

III

LIVE CATTLE IMPORTS MUST BE
CONSIDERED AS PART OF U.S. CATTLE-
MEN'S OVERPRODUCTION PROBLEMS

Cattlemen and feeders want to talk about fresh frozen meat imports while not wanting to review crecive imports of live cattle entering our country from Canada and Mexico. These animals are basically destined for feedlot and ultimate use as grain-fed table beef. We have documented that imports of manufacturing meat compete in a market where volume is high and prices paid for both U.S. and imported products are steadily rising. Also, choice beef and steer prices are moderately higher and should ultimately, under prudent business practices, result in profits to the feeders. The importation of live cattle, for concentrated feeding, is a matter for careful consideration before stampeding toward new quota restrictions on fresh frozen meat imports.

1968 Live Cattle Imports Up Sharply

Bureau of Census reports on current live cattle imports show that short-term supplies are increasing. Since 1960 imports have averaged about 900,000 head per year. Most of these animals are 200 to 699 pound cattle, suitable as stockers and feeders, and compete with U.S.-raised cattle for space in American feedlots. In March 1968 such imports were up 64% over the same period of 1967 from 60,233 to 98,689 head. Comparing the first