

Crossbreeding Beef Cows

Crossbreeding, which is the mating of individuals with different breed make up, should be used by all commercial producers since improvement in efficiency can be dramatic if appropriate breeds are used. The benefits of crossbreeding are two-fold. Heterosis is the average superiority of a crossbred individual over the average of the breeds involved in the cross. Breed complimentary is the advantage gained from using an optimum combination of breeds.

Crossbreeding can have a dramatic effect on the reproductive traits of beef cows. Research has shown crossbred cows to be 8% more efficient, have 38% greater longevity, raise calves with 8% more weaning weight and have 25% more life time productivity than purebred cows. If you are serious about improving efficiency and productivity, crossbreeding cows will be the place to start.

For more information on genetic selection, contact the Tulsa County Oklahoma State University Extension Center at 918/746-3725.

#####