


producing ■■■ livestock ■■■ forage ■■■ ideas

LFCE Livestock and Forage CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE



What if we could bring together every link of the livestock production chain?
That's exactly what this centre allows us to do.



We're at the real centre of beef cattle production in Western Canada. The information that we'll be able to generate here will help us to stay at the forefront of new developments ... both in terms of production and sustainability."

■■■ DR. JOHN CAMPBELL,
WCVN professor and beef cattle researcher

Building on a strong network of partnerships, the centre will improve livestock production across Canada and around the globe.

The Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence (LFCE) is a unique complex of both science and field laboratories that will model all aspects of raising livestock on the Canadian Prairies. This centre will boost our ability to connect discovery with translational and applied research.

The LFCE will encompass everything from forage development, grazing management and environmental sustainability to the science of reproduction and nutrition, cow-calf management and feedlot cattle health, growth and productivity.

Partners

Representatives from the University of Saskatchewan, the Saskatchewan Government, and the forage and livestock sectors have worked together to develop the LFCE over the past few years. This is an historic partnership that combines the talents and interests of the U of S, the agriculture industry and the provincial government into a centre of excellence.

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Project highlights

The LFCE will be a leader in developing research, teaching and technology transfer programs that provide the livestock and forage industries of Saskatchewan and Canada with new tools and techniques for healthy, sustainable and competitive growth.

The LFCE will include livestock facilities, forage production and grazing land all near Saskatoon, Sask. The centre's work will focus on three key areas:

- Cow-calf production
- Intensive livestock production
- Forage, pasture and grazing management

The LFCE will provide researchers, faculty, students, producers and the agriculture industry with an innovative, broad-based platform for research, teaching and extension activities.

This integrated model offers more opportunities to create revenue from research and cattle sales as well as more access to project funding for larger, combined research initiatives. Having one centre also eliminates project duplication and makes the most out of all the available resources.

The following organizations have committed funding for the project:

- University of Saskatchewan
- College of Agriculture and Bioresources, U of S
- Western College of Veterinary Medicine, U of S
- Growing Forward 2 Program, Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan
- Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association

LFCE partners continue to pursue additional funding sources for the project.



The LFCE is a real-world exploration ground for all aspects of the livestock production chain and the environment in which all of these activities take place.

For years, U of S scientists in agriculture, veterinary medicine and engineering have collaborated with researchers at the Western Beef Development Centre and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. Their work has led to the development of many valuable tools for livestock producers.

The LFCE builds on Saskatchewan's rich pedigree of research and teaching in livestock and forage production. This unique centre will allow these researchers to go further in their discoveries by providing them with new facilities and technologies, larger herds and additional acres of forage and grazing land— all near Saskatoon.

Pooling all of this research power will not only benefit livestock producers and the agriculture industry. Undergraduate and graduate students will gain valuable, hands-on experience and opportunities to participate in cutting-edge research investigations.

The centre will also offer interactive outreach programs — field days, demonstrations, industry presentations and seminars — to help introduce new techniques and technologies to producers. The LFCE will be a centre for public awareness, helping to bridge the communication gap between the agriculture industry and consumers.



“We need this centre to research the problems of today and the emerging ones of tomorrow. The LFCE brings together world-class facilities and faculty to tackle these challenges and deliver real results that producers can use on their farms, ranches and feedlots.”

RYDER LEE,
CEO, Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association

Why is this centre so important?

- **Consumer feedback:** Consumers have questions about how western Canadian livestock producers raise animals. Researchers will investigate aspects of livestock production and “test drive” options for enhancing animal welfare, animal health, product quality and food safety on Canada’s farms.
- **Cost-effective herd management:** As input costs increase, livestock producers must adopt the most efficient methods of managing their herds. But what methods make the most sense when you consider economics as well as other factors? With access to the entire livestock production chain, scientists can analyze the pros and cons of adopting one or more cost-saving measures in a real-world setting.
- **A smaller environmental hoofprint:** The LFCE will provide U of S environmental researchers with the chance to study the impact of intensive livestock operations on a “green field” site over five years of development and production. Nothing like this has been done in Canada, and based on their results, the research team will develop “best practices” — identifying what makes the best site for a feedlot and what modifications can minimize the impact on soil and water resources.
- **Practical teaching:** Students will have access to the newest technologies, advanced handling facilities and a large number of animals — all located close to Saskatoon. The centre will also include overnight accommodations so students can participate in calving.
- **Research synergies:** By bringing scientists and producers together, the LFCE will allow the research community to be more responsive to the needs of the livestock and forage sectors. Another outcome will be more research collaborations involving scientists from around the world.
- **Linking people to knowledge:** The centre will connect agricultural, environment and veterinary researchers with producers and industry. Students, researchers, clients, producers and trainees will benefit from the LFCE’s demonstration and training facilities.



“There’s no doubt that Saskatchewan is seen as a leader right now when it comes to the livestock and forage industry. But we have an incredible opportunity through the LFCE to expand that even further – in Western Canada, nationally and internationally.”

■■■■ **JANICE BRUYNNOOGHE,**
Coordinator, Saskatchewan Forage Network,
and forage-beef producer



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
**Livestock and Forage
Centre of Excellence**
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