

# OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

<b>DIALOGUE DATE</b>	Tuesday, 27 April 2021 13:00 GMT -04:00
<b>DIALOGUE TITLE</b>	Grazing Livestock: Building Sustainable Protein Supply Chains
<b>CONVENED BY</b>	Canadian Cattlemen's Association and the Nature Conservancy of Canada
<b>DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE</b>	<a href="https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/10553/">https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/10553/</a>
<b>DIALOGUE TYPE</b>	Independent
<b>GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS</b>	Canada

The outcomes from a Food Systems Summit Dialogue will be of use in developing the pathway to sustainable food systems within the locality in which they take place. They will be a valuable contribution to the national pathways and also of interest to the different workstreams preparing for the Summit: the Action Tracks, Scientific Groups and Champions as well as for other Dialogues.

# 1. PARTICIPATION

## TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

110

## PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

10 0-18

10 19-30

35 31-50

30 51-65

20 66-80

5 80+

## PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

45 Male

65 Female

Prefer not to say or Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

5 Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

50 Livestock

Agro-forestry

25 Environment and ecology

Trade and commerce

Education

Communication

5 Food processing

5 Food retail, markets

5 Food industry

Financial Services

5 Health care

5 Nutrition

5 National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

Other

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Small/medium enterprise/artisan

5 Large national business

10 Multi-national corporation

25 Small-scale farmer

10 Medium-scale farmer

10 Large-scale farmer

10 Local Non-Governmental Organization

5 International Non-Governmental Organization

2 Indigenous People

20 Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

Local authority

5 Government and national institution

Regional economic community

United Nations

International financial institution

Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

Consumer group

8 Other

## 2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

### HOW DID YOU ORGANIZE THE DIALOGUE SO THAT THE PRINCIPLES WERE INCORPORATED, REINFORCED AND ENHANCED?

The guest list was curated for diverse perspectives, ensuring cross-stakeholder views were represented. Diversity was identified as key to having a meaningful dialogue. Prior to the event, participants were provided with a participant guide which set out the Principles of Engagement, outlined the objectives for constructive dialogue and it also explained Chatham House rules to encourage open conversation. During the event: Plenary panelists were coached to emphasize that respectful dialogue (including disagreement where necessary) was encouraged, and the convenor for each session also emphasized the Chatham House rules and the need for respectful engagement in the breakout sessions. After the event: communications or reporting of the breakout sessions has not and will not be attributable to attendees.

### HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

CCA and NCC strove to curate a room full of experts, individuals who knew enough about the subject matter to engage in constructive conversation but without curating an echo chamber. The end result was a constructive yet critical conversation. By choosing to address 'grazing livestock' instead of any one type of livestock there were differing perspectives, production methods and supply chains involved. It allowed for a richer conversation and learning opportunities among the membership.

### DO YOU HAVE ADVICE FOR OTHER DIALOGUE CONVENORS ABOUT APPRECIATING THE PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT?

Providing a participant guide is a useful tool for ensuring there is an understanding of the format of the event and for setting expectations on the tone of the dialogue.

# 3. METHOD

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The outcomes of a Dialogue are influenced by the method that is used.

**DID YOU USE THE SAME METHOD AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CONVENORS REFERENCE MANUAL?**

**Yes**

**No**

# 4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

## MAJOR FOCUS

As 2021 marks the first world food summit in 25 years, actors in the global food system, including the Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) and the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) are following closely. A key concern of Canadian beef producers and their stakeholders is the global forum's focus on reducing meat consumption for environmental and health reasons.

There are unquestionably nutritional and environmental benefits to the production and consumption of grazing livestock products, and it is feared these benefits are being overshadowed by a global anti-meat narrative. CCA and NCC have convened an independent dialogue with the goal of ensuring these benefits are part of global conversation. "Our sustainability practices in Canada are already unparalleled and should be looked to as an example. Painting a production system with one brush will not lead to the most globally sustainable outcomes. What's more, even though we are leaders in sustainable beef production, we focus on continuous improvement."

This dialogue began with the principle that livestock, particularly grazing livestock, has a beneficial place in the food system but challenged participants to critically reflect on continuous improvement and what is needed to achieve increasingly ambitious targets. The dialogue was thematically designed to respond to Action Track 2, Shift to Sustainable Consumption Patterns. Action Track 2 was chosen as it encompasses the breadth of the supply chain, from production to consumption, something the convening organizations were well-positioned to speak to. Moreover, Action Track 2 emphasizes reducing food waste, a niche grazing livestock are excellently suited for.

Entitled *Grazing Livestock: Building Sustainable Protein Supply Chains* the three-part dialogue series explored the vital role that grazing livestock play in providing both nutritious and nature positive solutions for Canada. The event brought together a diverse set of stakeholders for a bold, solutions-oriented discussion on sustainable diets. The sessions discussed best practices and challenged attendees to answer what's next, what's missing and how the sector can do better.

In keeping with the UN's recommendations, inclusivity was incorporated throughout all stages of planning. In choosing to have a grazing livestock conversation, various livestock producers were invited and included in the dialogue, including sheep, beef, bison and goat; roughly 30% of participants were primary producers. Environmental Non-Governmental Organizations (ENGOS) were also strongly represented. There was a healthy presence of academia from both a production and consumption perspective. Federal and provincial policy makers were at the table, as was the supply chain. In all, more than 100 diverse stakeholders came together to reflect on grazing livestock's role in the food system and what is required for continuous improvement.

These dialogues also followed the recommended format for Independent Dialogues, with half of each 2-hour session devoted to small group discussion.

### ACTION TRACKS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
<input type="checkbox"/>	Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

### KEYWORDS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Finance	<input type="checkbox"/>	Policy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Innovation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Data & Evidence
<input type="checkbox"/>	Human rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	Governance
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## MAIN FINDINGS

Despite a broad conversation spanning the breadth of the supply chain, key themes resurfaced in each session:

1. **Producer incentives for environmental practices:** Participants noted a link between environmental practices and a producers' economic well-being. While the argument of 'doing what is right' is strong and resonates with many producers, a sustainable solution is one that compensates producers for their environmental endeavors. Compensation ensures that producers remain competitive, and thus able to stay in business and continue doing (and improving) on best management practices.  
"Greatest challenge for conservation groups is loss of habitat which is driven by economics. Best way to conserve grasslands is ensuring that livestock industry and those using these lands remain profitable."
2. **The importance of collaboration:** Collaboration was identified as key to achieving environmental outcomes. Collaboration includes between industries, between academia and producers, different stakeholders and across supply-chains. Whatever environmental initiative, framework or metric proposed, it will be more successful where it is created in collaboration with various interest groups.
3. **No one-size-fits-all solution:** Participants balked at the notion that there is any one silver-bullet to 'improving the food system'. The food system is too complex to have broad global policy recommendations. Regional differences must be taken into account when recommending environmental best-practices. There is the recognition that best-practices may even differ from farm to farm, let alone from country to country.  
"Livestock markets contribute to the overall system; removing one part of the system will have unintended consequences, and making sweeping global dietary or food production recommendations doesn't account for the variety of situations, challenges/realities in different areas"
4. **The role of government:** There is a strong role for government in creating policy that enables sustainable production and consumption however any such policy must be created with a 'food-systems' lens to avoid inadvertent net-negative outcomes. Such as, for example, the proposed Canadian greenhouse gas offset credit system and its potential to drive unintentional native grasslands conversion. Governments can play a key role in research for cross-cutting environmental information (i.e. valuation of ecosystem goods and services as one example) which the private sector can then use for benchmarking. Flowing therefrom, governments can provide assistance with respect to research & technology transfer and ensuring producers are correctly incentivized to adopt beneficial practices.
5. **Diversity is imperative to building resiliency:** Attendees noted that there are many benefits to integrating different systems, and indeed, integrated systems are more resilient ones. By integrating field and livestock production, one operations' waste becomes another operations' nutrients. Croplands which incorporate a livestock component are more drought tolerant than lands which do not.  
"By using sheep, the sector helps create a biodiverse environment and reduce amount of GHGs generated vs mechanical grazing of vegetation. Sheep and goats are an effective tool against invasive species. When sheep graze orchards or vineyards the fruit is healthier and there is reduced pesticide usage. Benefits of livestock production like these need to be considered."
6. **Education of consumers:** Participants alluded to the importance of consumers several times. This was in the context of the perceived divide between consumers and production practices as well as the challenges of conveying complex environmental initiatives to the consumer. Consumers were identified as imperative to ensuring 'sustainable consumption' because consumers drive market trends and are the buyers of the product.

Game Changing solution? (Please note, more detail is included in the attached report)

The Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (CRSB) was mentioned as an example or embodiment of the key themes several times. The CRSB is an initiative that embraces complexity, fosters stakeholder involvement and collaboration to identify solutions. As all of these elements are required to advance the food system, CCA and NCC propose the framework upon which the CRSB rests as the "game-changing solution" sought by the UN Food Summit process.

One of the focuses for Action Track 2 is the reduction of food waste and in achieving this objective, grazing livestock are a natural fit. Ruminants turn products that are inedible by humans into a nutrient-dense protein option.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/3

During Session 1, participants examined the beginning of the supply chain, with the production perspective. The plenary consisted of experts who discussed how grazing practices interact with the landscape and biodiversity and the producers who are employing these practices.

In the breakouts, participants were questioned as to the importance of sustainability metrics, the role of government and policy in fostering environmental outcomes, the need for collaboration, and addressing trade-offs.

Of note, participants flagged that not all sustainable opportunities require trade-offs (i.e. food waste) but where trade-offs exist, there is a role for government in reducing them by ensuring policies are created through a holistic 'food-system' lens. The role of government is also critical in the ongoing research and information transfer that is needed to develop and disseminate sustainability metrics and benchmarks. A wide range of suggestions were provided in response to what the grazing livestock industry should be measuring to achieve a sustainable food system including: biodiversity (both above and below ground), water, emissions and nutritional benefit of the end product.

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/3

Session 2 focused on sustainable consumption, what that means and what it looks like. Participants heard from academic experts on livestock's role in the food system, the importance of protein in the diet, food waste and consumer trends.

During the breakouts, attendees responded to the challenges in creating consumer demand for foods produced sustainably, the role of policy and government to incentivize sustainable eating habits and the intersection of sustainable products and food security.

During this session, supply chain coordination was highlighted as essential. "For some livestock sectors, the whole-of-supply chain-framework is not yet established and it is a big undertaking. CRSB is an example of a whole of supply chain framework." Environmental production metrics and initiatives are delivered through the supply chain, one missing link can negate the effectiveness of efforts either earlier or later on. The government plays a role in ensuring sustainability frameworks have baseline research and incentives to exist. Overall, there is a strong need for a multi-stakeholder approach in building these sustainable supply chains. As for the intersection of food security and sustainability, it was noted that the two are not mutually exclusive. Both can be addressed by technologies and innovations to reduce resource use and decrease price. However, this is not always the case and food security, and livestock's role in achieving food security globally is critical.

"Many developing countries and areas are very dependent on livestock for food security; recommending to remove/limit livestock production or reduce meat diets will further exacerbate food security issues in many areas of the world, with nutrition as key issue in developing nations."

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## OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/3

Finally, Session 3 explored the whole of supply chain, bridging the gap between nature-based production practices and sustainable consumption. Experts during this plenary session looked at metrics of sustainable production and examples of how to turn best practices into consumption.

As this was the final session, participants responded to high-level questions such as what is needed to make livestock production as efficient as possible, measuring sustainable supply chain and what the world should know about Canada's grazing livestock sector.

In response, the triple bottom line of economic, environmental and social aspects were referred to several times:

"To be as efficient and sustainable as possible we need to invest in research and make technology available to livestock producers. Adoption of new technology has to be financially sustainable, and tools are needed to make transitions to more sustainable practices less of a financial burden. In addition to technology being available, knowledge needs to be accessible to producers. Lastly, consumers acceptance of science and innovation in agriculture needs to be maintained or gained."

There was a recognition that while Canada's livestock sector has demonstrated exceptional sustainability performance, there are nevertheless early adopters and late adopters. What is needed to ensure everyone implements and benefits from best practices is information sharing, technology transfer and incentives. This can be achieved in many ways.

As a final note, Canada's livestock sector wants the world to know that "sustainable production of livestock is not an uncomfortable conversation for Canada – we care, and we want to do better."

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## AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

CCA and NCC's independent dialogue created a meeting place for a variety of voices across the grazing livestock supply chain. By design, the dialogue's virtual room of experts ensured a critical look at what Canada's grazing livestock industry is doing now and how it can do better. That said, areas of divergence came from how such improvements could be achieved. It was recognized that not all grazing livestock practices are shining examples of best management, and that there is room for improvement. Sustainability is a journey not a destination. In order to continue on that journey food systems must continue to embrace complexity, foster stakeholder involvement and collaboration to identify solutions.

The UN Food Systems' Summit should not condemn any one type of food production but rather recognize that all systems are interconnected and have opportunities for continual improvement, including livestock, and work with livestock stakeholders to ensure mutual goals of sustainable consumption patterns are reached.

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# ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

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## ATTACHMENTS

- **Official Feedback Report - CCA & NCC Grazing Livestock Dialogue**  
<https://summitdialogues.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Official-Report-CCA-NCC-FINAL.pdf>

## RELEVANT LINKS

- **Canadian Cattlemen's Association**  
<https://www.cattle.ca>
- **Nature Conservancy of Canada**  
<https://www.natureconservancy.ca/en/>
- **Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef**  
<https://crsb.ca>