



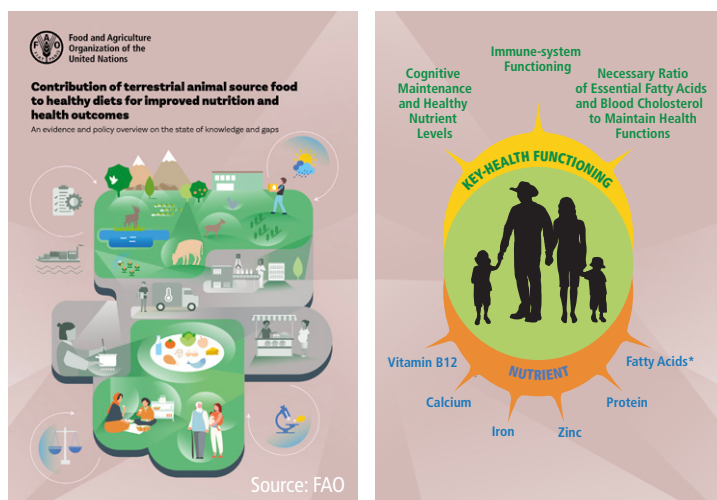
# BEEF WATCH

## THE VALUE OF MEAT

**THIS BEEF WATCH EDITION PRESENTS A SUMMARY OF TWO RECENT INTERNATIONAL REPORTS OF SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE BEEF INDUSTRY.**

### UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION CONFIRMS NUTRITIONAL VALUE OF MEAT

On April 25th 2023, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations published a report <sup>(1)</sup> that examines and confirms the contribution of **Terrestrial Animal Source Foods**, or meat from animals that live on land, to human nutrition and health.



The FAO report explains how meat from livestock species provide high-quality protein, important fatty acids and various vitamins and minerals that can make vital contributions to meeting global nutrition targets of a growing population. This includes the UN's Sustainable Development Goals to reduce stunting among children, low birthweight, anaemia in women of reproductive age, and other critical health issues.

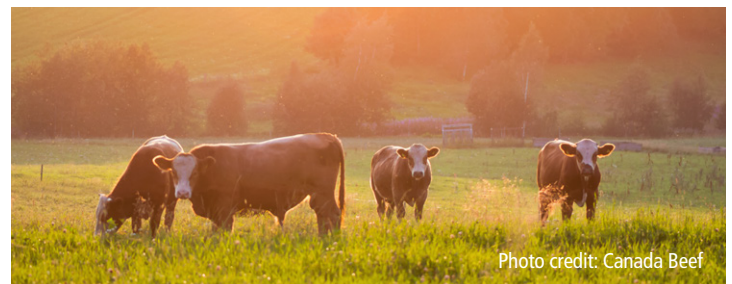
The FAO concludes that diets with adequate amounts of unprocessed red meats: "...may have minimal risk and is considered safe to humans." <sup>(1)</sup>

**Canada Beef submitted over 100 comments and 19 references that had not been previously identified by the FAO.**

This contribution was possible due to our membership with the International Meat Secretariat who was asked by the FAO to contribute to their work on this topic. Our contribution, along with many other comments they received, allowed the FAO to carefully consider the full body of evidence on this topic and ensured that key research was not missed in their evaluation of the topic.

### THE SOCIETAL ROLE OF MEAT– WHAT THE SCIENCE SAYS<sup>(2)</sup>

This report presents the position of a global scientific community of more than 1,000 scientists active in their fields. The report recommends objectiveness and a more holistic evaluation of livestock production systems.



#### Livestock and Health

The publication recognizes the challenges and benefits of the current livestock production systems from the standpoint of nutrition. Unfortunately, the push of some international groups for more plant-based ingredients comes with a recommendation to exclude eggs, dairy and meat from the diet. These attacks to the livestock sector must be resolved with facts based on science in order to prevent many negative consequences for the global community. There is a need for a shift to more nutrient dense foods to mitigate the negative consequences of malnutrition, iron deficiency and obesity that affect billions of people across the world.

#### Livestock and the Environment

Farmed animals are the ideal solution to bring a circular flow of resources and organic biomass to support different ecosystems all over the world. A Life Cycle Assessment is the right tool to demonstrate the advantages of well-managed livestock production systems. Livestock are a natural solution for recycling materials that enrich the land and recover poor soils that have suffered the damages of intensive monoculture.

#### Livestock and Socio-Economics

The support of animal production with a good management system is part of a global culture that nourishes a growing population and develops sustainable socio-economic networks. The scientific community and the policy makers have a responsibility to provide the facts and scientific standards for the holistic evaluation and further development of the livestock and meat production systems all over the world.

#### Additional Resources

- (1) FAO, [Contribution of terrestrial animal source food to healthy diets for improved nutrition and health outcomes \(fao.org\)](https://www.fao.org/publications/01/04/contribution-of-terrestrial-animal-source-food-to-healthy-diets-for-improved-nutrition-and-health-outcomes), Rome April 2023.
- (2) Ederer, P., Leroy, F., [The Societal Role of Meat – What the Science says, Animal Frontiers, Volume 13, Issue 2, April 2023, Pages 3–8](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.anfr.2023.01.001)