

How does Canadian Beef Production impact the Environment?

The following discussion questions go with the video presenting the Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef: 2016 National Beef Sustainability Assessment results found at crsb.ca The summary report of the results can be found [here](#).

Discussion Questions

1. Why are there differences in research studies regarding agricultural sustainability?
 - a. What do you need to look at to see if research studies are comparable?
2. How does the greenhouse gas emissions and water footprint from Canadian beef production compare to the global average?
 - a. Is it appropriate to use global recommendations in the Canadian context?
3. What are the primary sources of GHG emissions in beef production?
 - a. What strategies have producers used to reduce GHG's on their farms?
4. What are the benefits of beef production for the environment?
 - a. If Canadian beef consumption is reduced how will these benefits be impacted?
 - b. Is a larger or smaller land footprint from beef production positive for the environment?
5. Is Canada a sustainable place to produce beef?
6. What can consumers do to reduce the environmental footprint of food production?
7. Given that animal care was an area where producers ranked well (very low risk across all sectors: cow-calf, feedlot, packer); how do you explain the consumer perception of this being an area of concern?
8. What can producers do to adapt to a changing marketing environment and consumer preferences?

Bonus Questions:

9. How are agricultural systems integrated? For example, would changes in beef production impact crop production? (Hint: think of grain unsuitable for human consumption)
10. How do trade-offs between the environmental, social, and economic impacts of food choices influence you? What are some examples?

The CRSB is a collaborative, multi-stakeholder organization devoted to advancing sustainability in the Canadian beef industry.

Its mission is to facilitate the framework for the Canadian beef industry to be a global leader in the continuous improvement and sustainability of the beef value chain through science, multi-stakeholder engagement, communication and collaboration.

Suggested Reading:

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