



Science and Innovation



Lethbridge Research Centre

Lethbridge, Alberta

The Lethbridge Research Centre (LRC) is one of the largest within Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's national network of 19 research centres. Located in southern Alberta, the Centre's research is focused in the areas of environmental health, bioproducts and bioprocesses, food safety and nutrition, and sustainable production systems. The Centre carries on significant research in new and improved technologies for beef cattle production and beef quality. The LRC also develops sustainable and profitable crop production systems for dry and irrigated land, and rangeland in the southern Canadian Prairies.

In addition to its principal location, the Centre operates three substations; one at Onefour, where studies on livestock and range management are conducted, one at Stavely, to study the management of foothills rangeland, and one at Vauxhall, for irrigated crop production and drainage studies. All three substations are located within the province of Alberta.

Areas of Research

For over 100 years the research activities at the LRC have evolved to address the changing needs of Canadian producers and the agri-food sector. Scientists continue to conduct innovative research to meet current challenges and create new opportunities for Canadian producers.

New Opportunities, Practices and Prospects

- Conducting research in new technologies to advance the efficiency, profitability and environmental sustainability of beef production
- Finding new strategies and techniques to preserve and enhance beef quality
- Gaining additional knowledge of the behaviour and welfare of cattle
- Conducting research in new technologies to produce crops that are suitable for dry and irrigated lands, and are adapted sustainably to the Canadian Prairies
- Breeding crop varieties (potatoes, wheat, beans and forages) with improved yield, quality, and disease and insect resistance. Developing production systems that will contribute to reducing costs of production, increasing value and achieving sector competitiveness
- Research to support food safety and quality regulations, consumer nutritional needs and preferences, and new products and processes development

Commercial Agriculture and the Environment: Achieving the Balance

- Discovering crop, soil, water and manure management strategies that protect the environment, maintain biodiversity, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve soil, water and air quality, and make efficient use of water
- Conducting research on new management strategies to control weeds, crop and livestock pests, while maintaining environmental quality

Facts, Figures and Facilities

- 54 research scientists and a total staff of 350
- Centre is located in the southern Alberta city of Lethbridge, in an area of the province featuring both irrigation and dryland agriculture
- 25,000 square meters of laboratory/office complex and 500 hectares of adjacent land
- Insect-Microbial Containment Facility
- Greenhouse and controlled climate growth facilities
- Facilities for dairy, sheep and beef cattle, including a research feedlot
- Weather station with 100 years of climate records
- Research farms at Onefour with 17,000 hectares of short grass prairie rangeland; Vauxhall with 190 hectares for irrigation and drainage research; Stavely with 400 hectares of rough fescue rangeland

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