

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 1992.

All testing required by countries importing cattle from Canada is performed by Agriculture Canada's veterinarians or veterinarians accredited by

that department's Food Production and Inspection Branch, with samples and specimens tested at the federal Health of Animals 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.

BREED ORGANIZATIONS

The breeder of purebred cattle in Canada performs a distinct function. In contrast to the commercial producer who is primarily interested in the production of cattle for slaughter, the breeder is concerned with the development and improvement of high-performance cattle which meet the demands of the commercial producer.

The breed associations are mainly concerned with the improvement and development of their breeds combined with the administration of issuing pedigrees. The activity of these organizations is controlled by the Animal Pedigree Act, an act approved and administered by the Government of Canada since 1900. It specifies conditions for the formation and operation of breed associations, as well as their powers and responsibilities. Under the Act any misrepresentation of ancestry, misuse of registration certificates, or sale of unregistered animals as purebred is strictly prohibited. A blood group testing laboratory is maintained by Agriculture Canada for parentage testing of cattle. Tests are run on a spot-check basis, on cattle due to be registered, on bulls before semen can be collected, and on other animals to verify their parentage.

The Act is designed to ensure the credibility of Canada's purebred livestock industry.

Many breed associations in Canada have their pedigrees processed and maintain their books of record through a central organization located in Ottawa — the Canadian Livestock Records Corporation. Some breed associations such as the Charolais, Simmental, Limousin, and Hereford conduct registrations and maintain books of record in their head offices. These same associations also have their own performance evaluation programs that assist the breeder in the management and selection of breeding stock within his or her herd and selection of breeding stock from other breeders.

Most breed associations have monthly magazines that provide information on breed improvement programs, sale reports, and superior animals. Provincial, and in many cases regional, breed clubs are organized to assist breeders in the improvement of their herds. All breed associations are equipped to advise buyers and to work with competent livestock exporting firms in handling export orders. Addresses of the Canadian associations are listed on the last page of this booklet.