

Animals are inspected for tuberculosis at routine slaughter, and herds of origin are traced from animals with lesions. If the disease is found, affected herds are completely depopulated. Canada expects to be free of tuberculosis by the end of 1986.

All tests required by countries importing cattle from Canada are performed by Agriculture Canada's veterinarians or practising veterinarians accredited by that department's Food Production and Inspection Branch, with samples and specimens tested at a federal Animal Pathology Division laboratory.

This painstaking application of modern veterinary science enables the most discriminating importers to buy from the Canadian herd with complete confidence in the health of their purchases.

Performance Testing Programs

Performance testing has been available in Canada since the early part of this century. These programs have been used extensively for selecting and improving Canadian dairy cattle.

Standards

To maintain the high level of accuracy and reliability in the system, all Canadian milk recording programs are required to meet the standards established by the Canadian Milk Recording Board, a producer-government-breed association board. The standards include compulsory rotation of the field inspection staff at least semi-annually, 48-hour certification tests for high-producing animals, and stringent checking of animal identification, milk measuring devices and milk analysis equipment. These standards are monitored on a regular basis by Agriculture Canada personnel.

In Canada, emphasis has been placed on supervised testing with special checks to ensure the accuracy of the performance records. Inspection data are collected by full-time independent employees who make unannounced visits 11 to 12 times annually. Butterfat and protein tests are performed on all samples and an optional somatic cell count test is available to monitor mastitis on each cow. Herd owners are required to enroll their entire herd of milking-age cows and every cow must be identified with her registration paper or National Identification Program (NIP) certificate.

Breed Class Average (BCA)

A useful feature of Canadian records is the Breed Class Average (BCA) index. This index compares each cow's yield to a national standard for each age at calving to the nearest month and for the month of the year that the cow calves.

