Respiratory disease in beef calves is a concern because of:
- animal welfare issues
- development of antibiotic resistant bacteria
- economic losses

Research activities:
- Immune function testing of beef calves at Elora Beef Research Station over a 2 year period
- Testing calves as neonates and retesting after feedlot entry
- Comparing alternative sets of test antigens
- Identifying genomic markers of immunity

Project Goal: Adaptive immunity in health and disease
Development of an optimized test of immune function for use in beef cattle, to improve health, and reduce the need for antibiotics in the industry.

Identification of cattle with superior immune function would permit breeding for improved disease resistance.