

What is Feed Efficiency? Feed efficient sheep and cattle require less feed to gain the same weight as their less feed efficient counterpart. Feed efficiency is a genetic trait which can be passed down through your herd, increasing the feed efficiency of your entire operation.

Why should I be interested in Feed Efficiency? Amongst other reasons, having a feed efficient herd will provide cost savings, increased profitability, increased environmental sustainability and improve your ability to handle adverse conditions and situations that can arise in a cattle or sheep operation. More feed efficient animals in your operation means less tractors on the road and less feed being bought & produced to keep your operation running smoothly.

Where can I get my ruminant tested for Feed Efficiency? The Maritime Beef Test Station has been in operation for over 50 years, providing breeders an opportunity to have livestock in a program that stresses total performance. This approach, not only measures gain on-test, but also reports on indicators of reproduction and carcass evaluation. Using Grow Safe technology, the Maritime Beef Test Station is one of the only test stations in Canada that are able to measure feed efficiency, a service that has been provided for over 10 years.

Learn more: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0022030221004574>

Adapting to current market trends is essential in an increasingly challenging and competitive market environment. Using feed efficient animals can be an effective way to improve the efficiency, sustainability, and bottom line of your operation.