

SECTION 1 Herd Health

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Implement strategies to:

- increase percentages of live births and weaned calf survival rates
- pregnancy test cows
- evaluate bulls for breeding soundness
- adopt a strict culling program
- implement a cow/calf vaccination program

Greenhouse Gas Benefit

Cow/calf producers are continually striving for optimal herd health and increased production efficiency. When this goal is achieved by improving the survival rate of calves from birth through to weaning, adopting a comprehensive vaccination program for all classes of livestock and the appropriate culling of both cows and bulls through pregnancy testing and breeding soundness respectively, the greenhouse gas emissions per pound of liveweight produced is reduced. It follows, that an inefficient livestock operation will require more units of livestock to produce the equivalent output of an efficient operation. There is a definite relationship between increasing production efficiency and reduced methane emissions per unit of calf weight.¹²



Current Research

Increased productivity and efficiency in production may offer some of the highest overall benefits. From the standpoint of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, the best practices are those which reduce emissions per unit of product (e.g. per litre of milk, per kilogram of beef). The objective is complementary to producers' goal of high efficiency and reduced costs.¹³



Credit: Vicky Spenst