

# Observations Of A Country Vet

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**BENTON, KY**

**D**own in Mississippi where I came from many years ago, most females were Jerseys. Most bulls were Hereford with an occasional Shorthorn. White faced striped calves were a big change over their dams. Second generations with that Jersey milk made a pretty decent calf. Angus was not around for some time and then by only the different cattlemen.

Here in Kentucky in the sixties we saw Charolais from Mexico. They were wild and mean and heifer killers. With AI we soon saw every breed. The Chianina breed came with fan fair kicking and jumping all the way. They were popular for show calves. Cross breeding almost always makes a better individual due to the fact that no animal is perfect and crosses tend to correct some problems. The Black Baldy seems to always work, both for steers and cows. A third

breed like Continentals gives the ultimate. Of course the better the animals you start with the better the end result.

King Ranch had their cattle all over the world and after three generations they all looked the same. There are advantages and disadvantages to straight-bred and crosses. There is never a place for poor genetics. With strict culling, thankfully, most breeds are easy to handle if properly treated. With all the information we have now there is no excuse for horns, fighters and hard calvers. The trend now is black. Red, yellow and white are better adapted to the sun but people can't be bothered by that. If there is a breed that comes Red or Black you can bet that the best red one won't sell as good as a lesser Black. Cattle can change quickly but people change very slowly and usually against their will. Δ

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