

period. Average daily gain is the only trait evaluated as it is devoid of pre-weaning influences. Scrotal size measurements are also taken to assess the bull's potential for breeding.

Approximately 6 500 bulls are tested per year under this program. The test station provides an ideal opportunity for the purchase of thoroughly tested, promising young bulls.

## **INTEGRATION OF ROP PROGRAM**

The three levels of testing are part of an overall breed improvement scheme for Canada and are integrated to provide optimum selection in the Canadian beef

population. They also assure the foreign buyer of the genetic merit of Canadian seed stock.

## **RESEARCH**

Canada's Department of Agriculture maintains an extensive program of beef cattle research. Studies in genetics, nutrition, meats and physiology continually yield new knowledge that assists in the improvement of efficiency of beef production. Research in selection, crossbreeding schemes, estimation of body composition through ultrasonics, embryo transplants,

parasite control, and estrus synchronization has contributed greatly to the improvement of the Canadian beef herd.

Federal government research in beef cattle is further complemented by research being conducted among seven Canadian universities with faculties of agriculture, provincial departments of agriculture, and the private sector.