

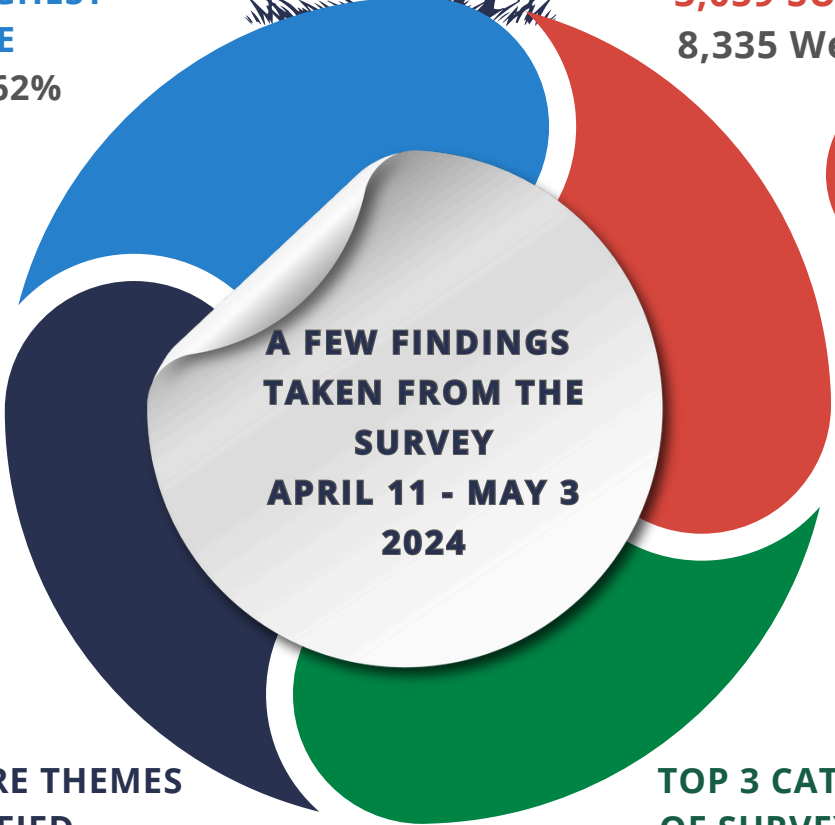

AT A GLANCE: BEEF CATTLE SURVEY RESULTS

PROVINCES WITH HIGHEST RESPONSE RATE

British Columbia 62%
Ontario 15%
Alberta 7%



3,059 SURVEY RESPONSES
8,335 Welfare Comments



**A FEW FINDINGS
TAKEN FROM THE
SURVEY
APRIL 11 - MAY 3
2024**

MAIN WELFARE THEMES IDENTIFIED

General Welfare
Painful Practices
Housing
Handling
Transport and Slaughter
Mistreatment and Abuse



TOP 3 CATEGORIES OF SURVEY TAKERS

Concerned Citizen 78%
Consumer 35%
Beef Producer 20%



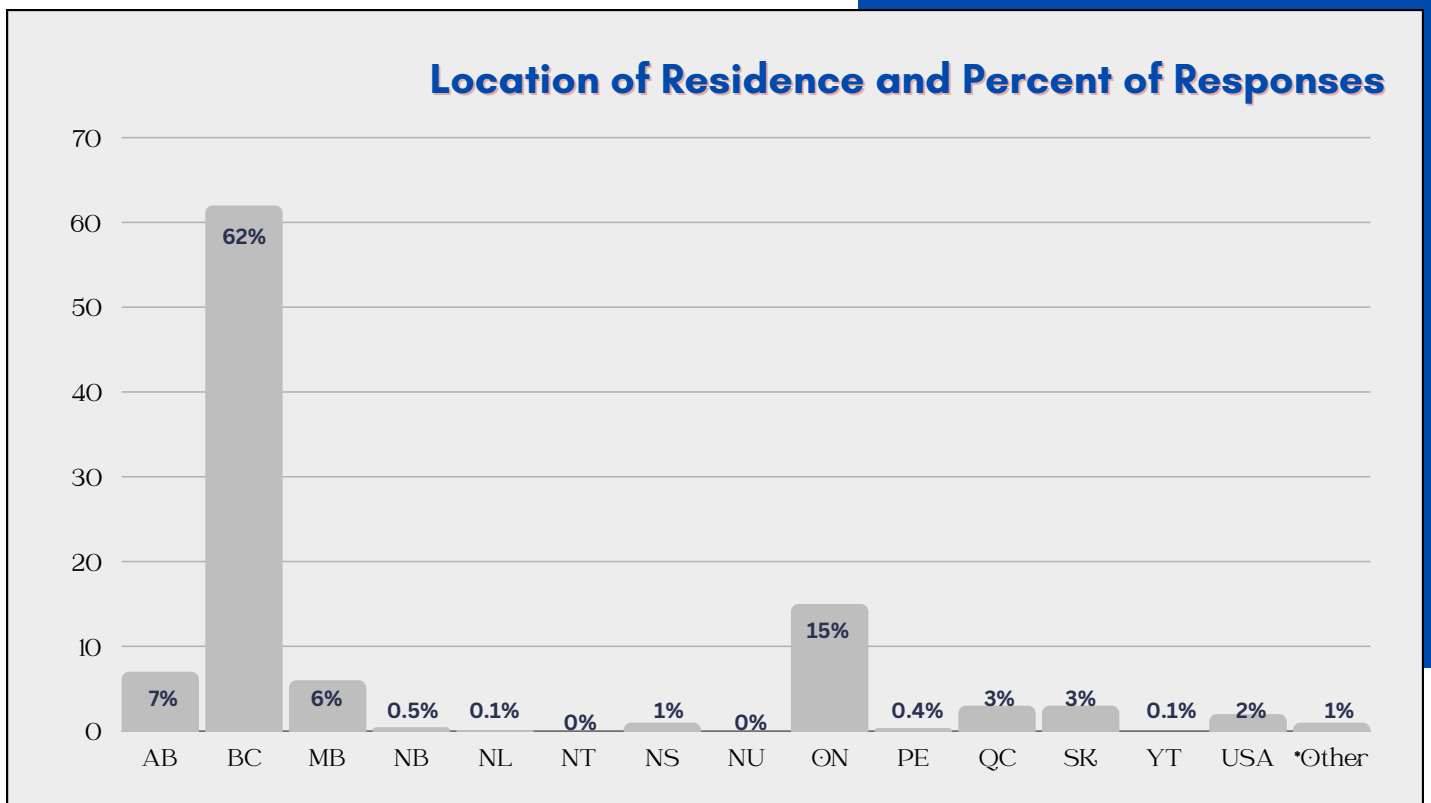
Background

The [Canadian Cattle Association \(CCA\)](#) has initiated a revision to the [2013 beef cattle Code of Practice](#) using the process coordinated by the [National Farm Animal Care Council \(NFACC\)](#). Once completed, the Code will reflect updated requirements and recommended practices for on-farm care of beef cattle.

Survey

From the period of April 11th through May 3rd, 2024, the industry, general public, and all other interested individuals were invited to participate in a survey for the beef cattle Code and provide their unique top-of-mind thoughts around beef cattle welfare. The input received through this early engagement will help the Code Committee understand the kinds of issues people wish to see considered in the update.

Where do the survey respondents live?



*Other responses included Australia, Bulgaria, Canada (province not specified), France, Germany, global (no location specified), Greece, Hungary, Italy, Singapore, Sweden, and United Kingdom.

Who took part?

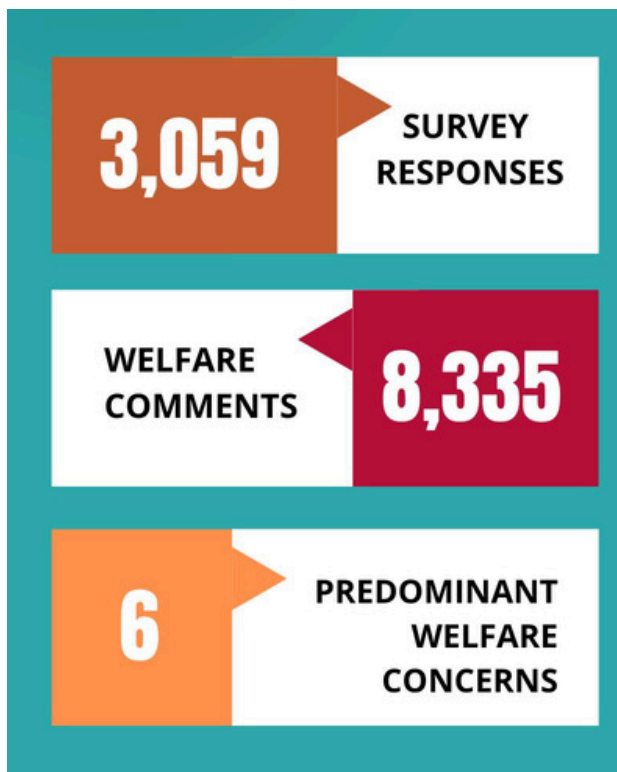
We were pleased to hear from a diverse range of voices. Note that respondents were able to identify as belonging to more than one group.



Perspective	# of Responses	Percentage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allied Industry Representative (e.g., extension, technical advisor, producer association, advisor) 	53	2%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Animal Welfare Enforcement 	263	9%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Auditor 	14	0%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerned Citizen 	2,384	78%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consumer 	1,062	35%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feed Specialist/Nutritionist 	31	1%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government 	51	2%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hoof Trimmer 	16	1%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Livestock Assembly Yard/Auction 	39	1%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Processor - Meat 	33	1%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beef Producer (includes beef producer, cow-calf producer, feedlot (to finish) producer, seedstock producer, stocker/backgrounder) 	601	20%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Producer - Other (i.e., vegetable, pig, dairy cattle, sheep, equine, dairy/beef cross breeds, chicken, goat, alpaca, veal cattle, grazing, general farming) 	35	1%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Researcher/Academic 	104	3%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retail and/or Food Service 	41	1%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transporter 	39	1%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Veterinarian/Veterinary Technician 	98	3%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other 	11	0%

What was top-of-mind?

From the **3,059 survey responses** received, **8,335 individual welfare comments** were extracted, and from those, **6 predominant welfare concerns** were identified.



1. General Welfare Concerns

Commonly, respondents provided top-of-mind concerns related to cattle experiencing general elements of positive welfare, such as sufficient food and water, adequate shelter, and positive care and handling in all stages of the supply chain. In general, participants' comments reflected the desire for cattle to live a "good" life and have "good quality of life".

Quotes:

"Cows having a good life (outdoors, space to move, etcetera)"

"Ensuring the most [humane] practices possible from birth until slaughter"

"Ethical treatment (e.g., sufficient space, less stressful transportation)"

"Freedom from fear, anxiety and pain while handling and during transport"

"Meeting the 5 freedoms of animal welfare"

2. Painful Practices

One of the most commonly identified themes resulting from this survey was concern related to painful practices, such as disbudding, dehorning, castration, and branding. Participants frequently commented that conducting these procedures without the use of pain control was a substantial concern.

Quotes:

"I'm concerned about the painful procedures like castration, disbudding, and branding"

"Stopping unnecessary painful procedures and ensuring pain control for all others."

"Lameness and painful procedures such as castration."

"Medication should always be used for painful procedures"

3. Housing

Survey participants frequently mentioned various aspects of cattle housing as a top-of-mind concern. Concerns related to cattle housing included cleanliness and hygiene; space, confinement, and overcrowding of animals; clean, dry, and adequate bedding; and ventilation. Shelter and protection of animals from the elements was a prominent concern related to cattle housing, as well as pasture access and freedom of movement.

Quotes:

"Access to clean indoor & outdoor housing with protection from weather"

"Freedom of movement, exercise, and opportunity to express their natural behaviours"

"Cattle are given access to outdoor pasture, sunlight and space to graze"

4. Handling

A prominent concern for survey participants was the way in which cattle are handled by humans on farm, during transport, and during slaughter. There was a call for not only proper handling of cattle, but also for proper and accessible handling facilities and equipment.

Quotes:

"Humane Handling: Training staff on low-stress handling techniques."

"Keeping stress low during processing/handling (including calving/helping calf suck)"

"Rough handling with little concern for physical and/or psychological welfare."

5. Transport and Slaughter

The survey asked for feedback about on-farm welfare topics; however, participants brought forward various input related to transport and slaughter. That input is highlighted here but please note that the Code of Practice has an on-farm scope. As such, it addresses on-farm preparations for transport but does not cover the actual transport process nor slaughter.

Transport and slaughter of animals were often mentioned together when indicating welfare issues of concern (i.e., handling during transport and slaughter, proper care during transport and slaughter, etc.). Concerns related to transport included the transport of injured animals, handling during transport, and the general care given to animals being transported for slaughter. Respondents were concerned about end-of-life practices for cattle, both on farms and at abattoirs. Concerns were raised about animal care and handling, as well as minimizing pain and stress, at slaughter.

Quotes:

"I would like cows to be treated humanely before they are slaughtered."

"Transport of cattle to slaughter house over long distances without food or water"

"Transportation time not excessively long and harmful"

6. Mistreatment and Abuse

In addition to participants advocating for enhanced positive aspects of animal welfare, respondents also often called for the reduction in harmful practices to cattle. The term “abuse” was commonly used throughout responses, with participants indicating that they wish for animals to not be mistreated in the beef industry.

Quotes:

“Abusive treatment of cattle: no oversight: industry is self regulated”

“Animal cruelty that occurs in this industry”

“Cruel treatment from birth to death”

Were there any other issues identified?

Several other concerns were identified, though with less frequency than the key issues above. These additional welfare concerns were as follows:

- Animal-based measures
- Calf care
- Catastrophic events: fires/fire safety and flooding
- Co-mingling
- Concerns related to other sectors (i.e., veal, dairy, sheep)
- Decision making and input
- Disease
- Disposal
- Down cattle
- Drug use
- Education
- Enforcement of standards, laws, Code requirements
- Environment
- No concerns (i.e., participants did not have any concerns to mention)
- Nutrition
- Paperwork
- Predators/wildlife
- Producer support
- Tagging
- Veterinary care
- Water

How will the survey results be used?

The survey input has been clearly heard and provides a rich source of information that will help the Code committee as it updates the existing Code of Practice. As with all Code of Practice updates, this Code will progress through a prescribed series of steps, as outlined in the [Code development process](#). The process includes another opportunity for public input at a later date: once the committee completes its final draft Code, the draft will be posted online (on NFACC's website) for feedback during a 60-day public comment period. We invite you to join us at that time. Every submission received is reviewed and considered in the context of improving and finalizing the Code.

Thank you!

NFACC and all those involved in revising the [Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Beef Cattle](#) thank you for participating in this survey and sharing your top-of-mind thoughts on the welfare of cattle raised for beef. Your input contributes to a common goal: an updated Code that reflects current and progressive practices for beef cattle management and welfare.

For more information about NFACC and the Code development process, please visit www.nfacc.ca.

Financial support was provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the AgriAssurance Program under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership.

