

District); and the South-Pacific (Colima, Chiapas, Guerrero, and Oaxaca).

Beef predominates in the states of Veracruz, Chiapas, Jalisco, Chihuahua, Sonora and Michoacán. Pork is mostly raised in the states of Jalisco, México, Michoacán, Querétaro, Sinaloa, Sonora, Guanajuato and Veracruz. Poultry is raised in Jalisco, México, Michoacán, Querétaro, Sinaloa, Sonora and the Federal District.

During the past decades, Mexico's economic policy has stressed industrial growth as the axis of the country's economic development, mostly through protectionist measures in trade, low real wages and consumer subsidies which have mostly been absorbed by the agricultural sector. Additionally, production costs have increased while many of the end products are subject to price controls, and financing has been scarce and expensive. This has brought about a general decapitalization in the agricultural sector and a concentration of production in large companies, while small and medium sized commercial production has often disappeared. The livestock sector's contribution to GDP has decreased significantly in the past few years, dropping from 4.4% in 1970 to 2.7% in 1988, as a result of general decreases in production. This was due mostly to a general reduction in meat demand as a result of decreased per capita income and a reassignment of resources toward other economic sectors. At the same time, the livestock sector has shown an increasing trade deficit due to increased imports as a result of Mexico's trade liberalization policies and existing price controls.

3.2.1. BEEF

Mexico's total inventory of beef, which was estimated at 35.4 million head in 1990, has remained practically the same in the past ten years. Of this total, 40.4% corresponds to females, 33.4% to cattle for fattening, 19.6% to calves and 6.5% to other cattle. The breeds most commonly found in Mexico are of two types: zebu and European breeds. The first group is most common in tropical areas of the country and includes Brahman, Indubrasil, Gyr, Nelore and Guzerat breeds. European breeds are more common in the Northern part of the country and include Charolais, Hereford, Aberdeen Angus, Beefmaster and St. Gertrudis.

Mexico's bovine production can be divided into three types: Extensive, semi-intensive and intensive. The first kind by far predominates. It has a low technical level and is based on pastureland feed and that of agricultural crops. Individual herds usually fluctuate between 100 and 200 head. The types of livestock raised are crossbreeds of zebu and creole breeds with European breeds. The extensive production produces: 1) calves, mostly for export but also for further fattening, with an average weight of 150 kg when weaned; 2) fattened calves from an initial 100 kg to 340 kg within 6 to 10 months for local and urban consumption, and 3) fattened beef from an initial 180-210 kg to