



Grass-legume mixtures containing five or more species are sown and routinely are productive for three years. Fertilizer is applied to pastures followed by irrigation in many cases. Annual ryegrass (*Lolium multiflorum*) and fall sown rye is utilized for spring grazing. Forage seed is available from the forage seed cleaning plants in the Kovel and Stara Vyzhivka regions.

Beef cattle genetics are available in the Volyn Oblast from purebred nucleus herds and the semen collection centre at Kovel. A local breed has been developed called the Volynsky beef breed. It is a composite breed developed by crossing Red Steppe, Aberdeen Angus, Hereford and Limousin. It is a British style animal of small to medium frame and thick. Beef herds can be found on several farms. Processed grain mixed with salt and mineral supplements is available from two large feed mills in Kovel and others in the Volyn Oblast. Farms that specialize in feeding weaned calves to slaughter weight have on site feed processing facilities that produce complete rations. A meat processing plant exists at Kovel.

The resources required for producing low cost beef from grazing and forage based rations are present in the Volyn Oblast. Financial constraints exist for expansion of the beef production system.

The forage and livestock specialists are well trained and understand the principles of forage and livestock production. All they need is some Canadian expertise and assistance to setting up the appropriate infrastructure. The agronomists on farms are very interested in new production practices. Intensive grazing practices currently being used were developed and taught at an institute in Lviv.

**PROJECT 1 - Evaluation and propagation of long lived forage varieties** - To lengthen the lifespan of seeded grasses in the Volyn Oblast by introducing long lived forage varieties from Canada for evaluation and propagation. To establish a communication network between Canadian and Ukrainian specialists involved in forage variety development and management.

**PROJECT 2 - Low cost beef production on sand and peat soils in the Kovel region** - To develop a demonstration farm with both peat and sand soils to demonstrate methods of reducing beef production costs on pasture while maintaining or increasing the output of beef per hectare by reducing the reliance on energy inputs and labour.

**PROJECT 3 - Low cost beef production on peat soils in the Stara Vyzhivka region** - To provide seed for forage varieties adapted to peat soils for seed production for the region. To develop a demonstration farm on peat soils to demonstrate methods of reducing beef production costs on pasture while maintaining or increasing the output of beef per hectare by reducing the reliance on energy inputs and labour.

**PROJECT 4 - Management of common grazing land for improved production** - To utilize the Canadian Community Pasture approach to manage a common grazing area to increase the productivity of the grassland.

**PROJECT 5 - Forage and beef production extension program** - To conduct an extension program including on farm technology transfer to a small number of farms and conduct seminars for small groups of forage specialists, livestock specialists and agronomists.

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