



Science and Innovation



Lacombe Research Centre

Lacombe, Alberta

The Lacombe Research Centre is one of a network of 19 national agricultural research centres operated by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. The Centre conducts research in field crops and livestock production relevant to the central Alberta region. The Centre's main research focuses on the ante- and post-mortem factors that influence red meat: yield, quality, safety and preservation. The Centre also develops integrated, sustainable crop and animal production systems and crop varieties for the short-season environments of the parkland and northwestern Canada.

The Beaverlodge Research Farm and its sub-station, Fort Vermilion, are part of the Lacombe Research Centre and form the most northern agricultural research establishment in Canada. The Beaverlodge Research Farm specializes in research and development of technology for improved production systems for crops, honey bees and other pollinating insects adapted to environmental conditions in northwestern Canada. Research at the Fort Vermilion site focuses primarily on the adaptation of technologies for this northern agricultural area.

Areas of Research

The science and innovation activities at the Lacombe Research Centre focus on the study of food safety, red meat quality, carcass grading, cereal breeding and forage/beef production. The Centre's areas of research are planned and developed so that new discoveries and knowledge can form the basis for sector innovation.

Food Safety and Quality First

- Evaluating and controlling variations in the composition and quality of carcasses and meat
- Conducting research on the ways in which meat and meat products are processed, produced, packaged and distributed, and how these factors influence consumer acceptance for taste, flavour and appearance
- Applying advanced techniques in molecular biology to improve meat quality and safety
- Developing strategies to improve the safety and extend the storage life of meat
- Devising new ways to estimate carcass yields and grading
- Conducting research and implementing ways to prevent meat contamination during processing and distribution.
- Studying ways to reduce livestock stress and the resulting effects on the quality and yield of meat and meat products

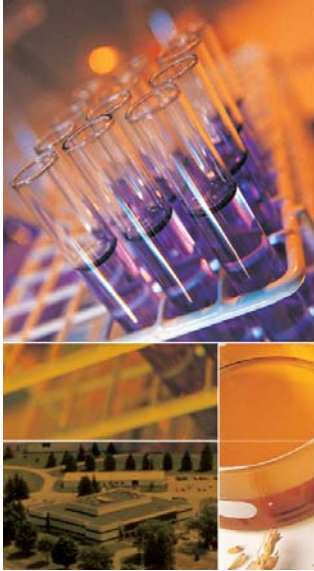
Making Crop Production Systems More Efficient

- Identifying crop and soil management practices that conserve soil organic matter, and effectively use and recycle plant nutrients
- Evaluating crop production systems for short-season environments in northwestern Canada
- Developing new technologies for seed production in grasses
- Developing and evaluating new oat and barley varieties for resistance to disease
- Improving the efficiency of forage-based beef production in the Prairie parkland vegetation zone of Canada
- Management strategies and methods for the Canadian honey bee industry

Facts, Figures and Facilities

- 26 research scientists and a total staff of 125 over the three sites
- Centre located on 808 hectares near the central Alberta town of Lacombe
- The Beaverlodge Research Farm is located near the northwestern Alberta town of Beaverlodge on 360 hectares; the Fort Vermillion Sub-station is 600 km further northeast and has an additional 190 hectares
- 400-head beef herd and research feedlot; a 100-sow farrow-finish swine unit
- Federally inspected research abattoir
- Kitchen and taste panel area for sensory analysis
- Research greenhouses and controlled climate growth chambers

Contact us



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