

INTRODUCTION

The summary and annual report for the year 1999 reflects the main spheres of interest and achievements of Israeli Holstein cattle and its breeders. Primarily, it consists of a relatively large number of tables, arranged in four sections:

BREEDING MILK RECORDING PRODUCTIVITY FERTILITY

Since ICBA summaries are compiled and edited in the Hebrew language, a major effort has been made to provide a.m. tables with titles, column and stub headings as well as footnotes in English, for the benefit of our fellow dairymen and foreign readers world-wide.

Please remember: while European languages are written from left to right Hebrew is written from right to left! Evidently, this fact determines to a large extent the order in which tables are constructed and aligned for presentation.

ENGLISH

HEBREW

Although all tables should be self-explanatory though their contents, owing to the complexity of the subjects treated some observations of a more general character seem indicated, instead of just listing them as a content of tables.

Section 1 : BREEDING (tables nr. 1-9, pages 5-34)

The breeding and genetic improvement of dairy cattle in Israel is being carried-out by ICBA and its subsidiary A.I. cooperative centers ON and HASHERUT, monitored and led by the Israeli-Holstein Herdbook and common breeding committee, with full collaboration from the department of genetics, Volcani Institute of Agricultural Research. Thus, all breeders and herds benefit from ICBA's breeding activities.

Section 2: MILK RECORDING (tables nr. 10-21, pages 35-86)

Official milk-recording in Israel began as early as 1934. Since then all Kibbutz herds and an ever-growing number of Moshav (family) herds have joined. In 1999 out of appr. 1 10,000 Israeli-Holstein dairy cows 98,500 cows were milk-recorded (89%). Still, there are another 11,500 cows in about 500 family herds (30%) not yet participating in milk-recording.

For reasons of distinct differences in management, besides overall results of milk-recording, separate data are given for Kibbutz herds on 3x daily milking, and Moshav herds on 2x daily milking. Thus, separate lists for Kibbutz herds and Moshav herds are given (tables 19 and 20, respectively), ranked according to average production of kg ECM/cow/year. Furthermore, in order to do justice to evident differences between family herds within the framework of the Moshav village, relevant ranking is being presented in table 21, also indicating those practicing 3x daily milking since last year.

Section 3: PRODUCTIVITY (tables nr. 22-28, pages 87-104).

The respective tables give in-depth information on values more directly reflecting on the economy and profitability of the various aspects of dairy farming under local conditions.

Distinction is being made between data regarding the entire national dairyherd, and separately for Kibbutz and Moshav herds. Also portrayed are separate data for herds served by the two A.I. centers - ON in the north and HASHERUT in the south of Israel, while the dividing line between them roughly runs from Herzliya on sea to north of Jericho in the Jordan valley. However, since all bulls are owned cooperatively by both A.I. centers, who operate also a common bank of bulls' semen, a dairyherd anywhere in this country can be served by any bull of its choice. On the other hand, said system facilitates the inclusion of an almost unlimited number of herds in the use of young (test) bulls and their subsequent proof.

Separate tables bring the data for well-defined geographical regions, namely the Jordan & Bet She'an valley at ZOO-350 m below sea level, where seasonal calving is being practiced and the southern desert of the Arava, near the Red Sea.

Section 4: FERTILITY (tables nr. 29-35, pages 105-120).

As for the anterior section on productivity, this section too brings data on a national scale, for Kibbutz and Moshav herds, and the two a.m. defined geographical regions - Jordan & Bet She'an valley and the Arava. Tables 30 and 31 bring comparative data on important aspects of reproductive management in Kibbutz and Moshav (family) herds.

Besides the publication of the comprehensive summary and annual report, Israeli dairy farmers adhering to ICBA receive detailed monthly reports on: milk recording of each individual cow; total production of milk, fat, protein, lactose and SCC; closed lactations and/or lactations of culled cows; fertility reports; health reports (the latter through "HAHAKLAIT", cooperative for clinical veterinary services, a sister company of ICBA).