

# Model Farm Project

a partnership between



Pasture and total control of the animals.

## Animals arrive at the farm

The first herd of beef cattle arrived at Santa Terezinha Farm on February 27 this year, bringing great opportunities for the development of the Model Farm Project. There are 80 heifers, 23 are Nelore breed and the rest are crosses between Nelore with Red Angus and Bradford breeds. The animals have an average weight of 260 kg and are 13 months of age. They are the result of a partnership between the Model Farm Project and a group of farms belonging to the Spironelli family. The animals will enable the beginning of productive activities of the farm, in addition to conducting the first training on good handling practices of beef cattle.

The herd, though small, will provide the chance to test of our organizational protocols which being created in order to refine our production routines and prepare the entire team for a larger project with beef cattle, which will be the establishment of a "Finishing paddock system", for the second half of 2009.

In addition to the productive activities and training, with the support of the ETCO Group, we will develop some research projects, in order to study the effects of good handling practices, performed frequently in productive and reproductive efficiency of animals.

After the period of adaptation of animals to new grazing conditions, the first assessments will be initiated.

## Not only animals but equipment also.

Planning, organizing and establishing good routines are not only essential requirements for successful management and welfare of livestock. The Model Farm will be working for the correct operation of equipment and facilities, and we believe that this is only possible with the establishment of a preventive equipment maintenance plan.

With this idea, and after some field research with farm owners in our region, we found that the demand for farm equipment maintenance training is high. So Santa Terezinha farm will hold the first theoretical and practical "Maintenance and adjustment of agricultural tractors" in mid May 2009, with the support of the Laboratory of Agricultural Machinery (LAMA) of FCAV Unesp-Jaboticabal.

After this first approach, others training courses in machinery and implements, according to the season of the year will be realized.



Low reactivity, is a strong characteristic of these animals