

THE DROUGHTMASTER BREEDING SYSTEM

When a new breed is being evolved from an original cross of two or more existing breeds, the early generations display a difference in type, but the main economic characters due to multiple genes, show much less variation. By selecting the most desirable animals and concentrating on mating "like to like" it is possible to fix a type which will produce its own likeness while at the same time retaining the desired characteristics of the base breeds.

The Droughtmaster Society has rules whereby the Classifiers ensure that the Commercial Droughtmaster females to be registered as D1 cattle, have approximately ½ Bos indicus content and possess all the other characteristics of the breed. The progeny of the D1 females (D2's) are also appraised by the Classifiers, and only those which meet the standards of the Society are accepted into the Herd Book.

The fifth generation D5 is referred to as purebred.

In this way the Society has reduced type variation to a minimum and stabilised the breed.

So it can be seen that the evolution of the Droughtmaster is a logical process based on a carefully planned programme to fix the type, maintain the type, and improve the type, through selection, rejection, and depth of recorded background.

THE WAY TO THE TOP

