

Lactation status of the dam is the only variable included in this study which had no statistically significant influence on 205-day weights. This agrees with Meade *et al.* (11), who found that lactation status had no effect on the weaning weights in a pure-bred Brahman herd. Conversely, Reynolds (13) reported that weaning weights at the Range Cattle Station were affected by lactation status of the dam.

The season or month of birth has been reported to influence the weaning weights of calves. The analysis in the present study indicates that the range over different months is 18 pounds. Calves born during the months of December through June showed a 205-day weight of 381 compared to 362 pounds for calves born July through October. November calves weighed 374 pounds. These results are similar to those reported by Clum (2) in which calves born in December through May were heavier than calves born from July through November. At the Range Cattle Station, Peacock *et al.* (12) observed that calves born December through February were heavier than calves born during March through April. Similar results were reported by Koger (8), Marlowe *et al.* (10), Brown (1), and Reynolds (13).

Thus, published reports from various parts of the country, as well as the results of this study, clearly indicate that there are several non-genetic factors which cause variability in weaning weights of beef calves. Therefore, it is to the breeders' advantage to account for as much of this variability as possible. If appropriate adjustments for the effects of these factors are made before breeding animals are selected, a more accurate evaluation of true genetic merit can be accomplished.

ADJUSTMENT OF RECORDS

The first adjustment or correction of records is to adjust them to a constant age. There are several methods of doing this. One of the most common is to multiply the average daily gain from birth to weaning by the constant age desired (say 205, for an adjustment to 205 days of age) and then add the birth weight. There are other methods available which do not require a knowledge of the birth weight of the calf. Usually the producer (if a member of a performance testing association) has his calf weights already adjusted to a constant age. Thus, he is ready to look at some of the other factors which affect weaning weight and to adjust for them, thereby obtaining adjusted weights which