

CROSSBREEDING

Controlled crossbreeding as a production technique is now widely practised and the need for selected quality in the parent stock of the pure strains used in crossing is recognized. Before truly superior performance can be achieved by hybridization, it is essential that the parent stock be of select quality. In spite of these requirements, real gains can be achieved by controlled crossing or by repeated use of high-quality bulls on native stock where it is necessary to retain certain native qualities in a cattle population.

Bulls from breeds such as the Canadian Hereford, Aberdeen-Angus, Limousin, Maine Anjou, Charolais and Simmental are now being exported for these purposes. Pure herds of Canadian foundation stock are being established in many countries to provide the quality bulls or females necessary for a successful crossing program. The versatility of Canadian-bred seed stock allows the ani-

mals to readily adapt to many climatic and managerial situations. Their selective use on native stock allows the incorporation of genetic superiority in a large number of traits.



ANIMAL HEALTH

Canada is free from serious livestock diseases including foot-and-mouth disease and rinderpest. The Animal Disease and Protection Act and Regulations provides controls to ensure that these diseases will never become established in the country. If they should appear, the Act provides for their eradication through immediate slaughter and quarantine procedures. Quarantine stations are located at Mirabel, Quebec and Edmonton, Alberta. There is a maximum security quarantine station on Grosse Ile in the St. Lawrence River that handles cattle from high-risk countries.

Canada's national veterinary service, with approximately 7 000 veterinarians,

attends to the needs of all cattle-farming areas. Agriculture Canada's Food Production and Inspection Branch employs 500 veterinarians full time. The remainder are in private practice and ensure the Canadian farming community of up-to-date services and advice necessary to maintain day-to-day animal health.

Canada became officially free of brucellosis in 1985. Surveillance at livestock markets and abattoirs will continue until at least 1995, as will testing of milk.

Canada is one of only six countries to have achieved complete eradication of brucellosis.

Animals are inspected for tuberculosis at routine slaughter, and herds of origin