

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

There are over 60 000 cattle farms and ranches in Canada, with 98 percent of these farms and ranches family owned. The average number of cattle on Canadian farms and ranches is 69. The average number of cattle on Alberta farms and ranches is 93.



Cattle in Canada are generally raised on grass-based pasture and grasslands. Therefore, 80 percent of their feed comes from grass-based feed.

Cattle maintain 68 percent of the wildlife habitat capacity that comes from our agricultural land. Many bird species would lose their habitat to overgrowth without cattle grazing.

Cattle help to sustain soil with the nutrients from manure. Healthy grass means that there is stronger ground cover and more protection from sun and rain.



# Finding Connections to Land, Agriculture and Ways of Life



Riparian areas are the green zones around lakes and wetlands. Riparian areas are formed as the result of water, soil and vegetation interacting with one another. These areas are important to farms and ranches. They are also important to natural ecosystems.

About 80 percent of Alberta's wildlife rely to some extent on riparian areas. Farmers and ranchers use watering systems to protect riparian areas.



Canadian beef farmers and ranchers work with conservation groups like Cows and Fish and Ducks Unlimited to safeguard streams and creeks.



It takes 17 percent less water to make one kg of beef today than in 1981.



Beef farmers work with conservation experts to develop and invest in Environmental Farm Plans to protect the environment.

Over 1 000 plant, animal and insect species make their homes on Canada's rangeland.



About 228 000 jobs are created by the Canadian beef industry. Cattle farming and ranching involves more than just farms. It creates other jobs and businesses that are important to ways of life in rural communities.



When foods are paired together, foods can have benefits for your health.

Beef helps increase the iron absorbed from beans and other plant sources of iron by about 150 percent.

