

# A Private Feedlot Industry Company's Journey Related to Recognized Animal Care and Welfare Standards

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## Introduction

Feedlot Health Management Services Ltd. (FHMS) is a private industry company providing animal health management, nutrition, and production consulting services, as well as individual animal data collection and management tools, to commercial feedlots in Canada and the United States. FHMS has conducted feedlot research for commercial feedlot producers and the global feedlot industry for over 25 years, and conducts over 50 studies annually, including disease investigations; new technology assessments; product safety, efficacy and licensing studies; pathogen and antimicrobial resistance surveillance; individual animal and small pen research pilot studies; and large pen commercial field trials.

## Materials and Methods

In 2007, FHMS established its own Animal Care Committee (ACC) in the spirit of the Canadian Council of Animal Care (CCAC) standards. This approach was chosen because the CCAC was designed to oversee academic and predominantly laboratory animal research, a very

different dynamic from commercial feedlot production research. Over time, the FHMS ACC has evolved and is currently pursuing recognition of its animal health and welfare commitment from the CCAC.

## Results

Based on public awareness, publication standards and funding agency requirements, there has become a need to not just ensure appropriate animal care and welfare standards on research sites, but to be able to document and detail meeting these standards. Developing a workable ACC model for commercial feedlot production that can be integrated within the CCAC framework has had its challenges, but significant progress has occurred.

## Significance

With research results that are immediately applicable to Canadian and global beef industries, FHMS continually strives to enhance animal health and welfare and to be a proactive leader in these areas.