ALBERTA FEEDLOT ANIMAL HEALTH & WELFARE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM (AFHWS)

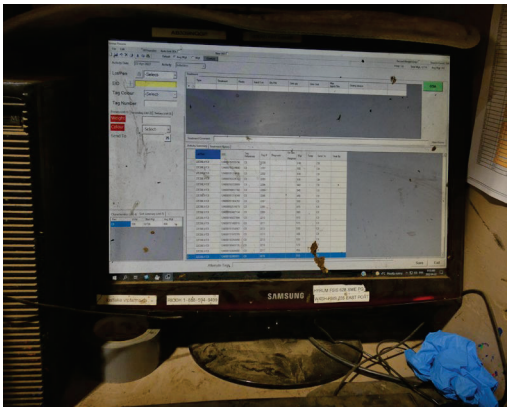
Commitment to Animal Health and Welfare

- The Alberta feedlot industry, veterinary practices, and other stakeholders are working together to implement and maintain a feedlot animal health and welfare surveillance system in finishing feedlots (AFHWS)
- Collection of high-quality feedlot data will allow the beef industry to detect, benchmark, and monitor disease rates over time to identify risks to animal health and welfare to enhance industry knowledge and improve public agriculture awareness.

Animal health and welfare surveillance in Alberta feedlot cattle aims to:

- Provide representative estimates of morbidity and mortality rates in finishing feedlots
- Monitor disease rates in feedlot cattle over time
- Investigate associations between disease rates and antimicrobial use (AMU) and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) on a targeted basis, in collaboration with the Canadian Feedlot AMU/AMR Surveillance Program (https://cfaasp.ca) to improve our understanding and support antimicrobial stewardship
- Provide participating feedlot producers and veterinarians with industry benchmark data
- Provide industry stakeholders, such as beef industry associations, pharmaceutical companies, and governments with reliable animal health data for risk assessments and determinations of priority research

How the project works:



- Participating study feedlots:
  - Located in Alberta
  - Have >1000 animals destined for slaughter
  - Have a valid veterinary-client-patient relationship
- Morbidity data comes from:
  - Feedlot treatment records of animals pulled by the animal health crew and treated for the first time for respiratory, metabolic, or lameness diseases
- Mortality data comes from:
  - Records where feedlot veterinarians have determined the cause of death from animal clinical histories and postmortem examinations/photos

ENHANCING ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE IN THE CANADIAN BEEF INDUSTRY THROUGH COLLABORATION AND LEADERSHIP