

# Opportunities Many In Beef Production

By **HERB MOORE**  
Dairy-Beef Farmer  
Cavendish, P.E.I.

The Atlantic region of Canada is a deficit area for beef. Local production supplies less than 30 per cent of the market. The deficit is made up from beef shipped into the region from the feedlots of Ontario and Western Canada.

When one mentions beef production, the first thought that many people have is one of a straight beef bred cow in the range with her calf. The second thought that is prevalent when beef is mentioned is that of a feedlot operation. While these two thoughts are true, they are not complete. For a great deal of beef produced and consumed in Canada originates with the dairy cow.

While there are quite a number of straight beef herds in P.E.I. We don't know of one farm operator who is depending on the sale of beef for his sole source of income. This doesn't mean to say that this isn't happening or can't be done. To depend upon the sale of beef as a sole source of income requires large numbers of brood cows and large acreages of pasture land and a source of feeding for finishing. For the most part these large areas of land and feed sources are not available in this province.

It appears then, that for some time to come, income from the sale of cattle for slaughter will continue to be a supplement to other enterprises—whether it be hops, potatoes, dairy or off farm income.

So, we got the dairy cow and the beef cow, both of which produce offspring destined for slaughter. From the point of view of an income earner, we have to say that the dairy cow nearly always comes first.

There are a number of ways to take advantage of the opportunity to produce beef in our province.

In this column we have a report of the farm operation of Alfred and Herbert Moore of Cavendish, Herb has the following comments about their farm.

**HERB MOORE**  
"On our farm we combine dairy with the beef operation. With the land area we have and the labour supply available this makes a pretty good combination in our particular case. We milk 21 Holstein cows and separate the milk selling the cream. The whole operation centers around these 21 cows. We get income from the sale of cream and we have a use for the skim milk.

**BREEDING PROGRAM**  
We have a purebred Hereford bull and we cross breed all our animals with the exception of a few of our registered cows. We find this to be a pretty good cross. We hope to get some half-cows from the straight bred cattle. None of the cross breeds are saved for breeding purposes so if we don't have the purebred replacement heifers we have to buy them. Using this type of breeding program we get income from cream and get an excellent feeder as well. Everything goes to slaughter, the steers and the heifers. We have found that we can get dairy placements although this is a bit of a problem in that it takes a lot of looking around. In the past 10 years we have been able to considerably increase the number of animals that are being kept on our farm.

**BUILDINGS**  
Our barn was built in 1957, the size is 100 feet by 35 feet. We also have a smaller loose housing barn about 22 feet by 35 feet. In the main barn we have two lines of cattle. The dairy cattle are on one side. We have some space available and two heifers were purchased in the last week or so. The beef line is on the opposite side of the barn. Most of the bigger feeders are here. About 11 animals were sold on Tuesday of this week.

The early winter and late spring calves are all kept in the loose housing barn. They run in and out as they wish and have a small field to run into. The cold weather doesn't seem to bother them and even in the winter they like to get out for exercise. These animals were out on pasture for awhile this summer. Feeding is done from a hay rack in the center of the barn and enough hay can be put in it to last all day.

**CATTLE NUMBERS**  
In the early part of the fall we had about 80 head of cattle on the farm. There are about 60 now as some have been sold. In addition we keep about 14 sows from which we sell weaning pigs. The 80 head included the 21 milk cows, 33 steers and heifers and something like 27 calves. We feed all the offspring produced by our cows, but none of these are kept for breeding purposes. In addition to the calves we raise ourselves we buy quite a few feeders and like to get them after our own bull where possible. The number bought is based on the amount of feed we do have. If we had cattle competing for the feed I think we would sell them and give it to the dairy cattle.

**CHORE ROUTINE**  
The animals in the loose housing barn require very little time. We feed grain once per day and fill the rack with hay. Water is available all the time. For milking there are three single units. My father does the separating and he starts when I'm one-half through milking and by the time

I'm through milking he's almost through separating.  
To have a wide enough so that we can drive down the center with a tractor and manure spreader. Manure is loaded right from the gutters and stalls into the spreader.

**CROPS**  
We have 150 acres of land, usually around 55-60 acres in grain, 40 in hay and 50 in pasture. This means roughly 50 head of cattle on pasture during the summer on 50 acres. The later calves stay in the barn all summer. We fertilize some of our pastures and hay is the crop we are most short of. We made some hay on the halves this year to make up for our shortage of sayland. We grow mixed grain with about 50 per cent barley and yields have been around 65-70 bushels per acre. With our limited land area we try to get the acres to grow as much as they will. I think the grain that we feed through beef is worth at least one dollar per bushel. We have permanent pasture for our milk cows and the other cattle are farther away although we try to see them at least once a week.

**PIGS**  
We have 14 sows and we sell all the weaner pigs. There is enough skim milk for the calves and the pigs too. In addition in the summer we have enough skim milk to feed the sows too. The sale of cream doesn't lessen our income because we have a good use for the skim milk.

The calves are started on whole milk for a few days and we then change them onto skim milk and milk replacer. Of course we get them eating hay and rolled grain as soon as they will eat it.

Labour was no problem and we had lots of land so that it wasn't a limiting factor I think we would go into beef production. Then we could keep more of them and I like feeding cattle. But the fact that we are limited by land makes our program the way it is now, and the cream cheque is pretty regular income."

**SUMMARY**  
The business of combining both beef and dairy on the one farmstead can sometimes lead to problems, particularly where you get cross bred animals in the milk line. The program that the Moores carry on shows that this combination is possible on the small farm. It also points up the need for the beef program to be centered around another income source (in this case the dairy herd) and the importance of the cropping program. There are opportunities for farm income in beef production in P.E.I. but most of these are likely to be as a supplement to the dairy industry. As farm size becomes more limited due to higher or prices for land more intensive cropping programs are likely to become necessary in the Maritimes. The goal then will be the highest possible feed yield per acre combined with very efficient ways of feeding large numbers of cattle. The trend would appear to be towards greater use of alfalfa (for haylage and hay) barley, (for grain and possibly brlage) and corn for silage and possibly grain.

For further information on

**NEW COINS DUE ON JAN. 2**  
**OTTAWA (CP)**—The maculera dime, the rabbit nickel and other Centennial coins will jingle into circulation Jan. 2.

That date has been set by cabinet proclamation as the change-over when the Royal Canadian Mint will start production of the new coins. The Centennial designs were announced earlier this year after a competition. All denominations will bear the Queen's effigy with the inscription: Elizabeth II D. G. Regina. The Latin means: "By the grace of God, Queen."

The reverse side of each coin will show Canadian Wildlife with the inscription: Canada 1867-1967.

The silver dollar will feature a Canada goose, the half-dollar a wolf, the quarter a wildcat and the penny a dove.

Mint Master N.A. Parker says production of the traditional maple leaf penny, the beaver nickel, the Binesse dime and the caribou quarter will stop Dec. 30.

He did not know what designs will be used after 1967.

**Three Leaders Plan To Meet**

**BONN (AP)**—Chancellor Kurt Georg Kiesinger will meet early next year with British Prime Minister Wilson and French President de Gaulle, the government announced.

Wilson and his foreign minister, George Brown, will come here for the meeting Feb. 14-16, said government spokesman Karl-Guenther von Hase.

Beef Production, contact Glen Cotton at the P.E.I. Department of Agriculture, Charlottetown.

# Decline Next Year Forecast In Wheat Trade Of World

By **CARL MOLLINS**  
**LONDON (CP)**—World wheat trade is expected to decline in the coming year and the only likely source of substantial future growth lies in aid-assisted purchases by the

poor countries, the International Wheat Council predicts. The council, which groups 10 wheat-exporting countries and 30 importers, says the trend of the last five years, in which surplus wheat stockpiles have

been depleted by strong demand, is likely to be reversed. The forecasts are contained in a 750-word statement released following a week-long meeting which ended Tuesday. The fall annual review, covering the crop year Aug. 1, 1965, to July 31, 1966, will be published at the end of January. The council statement confirms that the meeting decided to defer action on the future of the expiring International Wheat Agreement while awaiting developments in negotia-

tions at Geneva on a possible wider agreement covering all cereals.  
**MEET AGAIN APRIL 3**  
The council will meet in special session starting April 3 to decide on trading arrangements after expiry next July 31 of the present agreement, which sets minimum and maximum world wheat prices.  
With Russia increasing grain production, wheat purchases from the West in the next few years are unlikely to reach anything like the heavy imports

of last year and three years ago. While trade with Communist countries still will be important, the council adds, "it is much more likely for the total to diminish than to grow."  
"This leaves developing countries and trade on concessional terms as the sector in which the major growth in the next few years is likely to be found."  
"The prospects of this growth being realized and satisfied depend on political decisions rather than economic forecasts"

—that is, on decisions about foreign aid among rich countries and on food and financial policies in potential receiving nations.  
**FARMERS SHOULD RETAIL**  
**DENVER, Colo. (AP)**—A farmer union based in Colorado says farmers should go into the supermarket business. The Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, in a resolution Wednesday, called for development of "exploratory units of a farmer-consumer-owned retail chain."

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