

Characteristics of Beef Cattle Production in Warm Climates

- Approximately 90% of the beef cattle slaughtered in tropical and subtropical regions are finished on pasture
- Slaughter age is approximately 3 years of age
- The production system is not segmented. There are cow-calf, stockers, pasture and feedlot finished cattle in the same operation

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- Animals are sold by liveweight or carcass weight
- There are distinct prices for steers, bulls, heifers, and cows
- In general, there is a minimum slaughter weight for males (~ 1000 lb liveweight) and females (~ 660 lb liveweight)

Challenges in Beef Cattle Production in Warm Climates



Challenges in Beef Cattle Production in Warm Climates

• Environmental regulations limit the expansion of beef cattle production to new native areas



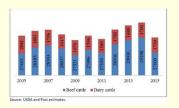
Challenges in Beef Cattle Production in Warm Climates

 Sugarcane and row crops are replacing areas formerly occupied by beef cattle



Challenges in Beef Cattle Production in Warm Climates

• Climatic variations limit the potential for herd expansion



Therefore.....

- There is a need to improve productivity and have greater beef production in less land
- Crossbreeding is one potential management practice to improve beef cattle productivity



