

## LIVESTOCK

### Cattle

The main cattle raising areas in the country are in the south where close to 56% of the total stock in the country can be found; Region X with 36% of the country's herds, and the southern central zone, with approximately 35% of the country's cattle, stand out.

To date the country has about 410 thousand head of beef cattle, which represents about 35% of the total head of cattle in the country, which, in turn, is estimated to be around 1,700,000. Of these, about 55% are Herefords and the rest crossbred heifers with significant contributions of the Hereford bloodline, as well as of the Cuero Colorado, Cuero Negro, and Aberdeen Angus breeds. Small nuclei of pure bloodlines (Aberdeen Angus, Simmental, Charolais) have also been developed as a result of private enterprises that operate as stock breeding farms.

In Chile, most of the supply of meat has its origin in dairy activities, which is the main generator of steers, heifers, culled cows, and bulls for beef. Nevertheless, this is not a static situation, since the stock of beef cattle is growing and its contribution to the supply will no doubt increase.

Consequently, the role to be played by new beef producing breeds of cattle must be analyzed in light of the above scenario; in other words, bearing in mind how they can form part of both the beef herds as well as the dairy herds.

Over the last 15 years, Chile has been importing Dairy and Beef Cattle Semen in order to substantially improve the cattle breeds in the country.

Semen originating from the United States, Canada, and New Zealand are those most in demand by Chilean cattle breeders.

In 1992, semen to a value of US\$ 1,619,000, mainly from the USA and Canada, was imported.

The major demand for dairy cattle semen is focused in the central area of the country, while the demand for beef cattle semen is focused in the south.

As far as embryos are concerned, there is tremendous potential demand in the country, both for beef as well as dairy cattle.