

Question No: 63

Question: Controlled Buffalo Herds

Date: 13/08/91

Member: Mr CARTWRIGHT

To: MINISTER for PRIMARY INDUSTRY and FISHERIES

1. Is it the government's goal to have a herd of at least 50 000 disease-free buffaloes by the end of 1992.
2. What is the government's goal for the number of buffaloes in controlled herds at the end of 1992.

ANSWER

1. An objective of the Animal Industry Division of the Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries is -

To assist the buffalo industry in its aim to achieve by 1992, a herd of at least 100 000 TB-free buffalo, a level of property development able to run half this number under controlled conditions, and the development of profitable production systems capable of turning off high quality buffalo carcasses.

At the time this objective was discussed with and endorsed by the Buffalo Industry Council and the Northern Pastoral Industry Advisory Committee.

2. It is estimated that there will be 13 000 buffalo in controlled herds and 67 000 in uncontrolled herds at the end of 1992. These herds will be provisionally clear status or better in the BTEC program and will therefore meet the criteria necessary for declaring NT impending free at that time.

The objectives of the industry in respect of controlled herds is in the process of being jointly reviewed by both the Buffalo Industry Council and the Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries.