

THE WAY **FORWARD**  
**STRATEGIC THEMES &**  
**PRIORITIES**

W.A. Ranches  
at the University of Calgary







THE **GIFT**

In 2018, J. C. (Jack) Anderson and his daughter, Wynne Chisholm gifted the University of Calgary with their family ranch near Cochrane complete with cattle, farming and ranch equipment, as well as buildings including staff housing.

W.A. Ranches—the ‘W’ is for Wynne and the ‘A’ is for Anderson—is a leading commercial cow-calf ranching and farming operation that sits on more than 19,000 acres with 1,000 high quality, Angus-based mother cows.





## PURPOSE OF THE **GIFT**

Led by the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (UCVM,) 'W.A. Ranches at the University of Calgary,' will become a leading interdisciplinary hub for teaching and research in multiple faculties driven by One Health and other integrative concepts.

We will create a centre of excellence for beef cattle research, a facility for research, teaching and learning, community engagement and outreach, through integrated and interdisciplinary cattle research programs, including continued support of the Anderson-Chisholm Chair in Animal Care and Welfare, the Alberta 4-H and other programs that support youth in agriculture.

## UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY **ACADEMIC & RESEARCH PLAN**

Activities at WA Ranches will support the Research and Academic priorities of the of the University of Calgary and the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine.

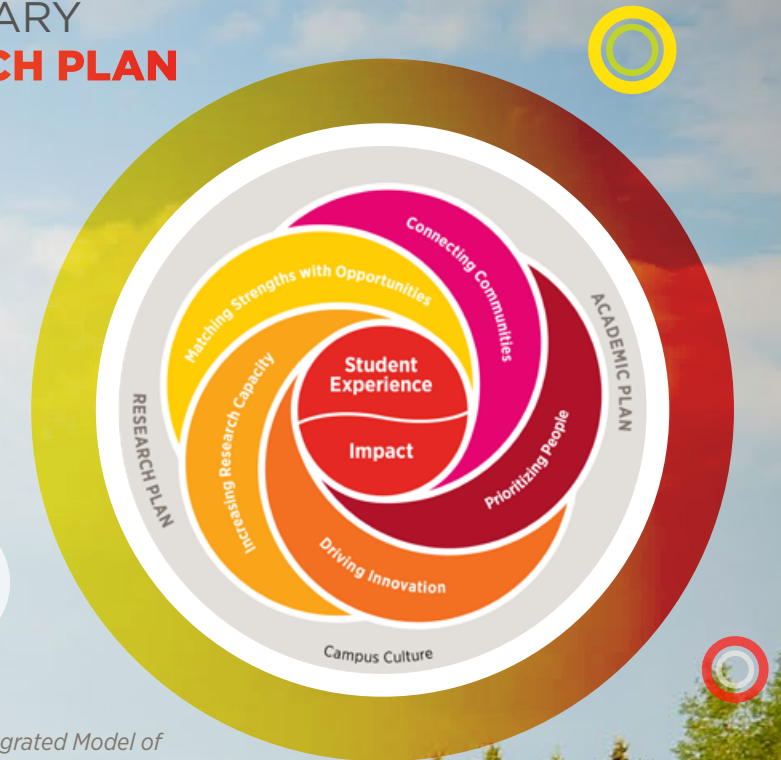


Figure 1 — Integrated Model of the Academic and Research Plans





## OUR **VISION**

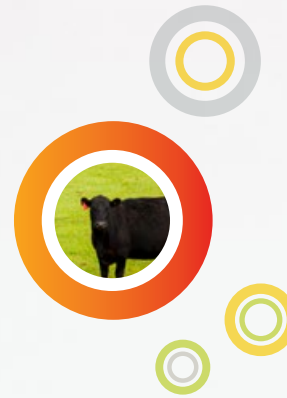
A working cow-calf ranch, W.A. Ranches will become an internationally recognized research centre of excellence for sustainable and regenerative beef cattle agriculture that uses One Health approaches to guide research and education.

## OUR **MISSION**

W.A. Ranches utilizes active learning in a cow-calf environment and conducts applied research aimed at improving cattle welfare, health and management to achieve sustainable/regenerative agriculture. W.A. Ranches fosters and promotes transdisciplinary collaborations across campus and the community. W.A. Ranches will also serve as an educational centre for students, youth and the community resulting in a deeper understanding of the relationship among cattle, people and the environment.

## OUR **COMMITMENTS**

- Operate W.A. Ranches as a working cow-calf ranch and maintain or improve the quality of the ranch
- Conduct transdisciplinary research with multiple faculties using a One Health integrative approach
- Serve the needs of the cattle industry through research and teaching in animal health and welfare
- Provide opportunities for youth education and community outreach
- Entrepreneurship, innovation and implementation of new technologies on the ranch

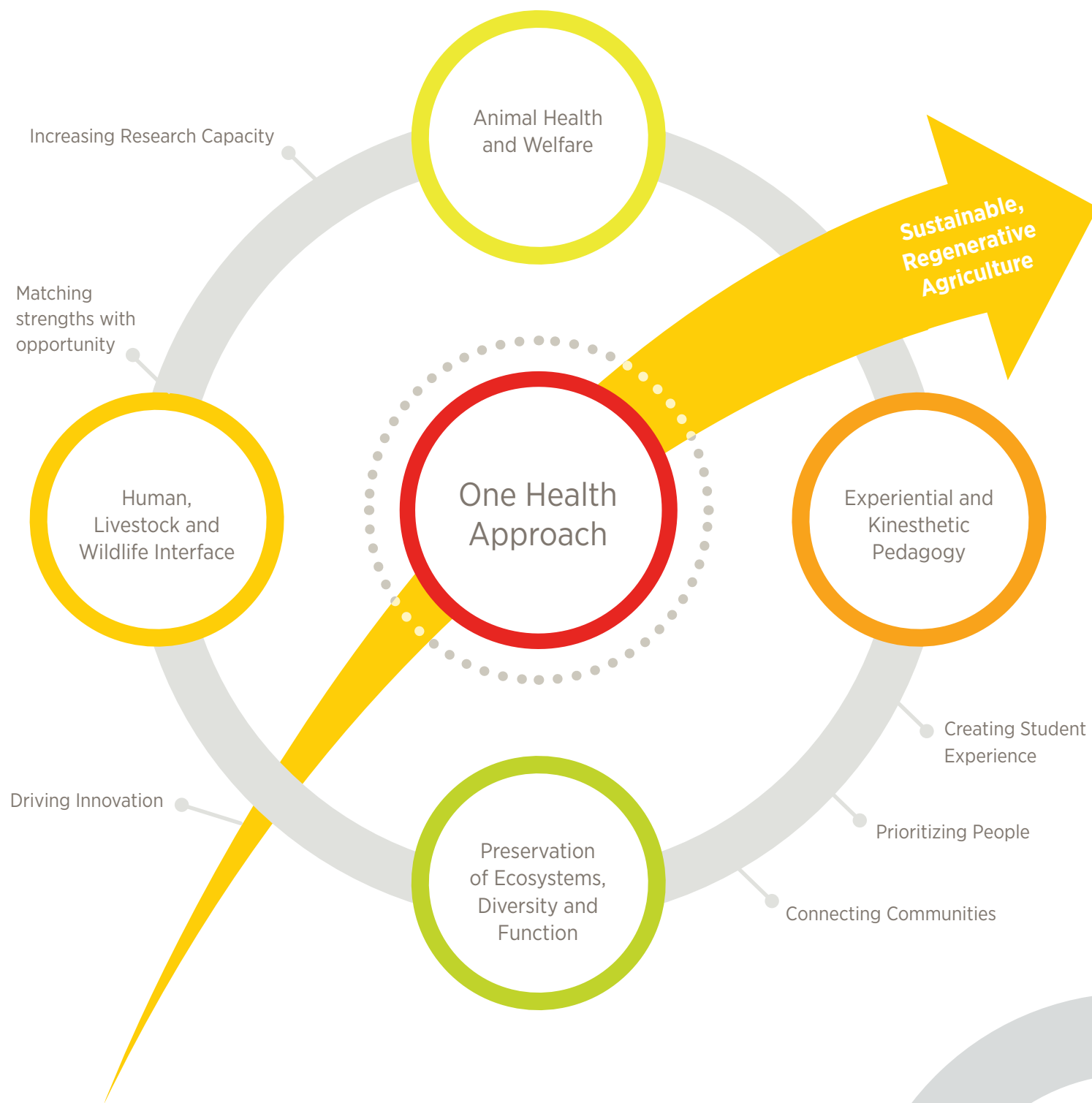


## UCVM ONE COMMUNITY ONE HEALTH **STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

- Fostering an empowered and connected community of scholarship, research and service.
- Expanding and integrating our global community through One Health, Indigenous engagement and internationalization.
- Strengthening our clinical and diagnostic community.
- Enhancing the learning experience of our postgraduate trainees.







W.A. RANCHES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

# STRATEGIC THEMES & **PRIORITIES**





# ACADEMIC THEME **PRIORITIES**

Experiential and Kinesthetic Pedagogy

## IMMEDIATE

- Facilitate access for existing courses across faculties.
- Develop land based teaching/experiential learning pedagogy (rotations, field courses).
- Initiate youth education and community activities.
- Develop and establish an annual One Health international school.

## SHORT TERM

- Building teaching and learning connections between faculties.
- Develop capacity and infrastructure for additional courses and overnight accommodation.

## LONG TERM

- Develop impactful educational activities for youth education, community engagement, and multi-faculty programs.
- Construction of large lecture theatre/retreat centre with handling and demonstration space for a wide variety of audiences (multi-faculty, agriculture, education, veterinarians, ranchers, public).





# RESEARCH THEMES **PRIORITIES**

- Animal Health and Welfare
- Human Livestock and Wildlife Interface
- Preservation of Ecosystem Diversity and Function



## **SHORT TERM**

- Development of One Health team and other multi-faculty collaborations.
- Identification of research activities that have minimal impact on the day to day ranching practices.
- Characterize and baseline current management practices (animals, people, environment).
- Develop a basic understanding of biodiversity at the ranch, as well as the interactions between livestock and wildlife in the area.
- Identify and prioritize research opportunities.

## **LONGER TERM**

- The University of Calgary will establish an internationally recognized Beef Centre of Excellence, that has at its core, a One Health Beef Cluster involving expertise from multiple faculties, conducting research leading to sustainable and regenerative agriculture.
- Establish evidence-based management practices that improve the health and welfare of animals and people, and result in a healthy environment.
- Integration of applied and basic scientific disciplines to improve our understanding of the underlying biological mechanisms while harnessing this information for implementation of practical, on-farm improvements.
- The development of new technologies that improves the monitoring of animals, people and the environment in agricultural settings.





# FACILITY PRIORITIES

## IMMEDIATE

- Tent structures to provide all weather access to teaching areas (calving, pregnancy checking, bull testing).
- Improved cattle handling facilities.

## SHORT TERM

- One Health/bovine teaching/demonstration facility.
- Calving barn for research and teaching.

## MEDIUM TERM

- Bovine reproduction facility.
- Mixed species building.
- Office building with lab spaces.
- Retreat location with overnight accommodation.

## LONGER TERM

- Equine centre.
- Biosafety research building.
- Post-weaning research pens.







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**The University of Calgary is most grateful to John C. (Jack) Anderson  
and Wynne Chisholm for this transformational gift.**

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