

#24-QC October 2025

Quebec 2024 Benchmarks

In 2021, the COP Network launched its first round of data collection. Quebec's initial benchmark data was gathered between 2020 and 2021. A new round of data collection is scheduled for 2026.

When looking at the years from 2020 to 2024, some broad observations can be made when analyzing the data. In 2020, moisture conditions were normal. In 2021, a drought occurred in Western Canada. By 2022, moisture conditions had improved, and cattle prices began to strengthen, though producers also faced higher input costs such as fertilizer and energy. During 2023 and 2024, record-high cattle prices continued, but parts of Western Canada still experienced drought. In these years, input costs continued to rise; but were more moderate compared to the jump in 2022.

Farm Descriptions

There are seven Quebec benchmark farms which are consist with those featured in the [2024 COP Network summary](#). The current benchmark farms are designated as QC-1, QC-2, QC-3, QC-4, QC-5, QC-6 and QC-7

Herd sizes range from 60 to 270 head, with an average herd size of 140 head. Calving occurs between March and May, with most calving in March. QC-4 is the only benchmark that calves in September. Weaning time was not specified for any of the farms. QC-5 is the only farm that does not have retained ownership (Figure 1).

Ration composition varies, with half of the farms feeding only hay, and the other half using a combination of hay and corn silage. Mature cow weights range from 1,225 lbs to 1,425 lbs, averaging 1,291 lbs.

The main difference between these benchmarks is the reliance on purchased feeds vs. homegrown feeds. Most Quebec farms use hay as the primary feed source, QC-7 uses hay and corn silage. The COP network does not have a silage only benchmark, or a benchmark that is mixed with cash crops and therefore these

What is the COP Network?

The Canadian Cow-calf Cost of Production Network (COP Network) uses standardized data collection which allows for comparison both within and between provinces, and internationally. Since launching in 2021, the COP Network has collected data from over 235 producers contributing to 64 cow-calf benchmark farms that represent various production systems. Each benchmark is based on data from 3-7 producers. Data collection occurs every 5 years with annual indexing of input and output prices, as well as crop and forage yields, in subsequent years. Individual benchmark farm summaries, can be found at: <https://canfax.ca/resources/cost-of-production/cop-results.html>

management systems are under-represented here. All farms are medium maturity, except for QC-1 and QC-3. QC-1 is a mature farm (no longer growing); while QC-3 is in the start-up phase.



Figure 1. Farm detail for Quebec benchmark farms

2024 Benchmarks

For all Quebec benchmark farms, the total cost of production averaged \$1,973 per cow in 2024. On average, 62% of their costs were cash expenses, 11% depreciation and 27% opportunity. All farms covered their cash and depreciation costs with an average medium-term profit at \$158 per cow. Four out of seven benchmarks were covering opportunity costs, same as in 2023.

Cash costs ranged from \$781 to \$1,839 per cow (Figure 2), averaging \$1,222 per cow. Depreciation costs ranged from \$142 to \$312 per cow, averaging \$217. Opportunity costs ranged from \$342 to \$1,054 per cow, with an average of \$533. These opportunity costs were primarily driven by labor (Figure 3). It should be noted that QC benchmarks received ASRA payment, you can see the total revenue (orange diamond) which includes the government payment in the charts.

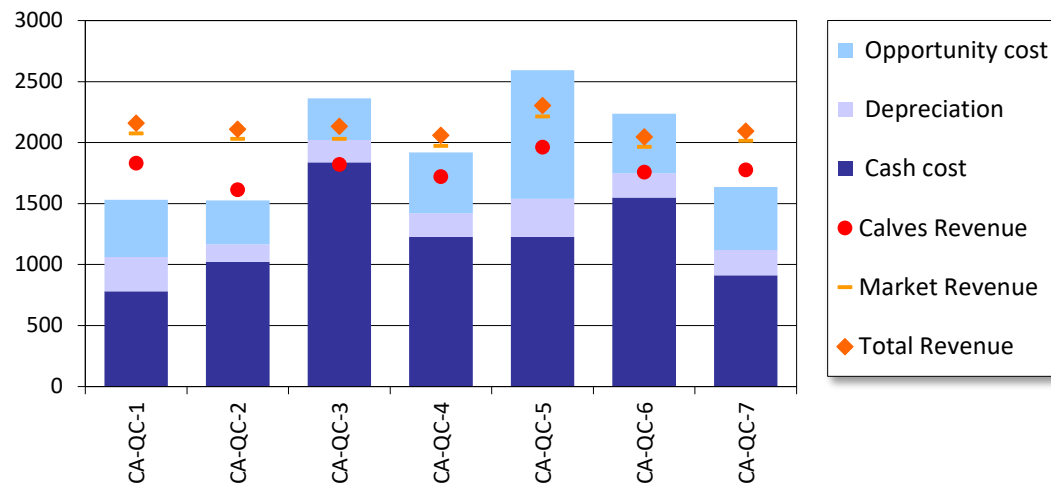


Figure 2. Cost of Production for each individual benchmark farm

Market Revenue = Receipts from calves, calves transferred to backgrounding enterprise, cull animals and breeding stock
Calf Revenue = Receipts from calves or calves transferred to backgrounding enterprise

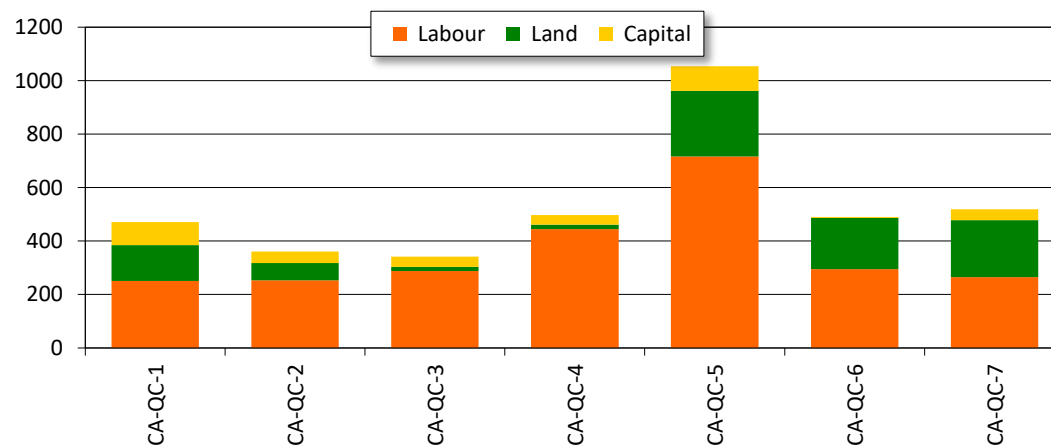


Figure 3. Breakdown of land, labor and capital for each individual benchmark farm

Annual Trends

In 2024, average cash costs were \$1,222 per cow in Quebec. Over the past five years, Quebec has experienced a steady rise in cash costs, with an average annual increase of \$58 per cow. Overall, cash costs increased \$231 per cow, going from \$991 in 2020 to \$1,222 in 2024 (see Figure 4).

Depreciation costs have had an average annual increase of \$18 per cow, with a total increase of \$70 per cow, going from \$147 in 2020 to \$217 in 2024.

Opportunity costs have had an average annual increase of \$12 per cow, with a total increase of \$49 per cow, going from \$484 in 2020 to \$533 in 2024.

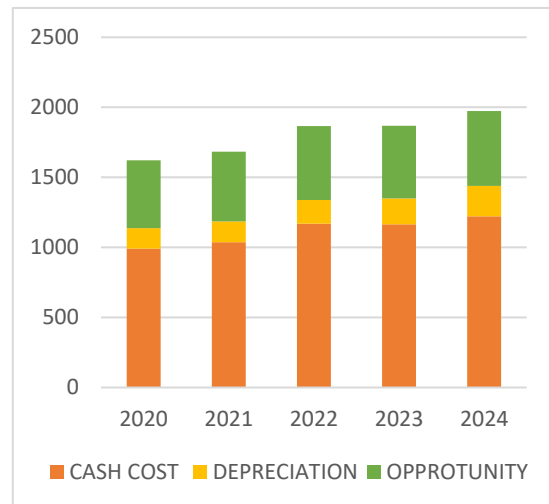


Figure 4. Quebec cash, depreciation and opportunity costs from 2020-2024

For more information, on ways to stay competitive check out the other COP Network Fact Sheets at [Cost of Production Analysis - CanFax](#)



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