

Using Diversity in Response to Climate Change

Farm Profile

You are a beef farmer looking to make changes on your farm, in response to climate change and market demand. Your farm is located just outside of Taber, Alberta, near the city of Lethbridge.

Your farm is a relatively small operation with 25 Hereford cows, 25 Angus cows, 1 Hereford bull and 1 Angus bull. All the cows you currently own are heifers, and as a result are being kept to give birth to calves in the Spring.

You are currently a cow calf operation, meaning that you raise calves until they reach the age of six to eight months, before selling them to a stocker who will then sell them to a feedlot operator. However, you have seen the rise in consumer demand for grass-fed beef. You have a large amount of pasture that you currently use to grow and sell extra hay, but have now decided to use that land instead to raise cows. Your hope in the coming decade is to transfer your farm from a cow calf operation to one that raises cattle throughout their entire lifecycle.



At the same time, you are concerned that extremes in temperature resulting from climate change may cause distress and harm to your animals. You are also concerned about the cost of hay, silage, and extra grain that the cattle eat over the winter. You are hoping to address some of these concerns by replacing your current bulls with two new bulls from heritage breeds, which may have traits that can help the next generation of your cattle thrive.

This lesson plan was produced by the Canada Agriculture and Food Museum.

[View all of Ingenium's learning resources on our website.](#)