

## COW HERD

The cow herd is divided into four groups during the early breeding season, in order to secure reproduction records for each of the sires used. The weaning weights of calves by each sire for two seasons are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Weaning Weights of Calves by Sire Groups							
	Sire 4		Sire 5		Sire 6		Sire 8
	1959	1960	1959	1960	1959	1960	1960
No. of Calves*	40	23	17	22	6	17	18
Weaning Wt.	333	344	369	333	346	351	327
Age in days	172	194	177	176	185	191	176
Wt/day of Age	1.94	1.78	2.08	1.89	1.87	1.84	1.86
*Twelve calves of 1959 crop and 14 calves of 1960 crop were not included because of indefinite sire or date of birth.							

The bulls were turned with the same group of cows each year, therefore in many, but not in all cases, the calves within a sire group for 1959 and 1960 were brothers and sisters. Since weaning weight is only about 30% heritable, and at least one-half of the credit should go to the dam, the differences observed here between sires are quite small. The calves by sire number 5 have had the greatest weight per day of age at weaning in both years.

Calves from cows 3 years old and over averaged about 5 pounds lighter at weaning in 1960 than in 1959. The cows,

however, gained 25 pounds per head during the summer of 1960, and lost 58 pounds per head during the 1959 summer. It would seem that they milked better in 1959 than in 1960. Average weights of cows in Table 2 show that the cow herd gained more during the winter of 1959-60 than they did in the preceding winter, yet we felt that the cow herd looked thinner and more rough of hair coat in the spring of 1960 than they had looked for many years.

Two-year old heifers weaned heavier calves in 1960 than in 1959. Fifteen calves from two-year old averaged 280 pounds at weaning 1959, and 11 calves from two-year olds weaned at 340 pounds in 1960. The reason for the boost in weaning weights from first calf heifers is not known. A different sire was used, and replacement heifers had been selected for rate of growth in both years.

Table 2. Beef Breeding Herd Record for 1959 and 1960.		
	1959	1960
No. Cows, 3 Yrs. and older	81	82
Wt. at Weaning, Fall before	1057	1012
Wt. March 30 before calving	1094	1081
Wt. at Weaning, Current year	1036	1106
Daily Ration, Preceding Winter:		
Corn Silage	25	12 1st half, None 2nd half
Crested & Brome Hay	12	12 1st half, 17 2nd half
Oats Straw	0	5
Calf Production:		
No. Born alive	75	71*
No. Weaned	71	71

No. Dry Cows	6	1
Av. Birth Wt.	71.7	73.6
Av. Weaning Wt.	344.1	338.5
Av. Weaning Age, Days	175	182
Av. Wt. Per Day of Age	1.97	1.86
*One additional calf was born dead, and 9 late calves were not included because we do not have birth weights.		

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