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UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

# Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence

LFCE.USASK.CA

# Q2 AUG 1 – OCT 31, 26

# Report

# Q2 SUMMARY

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence
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## AUG 1 - OCT 23, 2026

- Supported livestock, forage, crop & environmental research through daily animal care, feeding & dietary management, land & facility preparation, animal handling for research procedures, laboratory support, sample processing & data collection as well as coordination with research teams
- Expanded engagement with researchers, producers, industry & government partners including exploratory discussions with Saskatchewan Agriculture on future training & knowledge-sharing opportunities
- Strengthened collaboration among operations staff, research teams, students, veterinary & nutrition specialists to support trial delivery, address operational challenges & identify future research needs
- Supported teaching, industry engagement & practical learning through facility access, tours, demonstrations & training relevant to livestock handling, forage production, animal welfare & ag safety
- Advanced research readiness through recruitment, staff training, equipment calibration & maintenance while continuing to strengthen feeding reliability, quality control & data integrity
- Continued improving production management, user-fee structures & cost recovery to support LFCE's financial sustainability; positive researcher feedback reflected progress in coordination, staff support & service delivery
- Key pressures include finalizing the user-fee schedule, strengthening quality control, addressing an aging equipment fleet & maintenance needs along with competing for qualified staff in a competitive labour market

## Q2 BY THE NUMBERS AS OF 22-OCT-26

**1335 ACRES OF CANOLA HARVESTED | 2427 STRAW BALES | 2070 HAY BALES | 5000MT SILAGE | 20,500BU BARLEY | 5000BU OATS**

**1,273 BOVINE - FEEDERS | COWS & CALVES | BULLS | METABOLISM BARN | CULLS**

**208 BISON - FEEDERS | COWS & CALVES | REPLACEMENT HEIFERS | BULLS**

# RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

## 25 ACTIVE RESEARCH, TEACHING & RELATED ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED DURING Q2

### BEEF CATTLE | NUTRITION | PRODUCTION

- Trace-Mineral Status & Respiratory Health in Beef Calves
- Leptin Genotype & Vitamin D Supplementation in Finishing Cattle
- Neonatal Calf Prime & Boost Vaccine Programs
- Divergent Fibre Digestion Efficiency — GrowSafe
- Calcium Hydroxide Treatment of Canola Straw & Oilseed Screenings
- Soybean Isoflavones & Ergot Alkaloid Response - Cohort 2
- Saponin / Micro-Aid Drinking Water & Methane Emmisions in Grazing beef heifers
- Heifer Development — Lakeland College Canada
- Integration of Beef Cattle on Annual Cropland / Swath Grazing

### REPRODUCTION | GENOMICS | TECHNOLOGY

- BIG (Bison Intergenomic One) Project — Reproductive Technologies, Estrus Synchronization & AI
- Cetrorelix-Induced LH Suppression & GnRH Challenge
- Bovine Oocyte Competence — Follicular & Maternal Aging
- Genomic Association Analysis of Forage Efficiency in Beef Cows
- Moocall-Heat Detection vs. Estrotect Patches
- 2D Image-Based Autonomous Cattle Weight Estimation
- Germplasm Biobank for North American Bison & Cattle
- Cattle Handling & Reproductive Techniques Training

### BISON | ENVIRONMENT | FIELD RESEARCH

- Bison Integrated Genomics Project
- Bison Net-Energy Study — SDSU
- Bison Rotational vs. Continuous Grazing Study
- Environmental Surface Coating / Air Quality Project
- Field Weather-Station Research
- S7 Site Engineering Project
- Honey Bee Activities
- House Sparrow Activities
- Additional Crop Sciences Research Activities
- Rodent Population & Disease Surveillance — Seasonal Trapping Study

# TEACHING, TOURS & ENGAGEMENT

### TEACHING & PRACTICAL LEARNING

- ANSC 210 lab tours connected classroom learning with feedlot, cattle-handling & Met Barn activities - Oct 7
- ANBI 410 facility visit & cattle-handling demonstration with Lee Sinclair - Oct 20
- Basics of Bovine Feedyard Nutrition session for staff & students - Sep 24

### TOURS & STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

- Continued youth & student tours, research-student orientation & facility visits throughout Q2
- Hosted the University of Guelph Beef Club - Oct 1
- Supported practical learning through access to LFCE livestock, facilities & research activities
- Indigenous School of Law
- Edwards School Of Business Comm 452

### INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT & COLLABORATION

- Canadian Beef Industry Conference participation - August 17 - 20
- Explored virtual fencing, livestock-water monitoring & cattle-management technologies with industry contacts
- Working with Saskatchewan Agriculture to develop quarterly nutrition clinics & explore opportunities to support animal protection officer training

### ONGOING & ANNUAL ENGAGEMENT

- LFCE visibility & industry connections through booths, conferences & events, including Canadian Western Agribition, Canadian Beef Industry Conference, Saskatchewan Beef Industry Conference, Canadian Bison Association Conference, SSGA AGM & SEMI, Ag in Motion & LFCE Field Day
- Participation in the CWA Next Gen Mentorship Program, with LFCE serving as a mentor
- Agricultural innovation engagement through CULTIVATOR Ag Tech meetings, ACCELERATOR Ag Tech Hackathon, CAIN Agritech Reception & Wild Bison Summit

### FRAMEWORK ALIGNMENT -

*Q2 Evidence Of Progress*

*Teaching–Training–Translation KPIs #2 & #3; Outreach KPIs #1 & #2:*

***Expanded practical learning, training & tours increase awareness of LFCE, strengthen industry relationships & support knowledge sharing with students, staff & producers.***

**Q3 FOCUS**

**QUARTERLY NUTRITION CLINICS • ANIMAL PROTECTION OFFICER TRAINING • TEACHING & STUDENT TOURS • PRODUCER & INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT**

# UNIT OPERATIONS AT A GLANCE

## GOODALE & NHC

- Managed cattle & bison herds, pasture monitoring, feeding, animal health & research-related handling
- Supported bison genomics & reproductive research, including AI preparation, breeding activities & pregnancy checking
- Coordinated bison export documentation & shipment arrangements for the South Dakota research collaboration
- Supported the 20-heifer BRD study through vaccination, sampling, weighing & transfer to WCVM
- Received weaned FCCRTU heifer calves & coordinated weighing, health protocols & fall management
- Advanced permanent fencing projects, Reprotech Barn construction & seasonal facility preparation
- Pen cleaning & manure spreading

## BCRTU & METABOLISM BARN

- Supported research & LFCE feeder cattle through conventional pens & GrowSafe systems
- Operations included feeding, dietary management, cattle allocation, animal health, weighing, research handling, data collection & research coordination
- Finished steers were marketed to Cargill & JBS
- Feeder heifers were bought & sold after backgrounding trial was complete
- Feeder Steer calves were bought
- transferred FCCRTU Steer Calves to BCRTU for research
- Pen cleanng & manure spreading
- Met Barn Trial Husbandry & sample support continues

## FCCRTU & PATHLOW

- Managed cow/calf herds, grazing, breeding groups, animal-health monitoring & seasonal livestock movements
- Supported AI, methane & genomics research through cattle allocation, handling, sampling, weighing & pregnancy checking
- Transferred FCCRTU steer calves to BCRTU for trace-mineral research
- Brought Pathlow cattle home & advanced fall weaning; 129 heifer calves were moved to Goodale
- Improved calving & feeding areas through concrete pads/slabs, fencing, pen cleaning, feed-bunk repairs & windbreak improvements
- Completed bale-yard access & gateway improvements, sewer repairs & winter preparation

**Individual Animal Phenotyping & Herd Benchmarking — Consistent measurement & tracking of performance, health, reproductive & production metrics across LFCE herds to support research, management & long-term genetic & herd evaluation**

# Q2 ANIMAL CARE

## TRAINING, ANIMAL WELFARE, ENRICHMENT & RESEARCH OVERSIGHT

### COMPLETED ACTION ITEMS

- Continued daily livestock monitoring, veterinary consultation & treatment across cattle & bison operations
- Reinforced safe, low-stress cattle handling through practical training & demonstrations
- Continued staff training in feeding, animal observation & research-animal husbandry
- Reviewed animal-care concerns & incidents to identify required follow-up, strengthen practices & support consistent care
- Added brushes to Met Barn stalls & feeder-calf pens to provide grooming opportunities & animal enrichment
- Incorporated bathing of four Met Barn heifers per day into the animal-care routine
- Installed additional wind shelter for feeder calves to improve protection
- Continued daily animal-health monitoring, veterinary consultation & staff training in safe, low-stress livestock handling

### COMPLIANCE & CERTIFICATION

- Supported animal-use protocol requirements, research documentation & reporting of animal-health incidents to the UACC
- Reviewed research procedures & husbandry requirements with research teams including Met Barn SOPs
- Identified follow-up needs from facility inspections including Pathlow fencing & planned installation of the portable handling system before spring turnout in 2027
- Continued coordination with veterinarians, researchers & animal-care personnel on monitoring, treatment & humane intervention requirements.
  required training & animal-care practices
- AUP renewal including review & alignment of animal-use protocols, operational procedures & research requirements to support continued compliance across LFCE activities

**Q3 COMPLIANCE FOCUS**

**ANIMAL WELFARE • STAFF TRAINING • INSPECTION FOLLOW-UP • VETERINARY OVERSIGHT • AUP ALIGNMENT • SAFE LIVESTOCK HANDLING**

# HUMAN RESOURCES & ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## Q2 STAFFING, STRUCTURE & OPERATIONAL CAPACITY

### STAFFING & ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Continued refining the proposed operating & reporting structures to clarify leadership, operational accountability & research-support responsibilities
- Advanced planning for the Agricultural Systems Superintendent, unit supervision & data integrity/lab coordination functions
- Recruitment priorities included the Feedlot Supervisor & Equipment Operator / Service & Maintenance Technician positions
- Recruiting & retaining dependable staff with livestock, animal-health & agricultural equipment capability remains a priority

### WORKFORCE COORDINATION & CAPACITY

- Adjusted staff assignments & coverage to support concurrent research, livestock operations, harvest & winter preparation
- Expanded practical training in feeding, cattle handling, equipment operation & research support
- Staff assumed additional coordination & administrative responsibilities to maintain continuity during coverage gaps
- Sustained overtime & reliance on key personnel highlighted the need for added capacity, cross-training & clearer responsibility allocation

## Q3 WORKFORCE FOCUS

RECRUITMENT • ROLE CLARITY • OPERATIONAL CAPACITY • CROSS-TRAINING • SUSTAINABLE WORKLOADS • ORGANIZATIONAL ALIGNMENT • GRAD STUDENT SUPPORT

# LIVESTOCK INVENTORY SNAPSHOT

**AS OF OCT 22, 2026 - 1,273 BOVINE | 208 BISON | 1,481 TOTAL HEAD**

| BOVINE — 1,273 HEAD | BISON — 208 HEAD |
|---|---|
| 288 - cows | 82 - cows: 34 Woods, 32 Plains & 16 Elk Island |
| 8 - breeding bulls | 10 - breeding bulls |
| 74 - replacement hfrs: 52 to be retained, 22 to be sold | 28 - replacement heifers |
| 263 - calves: 114 at foot (110 strs, 4 hfrs), 129 newly weaned hfrs & 20 hfrs at WCVM for Nathan's trial | 3 - replacement bulls |
| 24 - open 2025-born heifers in the Metabolism Barn | 53 - calves |
| 251 - feedlot strs: 143 Cheryl, 98 Megan & 10 extra | 32 - feeder bulls |
| 365 - feedlot hfrs: 357 Cassidy & 8 extra | |

**Q3 FOCUS — BREEDING HERD REPLENISHMENT & INVENTORY OPTIMIZATION**
**STRATEGICALLY REBUILD BREEDING COW NUMBERS THROUGH QUALITY BRED-FEMALE ACQUISITIONS & RETENTION OF 52 REPLACEMENT HEIFERS WHILE MARKETING OPEN FEMALES, IDENTIFIED CULLS & LATE CALVERS. LIVESTOCK INVENTORIES WILL CONTINUE TO BE MANAGED AGAINST ANIMAL CARE, RESEARCH & EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS, FEED AVAILABILITY, FACILITY CAPACITY & PRODUCTION REVENUE OPPORTUNITIES.**

# FCCRTU COW-CALF, BREEDING & HERD MANAGEMENT

| HERD MANAGEMENT & OPERATIONAL PROGRESS | RESEARCH SUPPORT & READINESS |
|---|---|
| **Fall herd transition:** Returned 90 cows & their calves from Pathlow on Oct 20, transitioning from summer pasture to home-site management. | **Dinesh's reproductive research:** Coordinated pregnancy checking along with an additional breeding cycle at Pathlow & conducted bull movements to accommodate research requirements. |
| **Weaning:** Weaned & weighed 129 heifer calves Oct 20 & moved them to Goodale. | **Nathan's BRD research:** Weaned & prepared 20 heifer calves on Oct 14 for sample collection & transfer to WCVM for research. |
| **Heifer-development planning:** Began nutrition planning with our nutritionist during the final reporting week alongside vet consultation on vaccination & treatment protocols for newly weaned calves. | **Cheryl's** trace-mineral & respiratory-health research: Transitioned 24 steer calves from weaning to BCRTU & coordinated their transition into the research program. |
| **Breeding-herd follow-up:** Conducted pregnancy assessments & managed bull-related issues, removals & movements as breeding groups finished. | **Mika's forage-efficiency & genomics research:** Supported herd assessments & data collection including 30 cows sorted & weighed Oct 21 for weaning-weight records & continuing until weaning. |
| **Operational pressures:** Restricted grazing capacity near handling facilities & the need for additional quality, reliable water while some areas continue to require careful grazing allocation & planning toward permanent water solutions. | **Bart's grazing-heifer research:** Continued animal oversight & supported end-of-trial weighing, blood & fecal sampling & ultrasound Oct 5 – 6. |

**Q3 FOCUS**

**BREEDING-RESULT REVIEW • REPLACEMENT DEVELOPMENT • HERD HEALTH & NUTRITION • DEVELOP BENCHMARKING • ANIMAL AVAILABILITY FOR PENDING RESEARCH • DEVELOP STANDARDIZED TEMPLATES & TRACKING FOR HERD BENCHMARKING TRAITS TO SUPPORT CONSISTENT DATA COLLECTION & PERFORMANCE EVALUATION**

# 2026 FCCRTU BREEDING RESULTS & 2027 CALVING OUTLOOK

**300 OF 324 CHECKED FEMALES PREGNANT — 92.6%**
**123HD (62.8%) OF THE 196 FEMALES AI'D CAUGHT**

| Breeding Group | # of Head Checked | Pregnant to AI | Pregnant to Natural Service | Open | Overall Pregnancy |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2025-born heifers | 56 | **40 (71.4%)** | 10 | 6 | **89.30%** |
| Second-calvers | 71 | **47 (66.2%)** | 17 | 7 | **90.10%** |
| Mature cows — AI program | 69 | **36 (52.2%)** | 27 | 6 | **91.30%** |
| Mature cows — natural service only | 128 | **—** | 123 | 5 | **96.10%** |
| **TOTAL** | **324** | **123** | **177** | **24** | **92.60%** |

AI PERCENTAGES USE FEMALES AI'D WITHIN EACH GROUP. OVERALL PREGNANCY INCLUDES AI & NATURAL-SERVICE PREGNANCIES.
**NATURAL-SERVICE PREGNANCIES: 131 IN THE FIRST CYCLE, 45 IN THE SECOND & 14 IN THE THIRD.**

| BREEDING RESULTS & RESEARCH REQUIREMENTS | 2027 CALVING OUTLOOK & PLANNING |
|---|---|
| 196 females AI'd: 123 pregnancies attributed to AI (62.8%); natural-service cleanup added 54 pregnancies, bringing overall pregnancy in AI groups to 90.3%. | Heifers: Expected to begin calving the second week of Mar with most calving early–mid Mar & completion anticipated by late Apr. |
| Supported Dinesh's research through coordinated breeding management, animal access, pregnancy checking, bull movements & an additional breeding cycle at Pathlow. | Cows: Expected to begin calving early–mid Apr with most calving Apr–mid May & completion anticipated by late Jun. |
| Checks outstanding: 22 Bart/Kat trial heifers & 20 naturally serviced mature cows. These animals are excluded from the breeding group table to the left. | Calving-window option: Marketing approximately 25–30 late-bred animals could advance completion to early Jun, subject to research commitments & future herd requirements. |

FOOTNOTE: 7 AI CHUTE EVENTS PER COW FOR THE REPRO TRIAL - (1 PRE, 3 AI, 1 POST, 2 PREG CHECK)



# Q2 GRAZING LANDS UPDATE

## GRAZING OPERATIONS

- Continued pasture & livestock oversight across LFCE grazing locations including cattle condition, water supplies, fencing & animal-health & welfare follow-up
- Adjusted breeding-herd management at Pathlow to accommodate research requirements including an additional breeding cycle & coordinated bull movements
- Returned 90 cows & their calves from Pathlow Oct 20th transitioning cattle from summer pasture to home-site management
- Utilized approximately half of Pathlow grazing lands in 2026 leaving the remaining areas ungrazed & positioning the pasture favourably for 2027
- Pathlow could have supported more cattle but 196hd had to stay close to home for repro research - NOTE Tansy weed control is needed in 2027

## PASTURE DEVELOPMENT & RESEARCH READINESS

- Continued establishment of 419 acres seeded to grazing in 2026. Italian ryegrass cover is developing well with weed pressure remaining a management concern
- Harvested selected newly seeded grazing areas as silage; forage establishment & regrowth remain under observation
- Began scoping a dugout location as a step toward a permanent livestock-water solution & improved long-term grazing access
- Explored water-monitoring & virtual-fencing technologies to assess opportunities for improved pasture oversight, livestock distribution & grazing flexibility
- Collected fall soil samples to assess whether cereal-crop land with water access could be productively transitioned to grazing
- Incorporated anticipated grazing-trial needs into land-use & infrastructure planning to preserve future research options

## Q3 FOCUS

**PASTURE ESTABLISHMENT & WEED MANAGEMENT • PERMANENT WATER PLANNING • STRATEGIC GRAZING EXPANSION • 2027 PATHLOW PLAN • RESEARCH READINESS**

# FORAGE SEED MIXES

| INTENDED USE | BLEND | SEED PURCHASED | ACREAGE |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Hay** | 50% Jackknife alfalfa; 15% Knowles hybrid brome coated; 15% Knowles hybrid brome bare; 10% intermediate wheatgrass; 10% Courtney tall fescue | **880-lbs** | **85 acres** |
| **Hay** | 60% intermediate wheatgrass; 20% Knowles hybrid brome coated; 20% Jackknife alfalfa | **660-lbs** | **65 acres** |
| **Spring grazing** | 85% Renegade crested wheatgrass; 15% Rugged alfalfa | **1,870-lbs** | **207 acres** |
| **Summer & fall grazing** | 22% Dolomit Italian ryegrass; 21% Courtney tall fescue; 23% Maximus meadow brome; 17% Knowles hybrid brome coated; 11% Rugged alfalfa; 6% cicer milkvetch | **4,570-lbs** | **275 acres** |

# BOVINE FEEDLOT PRIORITIES, PROGRESS & STRATEGIES

## Q1 QUALITY-CONTROL PRIORITIES - *Q2 Progress Updates*

### STRENGTHEN FEED-DEPARTMENT CONTROLS

***new staff hired & practical feeding cross-training provided, feed scales calibrated on Sep 3rd, feed truck replacement options remain under review, new feed wagon Oct 20th***

### IMPROVE FEED & BATCH REPORTING

***working with research teams, UFA & Accu-Trac to investigate reporting concerns & improve information access - system training & option considerations remain ongoing***

### INCREASE CONSISTENCY IN FEED DELIVERY & RESEARCH-PROTOCOL EXECUTION

***on-going communication with staff from management, on-going project-specific feed meetings used to address delivery practices, quality control & trial specific requirements***

### STRENGTHEN DOCUMENTATION & DATA INTEGRITY

***veterinary treatment / protocol meeting held Sep 9th, daily recording, information access & communication practices being strengthened to support consistent inputs & reliable research records***

### CONTINUOUS EMPLOYEE TRAINING

***cattle handling (Aug 10th & Oct 20th) & bovine nutrition clinic (Sep 24th) with monthly clinics in planning, on-call feedlot nutritionist supported by practical feeding instruction***

### STRENGTHEN ANIMAL HEALTH & WELFARE CAPACITY

***created animal health & welfare diary where all animal related events are documented in real time & exploring adding Animal Health & Welfare Technicians to our unit teams***

## *FRAMEWORK ALIGNMENT - Q2 Evidence Of Progress*

### *DIRT KPI #2 - FACILITATING CUTTING-EDGE ACTIVITIES THROUGH RESEARCH READINESS*

*all scales calibrated; additional staff hired, feeding cross-training provided, veterinary treatment / protocol meeting held within Q1, on-call nutritionist support established, feed-reporting review & equipment replacement planning remain underway*

### *TEACHING-TRAINING-TRANSLATION KPI #3 PROVIDING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES*

*two (2) cattle-handling training sessions & one (1) feedlot-nutrition clinic held within Q1, practical feeding cross-training ongoing, monthly nutrition clinics in the planning stages*

## Q3 FOCUS

**COMPLETE FEED-PROGRAM TRAINING & BUILD STAFF CAPABILITY • RESEARCH SUPPORT • QUALITY CONTROL • EQUIPMENT RELIABILITY • WINTER PREPARATION**

# FACILITIES, INFRASTUCTURE & CONSTRUCTION

## Q2 CAPITAL PROGRESS, SAFETY & SECURITY

| SAFETY & SECURITY PRIORITIES | CONSTRUCTION & CAPACITY IMPROVEMENTS |
|---|---|
| **BCRTU light poles**: Independent engineering assessment identified that the poles do not meet code requirements. Resolution planning is underway. | **Reprotech Barn:** Completion now anticipated February 1, 2027, following identification of an insulation issue. |
| **Fire & security panel:** BCRTU panel reliability remains problematic; repair or replacement options are being pursued. | **Additional facility space:** Purchased an ATCO office building for Goodale & a second building for BCRTU drying-room & laboratory storage space, with potential use for overnight calving accommodation under consideration. |
| **Theft prevention:** Security fencing installed around BCRTU fuel tanks following two fuel thefts. Additional security fencing is being planned; cameras are under consideration for BCRTU & Goodale feeder pens. | **Grazing, holding capacity & research readiness:** Permanent fencing projects completed at NHC & FCC increasing available grazing & holding areas. A concrete pad was also installed at the FCC barn. As part of a pending research trial - feedlot ground-condition improvements through RCC are being planned to strengthen pen performance & animal welfare. |

**Q3 FOCUS**

**LIGHT-POLE RESOLUTION • FIRE & SECURITY PANEL • REPROTECH BARN COMPLETION • SITE SECURITY • ATCO BUILDING SETUP**

# FACILITY MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONAL READINESS

## Q2 REPAIRS, RESEARCH SUPPORT & WINTER PREPARATION

**Aligned with DIRT KPI #2 — Facilitating cutting-edge activities through research readiness:** Completed repairs, scale calibration & expanded holding areas strengthen operational reliability & research capacity. Reprotech Barn construction & ATCO building purchases advance future facility readiness while light-pole deficiencies & fire/security-panel reliability remain priorities for resolution.

| BUILDINGS & SITE SYSTEMS | LIVESTOCK & RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE |
|---|---|
| **Winter readiness:** HVAC systems at BCRTU & FCCRTU serviced & ready for winter; seasonal preparation continues across all sites. | **Livestock facilities**: Feedlot & FCC pens cleaned to support animal care & upcoming use. |
| **Wastewater systems:** FCC sewer system repaired. Holding pond drainage at BCRTU is still pending. | **Measurement reliability:** All scales calibrated to support consistent livestock weighing, feeding & research measurements. |
| **Building envelope:** Roof leaks repaired at the BCRTU mill & over the feed bunkers; exterior doors repaired at BCRTU & FCC. | **Feed-processing reliability:** Mill serviced & elevator leg repaired. |
| **Shop organization:** Main shop cleaning & organization underway to improve access, storage & maintenance readiness. | **Metabolism Barn:** Multiple pump & track repairs completed to support daily cleaning, animal care & research operations. |
| **Laboratory air systems:** Negative-air system repaired in the drying-oven room. Grinder-room ventilation improved; quotation for a further upgrade is pending. | **Ongoing maintenance priorities**: Continue addressing facility reliability & seasonal needs while coordinating work around active research & livestock operations. |

**Q3 FOCUS**

**WINTER READINESS • PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE • RESEARCH FACILITY RELIABILITY • SHOP ORGANIZATION • VENTILATION UPGRADE PLANNING**

# METABOLISM BARN

## Q2 RESEARCH SUPPORT & OPERATIONAL PROGRESS

- Advanced the two-phase soybean-isoflavone & ergot-alkaloid trial with phase 2 beginning Oct 13 following animal acclimation starting Oct 2.
- Provided LFCE-produced, 2025-born open heifers, alongside daily husbandry & sample collection.
- Completed extensive cleaning between phases to support biosecurity, facility maintenance & readiness for the next research phase.
- Installed brushes at each stall for animal enrichment & delivered Met Barn husbandry training in Oct..
- Pump failures & clean-out system repairs remained operational pressures requiring maintenance attention to support facility reliability & research delivery.
- Serviced the Data Ranger & currently considering doing the available upgrade.
- A the planned Metabolism Barn trial was withdrawn by the Penner research team.

## FRAMEWORK ALIGNMENT

*DIRT KPI #2 — RESEARCH READINESS:*

*Cleaning between phases, animal acclimation, maintenance & sampling support enabled Phase 2 to beginning Oct 13.*

*KPI #3 — TEACHING–TRAINING–TRANSLATION*
*PROVIDING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:*

*Husbandry training delivered for one-week in Oct alongside practical sampling & laboratory instruction.*

## Q3 FOCUS

ANIMAL CARE • RESEARCH DELIVERY • EQUIPMENT RELIABILITY • STAFF CAPABILITY • FACILITY READINESS

# CROP PRODUCTION

## Q2 PRODUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

- Despite an unusually late rainfall delaying harvest, all seeded canola was successfully harvested with 1,200mt sold & just over 100mt remaining to be marketed
- Crop-insurance payment received for gopher-damaged land
- Agronomic oversight continued with 10 crop-scouting reports received Aug 3 –Sep 7 supporting crop monitoring & management decisions
- The 42 acres seeded to oats in spring were cut for fall/winter swath grazing providing immediate grazing value while limiting input costs ahead of the land's anticipated transition out of normal production for the anticipated future swath / cluster-grazing trial research
- Fall soil samples collected providing a baseline for nutrient-management decisions & 2027 fertility planning
- Pig slurry & stockpiled cattle manure were strategically applied to return nutrients to agricultural land

## FRAMEWORK ALIGNMENT -

***Q2 Evidence Of Progress***

***DIRT KPI #2 - FACILITATING CUTTING-EDGE ACTIVITIES THROUGH RESEARCH READINESS***

***42 acres maintained for anticipated research use, balancing 2026 fall/winter grazing & controlled input costs with planned site availability for research beginning spring 2028 & beyond.***

**Q3 STRATEGIC FOCUS**

**2027 FARM PLAN • PLANNED LAND USE • RISK MANAGEMENT • EQUIPMENT FLEET EVALUATION • GRAZING EXPANSION**

# LABORATORY OPERATIONS

## Q2 EQUIPMENT, SAFETY & PROCESS IMPROVEMENT

| EQUIPMENT, SAFETY & RESEARCH READINESS | CAPACITY, STAFF DEVELOPMENT & COST RECOVERY |
|---|---|
| **Freezer safety:** Door frames repaired; no further freezer-related accidents reported since the repairs. | **Drying capacity**: ATCO trailer purchased, with one end intended for conversion into a drying room. |
| **Grinder addition**: Purchase initiated, with installation anticipated Jan 2027. | **Lab-use tracking:** Punch clock purchased to record lab-use time & streamline cost recovery; implementation is the next step. |
| **Equipment reliability:** Drying-oven repairs completed. Negative-air system also repaired successfully. | **User comfort & safety:** Anti-fatigue mats provided in each laboratory. |
| **Ventilation**: Grinder-room ventilation repaired as good as it can be; quotation for a further upgrade in progress. | **Process improvement:** Oven-booking coordination & reporting remains an area for improvement. |

### *FRAMEWORK ALIGNMENT*

***DIRT KPI #2 — Facilitating cutting-edge activities through research readiness:***

***Completed freezer-frame, drying-oven & ventilation repairs support usable research facilities. Grinder procurement & the planned drying-room conversion advance equipment reliability & future sample-processing capacity.***

***KPI #3 — Teaching–Training–Translation:***

***Providing training opportunities: One staff member completed two days of laboratory-equipment training, supporting staff technical capability.***

**Q3 LAB PRIORITIES**

**GRINDER INSTALLATION • EQUIPMENT RELIABILITY • DRYING-ROOM DEVELOPMENT • LAB-USE TRACKING & COST RECOVERY • STAFF TRAINING**

# EQUIPMENT & FLEET

## Q2 REPLACEMENT PRIORITIES, RELIABILITY & ASSET MANAGEMENT

**Fleet reliability remains a significant operational constraint. Aging equipment & accumulated maintenance needs are driving downtime, repeated repairs & costs that are increasingly difficult to justify. Targeted fleet renewal supports DIRT KPI #2 — research readiness — by strengthening the operational capacity required to deliver research & maintain the service expected of a world-class facility.**

| PRIORITY PURCHASES & FLEET RENEWAL | ASSET UTILIZATION & MANAGEMENT |
|---|---|
| **Priority replacements:** Planning the purchase of a new telehandler & a used 150–180 hp tractor with bucket & grapple to improve reliability & operational capacity. | **Completed equipment trade:** Traded idle ranch equipment & an existing feed wagon toward a new feed wagon & land leveller, redirecting underused assets toward current needs. |
| **Demonstration opportunities:** Pursuing equipment demonstration arrangements wherever practical, including current discussions with SMH. Cattle IOS & Stock Boss | **Surplus disposal:** Fall McDougall auction planned for remaining equipment & items no longer in use & ready for sale. |
| **Lease arrangements:** Continuing efforts to establish an equipment lease agreement to support planned fleet renewal & more predictable replacement costs. | **Asset accountability:** Unit numbers assigned to each asset; a full equipment inventory is underway & being recorded. |
| **Maintenance planning:** Moving service & maintenance records into a digital system, with work toward recording activity as it occurs. | **Parts readiness:** Parts & filter inventory underway to improve stock visibility & maintenance preparation. |

## Q3 EQUIPMENT FOCUS

**PRIORITY EQUIPMENT PURCHASES • DEMO & LEASE ARRANGEMENTS • SURPLUS DISPOSAL • PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE • DIGITAL ASSET & SERVICE RECORDS**

# Q3 & BEYOND KEY OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES

## ANIMAL CARE

- Strengthen feeding consistency, feed & batch reporting, documentation & data integrity
- Advance recruitment, cross-training & role clarity to improve coverage & reduce reliance on key personnel
- Continue nutrition oversight, animal enrichment & winter livestock-care improvements
- Complete animal-care inspection follow-up

## EQUIPMENT, LAB & INFRASTRUCTURE

- Continue equipment replacement & fleet rationalization based on operational needs
- Advance laboratory equipment repairs, grinder replacement, SOPs & usage/billing tracking
- Progress Reprotech Barn completion toward Feb 1, 2027
- Meet needs for sample drying capacity
- Resolve priority light-pole & fire/security-system issues
- Continue fencing, shop organization & winter maintenance

## RESEARCH, FINANCE & PRODUCTION

- Coordinate upcoming trials, livestock requirements & research-support capacity
- Implement & monitor the revised research-service fee schedule, project tracking & timely invoicing
- Execute cattle & canola marketing plans to support production income & operating requirements
- Monitor winter feed inventories, ration costs & livestock performance; advance herd & cropping plans for 2027
- Develop quarterly nutrition clinics with Saskatchewan Agriculture & explore animal protection officer training opportunities
- Establish baseline measures & quarterly tracking for priority framework KPIs to demonstrate progress & identify gaps

**Q3 FOCUS**

ANIMAL CARE • QUALITY CONTROL • STAFFING & ROLE CLARITY • RESEARCH SUPPORT • EQUIPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE • COST RECOVERY • PRODUCTION INCOME

# CROP & FORAGE PARTNER RECOGNITION

*Thank* YOU

**TO ALL OF THESE SKILLED SERVICE PROVIDERS FOR THEIR EXPERTISE, DEPENDABLE WORK & VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR CANOLA & FORAGE PRODUCTION**




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...

...Anderson, who shared a fantastic testament to their incredible operation and deep roots in the community:

"What makes their operation truly remarkable is that three generations remain actively involved in the day-to-day farming operation—Irvin, Randy & Leland Heuchert working together on both their own land and the land they custom farm for others. In today's agricultural industry, that level of family commitment, succession, and collaboration is something worth celebrating!"

**Heuchert Farms Inc.**

**Blackstone Farms Ltd.**

**Western Ag Northwest Sask**
101231669 Saskatchewan Ltd.

**Drennan Farms Ltd.**

**Blacklock Ranches Ltd.**

**Northstar Seed /** Neil McLeod

**Northland Agronomy /** Kasja Wall

**Delta Animal Solutions Inc.** Jack Fisher, M.Sc., P.Ag. - U of S Alumnus

**Chatterson Corral Cleaning**

**East Edge Equestrian Inc.**

**Michael Layton**

# STRONG *operations* = STRONGER *research*

**RESEARCH & EDUCATION DRIVE PRODUCTION. STRONG OPERATIONS MAKE IT POSSIBLE.**

**LFCE's production exists to support its research & education mandate. Research needs shape what we produce, which animals we maintain & how we manage our land, feed, facilities & people.**

*Our responsibility is to manage that production efficiently & protect animal welfare while meeting research & teaching needs. Sound production management & the revenue it generates help sustain LFCE's capacity to deliver its mandate.*

**RESEARCH & EDUCATION • RESPONSIBLE PRODUCTION • OPERATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY**