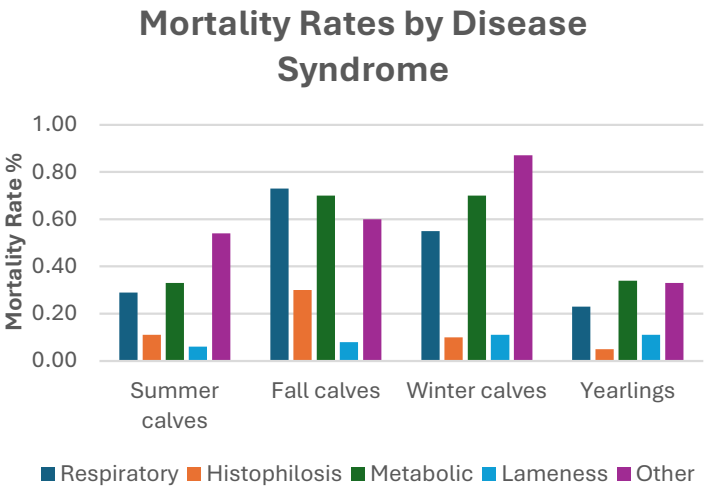
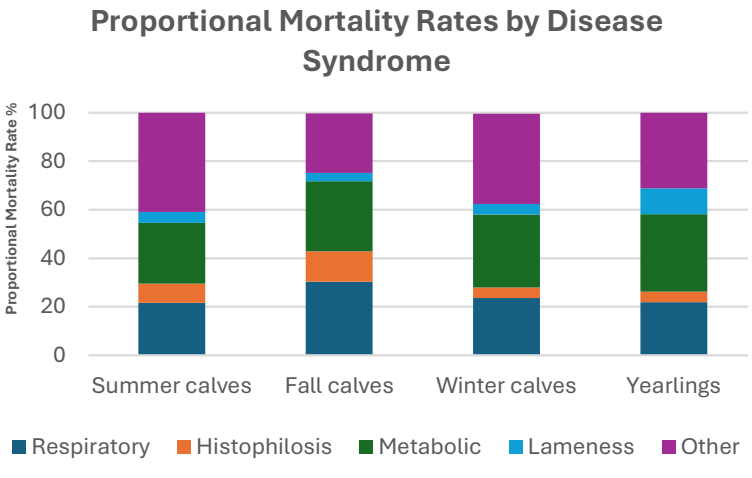
Alberta Feedlot Animal Health & Welfare Surveillance System – 2019 Mortality Rates

- Mortality data were collected from 120,782 head of cattle in 405 lots which closed in 2019 in 11 feedlots
- Necropsies were conducted on cattle that died within these lots. Diagnoses were made by feedlot veterinarians
- Respiratory mortality included fibrinous pneumonia, fibrinous bronchopneumonia, bronchopneumonia, broncho-interstitial pneumonia, pneumonia and arthritis, and viral interstitial pneumonia
- Histophilosis mortality included myocarditis, pericarditis, pleuritis with normal lung collapsed under thick fibrin, endocarditis with other signs of histophilosis such as myocarditis, septicemia the first 30-90 days on feed where multiple joints were infected with increased synovial fluid and fibrin, laryngitis with other signs of histophilosis, such as bronchopneumonia or myocarditis
- Metabolic mortality included feedlot atypical interstitial pneumonia (AIP), gas bloat, frothy bloat, grain overloads, caudal vena cava thrombosis, ruptured liver abscesses causing peritonitis, and endotoxemia caused by clostridial infection
- Lameness mortality included arthritis, foot rot, digital dermatitis (hairy heel warts), P3 or toe tip necrosis, founder/laminitis

- The crude mortality rate in all cattle was 1.9%
- The crude mortality rate in summer-placed calves (May-Aug) was 1.3%, in fall-placed calves (Sept-Dec) 2.4%, in winter-placed calves (Jan-Apr) 2.3%, in yearlings 1.1%, and in mixed lots of cattle 4.7%
- Respiratory diseases accounted for 26.0% of total mortality, histophilosis for 8.2%, metabolic for 29.7%, lameness for 5.2%, and other causes for 30.8%
- If 12 lots of cattle that were <1200 lbs at closeout were removed from the data analysis, because some of these cattle did not go direct to slaughter, there were only minor changes in some proportional mortality rates; therefore, all data from the 405 lots is included in this report





- The crude mortality rate in cattle with a high incoming BRD risk was 2.9%, with respiratory diseases accounting for 27.3% of total mortality, whereas in low BRD risk cattle, the crude mortality rate was 1.0%, with respiratory diseases accounting for 22.9% of total mortality
- Crude mortality rates by days on feed (DOF) were 1.2% if < 150 DOF, 1.4% if 151-240 DOF, and 3.7% if ≥ 240 DOF
- Crude mortality rates in beef cattle were 1.9% and in dairy cattle were 2.2% (Note: small number of dairy cattle)
- Crude mortality rates in auction market cattle were 1.8%, backgrounded cattle 1.9%, ranch-direct 1.4%, and mixed source lots 4.6% (Note: small number of ranch direct cattle)
- Crude mortality rates in steers were 2.3% and in heifers were 1.5%

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Mortality Rates by Disease Syndrome and Days on Feed (DOF)					
DOF	**Respiratory**	**Histophilosis**	**Metabolic**	**Lameness**	**Other**
≤ 150	0.36%	0.04%	0.27%	0.04%	0.45%
151-240	0.39%	0.13%	0.39%	0.09%	0.36%
≥ 240	0.84%	0.28%	1.16%	0.14%	1.26%

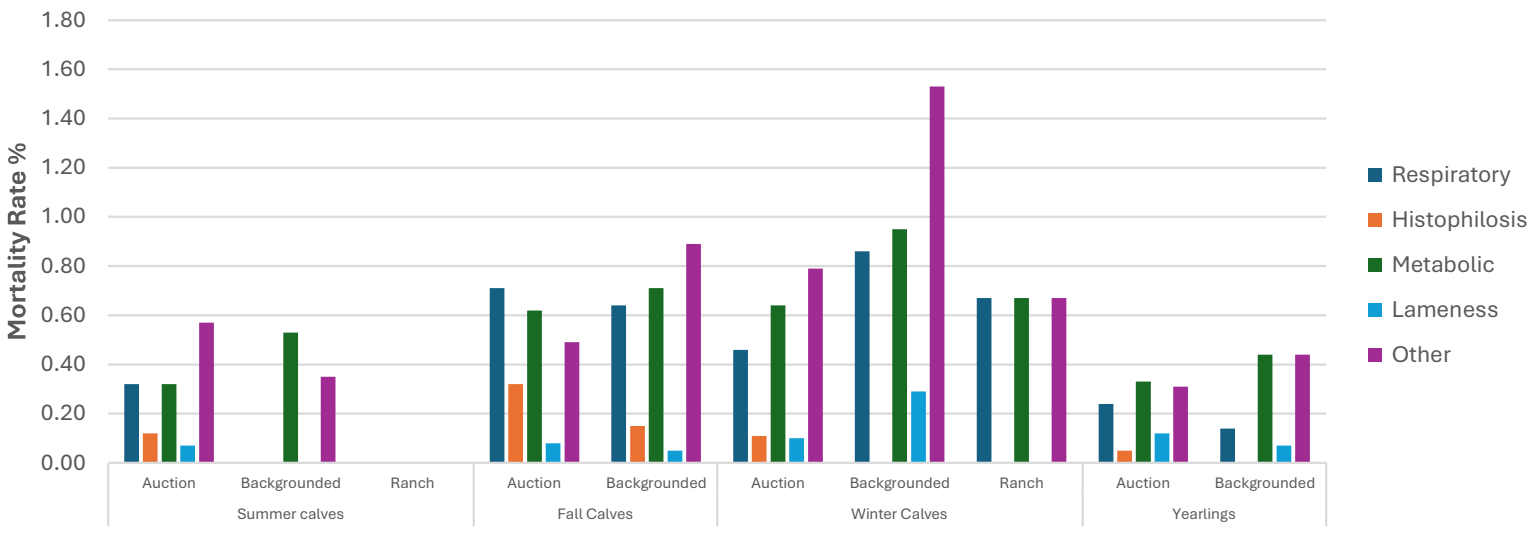
Mortality Rates by Disease Syndrome and Breed					
Breed	**Respiratory**	**Histophilosis**	**Metabolic**	**Lameness**	**Other**
Beef	0.50%	0.16%	0.57%	0.10%	0.59%
Dairy*	0.90%	0%	0%	0.45%	0.90%

*small numbers of dairy cattle

Mortality Rates by Disease Syndrome and BRD Risk					
BRD RISK	**Respiratory**	**Histophilosis**	**Metabolic**	**Lameness**	**Other**
High	0.80%	0.26%	0.87%	0.12%	0.88%
Low	0.23%	0.07%	0.30%	0.08%	0.33%

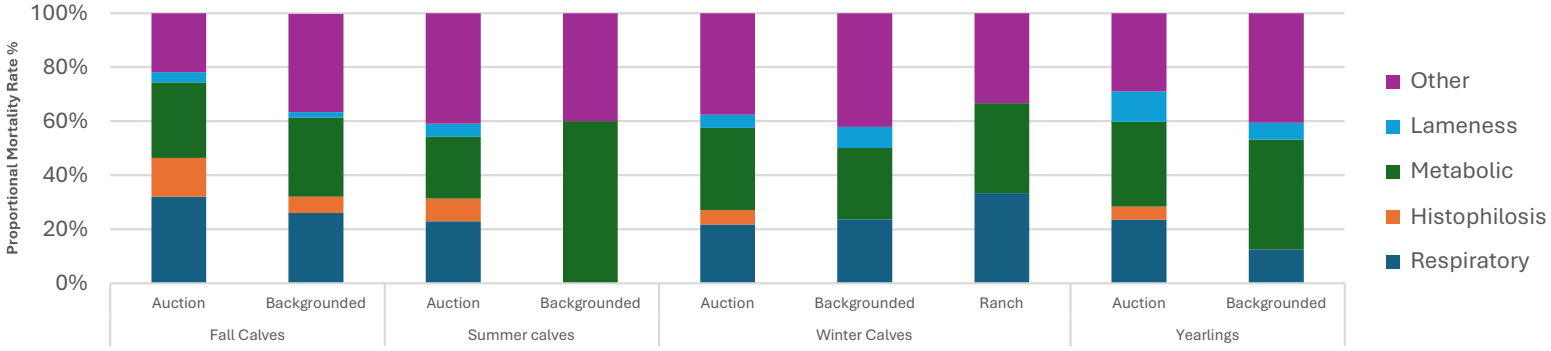
Mortality Rates by Disease Syndrome and Sex					
Breed	**Respiratory**	**Histophilosis**	**Metabolic**	**Lameness**	**Other**
Steers	0.60%	0.16%	0.68%	0.13%	0.73%
Heifers	0.38%	0.16%	0.44%	0.06%	0.43%

Mortality Rates by Disease Syndrome and Source



Some mortality rates above are high and caution should be used in overinterpreting these findings due to a small number of cattle e.g., very few ranch direct calves

Proportional Mortality Rates by Disease Syndrome and Source



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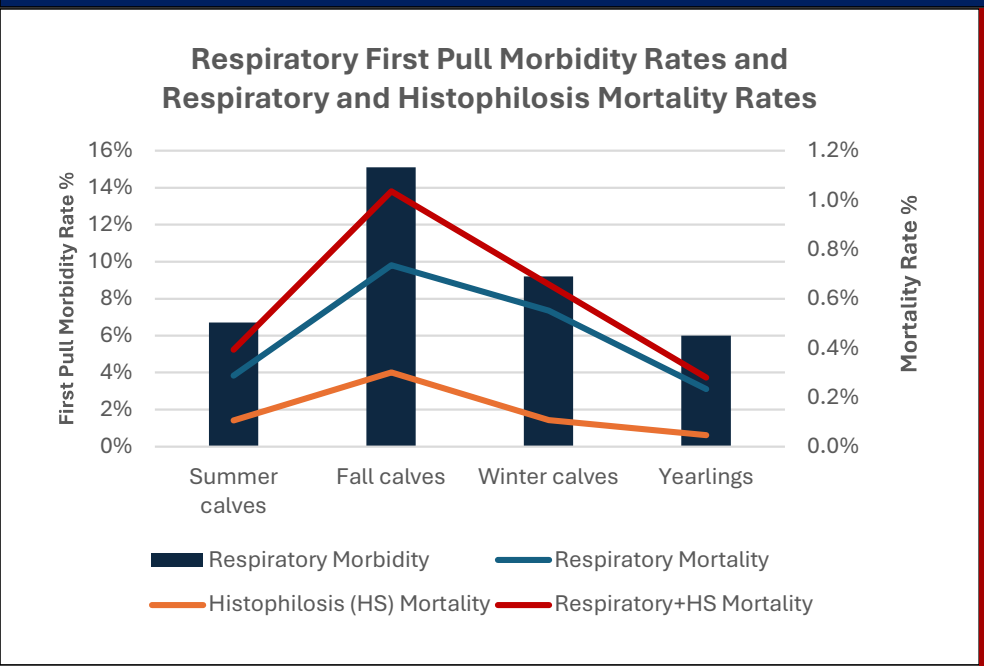

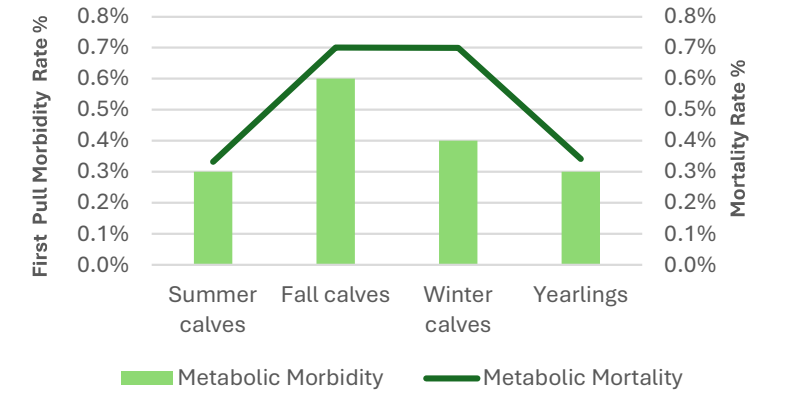

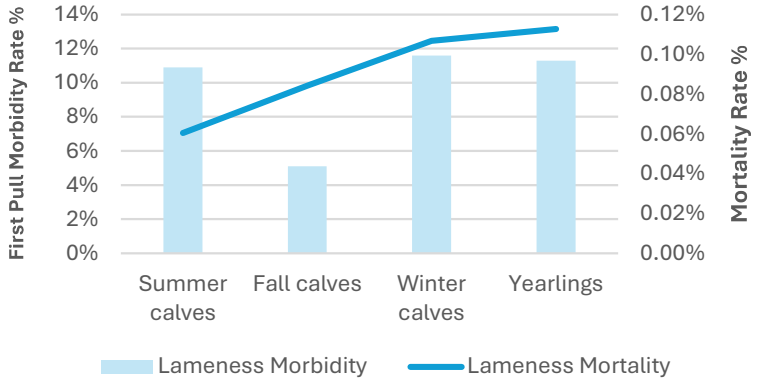

We encourage feedlot producers to work closely with their feedlot herd health veterinarians, using objective feedlot data to make informed management decisions to improve animal health and welfare!

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ALBERTA FEEDLOT ANIMAL HEALTH & WELFARE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM ON OUR WEBSITE
https://cfaasp.ca/alberta-feedlot-health-and-welfare-surveillance-system

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CANADIAN FEEDLOT ANTIMICROBIAL USE AND ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM (CFAASP)

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