

**Ontario Cow-Calf Production Survey  
Aggregate Results**

**Fall 2018**

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# Ontario Cow-Calf Production Survey

## 2015 Breeding to 2016 Weaning

What are some of the key management and production practices used by Ontario beef producers? Answering that question was the aim of the 2015/2016 cow-calf production survey by researchers at the University of Guelph, in partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Beef Farmers of Ontario and the Beef Cattle Research Council.

The purpose of the study was to gain a better understanding of the management practices, economics, and disease rates on Ontario cow-calf farms. The results of the survey are intended to be a tool for the provincial beef industry. It represents only a snapshot of production and management practices but is an important indicator of benchmarks both within the province and across the country. How does your operation compare? How do these results compare with recognized benchmarks in the industry?

This survey collected basic information on production practices, management choices, disease rates, and rate of technology adaptation in the province. Questions in the survey were adapted from the Western Canadian Cow-Calf Survey that was conducted in Western Canada in 2014. As well, some questions were included from a survey conducted by Murray Jelinski at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in 2013.

A total of 83 producers, collectively managing about 4,300 head of breeding female cattle, completed the survey from April 13, 2017 to November 16, 2017.

2016	
<b>Recommended Management Practices</b>	
Creep Feeding	66%
Females Pregnancy Checked	66% Cows / 64% Heifers
% calving in first 21 days	54% Cows / 64% Heifers
Vaccinate Females Pre-Breeding	52.5%
Low-stress Weaning (i.e. not using traditional separation)	46%
Pain Control Used (depending on age/method) While Dehorning	36%
Lab tested Feed (annually or occasionally)	34%
Tested Primary Water Source Quality Within Past Five Years	30%
Body Condition Scoring Used Regularly (hands-on)	26%
Pain Control Used (depending on age/method) While Castrating	26%
Bulls Breeding Soundness Evaluation	17%
Calves Implanted	2.4%
<b>Performance Measures</b>	
Open Rate	9% Cows / 14.5% Heifers
Calf Death Loss	8.2% Cows / 7.5% Heifers
Breeding Season Length (recommended < 63 days)	118 Cows / 107 Heifers

## SECTION 1. ABOUT OCCPS RESPONDENTS & THEIR OPERATIONS

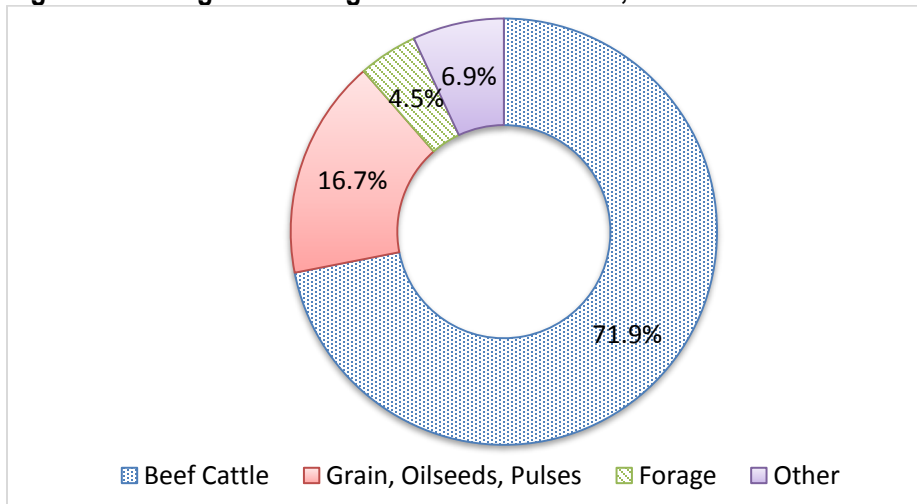
A total of 83 survey responses were received representing about 4,300 female head of cattle with an average herd size of 61 cows and heifers per farm in 2016. Producers participating in the survey represented six Ontario regions: Southwestern – 43%; Central – 19%; Eastern - 17%; Golden Horseshoe - 9%; Northeastern – 7%; and Northwestern – 5%. About 36% of respondents earned all of farm income from their beef operations, about 72% earned about half of farm income from livestock.

About 49% had commercial cattle, 29% had a combination of commercial and purebred beef cattle in their operation, and 20% were purebred operations. Of the 40% of participants who did have both a commercial and a purebred herd, only 9% reported separating the herds. The remaining 91% of the applicable operations did not house their purebred and commercial herds separately.

**Table 1. Survey Response Details**

	<b>2016</b>
No. of Responses Received	83
Average Herd Size (females calved in 2016)	61
Total Cows Represented (females exposed in 2015)	4,314
<b>Region of The Province</b>	
% of Responses from SW Ontario	43%
% of Responses from Central Ontario	19%
% of Responses from Eastern Ontario	17%
% of Responses from Golden Horseshoe	9%
% of Responses from NE Ontario	7%
% of Responses from NW Ontario	5%
<b>Sources of Income</b>	
% with more than 50% of farm income from beef	72%
% with all farm income from beef	36%
<b>Percentage of Herd That is Commercial</b>	
% Commercial	49%
% Purebred	20%
% Both commercial and purebred	29%
% Other (e.g. composite seedstock)	2%

**Figure 1. Average Percentage of 2016 Farm Sales, OCCPS 2016**



**Table 2. Survey Respondent Demographics – Age, Gender, Years Raising Cattle**

	<b>2016</b>
<b>Age of Respondent</b>	
% over 60 years of age	28%
% 45 to 60 years of age	43%
% 35 to 44 years of age	13%
% 25 to 34 years of age	12%
% under 24 years of age	4%
<b>Gender of Primary Decision Maker</b>	
% of respondents Male	87%
% of respondents Female	13%
<b>Years Raising Cattle</b>	
Average No. of Years	26
Least years of experience	3
Most years of experience	60+
<b>Work off-farm</b>	
% with full-time off farm work	39%
% with part-time off-farm work	18%
% with no off-farm work	29%
Other (e.g. retired, raising family, volunteer as well as farm, etc.)	14%
<b>Family and Non-Family Labour</b>	
% with 1 family labourer	26%
% with 2 family labourers	41%
% with more than 2 family labourers	26%
% worked with no family members	7%

Survey respondents covered a wide age range, the majority 43% were between the ages of 45 and 60 years and 28% were over the age of 60 and less than 4% were under the age of 25. Participants reported having 26 years of experience on average with a range between 3 and 60+ years. Of the primary decision makers, 13% were female and 87% were male.

When survey respondents were asked about the number of family and non-family workers on their operation, most (41%) respondents worked with two family members, with an even split of 26% working with one family member while another 26% worked with more than two family members. It is not possible to know what percentage of these were husband-wife operations and what percentage were parent-child (i.e. father-son) operations. Less than 1% of farm labour was provided by non-family seasonal and non-seasonal workers. Among survey respondents, nearly 30% were full time farmers, 39% had fulltime off-farm jobs, and 18% had part time off-farm jobs.



## SECTION 2. IMPORTANT DATES AND COUNTS RELATED TO THE 2015 BREEDING SEASON

Survey respondents were asked to provide dates and head counts related to their 2015 breeding seasons.

The majority of respondents maintained an average cow:bull ratio of 24:1 for cows and 14:1 for heifers. On average, survey respondents exposed cows to bulls for 118 days, while for heifers the average was 107 days. Long-standing research information has recommended to expose cows to breeding for 63 days or less and for heifers to be bred earlier than cows given their biological need for a longer post-partum interval (80-100 days versus 50-60 days for cows) before re-breeding and producing a calf every 365 days.

**Table 3. Reproduction Parameters – Cow:Bull Ratio, Breeding Season Length, Open Rate, Calving Rate**

	<b>2015/16</b>
<b>Cow:Bull Ratio</b>	
Average Cow:Bull Ratio	24: 1
Average Heifer:Bull Ratio	14: 1
<b>Average Herd Size</b>	
Average # Cows Calved	48
Average # Heifers Calved	13
<b>Breeding Season</b>	
Avg Breeding Season Length (d) - Cows	118
Avg Breeding Season Length (d) - Heifers	107
<b>Production Performance Indicators</b>	
Conception Rate Cows	89%
Conception Rate Heifers	87%
Open Rate Cows (%)	9%
Open Rate Heifers (%)	14.5%
Weaning Rate Cows (%)	91%
Weaning Rate Heifers (%)	75.7%

About 66% of survey respondents indicated they pregnancy check their cows while 64% checked some or all of their heifers. The average conception rate (the number of bred females divided by the number of females exposed to breeding) for cows was 89% and for heifers 87%. The average weaning rate (calves weaned per 100 cows or heifers exposed to the bull) was 91% for cows and 75.7% for heifers.



## SECTION 3. 2016 CALF CROP

### 3.1. CALVING SEASON

In this section survey respondents were asked to provide information on their 2017 calving season. Average calving span (length of calving season in d) was 119 days for cows and 81 days for heifers. Ideally, calving span should be 60 to 80 days for efficient use of labour, a more uniform calf crop, and improved productive and reproductive efficiency.

The majority of survey respondents had cow herds begin calving in January and ending in June, while most heifers began calving in March and finished by the end of May.

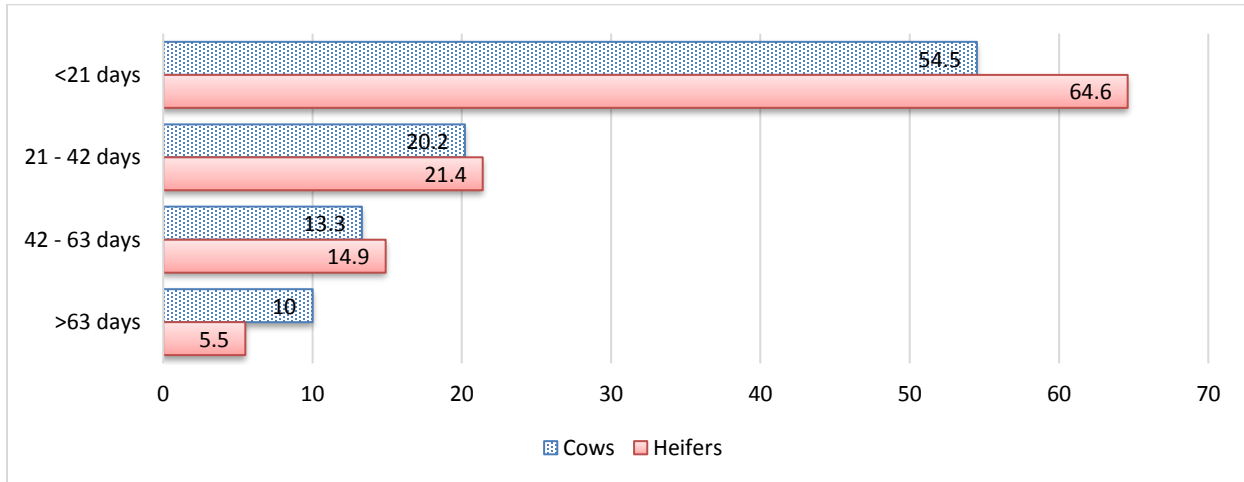
**Table 4. Calving Season – Calving Span, Calving Start, Distribution, Housing**

	2016
<b>Calving Span</b>	
Average Calving Span (d) for Cows	119
Average Calving Span (d) for Heifers	81
<b>Calving Start &amp; End</b>	
% Cows Calving Start January and end June - cows	95%
% Calving Start March and end May – Heifers	90%
<b>Calving Distribution</b>	
% With 60%+ Calving in first 21 d	58%
Average % Calving Day - Cows 1-21	54%
Average % Calving Day – Heifers 1-21	64%
Average % Calving Day 22-42 - Cows	20%
Average % Calving Day 22-42 – Heifers	21%
Average % Calving Day 42-63 – Cows	13%
Average % Calving Day 42-63 – Heifers	15%
Average % Calving Day 63+ - Cows	10%
Average % Calving Day 63+ - Heifers	5.5%
<b>Housing of Cows during Calving Season</b>	
Barns or covered sheds	49%
Small grass paddocks (less than 5 acres)	18%
Large Pastures	15%
Dry lot pens or corals	2%
Other (e.g. stubble, bushes, windbreaks, etc.)	16%

Calving distribution or calving pattern is another important indicator of reproductive performance. The target is to have 60%+ of females calving in the first 21 days of the calving, 20-25% in the second 21 days and the remaining in the third 21 days. The survey showed on average, 5-10% of all females calved after 63 days or 3 cycles.

Of the 40% of operations with both commercial and purebred cattle, only 9% reported maintaining separate herds, the remaining 91% housed their commercial and purebred cattle together.

**Figure 2. Percentage of Females Calving in Each 21 Day Period (Median Percentage)**



### 3.2. CALF DEATH LOSS

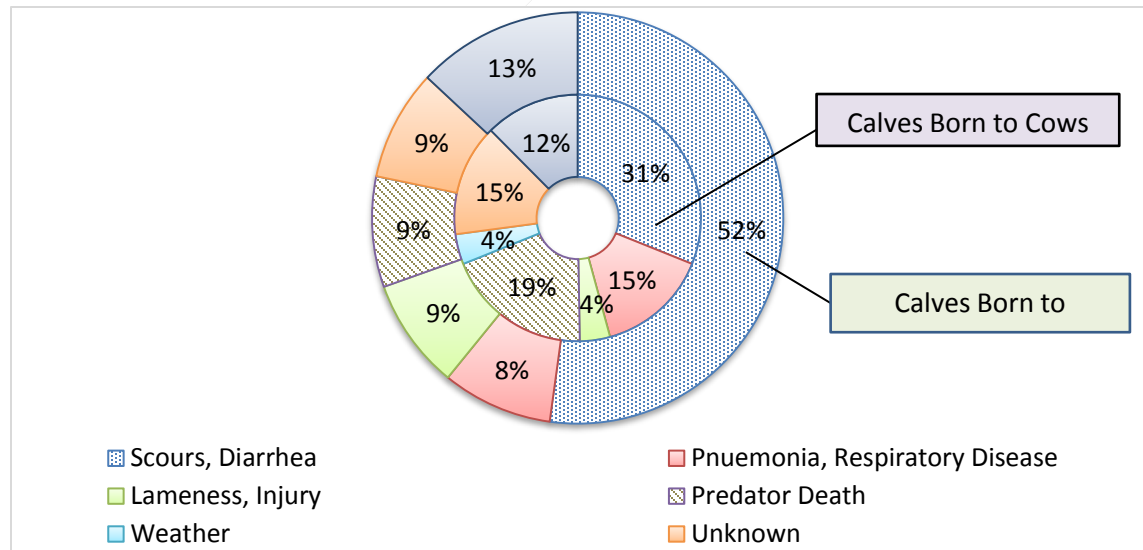
When it came to calving ease, producers reported that 17% of heifers needed some assistance, while only 4% of cows needed assistance. The C-section rate was very low for both groups — 0.1% for cows and 0.4% for heifers. The average abortion rate across farms was 1.0% for cows and 0.6% for heifers. The average birthweight was 84.5 lbs with 28% using a scale, 13% using a weight tape, 16% estimating and 43% not reporting.

The average calf death loss for both cows and heifers was reported at about 8% (8.2% for cows and 7.5% for heifers). The percentage of calves born dead or that died within the first 24 hours was 3% for cows and 4.1% for heifers. The calves that died from birth to weaning was 5.3% for cows and 3.4% for heifers. There were four main causes of death - scours, respiratory disease, predators,<sup>1</sup> and unknown causes. Scours was significantly higher for heifers at 52%; but was also the main cause of death for calves born to cows.

**Table 5. 2016 Calving – Calving Ease, Calf Death Loss**

<b>2016</b>	
<b>Calving Ease</b>	
% Unassisted Cows	96%
% Unassisted Heifers	82%
Average calf birthweight – lbs	84.5
<b>Calf Death Loss</b>	
Average Calf Death Loss (%) – Cows	8.2%
Average Calf Death Loss (%) – Heifers	7.5%

**Figure 3. Cause of Death for Calves born to Cows and Heifers**



<sup>1</sup> The predator related deaths (19%) for calves born to cows, was significantly higher than (9%) for calves born to heifers. This difference came from a single farm which represented nearly half of all predator-related deaths.

### 3.3. WEANING DETAILS

Weaning typically occurs in October and November for both cows and heifers. Producers favored traditional separation for weaning (54%), while 22% used fence-line separation for weaning, 15% used nose paddles or two-stage weaning, and 5% used natural weaning (left calves with their mothers).

Creep feeding, the practice of supplementing the dam's milk with feed provided in pasture, appears to be a regular practice for the responding operations with two-thirds (66%) of participating operations using this practice.

The majority of producers sold calves at or shortly after weaning using various methods. Calves were sold primarily through live auctions (65.6%) either off-site (54%) or on-farm (11.4%). About 15% sold calves directly to feedlots; about 4% sold to an order buyer, and about 1.8% placed calves in a custom feedlot. Very few producers (0.18%) use satellite/video auction services.

**Table 6. Weaning Time, Method and Weaning Weights**

2016	
<b>Weaning Time</b>	
Most common month – weaning cows/heifers	Oct.
Second most common month – weaning cows/heifers	Nov.
<b>Weaning Method</b>	
% Who Use Traditional Separation	54%
% Who Use Fence-Line Separation	22%
% Who Use Natural Wean	5%
% Who Used Nose Paddle, Two-Stage Wean	15%
% Who Used Other Weaning Methods	4%
<b>Creep Feeding Calves</b>	
% who provide Creep Feed for calves	66%
<b>Average Weaning Weights</b>	
Overall average of actual weaning weights - lbs	663
Actual Weaning Weights – cow herd - steers -lbs	685
Actual Weaning Weights — cow herd – heifers - lbs	636
Actual Weaning Weights – heifer – steers - lbs	699
Actual Weaning Weights — heifer — heifers - lbs	614
<b>Weaned Calf Marketing Method</b>	
% Who Sold via Live Auction (on-farm)	11.4%
% Who Sold via Live Auction (off-site)	54.2%
% Who Sold via Electronic Auction (satellite/video)	0.18%
% Who Sold through Order Buyer	3.9%
% Who Sold Direct to Feedlot	15.4%
% Who Custom Fed in Feedlot	1.9%
% Other	13%

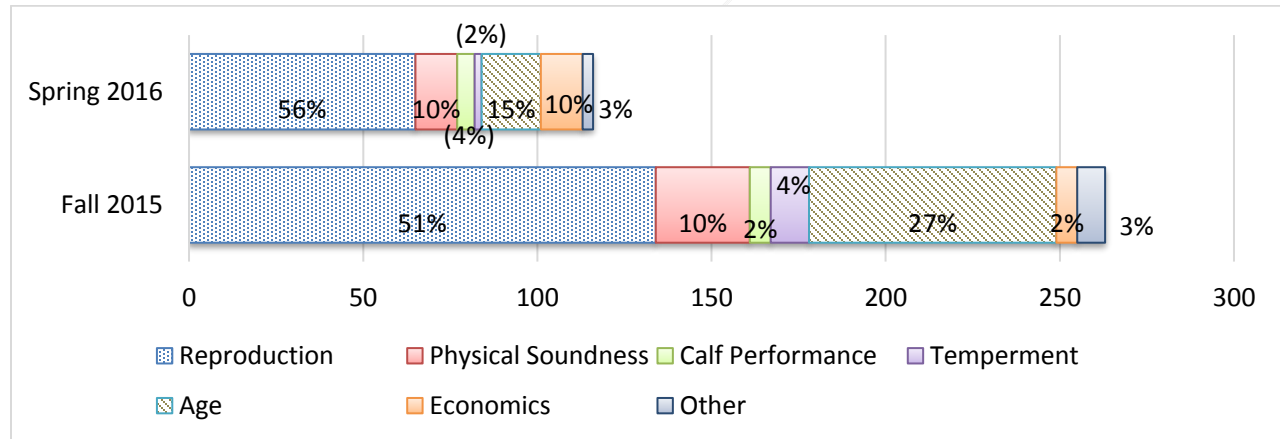
## SECTION 4: CULLING AND DEATH LOSS

Death loss of breeding stock averaged 0.7% for breeding females and 0.07% for bulls. In both cases, the low number of deaths reported meant that the average farm did not experience one death during the surveyed season. The average culling rate for breeding females was 9%, of these more than half were culled for reproductive reasons followed by age, and physical soundness. This trend is consistent for both spring and fall culling of breeding females. The average culling rate for bulls was 21.4%, with the top four reasons being: reproductive performance (24%), physical soundness (22%), change in genetics (22%) and age (18%).

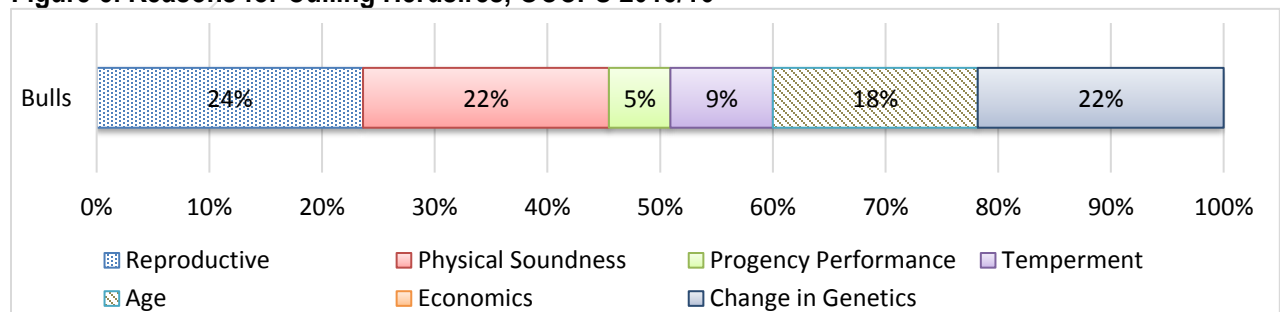
**Table 7. Breeding Stock – Culling and Death Loss**

<b>2016</b>	
<b>Breeding Females</b>	
Average % Culled	9%
Average % Death Loss on Females	0.7%
<b>Herdsire</b>	
Average % Culled	21.4%
Average % Death Loss on Herdsires	0.07%

**Figure 4. Reasons for Culling Breeding Females by Season, OCCPS 2015/16**



**Figure 5. Reasons for Culling Herdsires, OCCPS 2015/16**



## SECTION 5: REPRODUCTIVE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

On average, about 66% of respondents pregnancy checked at least some of their cows while 64% checked some or all of their heifers. The majority (76%) used rectal palpation, followed by ultrasound (22%) and blood test (2%). The majority (40%) preg-checked 31-60 days after the breeding season.

Body condition scoring, which is a hands-on measurement of the fat cover on an animal (1 to 5 score), was regularly performed by 26% of producers.

Bull soundness evaluations were only used by 17% of respondents. Bull selection is based on breed, conformation, pedigree and birth weight. Bulls were sourced primarily from other producers (56%) and auction (38%) with a mix of local auction (21%), out of province auctions (13%) and outside of Canada (4%).

**Table 8. Reproductive Management - Pregnancy Checking, Body Condition Scoring, Breeding Soundness Evaluation, Trich and Vibrio Testing, Bull Selection Criteria**

	2016
<b>Breeding Techniques</b>	
Embryo Transfer	15%
Estrus Synchronization	29%
Artificial Insemination	41%
<b>Pregnancy Checking</b>	
Average % who checked SOME OR ALL - Cows	66%
Average % who checked SOME OR ALL - Heifers	64%
% using rectal palpation for preg checking	76%
% using ultrasound for preg checking	22%
% using blood test for preg checking	2%
<b>Body Condition Scoring</b>	
% Who Regularly Body Condition Score Females	26%
<b>Bull Evaluation</b>	
Average % who used Breeding Soundness Evaluation	17%
Tested bulls for Trichomoniasis	1%
<b>Bull Selection Criteria</b>	
Breed	58%
Conformation	58%
Pedigree	38%
Birth Weight	34%
Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs)	29%

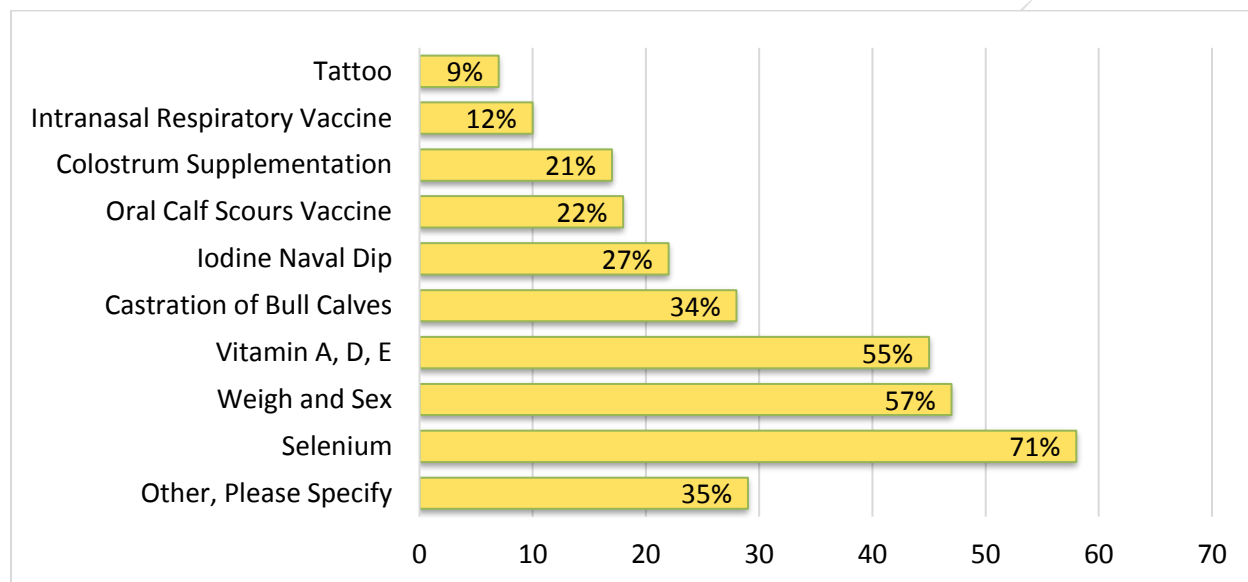
## SECTION 6: CALF MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

### 6.1. EARLY LIFE INTERVENTIONS

More than half of all participants reported that they provided their calves with Selenium, Vitamins A, D, and E, and recorded birth weight and sex within the first 24 hours of a calf's life. These interventions were the three most commonly reported and represented the only interventions to be reported by more than half of respondents. After these three interventions, the frequency of interventions dropped off sharply.

Vaccines, were not common within the first 24 hours of life. Only 12% reported administering an intranasal respiratory vaccine and 22% reported administering an oral scours vaccine.

**Figure 6. Interventions Provided to Calves Within 24 Hours of Birth**



In total, 35% participants reported providing other early life interventions than those listed here. In providing details, participants reported tagging calves within this first 24-hour period, providing prophylactic antibiotics (most commonly penicillin) oral probiotics, and other vaccines (including bio-micin, first defense, a pinkeye vaccine, and halolor), dehorning paste if needed, taking a tissue sample for DNA, or provide newcells, monoclonal e-coli antibody product, and bio-mos to their calves.

## 6.1. DEHORNING

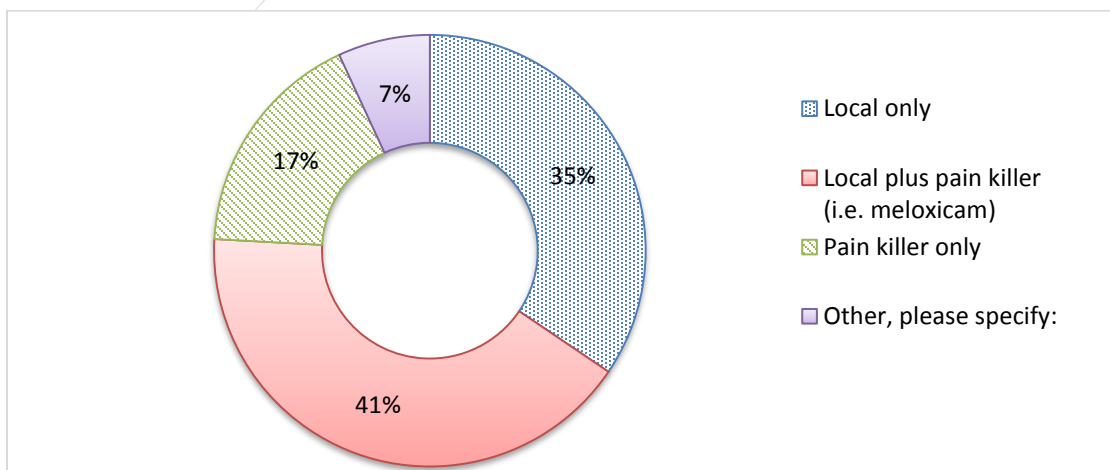
The vast majority of operations rely on polled genetics to eliminate the need for dehorning calves; 86% reported that at least 75% of their 2016 calves were polled and on average 90% were polled. Looking only at calves which are not polled, operations relied on spoons, cutting, or gouging (29%) electric disbudding (26%); and dehorning paste (23%).

Of the participants who did respond to this question, just under half (49%) reported that they never use pain control in the dehorning process while one-third of participants reported that they always do so. The remaining participants reported that the use of pain control depended on the age of the calf and the method of dehorning used. Some 35% who do use pain control methods use a local anaesthetic only, 41% use a local as well as a pain killer such as meloxicam, 17% use only a pain killer and 7% use other pain control methods.

**Table 9. Calf Management – Dehorning**

<b>2016</b>	
<b>Polled Calves</b>	
Average % of herd that with polled calves	86%
<b>Dehorning Method</b>	
% Who Use Debudder, Hot Iron	26%
% Who Use Dehorning Paste	23%
% Who Use Spoons, Cut, Gouge	29%
% Who Use Keystone	6%
% Who Use Wire	10%
% Other	6%
<b>Pain Control Use When Dehorning</b>	
% Who Always Use Pain Control When Dehorning	36%
% Who Use Pain Control, Based on Calf Age & Method	15%

**Figure 7. Use of Pain Control When Dehorning**





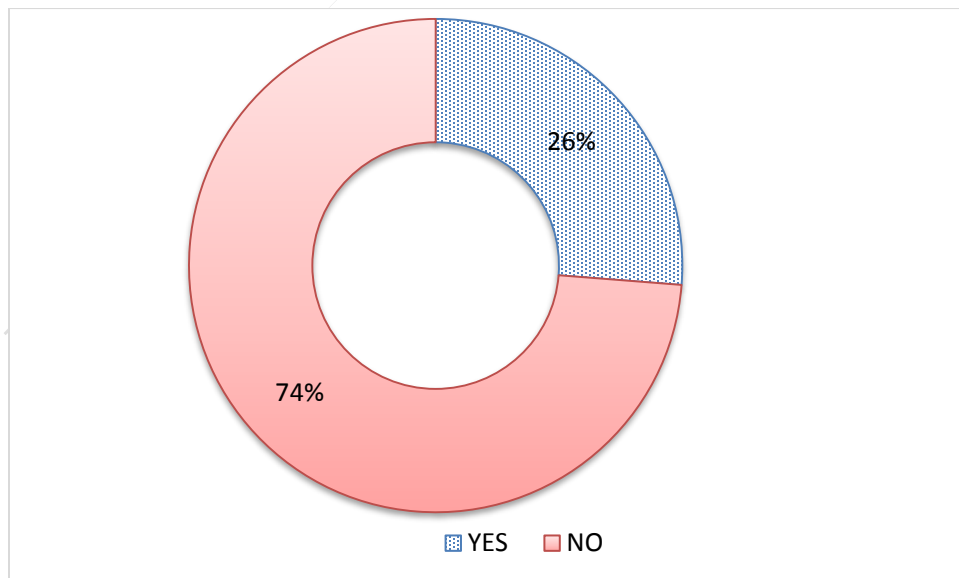
## 6.2. CASTRATION

The majority (53%) of responding operations noted that they castrated their calves shortly after birth. Approximately, one quarter of participants (25%) reported that they castrated at weaning, while 11% noted castrating later than that. About 11% of participants reported castrating at different time periods to those listed here. A few said they don't castrate at all, while others said they castrate their calves at various times. The majority of survey respondents, 74% reported they do not provide pain control measures during castration, while 26% said they did.

**Table 10. Calf Management - Castration**

		2016
<b>Castration Timing</b>		
% Who Castrate Shortly After Birth		53%
% Who Castrate at Spring Processing		11%
% Who Castrate at Weaning		25%
% Who Castrate at "Other" Time		11%
<b>Castration Method</b>		
% Who Use Elastrator < 3 Mos Old		59%
% Who Use Elastrator > 3 Mos Old		14%
% Who Castrate Using Scalpel		19%
% Who Castrate Using Clamp, Burdizzo		11%
Other		6%
<b>Pain Control Use When Castrating</b>		
% Who Use Pain Control When Castrating		26%

**Figure 8. Use of Pain Control When Castrating**



### 6.3. IMPLANTING

Of the 83 survey respondents only two participants (2.4%) reported that they did implant calves. The two operations that did implant their calves were asked to give a timeline for this implantation. One noted that they implant prior to weaning the calves, while the other noted that they implant the calves at weaning.

**Table 11. Calf Management – Implanting**

	2016
<b>Implanting</b>	
% Who Implanted their 2016 Calves	2.4%

## SECTION 7: GRAZING AND FEEDING MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

### 7.1. GRAZING PRACTICES

Survey participants reported using different grazing practices at different times of the year. About 30% of producers reported using continuous grazing system either earlier or later in the growing season, while 44-51% used rotational and 19-24% use intensive grazing practices.

About 80% of producers reported commonly being able to graze cattle about 7 months of the year — from May to late November. While about 22% had a shorter grazing season.

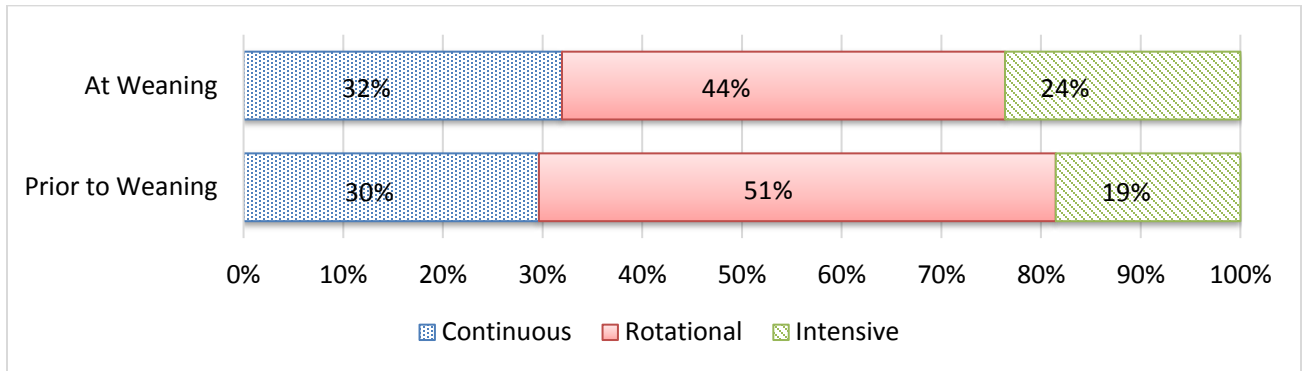
Mineral or vitamins were provided by 57-72% of producers depending on the time of year (see Figure 10). Of note, all responding operations reported providing vitamin and mineral supplements at least once throughout the year. Mineral and vitamin supplementation was provided free-choice by 79% of respondents, on a measured basis by 11% and 10% used some combination or other methods.

When it comes to watering cattle, 54% of respondents provide cattle with water pumped to a trough, 28% water cattle with well access, and 18% provide cattle with access to surface water. About 30% of producers have had water quality tested within the past five years.

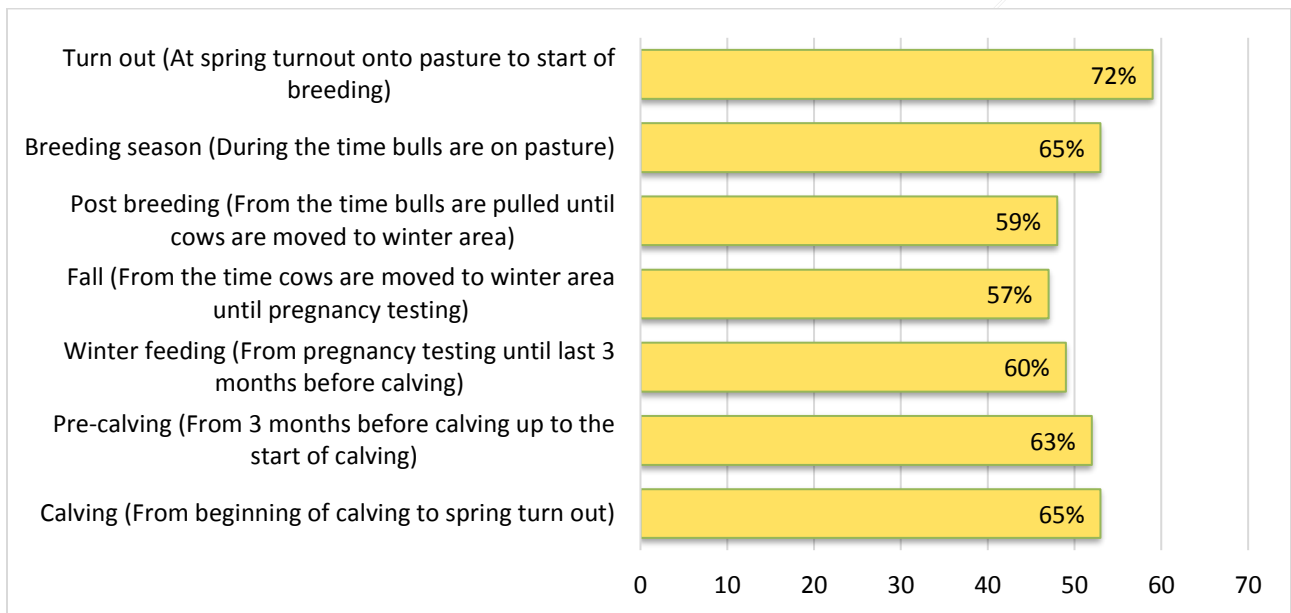
**Table 12. Grazing and Feeding Practices**

	2016
<b>Type of Grazing Management</b>	
% Who Follow Rotational and Intensive grazing	69%
% Who Continuous Graze	31%
<b>Mineral Supplementation</b>	
% Who Provide Free-fed Vitamins & Minerals	79%
% Who Provide Measured Vitamins & Minerals	11%
% Who Supply Minerals With Combination Or Other Methods	10%
<b>Water Source Access/Quality</b>	
% Who Provide Water Pumped to Trough	54%
% Who Water Cattle With Well Access	28%
% Who Provide Cattle With Access To Surface Water	18%
% Who Tested Primary Water Source Quality Within Past Five Years	30%

**Figure 9. Grazing Management At and Before Weaning**



**Figure 10. Mineral or Vitamin Supplementation at Different Times of the Year**



## 7.2. WINTER FEEDING

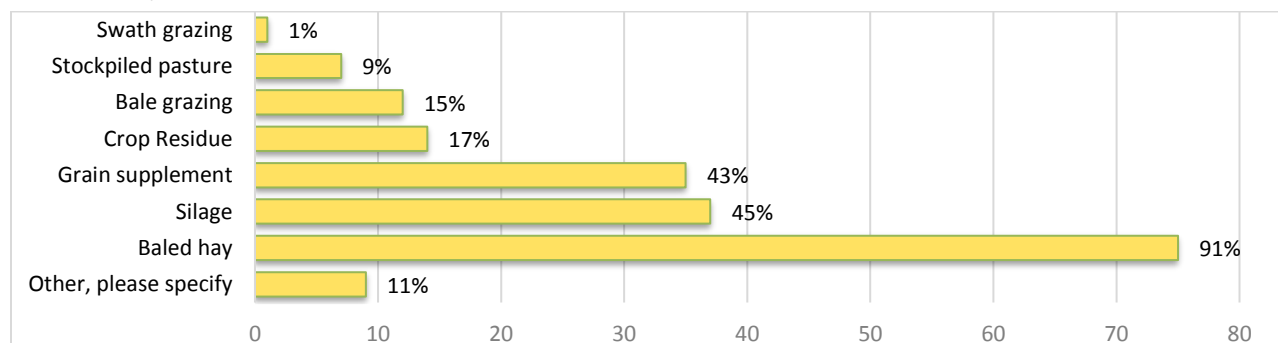
Nearly all of the respondents, 91% reported they winter fed their cattle using baled hay. This was, by far, the most commonly reported winter-feeding method used all or as part of their winter-feeding program. Other feeding methods included 45% feeding silage; 43% also feeding a grain supplement; 15% using bale grazing; 17% grazing crop residue; 9% using stockpiled forage and 1% swath grazing.

**Table 13. Winter Feeding – Testing Feed, Winter Feeding Methods, Winter Housing**

2016	
<b>Lab Testing Feed (of those who responded)</b>	
% Who Lab Test Feed for Quality Yearly	21%
% Who Lab Test Feed Occasionally	13%
% Who Do No Lab Test Feed At All	66%
<b>How Feed Tests are Used</b>	
% Who Use Feed Test To Balance Ration – With Nutritionist	48%
% Who Use Feed Test To Balance Ration — On Their Own	31%
<b>Winter Housing</b>	
% Who Winter Feed Cattle Indoors	6%
% Who Winter Feed Cattle Outdoors	27%
% Who Use a Combination of Indoor & Outdoor Facilities	61%
<b>Winter Feeding Methods</b>	
% Who Swathgraze	1%
% Who Balegraze	15%
% Who Stockpile Graze	9%
% Who Graze Crop Residue	17%
% Who Feed Baled Hay	91%
% Who Feed Silage	45%
% Who Feed Grain Supplement	43%
% Who Feed Using Other Methods*	11%

\*Other included Silage, Standing Sorghum, Oats, Barley, Protein Pellets, TMR, Haylage

**Figure 11. Winter Feeding Methods**



## SECTION 8: ANIMAL HEALTH MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

### 8.1. PARASITE TREATMENT

The majority of responding operations regularly treat their cattle for internal and external parasites. Most commonly, these operations reported that they treated for lice - 87%, while 64% treated cattle for internal worms. To a lesser extent, 52% reported they treated for flies, while 27% treated for ticks and 8% for liver flukes.

### 8.2. VACCINATION PRACTICES

The majority (88%) reported they do vaccinate cattle for different diseases. Among those who do vaccinate, 52.5% reported that they provide vaccination of females prior to breeding.

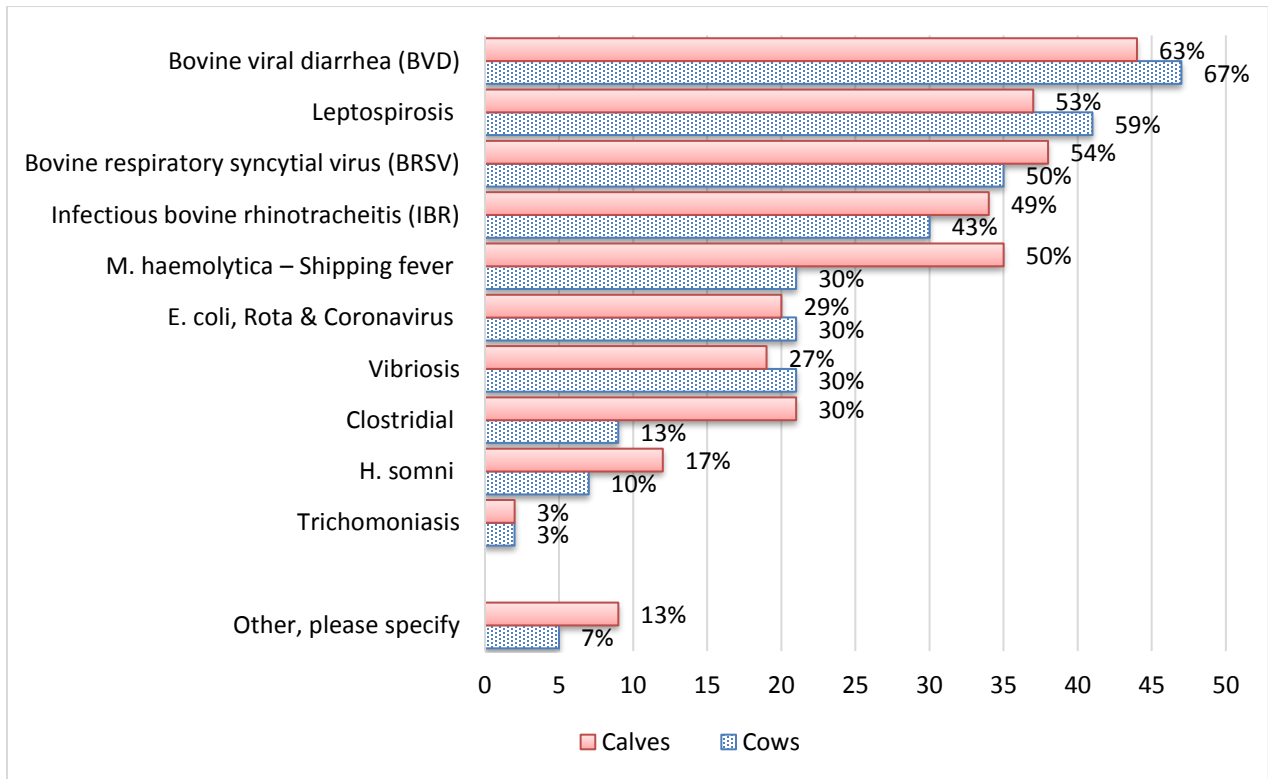
While producers followed different vaccination programs, more than half of all responding operations reported vaccinating against BVD and Leptospirosis. For cows, these represented the two most commonly vaccinated against diseases, while for calves, these were two of the top three. In addition to these two conditions, calves were also vaccinated against BRSV on more than half of responding farms.

There were varying levels of vaccination for IBR, Shipping fever, BVD, Leptospirosis, BRSV, and IBR among cows. There were similar variances in vaccination for Shipping fever, E. coli, Rotavirus, and Coronavirus in calves. Only two operations reported vaccinating cows and calves for Trichomoniasis.

**Table 14. Health Management Practices – Parasite Treatment, Vaccination**

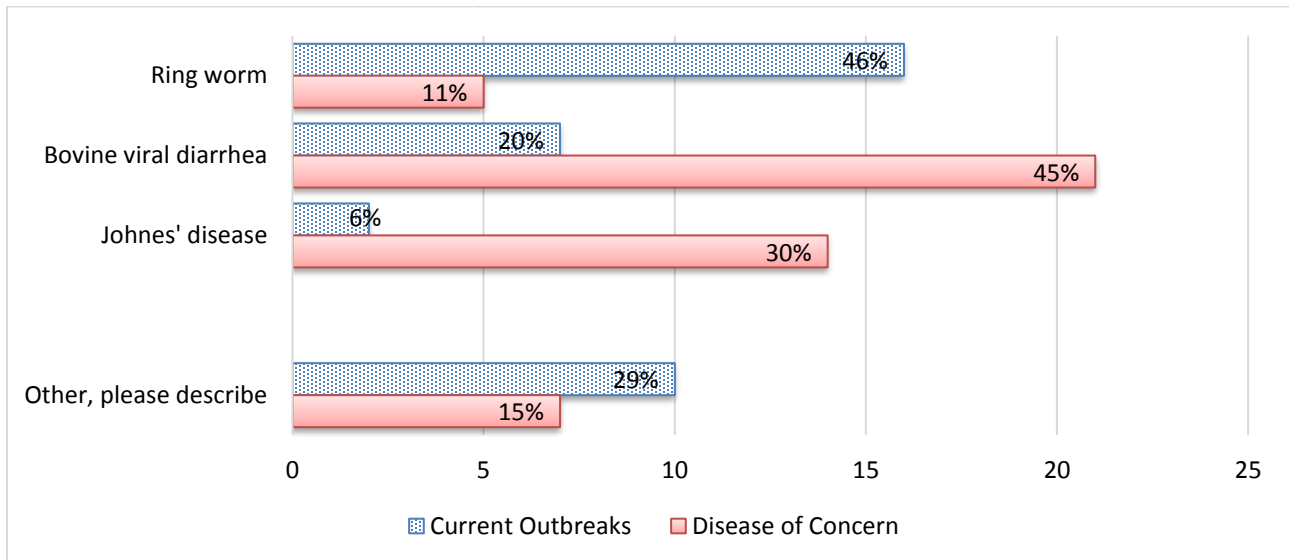
	2016
<b>Parasite Treatment</b>	
% Who Treated for Lice	87%
% Who Treated for Flies	52%
% Who Treated for Internal Worms	64%
% Who Treated for Ticks	27%
% Who Treated for Liver Fluke	8%
% Who Treated for Other	9%
<b>Vaccination</b>	
% Who Vaccinate	88%
% Who Vaccinate Females Pre-Breeding	52.5%

**Figure 12. Vaccination of Cows and Calves**



Number of operations which vaccinate their breeding females against each of the included diseases, by category

**Figure 13. Current Diseases of Concern to Responding Operations**



## SECTION 9: ECONOMICS AND PRODUCTION

Paper records were the most common reported form of record keeping, followed by electronic cattle management systems. Other methods of record keeping outside of those listed here included Excel or other spreadsheet programs that they use in the record keeping process; electronic databases particular to their breed of cattle or other electronic management systems such as Farmworks.

**Table 15. Record Keeping, Technology and Management**

2016	
<b>Type of Records kept on farm</b>	
None	2%
Paper Records	87%
Electronic cattle management software	20%
Other	15%
<b>Technology (% of operations)</b>	
Chute, Alley or Tub	70%
Weight scales	44%
Age Verification	40%
Ionophores	27%
DNA Technology	26%
RFID Tag Reader	16%
Total Mixed Ration	13%
Implants	4%
Beta-agonists	1%
<b>Management</b>	
Verified Beef Production	26%
Have Read the Beef Code of Practice	72%