

## "Our Jamaica Hope is well adapted to the tropics"



Ruppert Wallace at his house

The undulating plains of Clarendon, in the Mid-Southern region of Jamaica, are the home of numerous cattle and other livestock. Ruppert Wallace is one of the farmers who keep their cattle and goats in this tropical area.

*"I have got 74 cows and 29 heifers roaming the fields", Wallace says, "The young stock, 50 calves, I rear them on a dry lot." The cattle all belong to the Jamaica Hope breed. Wallace also keeps 35 goats: "They are a crossing between Anglo-Nubian, Graded Boer and a native goat breed."*

Wallace operates a small-scale, commercial dairy farm with goat rearing as a subsidiary enterprise. His home incorporates a milk parlour and a storage room. Besides selling milk, he further supports his livelihood with the sale of culls and, whenever possible, the sale of seed stock.

The work at the farm is very labour intensive. *"I have to work hard,"* explains Wallace, *"and the prices for the output are low."*

For this reason, he would be interested in cross-breeding to increase the growth rate. *"I would like to do this with Brown Swiss".*

Despite the hard work Wallace remains optimistic and says the Jamaica Hope are his most valuable animals: *"They are very well adapted to the tropical environment,"* he says, *"and they hardly pose any problem at all".*



Wallace standing in his herd of Jamaica Hope.

*Photo credits: Jasmin Holness*

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