

## Aspects of Performance of the Jamaica Red Poll

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### [Abstract]

Weaning weight records on the Grove Place Jamaica Red Poll herd for the five years period 1985-1989 were analysed in order to estimate the influence of dam, sex, and year of birth on the trait and subsequent herd productivity.

The value of weaning weight as an objective measure of an animal performance lies mainly in its reliability and relative accuracy as a predictor of both post weaning traits and cow life-time productivity. The evaluation of such factors influencing this trait can include the direction of breeding and husbandry programmes.

Data collected were cow identification, cow date of birth, calving dates (calf birth date), calf identification, sex, wean weight and wean date. Age of calves were standardized to 210-day. Standard birth weights of 31.8 kg and 36.4 kg were used for heifer calves and bull calves respectively. Adjustment factors were estimated for sex, and calves standardized to the male sex. All cows had at least one calf during the year under review. Year effect on calf 210-day weights appeared to be largely attributed to grazing conditions. Bull calves tend to be heavier at weaning than heifer calves. Significance of age of dam were assessed through the portioning of dams into 12-month age groups.