

Media Release

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Alberta invests in science to ensure strong livestock industry

Edmonton... To ensure the Alberta livestock industry remains competitive at the global level, **Alberta Innovates – Bio Solutions is providing \$2.25 million** and the **Alberta Livestock and Meat Agency \$1.5 million** of new funding to **Livestock Gentec**, formerly the Alberta Bovine Genomics Program.

“Alberta’s investment helps advance research and innovation in one of our province’s key priority areas – the bioindustries,” said **Deputy Premier and Minister of Advanced Education and Technology, Doug Horner**. “This program will enable us to continue to build our competitive advantage in this area and help grow our knowledge based economy.”

“Coordinated, world-class research is an important part of The Alberta Livestock and Meat Strategy,” said **Minister of Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, Jack Hayden**. “Consumers are requiring high quality, traceable meat products and one way producers can meet those demands is through informed breeding decisions. This genomic research centre will play a vital role in increasing the global competitiveness of Alberta’s livestock and meat industry.”

“Livestock genomics is a key means for Alberta’s livestock and meat sector to differentiate itself and compete at a global level,” said **Dr. Stan Blade, CEO of Alberta Innovates – Bio Solutions**. “It makes sense to invest in an Alberta program that is already a world-wide leader in the field.”

The new funding builds on the more than **\$10 million previously contributed** by the University of Alberta, Advanced Education and Technology, Agriculture and Rural Development and other supporters and will position Livestock Gentec as the national hub for livestock genomics. The funding enables the Centre to increase its research capacity and provide additional support for business development and technology transfer.

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Some of the Centre's most recent accomplishments include:

- Major participant in the first-ever sequencing of the bovine genome
- First in Canada to sequence a dairy bull and a beef bull, re-enforcing its position at the forefront of genomics science worldwide
- Sequenced a Brazilian bull and identified genetic markers that predict the temperament of the animal
- To date, has found more than 125 genetic markers to improve cattle. More than a dozen have been commercialized and many are in the technology transfer pipeline.

“Sequencing genomes helps identify with greater precision the genetic markers that enable breeders to improve domestic livestock species. This results in the higher quality milk and meat products that consumers are demanding,” said **Dr. Stephen Moore, Livestock Gentec's scientific director.**

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