

CALF PRODUCTION FROM COWS OF HALF HEREFORD BREEDING

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The reproductive and calf rearing performance of crossbred cows was studied in three South Australian Environments. In 1972, Hereford crosses with Sahiwal, Brahman, Shorthorn, Jersey or Charolais were obtained and in 1974 and 1975, Hereford x Friesian and Simmental x Hereford crosses were also obtained. The 1972 and 1975 intakes remained in the lower South East of South Australia at Wandilo (765mm annual rainfall) and Struan (574mm) and have been studied for seven and four years of production respectively. The 1974 intake has been recorded for five years in the Murray Mallee at Wanbi, a marginal cereal area with 320mm annual rainfall. Studies on calving percentages, calving behaviour, productivity and carcasses of progeny obtained in the first three years of this trial have been presented by Obst and Deland (1977), Deland, *et al.* (1978) and Johnsson, *et al.* (1979). This paper is a progress report in which mean calving percentages, weaning weights and total productivity of the crossbred cows are summarised.

Number and performance of Hereford crossbred cows studied at the sites indicated.

	Heifers at start	Cows+left Aug.1980	Mean#relative weaning per- centage	Mean#relative weaning wt.	Total\$ weaned wt.of calf per cow (kg)
WANDILO (7 CALVINGS)					
JERSEY	20	17	108	110	1609
CHAROLAIS	24	19	103	111	1597
SAHIWAL	25	11	99	103	1134
BRAHMAN	19	13	89	103	1201
SHORTHORN	20	13	100	100	1247
WANBI (5 CALVINGS)					
FRIESIAN	20	18	121	126	862
SIMMENTAL	18	16	113	127	810
JERSEY	20	19	117	121	782
CHAROLAIS	18	16	113	120	748
SAHIWAL	11	11	110	122	832
BRAHMAN	21	18	104	117	689
SHORTHORN	20	18	100	100	618
STRUAN (4 CALVINGS)					
FRIESIAN	23	20	92	115	429
SIMMENTAL	19	16	70	113	390
JERSEY	22	19	89	110	433
CHAROLAIS	21	17	68	102	300
SAHIWAL	30	27	83	100	426
BRAHMAN	20	16	70	116	343
SHORTHORN	24	23	100	100	451

⁺Reduction due to terminal disease or failure to calve in two consecutive years.

[#]Calculation based on number of cows joined previous year and using Shorthorn values as 100%

[§]Calculation based on number of heifers at start of trial.

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