

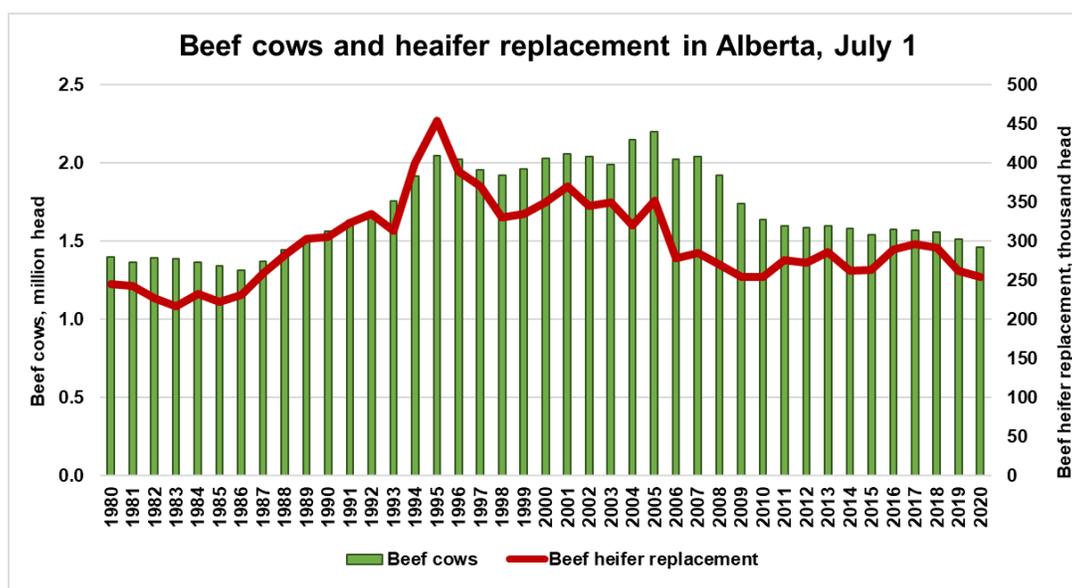
Explained in Brief

Livestock / Cattle

State of the Industry 2020

Cattle industry: background

- Cattle industry in Alberta in 2019:
 - contributed **\$473.4 million** to Alberta's GDP¹;
 - generated **\$7.1 billion** in Farm Cash Receipts (FCR), **47.3 per cent** of total FCR²;
 - employed **23,300 Albertans** (**one per cent** of all employed Albertans)³.
- Alberta is home to **4.5 million** head of cattle (**40.2 per cent** of Canadian total) and is the largest cattle producing province in Canada.
- However, Alberta's beef cow herd is the lowest since 1989 (**1.46 million** head, see chart below), and total cattle inventories have also been decreasing for some time.



Source: Statistics Canada. Table: 32-10-0130-01 Number of cattle, by class and farm type (x 1,000)

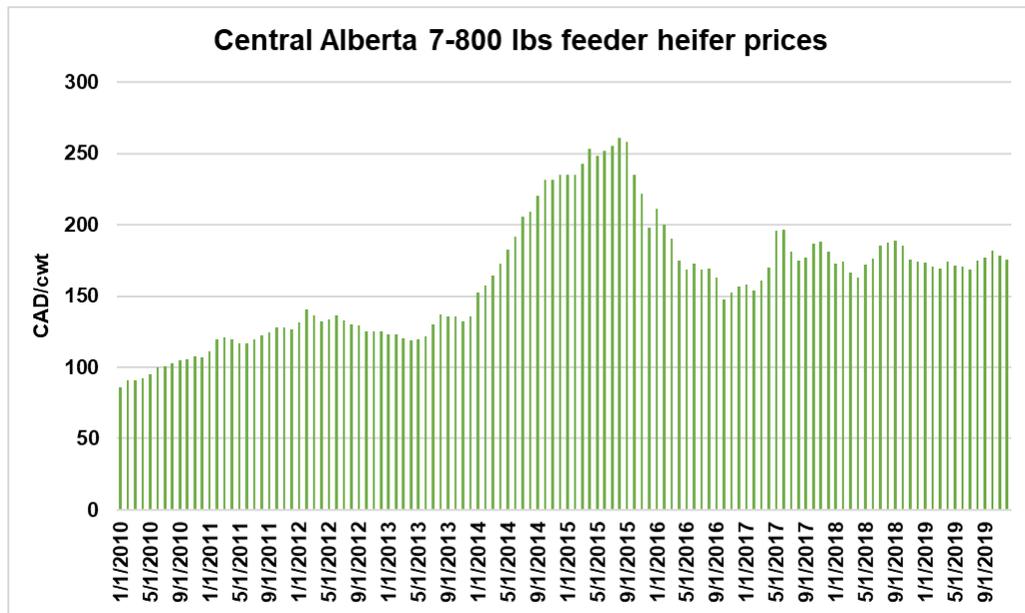
Implications

- In the past five years, cattle prices have been relatively high (see chart below). This was one of the factors that encouraged cow-calf producers to sell heifers instead of retaining them for future herd growth.

¹ Source: Statistics Canada. Table 36-10-0402-01 Gross domestic product (GDP) at basic prices, by industry, provinces and territories

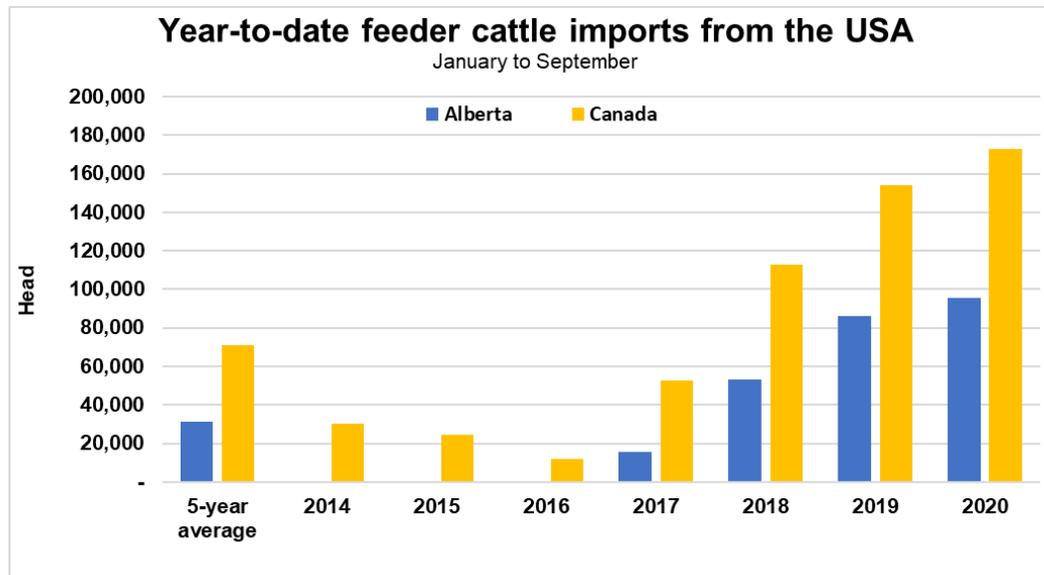
² Source: Statistics Canada. Table 32-10-0045-01 Farm cash receipts, annual (x 1,000)

³ Source: Statistics Canada, Table 14-10-0023-01 Labour force characteristics by industry, annual (x 1,000); and Labour Statistics Division



Source: Canfax; Competitiveness and Market Analysis Section, Agriculture and Forestry

- This led to increases in imported live cattle (see chart below) in order to support increased cattle slaughter demand. Alberta slaughters roughly three quarters of the total Canadian cattle (or **2.5 million** head) annually⁴.
- Although increasing dependence on imported live cattle is growing, overall, cattle imports remain a small component of the total cattle finished and slaughtered in Alberta.



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian International Merchandise Trade Database

⁴ Source: Statistics and Data Development Section, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry. Agriculture Facts 2020



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