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Roman L. Hruska U.S. Meat Animal Research Center (1993): Overview

D. B. Laster
U.S. Meat Animal Research Center

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ROMAN L. HRUSKA
U.S. MEAT ANIMAL RESEARCH CENTER[1]

The Roman L. Hruska U.S. Meat Animal Research Center (MARC) is part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service. MARC was authorized by Congress on June 16, 1964, thereby creating a single facility that provides an unusual opportunity for making contributions to the solution of problems facing the U.S. livestock industry. The 35,000-acre facility and the office-laboratory buildings provide a physical plant for about 80 scientists and about 200 support personnel. In addition, the University of Nebraska's Great Plains Veterinary Educational Center (GPVEC) provides a facility for four university faculty members, support personnel, and pre- and post-DVM students.

Approximately 50 percent of the research program is devoted to beef cattle, 30 percent to swine, and 20 percent to sheep. Current research program objectives require breeding age female populations of approximately 7,250 cattle (20 breeds), 4,250 sheep (10 breeds), and 700 crossbred swine litters to carry out the various experiments.

The research program at the Center is organized on a multidisciplinary team basis to solve national problems for the U.S. livestock industries. Some projects are focused on the specific research needs of USDA Action Agencies. The seven research units are Genetics and Breeding, Nutrition, Reproduction, Meats, Animal Health Systems, Biological Engineering, and Production Systems. The research program complements research conducted elsewhere by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and is cooperative with the University of Nebraska Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources and other land grant university agricultural experiment stations throughout the country.

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[1]Agricultural Research Service-U.S. Department of Agriculture, the University of Nebraska, and other cooperating land grant universities.

MARC's beef cattle research program places the highest priority on developing technology capable of having an immediate and long-term impact on the beef cattle industry. The program includes research and development of technology that can be implemented by small farmers, large commercial producers, and agri-business.

Currently, we have 65 research scientist and research associate positions at MARC.

Appreciation: I want to express appreciation to the scientists for their contributions, to Ralston Graham for his editorial comments, and to Kris Schrick, Public Affairs Specialist, for organizing and editing this report.

D B Laster

D.B. Laster, Center Director
Roman L. Hruska
U.S. Meat Animal Research Center

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING CORRECTIONS:

(USDA, ARS - BEEF RESEARCH PROGRESS REPORT #4: MAY 1993)

Page 99 - Authors of article are Dr. Thomas H. Wise and Dr. Ralph R. Maurer.

Page 157 - First sentence on this page should read:
"Braunvieh had the greatest yield and Charolais and Hereford, the lowest."

Page 157 -Table 3:
"Charolais - Three year total weaning wt. (Lb) + 926."