



CANADIAN BEEF BREEDS COUNCIL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CBBC Statement on AAFC Research Closures

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) announced the closure of three research and development centres and four satellite research farms this week; including the Lacombe research station.

The loss of these institutions creates a massive hole within the agriculture industry and specifically, the loss of the 119-year-old Lacombe Research and Development Centre (Lacombe RDC) is devastating for the beef sector. The [Lacombe RDC's research](#) range includes the study of genomic and phenomic information to develop animal selection tools and carcass grading prediction tools for several species. Their work also involved best management practices relating to environment impact and production, improving the economic stability of beef production, and the integrated meat science focused on developing sustainable meat production systems.

Without support of these longstanding institutions for research our industry is at risk of losing the esteemed professionals who work there and subsequently relying wholly on research from our neighbours South of the border. The Canadian Beef industry and our producers are proud of the work they've been doing to improve efficiency, sustainability, and competitiveness in the global market. [The research is the key to quantifying that impact.](#) The research is how we show our consumers the positive impact we have for the environment, for our livestock care, and for the efficiency that relates back to consumer affordability.

Genetic research creates a foundation to advance the whole herd forward; it's a key component in why we can continue to increase our beef output despite shrinking herd sizes. Globally everyone can agree that food production needs to increase to meet population growth. Supporting our producers is how those goals are achieved and research is the tool for targeted development.



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The closure of research centers reduces the agency our industry can have. To say this news is disappointing is a massive understatement especially when key industry groups were not consulted. At a time when the government is looking to broaden trade, reduce US dependency, and create food affordability this move is counterproductive to all three.

The Canadian Beef Breeds Council is focused on facilitating genetic advancements within the Canadian beef industry and representing the Canadian seedstock sector both domestically and internationally.

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