

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

A study was made from records of 673 calves from 264 cows at the Range Cattle Station, Ona, Florida, to determine: (a) breeding of the dam which was most efficient in producing the heaviest calves at weaning; (b) individual sire differences; and (c) effect of time of calving on weaning weights of calves. The period covered was from 1945 through 1951.

Results showed a highly significant difference between weaning weights of calves mothered by dams of different breeding. Cows with 1/2 Brahman breeding weaned the heaviest calves with an adjusted mean of 395 pounds. Weaning weights of calves from cows of 1/32 to 15/32 and 17/32 to 31/32 Brahman breeding averaged 382 and 377 pounds, respectively. Cows of predominantly European breeding, containing no Brahman blood, weaned calves which averaged 368 pounds. Thirteen calves from native cows averaged 337 pounds.

There was a highly significant difference in weaning weights of calves born in winter (December, January and February) over calves born in spring (March, April and May), with the adjusted difference being 14 pounds.

There was no significant difference in weaning weights of calves sired by six different bulls.

Fig. 4.—Calves sired by Polled Shorthorn bull and out of grade cows.

