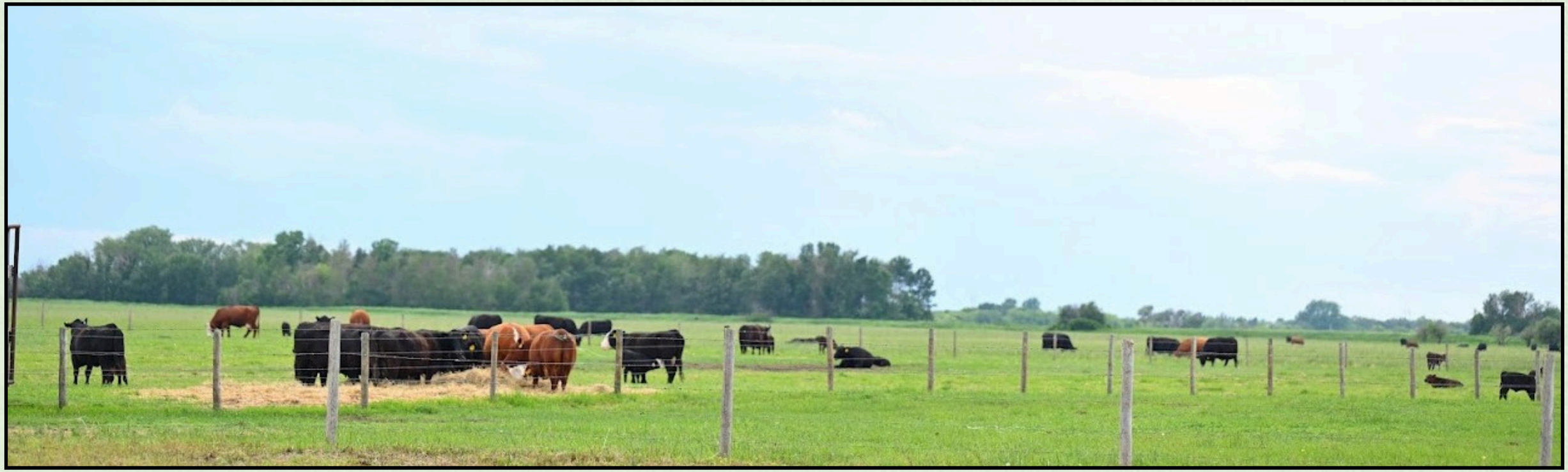
LIVESTOCK & FORAGE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

2026 Bovine Calving Season Report



BY: Paula Anderson

A MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION FROM THE GM



The calving season is one of the most demanding & rewarding times of the year on any ranch. It is a season that tests experience, teamwork, dedication & perseverance while requiring countless decisions that place the welfare of every cow & calf first. ***Every healthy calf, every successful intervention & every piece of data collected throughout the season matters & is a reflection of the team behind it.***

With that sentiment in mind, I would like to sincerely recognize our 2026 Calving Crew - **Jody Anderson, Piper Woytiuk, Patrick Lynch, Brynn Easton, Carlie Borlie, Wyatt Pavloff, Jeff Friesen, Samantha Simonson, Brian (JR) McPhee & Wyatt Millar**. Together, they embraced the simple philosophy of "*every calf matters*" throughout the season - & it worked.

I would also like to acknowledge **Kris Bolianatz, Kyle Gordon, Nelanka Daya Pathiranage, Gary Berggren & Noah Van Someren** for their support throughout the calving season. Whether covering shifts, feeding, bedding or simply helping wherever needed - their willingness to step in was instrumental in our success & allowed the calving crew to remain focused on the cows & calves.

A special thank you goes to our Facility Veterinarian, **Dr. Emily Snyder**, for her guidance throughout the season including coordinating our calving training at the WCVM Simulation Centre. I also extend my appreciation to the **Field Service Veterinarians** for the outstanding support they provided whenever assistance was needed.

I am equally grateful to **Dr. Dinesh Dadarwal** for organizing & leading this year's WCVM student rotation & to **Dr. John McKinnon** for sharing his invaluable nutrition expertise & ongoing support.

The 2026 calving season introduced several initiatives focused on animal welfare, data collection & strengthening our ability to support both production & research. While we are proud of what was accomplished this season - we remain committed to learning, improving & building a healthy, productive, research-ready herd for the future.

In closing, the success of the 2026 calving season belonged to many people. I am sincerely grateful to everyone whose knowledge, dedication & collaboration made it all possible - Paula Anderson, GM / LFCE

THE THREE PILLARS OF EXCELLENCE

Every decision made throughout the 2026 calving season was guided by three fundamental priorities that support the long-term success of the Livestock & Forage Centre of Excellence. Together, these pillars ensure we produce quality cattle, generate reliable research opportunities & provide the highest standard of animal care.

Animal Welfare Excellence

Our Goal: Ensure every animal receives the highest standard of care throughout its lifetime

- Early intervention / Veterinarian Engagement
- Colostrum management
- Comfortable housing
- Low-stress livestock handling
- Evidence-based health protocols
- Continuous documented observations
- Safe facilities & equipment

Research Excellence

Our Goal: Maintain a research-ready herd capable of producing reliable, high -quality data

- Research-ready cattle
- Complete Herdtrax documentation
- Lifetime animal traceability
- Consistent management practices
- High-quality data collection
- Reliable research outcomes
- Future research opportunities

Production Excellence

Our Goal: Build a healthy, productive & commercially relevant cow herd

- Healthy, vigorous calves
- Productive, long-lived females
- Practical commercial management
- Efficient labour utilization
- Financial stewardship
- Continuous improvement
- Strategic replacement selection

OUR COMMITMENT = ANIMAL WELFARE, RESEARCH & PRODCUTION EXCELLENCE

EVERY MANAGEMENT DECISION MADE DURING THE 2026 CALVING SEASON WAS EVALUATED THROUGH THESE THREE GUIDING PRINCIPLES TO BUILD A HEALTHY, PRODUCTIVE & RESEARCH-READY HERD FOR THE FUTURE.

2026 CALVING DATA AT A GLANCE

KEY PRODUCTION METRICS SUMMARIZING THE 2026 CALVING SEASON

	1st Calf Heifers	Mature Cows	Total
Females Exposed	105	241	346
Calves Born	76	234	310
Heifer Calves	41	118	159
Steer Calves	35	116	151
Calving Season	March 3 – June 2	March 3 – June 2	92 Days
Unassisted Births	62	226	288
Easy Pulls	7	6	13
Hard Pulls	7	2	9
Calf Deaths	3	8	11
Cow Deaths During Calving	2	2	4
Calves Sold	2	7	9
Cow-Calf Pairs Retained	71	219	290

	1st Calf Heifers	Mature Cows
Heifer Calves	73.0 lb	81.5 lb
Steer Calves	81.6 lb	89.9 lb

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- 310 CALVES BORN OVER 92 DAYS
- 159 HEIFER CALVES (51%)
- 151 STEER CALVES (49%)
- 93% WERE UNASSISTED BIRTHS
- 32 CALVES ASSISTED TO NURSE
- 20 CALVES REQUIRED NARCAN
- 13 COWS REQUIRED ACE

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WELFARE INITIATIVES

IMPLEMENTED TO ADVANCE ANIMAL WELFARE, OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE & RESEARCH QUALITY

🟢 Animal Care Excellence

Stringent Newborn Care
Standardized colostrum verification, calf vigour assessment, assisted nursing & prompt neonatal intervention supported healthy calf development & reduced the risk of early-life disease.

Standardized Calving Protocols
Consistent procedures for calving assistance, newborn processing, health assessments and documentation ensured high-quality care and continuity across every shift.

24-Hour Dedicated Calving Rotation
Continuous monitoring by a dedicated calving crew ensured timely intervention, early identification of compromised calves and consistent newborn care.

🔵 Operational Excellence

Disease Prevention Through Environmental Management
Larger 10-acre calving pastures, reduced stocking density & ample, dry bedding created cleaner calving environments, minimized pathogen exposure & supported healthier calves through improved hygiene & comfort.

Optimized Calving Facilities
Full utilization of the calving barn provided a controlled environment for cows & calves requiring additional monitoring or assistance.

Dedicated Calving & Barn Team
Calving & barn personnel focused exclusively on maternity care while support staff fed & put bedding out.

🟠 Data Excellence & Future Readiness

Precision Calf Identification Strategy
Ear-notched identification tags provided immediate visual recognition of calves that received any type of intervention at birth & comprehensive HerdTrax documentation captured the details of the intervention. This integrated system supports informed management decisions, replacement female selection & future research.

Comprehensive HerdTrax Documentation
Standardized documentation of calving events, calf vigour, treatments, interventions & assisted nursing created complete, traceable animal records that strengthen herd management & research ready integrity.

Building Tomorrow's Herd Today
The information collected during the neonatal period provides a valuable foundation for future replacement female selection, herd performance evaluation, animal welfare monitoring & future research while also ensuring today's herd management decisions continue delivering value throughout each animal's productive life.

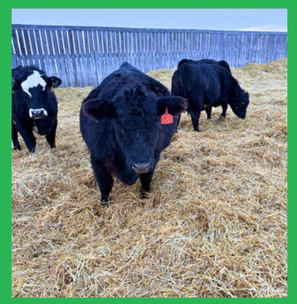
⚫ Safety & Infastructure

ATV Calving Response Cart
A dedicated enclosed cart for the ATV improved staff mobility, safety & response times during all weather conditions while transporting calves, supplies & equipment efficiently throughout the calving areas.

Industrial Lighting
Portable industrial lighting to enable efficient herd monitoring & enhance staff safety during overnight calving checks & emergency interventions.

Research-Ready Handling Pen Modifications
Working/handling pens were modified to improve the research handling of newly calved cows & their calves while effectively supporting research activities. The enhancements reduced stress on animals, improved staff safety & allowed research procedures to be completed more efficiently.









2026 CALVING FOCUS & MITIGATION ACTIONS

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT IS FUNDAMENTAL TO THE LFCE

THROUGHOUT THE 2026 CALVING SEASON, OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES WERE IDENTIFIED & ADDRESSED THROUGH PRACTICAL MITIGATION STRATEGIES & ARE INCORPORATED INTO FUTURE MANAGEMENT PLANNING.

Focus	Mitigation & Future Action
Over-Conditioned Bred Cows	Transition away from a full winter TMR program. Beginning in winter 2026 - 27, cows will be maintained on a high-quality hay & mineral program with strategically located bedding areas that encourage daily walking to water which will support improved body condition & calving performance.
Poor Udder Quality	Cows with poor udder structure or nursing concerns were identified, documented & scheduled for culling following weaning to improve maternal performance within the herd.
Extended Calving Season	To tighten the calving window, bulls are being exposed for a maximum of 40 days during the 2026 breeding season. In addition - 28 late-bred first-calf heifers & tail-end calving cows were marketed to improve herd reproductive efficiency.
Weather Challenges	The calving barn was utilized whenever necessary to rapidly dry & warm newborn calves during adverse weather which minimized environmental stress & improved calf survival.
Labour Capacity & Team Coordination	Daily communication, shared observations & collaborative problem-solving supported staff coordination throughout calving. Future planning will focus on aligning labour coverage, staff experience & workload with calving demands to support timely animal care & a sustainable workload.
Ground Conditions	Shavings were applied to muddy areas & salt used to improve icy surfaces as immediate mitigation. Areas requiring long-term improvement were identified for summer upgrades including ground build-up, drainage improvements & culvert installations.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2027

LESSONS LEARNED DURING THE 2026 CALVING SEASON HAVE ALREADY BEEN INCORPORATED INTO FUTURE HERD MANAGEMENT PLANS. IMPROVEMENTS TO NUTRITION, REPRODUCTIVE MANAGEMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE, ANIMAL HANDLING & OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY WILL CONTINUE STRENGTHENING ANIMAL WELFARE, EMPLOYEE SAFETY, RESEARCH CAPABILITY & OVERALL HERD PERFORMANCE.

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2026 BIRTH WEIGHT ANALYSIS & HERD SNAPSHOT

Calf Type	1st-Calf Heifers	Mature Cows	Difference
Heifer Calves	73	81.5	+8.5lbs
Steer Calves	81.6	89.9	+8.3lbs

Category	Weight	Outcome
Largest Heifer Calf	116lbs	Alive, Unassisted
Largest Steer Calf	118lbs	Alive, Easy Pull
Largest 1st-Calf Heifer Steer	110lbs	Stillborn
Largest 1st-Calf Heifer Heifer	93lbs	Alive, Unassisted

Calf Type	Avg Weight
1st-Calf Heifer Heifers	73.0 lb
1st-Calf Heifer Steers	81.6 lb
Mature Cow Heifers	81.5 lb
Mature Cow Steers	89.9 lb

KEY WEIGHT OBSERVATIONS

- Mature cows produced calves averaging 8 – 9lbs heavier than 1st-calf heifers.
- Steer calves averaged approx 8 – 9lbs heavier than heifer calves in both age groups.
- Despite heavier birth weights in mature cows, 96.6% of mature cow calvings were completed either unassisted or with only an easy pull (232 of 234 births).
- The largest live calf born during the season weighed 118lbs & was successfully delivered with only an easy pull, demonstrating excellent maternal capacity.
- 1st-calf heifers maintained moderate birth weights, supporting excellent calving ease while producing a well-balanced calf crop.

HERD SNAPSHOT

The current herd is predominantly Angus-based with some larger-framed, Simmental-influenced females & cows from the original Termuende herd still contributing to calf production. Strategic breeding, culling & replacement selection prioritize sound feet, functional udders, quiet disposition & genetic merit to develop a more uniform, moderate-framed, easy-keeping cow herd that supports research & education.

We have also incorporated registered Angus animals adding documented pedigrees & access to breed-association genetic evaluations that strengthen opportunities to connect ancestry, genomic information & measured traits across generations. Paired with genomic testing & consistent phenotypic recording - these animals complement the commercial herd by expanding opportunities for research, genetic benchmarking & practical education in bull & replacement-female development, breeding decisions, registration & marketing from birth through selection to sale or entry into the breeding herd.



EVERY CALF MATTERS.

Building a healthy, productive & research-ready herd for the future.

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