

BEEF CATTLE FAQ'S

For most people, the first picture that comes to mind when thinking about livestock might be the meat counter at the local grocery store. A thought of the milk in the refrigerator at home might follow that, and then, maybe, memories of your leather couch in your living room. People are in constant contact with items of food, drink and clothing every day. Obviously, many of these products come from animals! There is so much more to beef cattle than that. By-products from livestock are used in many and beneficial ways!

- The Canadian cattle industry directly employs an estimated 200,000+ people countrywide. Alberta alone has 60,000 affiliated with the cattle industry. This sector has annual sales of \$13 billion to Canada.
- Have you ever heard the term chewing cud? Cattle have 4 stomachs. They chew their food just enough to swallow it and the food travels to the first 2 stomach chambers. The food is stored till later once the animal has finished eating and rested. After they are full, they cough up bits of unchewed food (called cud) and chew it up completely before swallowing again. The cud goes to the 3rd and 4th chamber and is finally digested!
- Cow Hides are used for leather or rugs. But did you know that lower quality hides are used in manufacturing of felt and other textiles?
- Hides are used in the making of plaster and asphalt, and as the base for some insulation materials.
- "Pigskin" footballs are actually made out of cowhide, so are baseball gloves, crayons, soap and the list goes on.
- Rennet, a mild enzyme found in cattle, is added to infants' diets to aid in milk digestion. It is also used in producing cheese.
- Inedible tallow (tallow is fat from beef that is rendered/reduced) is used in soaps and in high quality lubricants for jet aircraft, high-speed boats and race cars!
- Cattle fats contribute energy in livestock and pet foods.
- Gelatins are used in the making of photographic and X-ray film, window shades, plasterboard, wallpaper, sandpaper, glues and adhesives.
- About 140 medications are made from cattle glands.
- Glycerin from cattle is used in producing explosives for mining and demolition.
- Bone Charcoal is used in the manufacture of high-grade steel.
- On average a cow drinks 330-3,390 litres of water per month. How much they drink depends on their age, weight, if it is hot or cold outside and if the cow is pregnant (she drinks more water if she is pregnant). An average Canadian household uses over 10,000 litres per month. So you could have 30 head of cattle consuming the same amount of water!