Ministry Of Agriculture and Rural Development
Extension Service
Animal Production Division
Dep. of Cattle Husbandry

Beef Cattle Production

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1. Introduction
2. Breeds of cattle
3. Beef cattle breeding management
4. Beef cattle feeding management
5. Beef cattle reproduction management
6. Cattle fattening
7. Cattle slaughtering in Israel
# Beef Cattle Production

**Dr. M. Rosen**

## Agrostudies program

**March 2009**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Notes</th>
<th>Links</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Livestock Science</td>
<td>The Ag Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant Science</td>
<td>Related Institutions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[http://www.ambal.co.il/beefstudies/](http://www.ambal.co.il/beefstudies/)
Introduction
Per capita consumption in 2007 was:

- Beef - 17 Kg.
- Poultry - 60 Kg.
- Ovine - 4 Kg.
# Beef production / consumption in Israel

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total tones</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Beef Consumption</strong></td>
<td>119,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Beef Production</strong></td>
<td>69,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dairy</strong></td>
<td>30,330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Beef</strong></td>
<td>7,670</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Imported live</strong></td>
<td>31,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total local</strong></td>
<td>38,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Beef Import (frozen)</strong></td>
<td>50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>119,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Estimate of beef slaughtered by source in a representative year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dairy Herd</th>
<th>Head</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cows</td>
<td>40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulls and Heifers</td>
<td>75,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>115,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beef Herd</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cows</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heifers</td>
<td>13,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fattening bulls</td>
<td>17,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>35,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Imported Calves Slaughtered  80,000  35.0%

Grand total  230,000  100.0%
ISRAEL BEEF INDUSTRY STRUCTURE

- Seedstock
- Commercial Cow-Calf
- Dairy
- Feedlot
- Packer
- Retailer
- Consumer
- 10 breeders
- 400 producers
- 1350 dairy farms
- 700 (~1500) feedlots
- ~20 packers
- ~20 food chains
- 6.5 million
Structure of Israel's Beef Industry

Dr. Dan Dvoskin and Samuel J. Cohen 2004
Industry Structure
Life Cycle

- Calving starts
- Calving period
- Breeding season
- Days
- Bulls in
- Bulls out
- Calving ends
- Calf feeding
- Calf weaning
By Subject structure
By season structure

Calving season
- Calving starts
- Calving ends
- Bull in
- Bull out
- High nutritional requirements

Weaning time
- Weaning
- Calves

Breading Season
- Bull in
- Bull out
Cow-Calf Herd
70,000 heads

Traits of interest

a. Weaning weight: calves are sold by weight!
   a. 800-1000$ / 1st cwt* (kg) + 1.5-2$ for each additional kg
b. Calf crop weaned: % of cows weaning a calf (68%)
c. Annual cow expenses: ~$400.
d. Longevity: reproductive life in the herd (9 years)
e. Carcass composition: most important to cow-calf producers that will retain ownership in weaned calves.
f. Of ~80 beef cattle breeds in Israel, 4 breeds are the most important & 5 comprise 80% of the genetics in Israel.

* Dollars Per Hundred Weight
Pasture and Beef Cattle Herd Distribution in Israel
Pasture Distribution in Northern Israel
SIZE of CATTLE OPERATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Heads</th>
<th>Distribution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;25</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-125</td>
<td>47.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>126-615</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;616</td>
<td>10%</td>
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</table>
Integrated Resource Management (IRM) is a system approach to managing a beef, a dairy, and a feedlot farms. The NOA software is the leading tool for IRM in Israel.