

OBJECTIVE

The efficient production of beef from available forage resources is a major objective of government and private planning, and in many countries of the world substantial economic gains are possible through the introduction of improved foundation stock.

The purpose of this booklet is to provide an accurate description of the economic characteristics of modern beef cattle that have been developed in Canada and that are now exported to assist in the development of more efficient beef production enterprises throughout the world.

The prime criterion in the selection of Canadian breeding females and bulls was the efficiency with which forage resources could be converted to beef. The result of this lengthy selection process is a fast-maturing, relatively large animal that is a hard-working and efficient forager, and yet one that is easily handled in confinement. The development of these qualities was necessitated by economic pressures and a need for efficient production within

a wide range of climatic and managerial conditions.

Only those strains with the genetic potential to perform well were selected and propagated from the original importations of Hereford, Aberdeen-Angus, and Shorthorn. In recent years, seed stock of many other breeds have been imported and studied. Of these, the Charolais and the Simmental breeds have proved the most popular, and more recently the Limousin has also gained some prominence.

Discriminating buyers from many countries, including the United States, U.S.S.R., Czechoslovakia, Mexico, Japan, Chile, Brazil, Bulgaria, Australia, New Zealand, Britain, and Denmark have purchased Canadian foundation stock for the development of pure herds and for cross-breeding. Performance levels for future generations are set by the basic stock. It is therefore of prime importance that only select cattle from the best possible sources be considered for foundation purposes.

