

Fig. 6—Growth-rates of crossbred, Aberdeen Angus, and Jersey calves.

about the same time, reared on the mother, and grazed similarly on a rotational plan. Both groups of crossbreds have been gaining from 10lb. to 12lb. per week. If this gain is maintained, carcasses of 450lb. to 500lb. should result by the end of this summer at 18 months of age. If so, they should qualify for the chiller-quality beef premium and the stock should be worth approximately £30 per head on the farm.

Everything points to this result being obtained. The animals are of very promising beef quality, showing

many of the characteristics of the Aberdeen Angus. Fig. 7 shows a typical crossbred runner at 8 months, with an average Aberdeen Angus and an average Jersey at the same age.

Though any arguments advanced as to the practical and economic future of either of the two systems described must be highly speculative, at present a few comments seem worth making.

First, it is probable that much of the adverse popular opinion against the Jersey as a source of beef is largely prejudice arising from the fact that most of such beef used in New

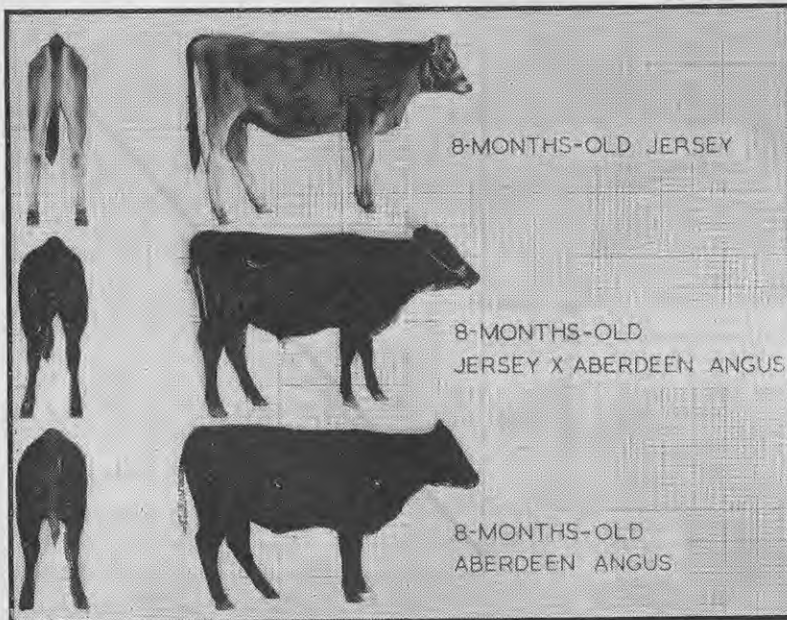


Fig. 7—A typical 8-months-old crossbred compared with an average Jersey and an average Aberdeen Angus of the same age.

Zealand is from straight elderly Jersey cows which have passed the stage at which their meat is palatable. In suggesting that the Jersey may play a useful part, the author is thinking of half-bred Jerseys graded up in meat quality by a specialised beef breed, and of young crossbred carcasses, rapidly fattened on fattening-quality pastures. If such cattle are handled under these conditions, there is at least a very good chance, judged from the way Ruakura animals are shaping, that they will provide better beef for either the local or export trade than even straight beef types that have grown elderly on sparse hill-country pastures. It is considered that this much-despised cross could contribute substantially to the building of a large-scale and highly profitable export trade in chiller-quality beef.

The idea of producing and eating beef with a dairy-type origin on one side does not disturb an Englishman. At least half of the beef produced in Britain is of this type, and current methods there aim at an increasing exploitation of such stock through artificial breeding with beef bulls on dairy herds.

There is obviously tremendous scope for similar work in New Zealand. With 2,000,000 dairy cows available, 600,000 to 800,000 could be mated to beef-type bulls and still leave enough to provide straight dairy-type females for herd replacements. Obviously, if the agricultural policy of the Dominion proceeds along the lines of greater diversification and more beef production, future increases in production from grassland could well exploit the beef potential of these cows.

## Farmers Should Avoid Unregistered Stock Licks

THE Stock Remedies Board is concerned about reports of the sale of stock licks alleged to contain certain chemicals which have not been approved in lick form by the Board. Venders of such licks usually approach farmers and suggest that a lick containing certain additional chemicals to those already approved by the Board can be manufactured for use on their farms. Because such licks are not manufactured for general sale the vender is not legally required to obtain approval and registration by the Board, and the licks may or may not be suitable for the purpose claimed.

Complaints have been received, but the Stock Remedies Board points out that it has no power to prevent sales of licks of this description by persuasive salesmen.

Farmers would be well advised not to buy these so-called special stock licks and to choose licks which have been registered under the Stock Remedies Act. Information on these can be obtained from Veterinarians and Livestock Instructors of the Department of Agriculture.

The Stock Remedies Board can accept responsibility only for the claims made on the approved labels of registered licks.