



Cuban pavilion, Expo 67, Montreal, 1967

proved to be an important opportunity for the new Cuban government to show the world what Cuba could produce. The Cuban pavilion at Expo was a major cultural and commercial attraction – in particular the Coppelia ice-cream parlour which offered no fewer than 52 different flavours.

Canadian farmers

started shipping live

cows to Cuba by air as early as 1946, but from the early 1960s, Canada became the principal supplier of agricultural animals to Cuba - above all Holstein cattle to build up Cuba's dairy herds. Using Canadian Holstein and Cuban Zebu cattle stock, Cuban scientists produced thousands of hybrid cattle, better suited to milk production in Cuba's tropical climate. The most famous offspring of this exchange was Ubre Blanca, a Cuban Siboney cross-breed with 5/8 Canadian Holstein heritage. Reared in the Isle of Youth, Ubre Blanca set the world record

for milk production in 1982: 109.9 litres in a single day. Her achievements were reported in newspapers around the world.

As Cuba developed its own long-range fishing fleet, it sought access to new overseas fisheries. Following the visit of Prime Minister Trudeau in 1976, the two countries negotiated an agreement permitting Cuban vessels to fish under-used species in the rich fishing grounds off Canada's North Atlantic coast. The drastic decline of the Canadian cod fishery in the early 1990s,

First Canadian Holsteins to arrive in Cuba, 1946

