

The Impact of Calf Management Practices on Cow Productivity and Longevity

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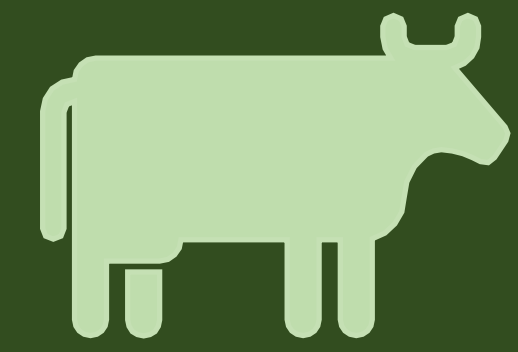
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In the last century, the industry goal was to increase **PRODUCTION**. More recent goals also include cow health and longevity.



LONGEVITY has the greatest economic benefit apart from production traits.



COW management practices, veterinary care, and genetic testing have been driven by the industry's focus.

What about calves?

Challenges

Expensive to Rear

Variable Management

Limited Records



Goals

Improve Longevity

Optimize Management

Improve Genetic Merit

By increasing the focus on calf health and management, improvements can be made to:

Reach Genetic Potential + Calf Care → Increasing Production and Longevity

Objective: To evaluate the impact that calf management practices have on the ability of a cow to reach its genetic potential assessed by their productivity and herd longevity.

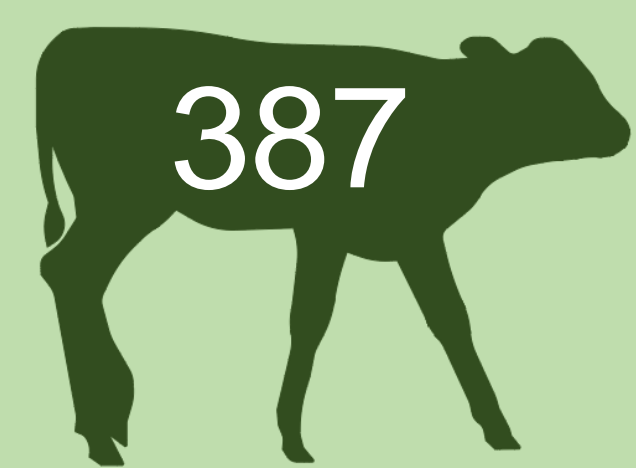
Study 1 – Calf Level

2014-2015

2020

Individual Records:

- ✓ Calf Management
- ✓ Disease Events
- ✓ Colostrum Management
- ✓ Passive Immunity Status
- ✓ Genotyping

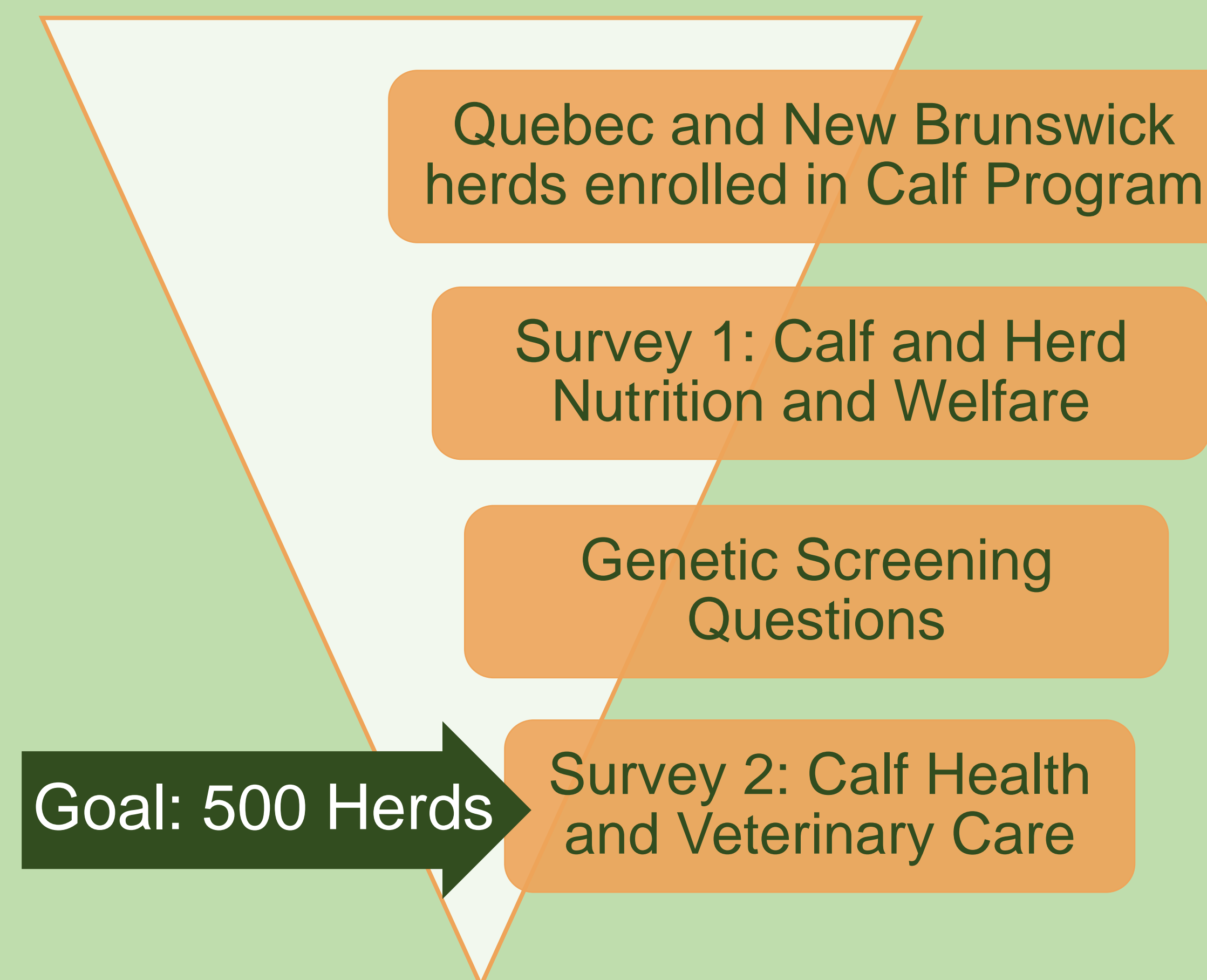


Multiple regression modelling with up to date production records to determine explanatory ability of calf rearing factors and their effect on genetic potential.

Determine genetic correlations between various health parameters and practices as well as their effect on productivity and longevity.

Study 2 – Herd Level

Inclusion Criteria
2020



Participating herds' production and genetic records will be assessed to identify:

- Whether animals achieve genetic potential
- Herd management factors that impact herd productivity, health, and longevity

Potential Impact on the Industry

- Identify calf management and veterinary practices that optimize genetic potential
- Reduce the cost for producers and increase income
- Increase data collection and genomic information on calves to aid in management decisions

