Projects Component, with industry support from the Beef Cattle Research Council and BC Hydro Peace Agricultural Compensation Fund. A key collaborator on this project is Dr. Sonja Leverkus with Northern Fire WoRx, who will be implementing prescribed fire at four sites in the Peace Region of BC. The team will study how forages respond (including the reduction of woody encroachment) and how soil carbon cycling changes following prescribed fire.

# ALL ABOUT THE BEEF CHECK-OFF

Beef producers across Canada pay a check-off in their respective provinces on each animal marketed. The value of the check-off and collection process varies across the provinces. The check-off is mandated provincially and in BC it consists of a non-refundable 'National check-off' portion (\$2.50) and a 'Provincial check-off' portion (\$2.50) which is refundable on request of the producer. Establishment of the national check-off allowed for collection of the beef import levy which is paid on every pound of beef imported into Canada.

The **\$2.50 Provincial check-off** is managed by CIDC and is available on application to the provincial cattle associations for their project work. The Associations apply and report annually on the work plans and resulting use of the funds they receive from the check-off.

The **\$2.50 National Check-off** is managed by the Canadian Beef Check-off Agency that works with core partners, to ensure that check-off dollars are invested into research, market development and promotion programs that deliver measurable value to the Canadian beef industry. The Agency is responsible for communicating the value of the check-off investment, as well as training and education of producers and funding partners, regulatory management, collection and administration of check-off dollars. The BC beef industry participates on the board of the Agency, and Andrea Van Iterson, a rancher and cattle feeder from Westwold was nominated by the CIDC and elected at last summer's National Check-off Agency Annual meeting.



**Producer paid Cattle Check-off at work for Producers**  
\$5.00 per head

\$2.50 provincial (refundable) Supports Projects Work of Provincial Cattle Associations		\$2.50 national (non-refundable) Supports National Efforts	
BC Assoc. of Cattle Feeders	9%	Market Development & Promotion	65%
BC Breeders & Feeders Assoc	11%	Provincial Investment	0%
BC Cattlemen's Association	65%	Public & Stakeholder Engagement	10%
BC Dairy Association	15%	Research	25%
<i>Percentage of funds available and allocated for 2023-2024</i>			

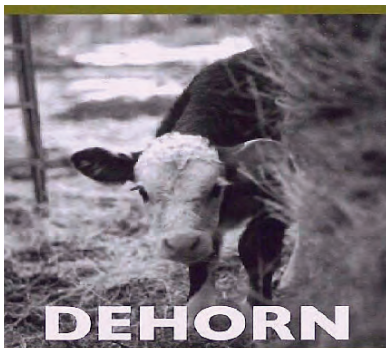
  

**Producer paid Cattle Check-off at work for Producers**  
\$5.00 per head

\$2.50 provincial (refundable) Supports Projects Work of Provincial Cattle Associations		\$2.50 national (non-refundable) Supports National Efforts	
BC Assoc. of Cattle Feeders	9%	Market Development & Promotion	45%
BC Breeders & Feeders Assoc	11%	Public & Stakeholder Engagement	5%
BC Cattlemen's Association	65%	Research	20%
BC Dairy Association	15%		
Provincial investment will assist in funding association projects		to BC Provincial Investment	30%
<i>Percentage of funds available and allocated for 2024-2025</i>			

**Who is in charge?** The Cattle Industry Development Council. The CIDC is a group of busy volunteer representatives who run their own operations and also work on behalf of the associations which elect them to Council. When serving on the CIDC, the representatives work to administer the available funding for the good of the cattle industry at large. The CIDC is responsible for the administration of the CIDC Check-off (Provincial (BC) and National), the Beef Cattle Industry Development Fund, and the Horn Levy Fund. The CIDC meets regularly to review operations with the association presidents joining with them annually to ensure industry needs are being met.

## DEHORN FOR SAFETY & PROFIT



**DEHORN  
YOUR CALVES**

**Horn Levy Fund**  
P (250) 573-3611  
[www.cattlefund.net](http://www.cattlefund.net)  
[checkoff@cattlefund.net](mailto:checkoff@cattlefund.net)

The Horn Levy Committee reports to the CIDC on collection of levy and projects funded. The \$10 per head collected when cattle with horns are sold provides about \$16,000 per year. Associations whose members raise cattle are eligible to apply for project funding. Recent projects have assisted with funding for improving community scales in Westwold, Agriculture Awareness Day in Topley, the Cariboo Classic Show in Williams Lake and a Cattle Health Workshop and Field Day in the Bulkley Valley.

## Thank You

### TO OUR COLLECTION AGENCIES

All the work that is enabled by the check-off would not be possible without the co-operation of our collection agencies. The stockyards, agents, slaughterhouses, and Ownership Identification Inc. all assist in collecting the check-off of \$5 per head when cattle are sold or slaughtered in BC.

*"The CIDC check-off dollar supports every facet of the cattle industry, and our capacity depends on it significantly."*

*John Anderson, CIDC*

# BC BEEF DAY



**BC Beef Day 2023**

Hon. Pam Alexis,  
Minister of Agriculture & Food  
with Brian Thomas, BCCA President

The 14th annual BC Beef Day was held on May 10th at the Legislature in Victoria. BC Financial support from the Beef Cattle Industry Development Fund enables leaders from the BC Cattlemen's Association, BC Breeder and Feeder Association, BC Meats and BC Dairy to attend Beef Day. The industry representatives help to showcase the nutrition and tastiness of beef as well as the value of the beef industry to BC. As ranchers, backgrounders, and processors, BC Beef Day is also an opportunity to share their stories as part of the beef value chain.

The evaluation team reports that BC Beef Day has been a high scoring project in all of the evaluations in which it was reviewed. The 2022 Evaluation Team recognized the value of BC Beef Day displaying the social and economic benefits of the industry to the province. This annual project since 2015 involves contributions of funds and time commitment from all four of the provincial associations, and the Ministry of Agriculture, and shares the beef industry message with the public on the steps of the legislature.

## APPROVED PROJECTS

PROJECT NUMBER	TITLE	APPLICANT	TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	BCID FUND SHARE	% BCID OF TOTAL
502	Unmanned Aerial Vehicle for Ranching	Thompson Rivers University	181,629	52,434	29%
505	Livestock Surface Water Assessment	Cariboo Cattlemen's Association	76,500	17,000	22%
508	Verified Beef Production Program	BCCA Program Delivery	358,600	100,000	28%
508	Verified Beef/extend one year	BCCA Program Delivery	350,000	35,000	10%
513	Applied Sustainable Ranching Diploma	Thompson Rivers University	453,000	60,000	13%
514	Water Workshops	BC Cattlemen's Assn	23,020	11,080	48%
516	Pest Monitoring	Peace River Forage Seed Assoc	375,000	20,000	5%
518	Regional Agriculture research Alliance	Cariboo Cattlemen's Assoc	71,500	13,250	19%
520	Pain Mitigation Strategies	University of Saskatchewan	77,250	17,250	22%
521	Risk/Impact of Yellow Starthistle	Simon Fraser University	30,750	15,750	51%
523	Industry Communic & Collaboration	BC Assoc Abattoirs	28,500	26,000	91%
524	Wildfire Impacts information exchange	Southern Interior Stockmen	72,000	15,000	21%
525	Integrated Approach to Productive Forage Stands Using Livestock	Peace River Forage Association	92,590	7,110	8%
526	Expanding Program Awareness	BC Breeder & Feeder Association	19,800	14,000	71%
527	Public Trust Initiative (BCAC)	BC Cattlemen's Assn	300,000	23,100	8%
528	Grasland Fertilization-Treatment & Monitoring	Pine Butte Ranch	40,502	10,000	25%
529	Growing the Market for BC Beef- Workshops with Producers	BC Assoc Abattoirs	20,920	18,420	88%
530	Cariboo Agricultural Research Alliance Extension/research Dev.	Kersley Farmers' Inst.	76,665	31,628	41%
531	BC Beef Day	BCCA Program Delivery	21,800	16,800	77%
534	Verified Beef Production Program	BCCA Program Delivery	250,000	154,000	62%
535	2019 BC Beef Day	BC Cattlemen's Assn	20,800	16,800	81%
536	Growing the Market for BC Beef-Pilot Dev. Kootenay Boundary	BC Association of Abattoirs	17,175	14,675	85%
537	Canadian Beef Industry Conference Pre tour	BC Cattlemen's Assn	28,348	25,000	88%
538	Enhancing Livestock Surface Water	Cariboo Cattlemen's Association	65,590	32,795	50%
540	Vision 2020: Forage Conference	BC Forage Council	48,250	20,000	41%
541	Range Land Use Monitoring	Nicola Stock Breeders Association	19,000	11,000	58%
542	Growing Markets for BC Beef in North and Island	BC Association of Abattoirs	21,978	19,478	89%
543	Growing Slaughter Capacity/Leasing Underutilized Plants	BC Association of Abattoirs	19,266	19,266	100%
546	Assurance Fund Program	BC Cattlemen's Assn	50,000	11,500	23%
550	2022 Beef Day	BC Cattlemen's Assn	22,800	18,800	82%
551	Wildfire Preparation in the Peace	Peace River Regional Cattlemen's Assn	74,085	49,531	67%
<b>TOTAL GENERAL PROJECTS (30)</b>			<b>3,307,318</b>	<b>896,667</b>	<b>27%</b>
<b>TOTAL PROVINCIAL ASSOCIATION PROJECTS (16)</b>			<b>4,309,627</b>	<b>1,356,400</b>	<b>31%</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL 2018-2022</b>			<b>\$7,616,945</b>	<b>\$2,253,067</b>	<b>30%</b>



### Cattle Industry Development Council

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Kamloops, BC V2C 6T4  
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checkoff@cattlefund.net  
www.cattlefund.net

### Currently serving on the CIDC, as elected by their associations:

Haley Rutherford, BC Association of Cattle Feeders  
Denise Dowswell, BC Breeder and Feeder Association  
John Anderson, BC Cattlemen's Association  
Devin Chursinoff (Chair), BC Cattlemen's Association  
Lani French, BC Cattlemen's Association  
Judy Madden, BC Cattlemen's Association  
Brian Schurmann, BC Dairy Association  
Thomas Wynker (Vice-Chair), BC Dairy Association  
Laura Code (Ex-officio), BC Ministry of Agriculture & Food