This provides a useful index to compare cows of different ages and cows of the same age that calve in different months of the year. The index is expressed as a percentage of the average yield of all cows for each age and month of calving group that completed records between 1948 and 1952. This system was first adopted in 1954.

National Identification Program (NIP)

Canada initiated a system for identifying non-pedigree animals in 1972 known as the National Identification Program (NIP). This is administered by the Joint Dairy Breeds Committee. The system was introduced to permit non-registered cows enrolled in milk recording to have national unique numbers so that the records could be useful for evaluating sires. The numbering system used includes a six-or-seven-digit number with an alphabetic suffix whereby a "U" identifies animals with an unknown birthdate or an unknown sire. The first generation with a known sire and birthdate and true breed characteristics is identified with an "A" suffix, second generation with a "B" suffix, etc.

Over 100 000 new cows and calves are identified by this method each year.
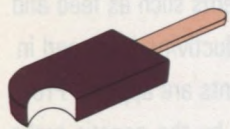
Sire Evaluation

All supervised records in Canada are utilized by Agriculture Canada to compute sire evaluations and cow indexes. These genetic evaluations are updated semi-annually. The methodology used is the Best Linear Unbiased Prediction (BLUP) method. Sire proofs are based on first lactation records and each proof is compared to a five-year moving base that is updated annually. An official proof is published for bulls with a repeatability of 55 percent or more and daughters in five or more herds. Evaluations for milk, fat, and protein yields are expressed in BCA indexes as deviations from the rolling base. Fat and protein percent deviations are also computed. About 1 300 active bulls are published with each run. Active bulls are defined as bulls with semen available from an artificial insemination centre or having one or more new daughters in the latest evaluation.

Cow Evaluation

An estimated Breeding Value Index, commonly known as a Cow Index, is computed semi-annually for all active cows that are performance tested with supervised records. Information on each cow's daughters and sisters is used as well as the sire and dam ratings in order to provide as accurate a rating as possible. The Cow Indexes are also expressed in BCA indexes as deviations from the same five-year rolling base that is used for sires. Indexes are computed on about 510 000 active cows each run, and this information is provided to the owner and also to breed associations for their breed improvement programs. The artificial insemination centres receive a list of the highest-rating cows along with their type classification score in order to identify superior bull dams in their ever-searching quest to make the best better.

Number of Supervised Records
Certified in Canada by Breed, 1982-1984

	1982		1983		1984	
	Reg	NIP	Reg	NIP	Reg	NIP
Ayrshire	20 077	2 151	20 380	2 248	20 639	2 779
Brown Swiss	811	44	840	44	1 132	345
Canadienne	1 467	26	1 308	17	1 243	9
Guernsey	4 141	57	3 865	65	4 050	526
Holstein	184 745	38 226	194 807	43 169	240 113	82 180
Jersey	10 778	156	10 953	239	11 915	1 398
Total	222 019	40 660	232 153	45 722	279 092	87 237