

The Canadian Guernsey

The first recorded importation of Guernseys into Canada was in 1878.

In 1905, the Canadian Guernsey Breeders' Association was organized and incorporated to facilitate registration of progeny and encourage breed improvement and promotion.

All animals sired by a registered Guernsey bull and out of a registered Guernsey female are eligible for registration. Bulls, however, must be out of cows that have been classified Good Plus or better under the approved herd classification program. The dams must also have been officially tested for production and have made a record equivalent to 125 percent of the Breed Class Average (BCA) for milk and butterfat and have a plus deviation to the herd average before the bulls may qualify for registration.

Guernsey milk is popular because of its high carotene content which endows it with an attractive appearance. Its high non-fat solids content includes more protein, more lactose and more minerals than average milk.

Canadian Guernseys have become larger, longer and more upstanding in stature and sharper in dairy character. This has resulted in a cow that will average close to 510 kg (1 300 lb) in weight, stand 135 to 140 cm (54 to 56 in.) high at the withers and has an udder that is well attached and carried above the hocks.

In production, the breed has increased nationally and the BCAs went from 147 for milk and 141 for fat in 1983 to 151 for milk and 145 for fat in 1984. The average production in 1984 for all cows on the official testing program is 5 106 kg (11 233 lb) milk and 245 kg (539 lb) butterfat, i.e. 4.80 percent in 305 days on twice-daily milking. The average protein is 3.63 percent.

