

Sustainability in Beef Sector

Werner Stump - BC Cattlemen's Association

April 2021

Sustainability



Three Pillars of Sustainability in Beef Sector

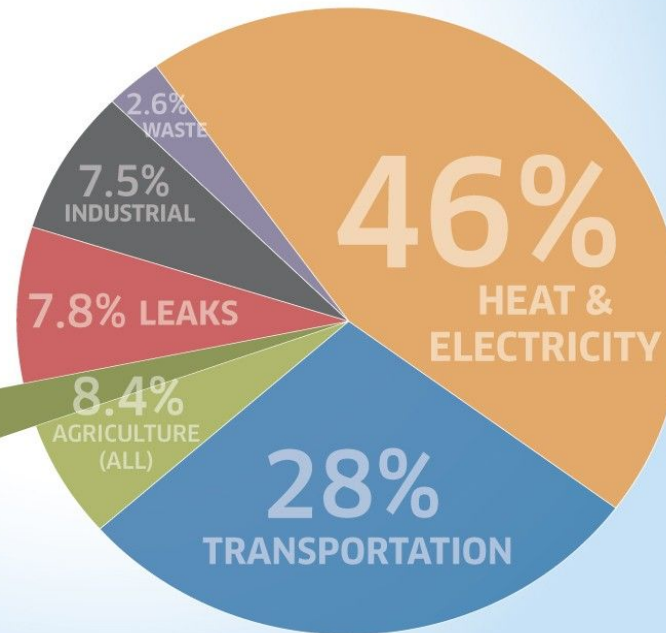
- ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND
- ECONOMICALLY VIABLE
- SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE

Beef cattle production in Canada

represents only

2.4%

of total Canadian
greenhouse gas
emissions.^{1,2}



¹Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (CRSB). (2016). National Beef Sustainability Assessment – Environmental and Social Assessments. ²Environment Canada. (2019). Greenhouse gas sources and sinks: executive summary 2019.

Find the facts at
www.crsb.ca

WHERE / HOW DO WE GROW BEEF?



AGRICULTURAL LAND BASE

- 1. Productive land– crops, mechanized**
- 2. Marginal land – beef, non-mechanized**

AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

- 1. Intensive**
- 2. Extensive**

BEEF CATTLE ARE THE GUARDIANS OF THE GRASSLANDS



Grazing cattle on native grasslands is
critical to a healthy ecosystem

✓ Biodiversity ✓ Soil Health ✓ Wildlife Habitat



<http://www.natureconservancy.ca/en/blog/archive/grasslands-the-most.html>

Find the facts at www.crsb.ca

Cows are Vital to Grasslands



“Ranches run by cow-calf operators steward the vast majority of all grasslands that remain intact in Canada. If cow-calf operations fail to exist as an economic model then most of the grasslands that remain will be converted to another economic model and we will not just lose a way of life but most of the remaining biodiversity that exists in Canada’s prairie region.”

– Larry Simpson, Nature Conservancy of Canada

Cows are Vital to Grasslands



- *“The beef industry relies on the grass landscape as part of its production cycle and the prairie ecosystem needs the impact of grazing in order to rejuvenate grass and plants. It’s a necessary and symbiotic relationship. When ranches disappear, we lose the grass that goes along with it.”*

– Kristine Tapley, Ducks Unlimited Canada

BC Cattle Industry



- BC beef cattle herd about **200,000** mother cows
- BC ranches occupy **5 million acres** of private land – approximately 25 acres/cow
- BC ranches have tenure on a further 21.5 million acres of crown rangeland

Multi-resource Management



Principles:

- Retain a harvestable crop of trees
- Improve forage values
- Enhance biodiversity & wildlife values

Multi-resource Management



Healthy Grasslands and Forage
Developments Support Many Values:

- Wildlife
- Biodiversity
- Healthy, productive soils
- Water quality
- Fish habitat

Guardians of the Grasslands



- Will view a trailer from short film
- Visit Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef for full video
- [Beef Sustainability: meeting the needs of present and future - YouTube](#)

