

Places, Spaces and Stories about Beef Cattle Farming and Ranching in Alberta

Alberta is the largest cattle producing province in Canada. Alberta also has the second largest total farm area in Canada. Almost half of Alberta farms and ranches have beef cattle.



Cattle provide benefits for the environment. Cattle can graze on land that can't be used to grow crops.

Grass and pasturelands are the basis of cattle farming and ranching in Alberta. They provide 80 percent of the feed used for beef cattle. Cattle are able to digest grass and grains that other animals and people cannot.

On these lands, cattle convert plants that humans can't digest into high quality protein.

Finding Alberta Beef



Making Contributions to Environments and Communities



Agriculture in Alberta is diverse. It includes crop and livestock farming. Farming and ranching helped build communities and ways of life in Alberta.

Ranching began in the foothill region of southwestern Alberta. This region had sheltered valleys with good water sources. The chinook winds kept snow off hills and natural grasslands much of the time. These weather conditions had the potential to let cattle graze year-round.



Cattle farms and ranches protect natural ecosystems, including the plants and wildlife that are part of them.

Cattle are consumers in agricultural ecosystems.



Manure from cattle contains nutrients that plants need.

Cattle farmers and ranchers recycle nutrients by applying manure to the land. This can improve soil health in agricultural ecosystems.



Protein from animal sources, such as beef, contains all of the essential amino acids we need in our diet. There are 20 amino acids that are essential for human health. When digested, proteins are broken down into amino acids.



Proteins are part of every cell in your body, necessary to build and repair muscle. Protein is an important part of the immune and circulatory systems, organ function and bones.

