

the calf's ration is made up of milk during the period of rapid growth.

Results from this study show significant differences in the weaning weight of calves mothered by one-half Brahman cows over weaning weights of calves out of cows with either more or less than one-half Brahman breeding. They indicate that hybrid vigor had a beneficial influence on mothering ability and was reflected in increased weaning weights of the offspring.

Results of this study agree with those obtained by Knapp *et al.* (7), who found that the highest grade of slaughter calves was produced by nine-year-old crossbred Brahman x Hereford cows.

#### TIME OF CALVING

Florida breeders have observed that early (winter) calves grow faster than calves born in spring and summer. Results of this study confirm this. There was a highly significant difference in weaning weights of calves born in December, January and February over calves born in March, April and May.

The heavier weaning weights attained by calves born early in the season probably were due to heavier milk flow of the dams, and to calves having access to nutritious pasture forage when they needed it for growth. Gains by calves born later in the season were smaller, due to lower milk production of the cow and to lack of high quality pastures when the calf was beginning to graze.

Fig. 2.—Calves sired by Floppy, purebred Brahman bull, and out of native and grade cows shown in Fig. 1.

