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Simmental-Hereford Cross Calves

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Data on nine Simmental-Hereford cross calves (3 bulls and 6 females) from birth to 6 months of age was reported in Bulletin 536. The three bulls shared conditions with three Hereford, four Angus and one Shorthorn bull. The six cross heifers grew with three Hereford, three Angus, and two Shorthorn heifers.

All calves were weaned May 12 and their weights adjusted to a 205-day basis with corrections for age of dam and age of calf. The six Simmental-Hereford heifers adjusted to 387 pounds and their eight straight-bred contemporaries adjusted to 363 pounds. The three Simmental-Hereford bulls adjusted to 439 pounds and their eight straight-bred contemporaries to 407 pounds. Mothers of the calves were wintered on dry bluestem pasture supplemented with approximately 5 pounds of an 18% digestible protein range cube each per day. None of the calves was creep fed.

After weaning all heifers were placed on brome grass pasture. The pasture was infested with army worms in mid-June so prairie hay was supplemented then. The heifers received no other supplement until they were weighed October 1. The bulls were grazed on brome grass pasture. Starting July 15, the pasture was supplemented with approximately six to eight pounds of grain per animal per day until bulls were weighed, October 1.

The yearling weights of all cattle were adjusted to a 365-day basis using the Beef Improvement Federation's standard procedure. The six Simmental-Hereford heifers adjusted to 678 pounds; their eight straight-bred contemporaries, to 592 pounds. The three Simmental-Hereford bulls adjusted to 914 pounds; their contemporaries, to 809 pounds.

During the growing period no discernible differences other than growth rate were observed between the crosses and the straight breds. Heterosis (hybrid vigor) manifested in cross cattle normally is expressed by increased rate of gain.

Sixteen more Hereford cows in the University herd were mated to the Simmental bull, Gallant, to calve this spring. Cow ages are 3 to 13 years. As of April 1, 1971, eleven calves (3 bulls and 8 heifers) had been born, all healthy at birth. The three bulls weighed from 92 to 97 pounds at birth, and all

were difficult births. One bull developed scours and died one week after birth. The eight heifers weighed from 78 to 84 pounds at birth and one was a difficult birth.