Impact of calf source and commingling on feeding behaviour and activity of beef calves during the first week at the feedlot

**Calf Sources**
- Preconditioned Calves (PC)
- Auction Markets (AD)
- Ranches (RS)

**Feedlot**
- Cattle commingled
- Bovine respiratory disease (BRD)
- Stress related to transition

**Groups**
- 100% PC
- 100% RS
- 100% AD

**What we found – behaviour**
- Compared to AD calves: PC calves spent more time eating
- Compared to RS calves: PC calves spent more time eating

**Take Home Message**
- Preconditioned calves spend more time eating during the first week at the feedlot compared to auction derived and ranch sourced calves
- Introducing preconditioned calves to the feedlot could positively impact feeding behaviour in the first week at the feedlot

**What we did**
- Assessment - first 7 days at the feedlot
  - Feeding (eating & rumination)
  - Activity level

**What we found – commingled pens**
- Comparing 100% PC pens to 75% PC pens: 100% PC pens spent 5% more time eating
- Comparing 100% PC pens to 25% PC pens: 100% PC pens spent 5% more time eating

**Management practices**
- PC beef calves have:
  - ↓ Sickness
  - ↓ Deaths
  - ↑ Productivity

**Questions**
- Do calves from all sources perform similarly?
- What is the impact of comingling PC, AD and RS beef calves on arrival at the feedlot?
- Is feeding behaviour and activity levels different between PC, AD and RS beef calves?