



AGWEST VETERINARY GROUP

AQUA COW RISE SYSTEM (ACRS)

\$21K

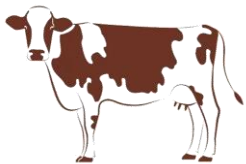
FUNDED BY THE
CANADA-BC AGRI-
INNOVATION
PROGRAM

46%

RECOVERY RATE

78%

RECOVERY RATE FOR
COWS WITH POST-
CALVING PARALYSIS



IMPROVED ANIMAL
WELFARE

Background

- Agwest Veterinary Group has introduced a unique technology that is helping cows suffering from Downer Syndrome regain their ability to stand.
- They led a \$21K project to test the efficacy of the Aqua Cow Rise System (ACRS).
- The technology works by floating a downer cow in a float tank of warm water where she only has to support 10% of her body weight.
- Float tanks have been shown, in university trials, to aid in the recovery of 46% of cases and 78% of cases involving post-calving paralysis.
- The project hopes to promote the rapid adoption of the ACRS through demonstration, knowledge transfer activities, and development of Beneficial Management Practices.

Funding from the Governments of Canada and British Columbia has allowed the company to:

- Conduct a systematic literature review on Downer Syndrome and its cause.
- Prepare a detailed protocol that describes the treatment process steps.
- Implement Standard Operating procedures and recommendations.

Downer Cow Syndrome

A 'downer cow' is referred to as any cow that is sitting or lying on the ground and is unable to rise. The condition mainly affects high yielding dairy cows from two days pre-calving to ten days post-calving. When a cow goes down, muscle and nerve damage in the leg prevents her standing up and eating on her own. This can easily lead to depression, loss in yield, and often death. An important step in the treatment of a recumbent cow is to help her stand.

Benefits to British Columbia

- Veterinary practitioners will have access to information regarding the use of ACRS system and how to recognize cases.
- Dairy farmers will be more familiar with the ACRS system and will learn more about downer cow management to improve yield and profit margin.
- The Animal Welfare Program will be able to use the research to develop Standard Operating Procedures and best practices for widespread adoption.

Funding for the Canada-BC Agri-Innovation Program has been provided by the Governments of Canada and British Columbia through *Growina Forward 2*, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.