

Simmental From the Start

Donnell Brown has been involved in SimGenetics from a very young age, participating in AJSA events that helped shape his values, career, and future.

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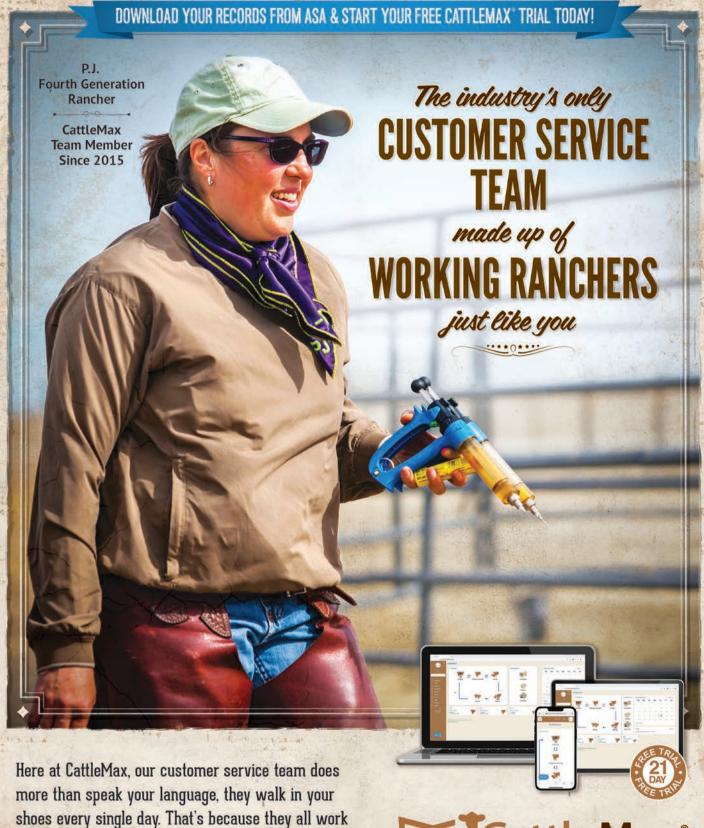


Inside

Selecting for Success with Sex-sorted Semen

Back to the Basics: Terminal Crossbreeding Bridges Cow-Calf Efficiency and Carcass Value

Mature Weight and Cow Energy Requirement EPD Released in Research Format



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Have you visited simmental.org lately?

The entire website has a new look highlighting cattle sales, industry events, ASA's programs, marketing opportunities, and breeders' resources.

simmental.org makes it easy for you.

Breeders' resources include information on:

- **♦** SimGenetics
- ♦ Simple trait selection
- Genetic improvement tools
- Frequently asked questions

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Expected progeny differences (EPD) for mature weight (MW) and cow energy requirement (CER) have been released by the American Simmental Association (ASA) in a research release format.

THE CHOICE IS YOURS

CHECK OUT THESE gender SELECTED™ SIRES



7SM149 POINT PROVEN

3780742 | Ol'Son x Main Event

CE	BW	WW	YW	ADG	MCE	Milk	MWW	Stay	Doc	CW	YG	Marb	BF	REA	API	TI
17.4	-4.1	75.5	112.3	.23	10.9	19	56.5	14	10.4	31.6	39	.22	094	.78	150.9	87.5
3	1	65	65	65	2	80	75	70	40	55	40	40	15	75	30	30

From: Trennepohl Farms, IN and Wayward Hill Farm, KY



7SM151 MANTACHIE

4288876 | Tecumseh x Profit

															API	
7.3	4.5	80.8	108.9	.18	2.7	14	54.2	15.2	2.3	29.1	37	.21	086	.74	123.6	77
95	95	45	70	90	95	99	90	50	99	65	50	45	25	80	123.6 65	70

From: Trennepohl Farms, IN; Sleepy Hollow Farm, OH; and Jesse Hoblyn Livestock, NE



7SM141 ALPHA

4104071 | Genesis x Confidence Plus

CE	BW	WW	YW	ADG	MCE	Milk	MWW	Stay	Doc	CW	YG	Marb	BF	REA	API	TI
11.4	1.5	103.1	163.2	.38	3.6	31.9	83.3	16.1	16.5	69.2	17	.69	033	1.05	161.2	104.3
80	80	2	2	5	95	5	1	35	10	2	60	15	50	10	15	3

From: M4 Simmentals, KS



7SM158 FULL COURT

4366331 | Wildcat x Ranger

CE	BW	WW	YW	ADG	MCE	Milk	MWW	Stay	Doc	CW	YG	Marb	BF	REA	API	TI
20.9	-6.3	83.3	131.5	.30	12	29.9	71.2	15.7	13.7	46.6	.12	.95	.054	.52	190.0	107.4
1	1	30	30	35	2	10	15	40	35	25	99	3	99	80	1	2

From: Triangle J Ranch, NE and Gibbs Farms, AL



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COW SENSE

Ten questions to test your beef industry knowledge:

- 1. What is the term that describes the practice of utilizing forage and high roughage feed to prepare cattle for finishing?
- 2. What is the average daily gain of a bull that weighed 620 pounds at the start of a 160-day feed test, that finished at 1,100 pounds?
- 3. How long is the average gestation period of a mature beef cow?
- 4. What is the approximate length of a cow's estrus cycle?
- 5. Twins produced from two separate eggs are known by what term?
- 6. What is the phenotype of a bull that is heterozygous for the polled/horned trait?
- 7. In days, what is the length of a gestation trimester?
- 8. What is the term that describes a condition in which a cow has not lost her afterbirth within 12 hours of giving birth?
- 9. What nutrient accounts for the most cost in a beef cattle feeding program?
- 10. Which linear measurement is an excellent indicator of puberty in young bulls?

Answers:

 Backgrounding; 2. Three pounds per day; 3. 285 days; 4. 21 days;
 Fraternal twins; 6. Polled;
 95 days; 8. Retained placenta;
 9. Energy; 10. Scrotal circumference.

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"Strength in Numbers," captured by David Schuler at his family's ranch near Bridgeport, Nebraska. Schuler Red Angus utilizes Simmental genetics in their composite cattle.



the Register (Issn: 0899–3572) is the official publication of the American Simmental Association, published monthly, except bimonthly, in December/January, May/June, and July/August by ASA Publication, Inc., One Genetics Way, Bozeman, Montana 59718, and is a wholly owned, for-profit subsidiary of the American Simmental Association.



Periodicals Postage paid at Bozeman, MT, and at additional mailing offices.

Subscription Rates: \$50 (US), \$100 (US) First-Class, \$150 (US) All International Subscriptions. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *the Register*,

One Genetics Way, Bozeman, Montana 59718.

Printed in USA

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Nebraska's Largest Simmental / SimAngus™ Bull & Female Sale!

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***Register**

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ASA Publication, Inc.

One Genetics Way, Bozeman, Montana 59718 USA 406-587-2778 • fax: 406-587-9301 www.simmental.org • email: register@simmgene.com Canada Publications Agreement Number: 1875183

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PLEASE JOIN US



2026 NATIONAL WESTERN STOCK SHOW SIMMENTAL SCHEDULE:

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 2026

Progress Through Performance (PTP) and Phenotype & Genotype (P&G) Bull Pen Shows

- 9:00 AM - Hutchison Western Stockyards Events Center

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2026

Female Pen Shows and Rancher's Best Pen Show - 9:00 AM - Hutchison Western Stockyards Events Center

One and Only Sale Preview
- 1:00 PM - Hutchison Western Stockyards Events Center

Power Simmental Selection - Fundraising One and Only Simmental Sale 2:00 PM - Wagner Equipment Auction Arena - Stockyards Events Center

MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 2026

PTP Youth Shows - 9:00 AM - CoBank Arena

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026

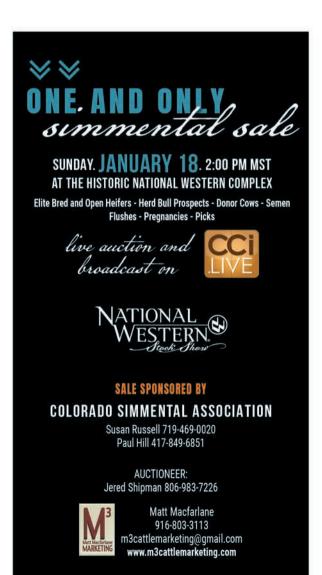
PTP National Simmental Show - 9:00 AM - CoBank Arena
All times Mountain Standard Time.



21st Annual PEOPLE'S CHOICE POWER SIMMENTAL JUDGING at the 2026 National Western Stock Show

Judging cards will be sold in advance or on-site. Judging will take place during the Simmental female pen show on Jan. 19 and bull pen show on Jan. 18. The winner will be announced at the start of "The One & Only" Simmental Sale at 2 pm, Sunday, Jan. 19, with the selection of the Power Simmental from the qualifying bull or female finalist.

DON'T MISS THIS EVENT





by Callie Cooley, ASA Publication Business Manager

Greetings from Montana! I hope this update finds you well and enjoying the holiday season. As we look ahead to the New Year, I've found myself reflecting on 2025—a year that has given us much to recognize and appreciate at the American Simmental Association (ASA).

It's safe to say 2025 was one for

the record books. The beef industry saw remarkable momentum, with record cattle prices and what was likely record sale averages for many of our members. Amid all the progress and change, I feel fortunate to work for an organization that keeps the commercial beef industry at the forefront of its mission, ensuring that our goals support the success of producers and strengthen the industry as a whole.

This year, ASA's Communications Team welcomed a new teammate, Ben Crites, who brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our efforts. We're excited to have Ben on board and look forward to the fresh ideas and energy he will bring to the team. Along with this addition, the team has been working to create and implement a strategic communications plan designed to strengthen our reach and impact in the years ahead. The plan focuses on several key priorities:

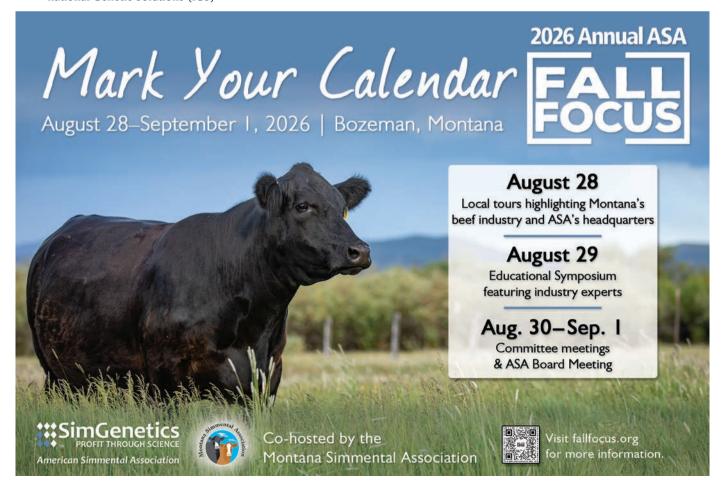
 Developing and implementing an emotionally compelling advertising and messaging strategy for the ASA and International Genetic Solutions (IGS)

- 2. Strengthening ASA's commitment to data education
- 3. Broadening ASA and IGS's outreach and message distribution
- 4. Enhancing communication and engagement with adult members, junior members, and state associations

We're excited for members to begin seeing the fruits of this work as we move through 2026. From new messaging efforts to expanded educational resources and improved communication tools, our goal is to ensure that the value of SimGenetics is more visible and impactful than ever.

The ASA Publication Team also experienced some important changes in 2025. While a few difficult decisions were necessary to ensure financial sustainability, there were also exciting steps forward. Most notably, expanding the Sire Source distribution fivefold to more than 40,000 members, commercial producers, universities, and industry professionals, and introducing new advertising opportunities. If you haven't already, I encourage you to reach out to Nancy Chesterfield to learn more about our updated digital offerings and print/digital combination advertising packages. Whether your focus is on print advertising or growing your digital presence, I think you'll find an option that meets your needs.

As we close the year, I wish you all the best in the New Year. Here's to carrying that same energy and optimism into 2026!











by Quin LaFollette, Western Region

Let's Do Our Best

Hi everyone from northwest Wyoming. I hope you all are having as nice of a fall as we are. I love fall. It's my favorite time of year. The cows come home from the mountain, and it's our first good chance to see how the year's calf crop is coming along. We start to get a feel of how

matings from last spring worked out. While I love the cooler weather and of course a little hunting, it is also a very busy time. While finishing up this year's calf work, it's time to get cows enrolled in Total Herd Enrollment (THE) for next year.

If you aren't currently using the programs offered at ASA for calf recording, I would strongly recommend contacting the good folks in Bozeman and taking a serious look at THE, Calf Crop Genomics, and Cow Herd Roundup. All calf data turned in with DNA is way more useful to all of us in the breed. A pool of data with unverified parentage is usable, but not near as good as it could be. It has been proven time and time again, and no matter how close you watch things at calving, ten to 15 percent of the parentage info you turn in is wrong. DNA is the only way of

doing the best job we can at making sure our data is correct and useful. It has surely proved to be true in our operation. Because of this, we won't even consider purchasing an animal that hasn't been parent verified with genomically enhanced EPD.

Dr. DeClerck and staff have been on a roll with hiring some incredible new folks at the ASA. I would encourage everyone to try and make it to Oklahoma City in January for the Annual Meeting to meet some of the new staff. I think you'll agree we have a lot of talent and smarts working on our behalf.

Industry-wide, things look very good for the foreseeable future, and I'm certainly encouraged and looking forward to a great bull sale season coming up. The interest in cattle with known genetics, and that have a record of how they will feed and kill, will remain high. The commercial sector of our industry is getting more and more educated in regards to the true genetic value that is identified in genomically enhanced EPD, and producers are asking for them. Let's do our best to give them what they need and continue to be known as a performance breed.

Take care everyone and have a great Christmas and a happy New Year!





 TNT Assurance J455
 ASA# 3942173

 CE
 BW
 WW
 YW
 ADG
 MCE
 MILK
 MWW
 MARB
 REA
 \$API
 \$TI

 8
 2.7
 115
 180
 .41
 5
 31
 88
 .23
 1.12
 145
 98

 Adj.
 WW:
 833
 lbs.
 Adj.
 YW:
 1,490
 lbs.



 RF Caliber 014G
 ASA# 4017365

 CE
 BW
 WW
 YW
 ADG
 MCE
 MILK
 MWW
 MARB
 REA
 \$API
 \$TI

 4
 6.7
 111
 172
 .39
 3
 18
 73
 -.06
 1.08
 112
 86

 Adj.
 WW:
 893
 lbs.
 Adj.
 YW:
 1,538
 lbs.



 LCDR Anthem 33K
 ASA# 4113686

 CE BW
 WW
 YW
 ADG
 MCE
 MILK
 MWW
 MARB
 REA
 \$API
 \$TI

 15
 -1
 100
 158
 .36
 8
 21
 71
 .67
 1.09
 182
 109

 Adj.
 WW:
 805
 lbs.
 Adj.
 YW:
 1,341
 lbs.



 Bridle Bit Recharge K256
 ASA# 4058272

 CE
 BW
 WW
 YW
 ADG
 MCE
 MILK
 MWW
 MARB
 REA
 \$API
 \$TI

 15
 -2.1
 85
 137
 .32
 9.5
 30
 73
 .67
 1.34
 180
 103

 Adj.
 WW: 728 lbs.
 Adj. YW: 1,232 lbs.

Looking for Performance?

Ellingson Simmental Performance Bull & Female Sale

Friday, January 23, 2026 • 1:00 pm CST
Sale Location: At the farm, Dahlen, ND



 KBHR
 Revolution
 H071
 ASA# 3789458

 CE
 BW
 WW
 YW
 ADG
 MCE
 MILK
 MWW
 MARB
 REA
 \$API
 \$TI

 12
 1.5
 107
 163
 .35
 4.7
 23
 .77
 .43
 1.16
 165
 104

 Adj.
 WW:
 799 lbs.
 Adj.
 YW:
 1,518 lbs.

Selling:

70 Yearling Simmental and SimAngus™ Bulls Three 16-Month-Old Bulls, 25 Open Yearling Heifers, and 20 Embryos

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Guest Consignor:
Strommen Simmentals, Arthur, ND • 701-967-8320

 Ellingson Ace J183
 ASA# 3940088

 CE
 BW
 WW
 YW
 ADG
 MCE
 MILK
 MWW
 MARB
 REA
 \$API
 \$TI

 7
 3.5
 108
 167
 .36
 3
 30
 84
 .24
 123
 118
 93

 Adj.
 WW: 929 lbs.
 Adj. YW: 1,641 lbs.



LBRS Genesis G69 ASA# 3603651

CE BW WW YW ADG MCE MILK MWW MARB REA \$API \$TI

Adj. WW: 767 lbs. Adj. YW: 1,325 lbs.

1 .98 189 120

9 2.8 114 173 .7 4 24 81

| CE BW | WW | YW | ADG | MCE | MILK | MWW | MARB | REA | \$API | \$TI | \$

Hook's Galileo 210G ASA# 3563620

CE BW WW YW ADG MCE MILK MWW MARB REA \$API \$TI

18 -2.4 90 140 .31 12 36 81 1.22 .67 208 115

Adj. WW: 714 lbs. Adj. YW: 1,329 lbs.

The catalog and updated information (homozygous polled test, ultrasound and scrotal measurements) will be available online.

DVAuction

EPD as of 8.26.25

www.ellingsonsimmentals.com or www.simmental.org

Simmental from the Start: Donnell Brown How the AJSA Shapes Industry Leaders

by Chloe Tolar

Donnell Brown has been involved in SimGenetics from a very young age, participating in AJSA events that helped shape his values, career, and future.



Editor's note: This is the first article in a series highlighting the significance of the AJSA in Simmental breeders' lives.

Donnell Brown grew up in Throckmorton, Texas, on the RA Brown Ranch. He was involved in showing and breeding Simmental cattle from a very young age, and was an active member in the Texas Junior Simmental Association (TJSA) and the American Junior Simmental Association (AJSA). He served as state and national FFA president in 1988 and 1989, and attributes his ability to succeed in those roles to his time spent with the AJSA.

Tolar: What was most memorable about your experience?

Brown: The AJSA was such a wonderful program to be part of; I learned so much. I attribute it to helping me achieve so many things in life and building so many relationships with people that I still do business with all over the country. It inspired me and built my passion to breed better cattle. Part of the passion the AJSA built in me was through serving on the AJSA Board, but even more so from the Sire Summary Quiz, the Herdsman Quiz, the Beef Bowl, Sales Talk, and Public Speaking. Those events really drove me. One of my best friends, Lorna Marshall, and I competed against each other from about age 13 to 21. She always won the Sire Summary Quiz and is now the head of acquisition for the largest semen company in the United States, which selects bulls.

Ryan Ludwigson is from Iowa, and we have stayed in touch ever since being involved with the AJSA. From 2011 to 2013, we leased a ranch together in Montana, ran cattle together, and had a bull sale. I could go on. There are so many people that continue to stay in touch, and they're all doing great things in the cattle business.

On the national level, so many of my fond memories were from road tripping to junior nationals with all of my Texas buddies and studying over the CB radio. We would study Beef Bowl, Herdsman Quiz, and Sire Summary Quiz questions the whole way. The farther away from Texas, the more time we had to study and prepare, and the better we did.

What are the biggest skills you gained from participating in the AJSA?

The sales talk and public speaking definitely helped me. I was able to develop the comfort and confidence to communicate in a way that clearly shared a vision and inspired people to buy. That's huge. Whether they're buying cattle, an idea, or a philosophy, that became a huge part of being in the boardroom. Deciding who would be our judges, where we would have shows, where we would hold the events, and whether we need to consider a rule change. Having those conversations and discussions was mainly on the leadership side, but every member got to participate in the competition and hone the same skills to help them in life, like they helped me.

The additional events of livestock judging and reasons helped me grow in decision-making. You made a decision based on a scenario, and then you had to verbally defend that decision. All the contests gave us great skills to prepare us for a bright future.

Why are youth agricultural organizations like the AJSA important?

I think they're huge in developing young people for success in life, but with the realization that not all of those people are going to be active breeders of Simmental cattle in their adult life. And that's still a good investment because those people are being developed into leaders.

Through AJSA programs, we are developing leaders and leaders in life, regardless of where their career path takes them. When we build awesome memories from this organization, it helps build a passion to do great things and help the agriculture industry. So as we look at junior programs, we've got to look at what the return on our investment is. It's not a cheap one, but it's worth it to invest in young people who have a huge impact on the future of our industry. Whether it be in Simmental and raising Simmental cattle, or not raising Simmental cattle, I see them having a positive impact on the cattle business.

There are so many people I have participated with in the AJSA who are making a positive difference. We're starting to see people who, as they retire from a successful career, are choosing to get back into the cattle business and use the things they learned in the AJSA to be successful cattle breeders as a second career.

How do the skills young people gain in the AJSA reach beyond agriculture?

I have no doubt that those skills have helped our ranching business be successful. We're thankful to have had our 51st annual sale, and to sell SimGenetics at every one of those sales, in addition to other breeds. And the great thing is, Simmental is pro-crossbreeding. Simmental has consistently had a philosophy of being scientifically the best. And if that meant crossbreeding systems and using heterosis and breed complementarity, then absolutely, let's embrace it. Let's develop the best genetic evaluation system to identify the best genetics and improve the profitability and sustainability of our customers who use our genetics.

There's no denying that those skills have helped us, helped me professionally, but they've also helped me relative to preparing to serve and serving in leadership positions at the state and national level of FFA president. Gaining the ability to communicate with people my own age as well as people much my senior, in a professional way, was very valuable. I "sold" FFA for two years. I sold it to young people to be active in the organization, to organizations to sponsor; it was a huge investment to help build leadership in young people. The AJSA helped me prepare to not just get elected, but to serve successfully to be the best that I could be.

How did your experience in the AJSA inform your career decisions?

It definitely helped me decide what I wanted to do. It also encouraged me to look way beyond my little hometown of 700 people. When I finished AJSA, I really thought that I saw myself becoming a lobbyist in Washington, DC, because I loved communicating with people. I loved sharing ideas, philosophies, and things that helped the agricultural industry, and that was a passion of mine. I felt like that was where I was headed.

Then, after my year as national FFA president, I realized that I might do that some, but that my calling was really at the ranch to produce the best cattle that I could, and to help people be the best they could be. I would not trade for the world working on the RA Brown Ranch, raising SimGenetics cattle, and raising our children in an environment where they learn so much about birth, growth, maturity, and even death in such a variety of ways that help them become better citizens.

What impact did the Simmental breed have on your breeding program?

I remember when EPD were first released and getting the accordion-style, dot-matrix, printed sire summary. That was the beginning of helping make wise management decisions through the genetic evaluation part of studying EPD and herdsmanship.



Donnell Brown

What I love about AJSA is that it's more than just showing. It's more than just a visual appraisal. It's more than just sire summaries and EPD. It's all of those things combined, and as I work with a lot of different breeds, we see people who are really good with sire summary, but might not know what a sick one looks like, or how to treat it if it were. And the AJSA program definitely helped me to be more successful at doing all of those things, in being a full-service genetic provider, stockman, and ranch manager.

In the real world of livestock production, it's important to have the phenotype, structural correctness, and genetic/EPD profile that fits what your customer needs. So, in learning from the AJSA through livestock evaluation, it helped me put our sale catalog together and place 600 bulls. I need to put them in a logical sale order that helps the customers get the bulls they want.

Do you have any advice for a young person who is stepping into their first job or career?

When preparing for a job or position, prepare to do it to the best of your ability. Don't just prepare to get the job, because when you prepare to do it to the best of your ability, you're going to be a better person and be way more prepared.

Commit for at least three years. So many people have a tendency to change jobs more quickly and not stay committed, which makes it harder for those of us hiring to invest our best into them. If you commit for three years, then the employer is confident in who you are working for. You'll make a more serious decision on what you're going to do, and you're going to get more out of it because of that commitment. The people you work for are going to put more into you because of that. And finally, do your very best with what you have while you're there.

Selecting for **Success** with Sex-sorted Semen

by Lilly Platts

Sex-sorted semen opens up many possibilities for producers, from targeted replacement heifer production to planned terminal matings. The process of sorting semen creates challenges, which Dr. Jordan Thomas, University of Missouri, discussed during Fall Focus 2025.

Sex-sorted Semen Adds Options

Thomas began by explaining that to understand the potential benefits of sex-sorted semen, producers need to consider the basic financials of the cow-calf cycle. The number one cost cow-calf producers incur is feed, most of which goes into the cow herd. The second highest cost is replacing open cows, either by developing replacements or purchasing females. For producers who breed for their own replacements, setting those females up for success starts at conception. Females that breed earlier in the season and calve earlier not only have more time to recover and re-breed, but their female offspring are older and consequently start their productive cycle in a better place.



Sex-sorted semen allows producers to make more specific mating choices.

Using 60-day breeding and calving seasons as an example, Thomas explained that the yearly cow-calf cycle is undeniably demanding for females. A cow that gets bred early in the 60-day breeding season will calve at the start of the 60-day calving season. Factoring in a 283-day gestation period, that female will have around 82 days between calving and the next breeding season to recover. A female that breeds at the end of that 60-day cycle will also calve at the end of the 60-day calving season, and only have around 22 days to recover. Females go through a postpartum anestrus period (no heat cycle), and the female that only has 22 days to recover is not going to suddenly jump to the beginning of the 60-day breeding season. "These later-conceiving, later-calving cows don't just magically become earlier-conceiving cows next year," Thomas said.

The first breeding and calving season is especially demanding for heifers. Thomas shared that common advice has been to only select heifers born toward the beginning of their calving season, which ensures that they will be more mature when they enter the production cycle. Sex-sorted semen can give producers the option to further home in on the production of replacement heifers both by selecting specific genetics, and also selecting a group of cows to calve earlier in the season. While it might be prohibitive to breed the entire cow herd earlier in the season due to weather or other factors, it could be feasible to do so with a smaller group of females selected exclusively for producing replacements.

Maternal crosses are only one side of the coin with sex-sorted semen. Commercial producers can select more heavily for terminal traits, like carcass and growth, or seedstock producers can be more specific in their matings to produce registered bulls.

Common Challenges

Thomas and his team are currently working on a USDA-funded research project focused on improving the success of sex-sorted semen. The process of sorting semen changes the structure of the sperm cell, which can create challenges. The head of each sperm cell has projections sticking out, and signaling molecules, which are eventually cleaved off in order to interact with the reproductive tract. "What happens with sex sorting is sort of

like what normally happens with capacitation, which is this process of sperm cells acquiring the capacity to fertilize an oocyte. This normally happens in the tract, and with sex-sorted sperm cells, often a larger proportion of them have those important molecules cleaved off. This isn't necessarily bad because they would go through a process like that anyway, but it changes their useful lifespan," Thomas explained.

With conventional semen, the timeframe during which sperm cells are traveling and still fertile is longer than with sex-sorted semen. This means that breeding has to be closer in time to a female's actual ovulation window with sex-sorted semen. Fresh semen can improve this, but logistically this is prohibitive for producers.

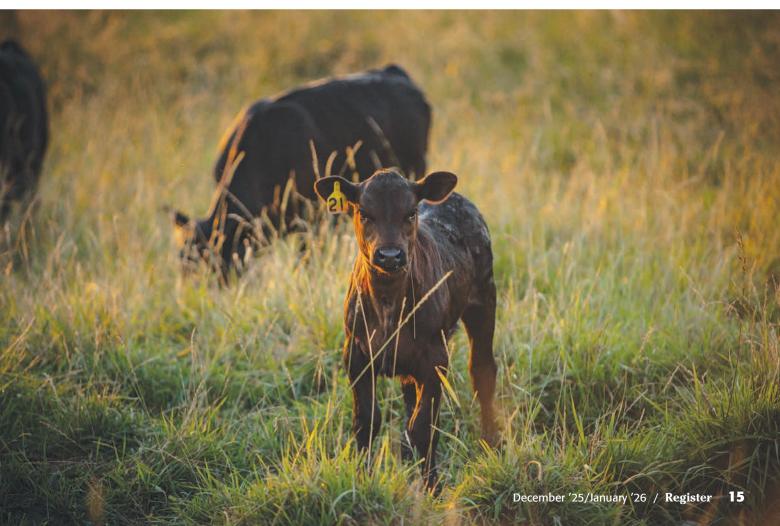
Another challenge Thomas and his team are interested in is the differences in fertility rates among bulls. In some scenarios, a bull's fertility will be different between conventional and sex-sorted semen. "Another thing we propose to address with this grant, which we have honestly really struggled with, is addressing that there are bull-to-bull differences in fertility with sex-sorted semen. Just because a bull has high fertility with conventional semen, believe it or not, doesn't even mean that he will successfully sort and freeze sexed semen that is viable," Thomas said.

(Continued on page 16)



Above: Dr. Jordan Thomas presenting at Fall Focus 2025.

Below: Sex-sorted semen can give producers the option to further home in on the production of replacement heifers both by selecting specific genetics, and also selecting a group of cows to calve earlier in the season.



Selecting for Success with Sex-sorted Semen

(Continued from page 15)

Tips for Success

The shorter fertile lifespan of sex-sorted semen requires more accurately timed AI breeding. Tracking when estrus expression happens—riding, restlessness, etc.—is especially important when using sex-sorted semen. Thomas said, "I think we all forget this, but ovulation occurs quite a long time after the onset of behavioral estrus in cattle. It's closer to 30 hours after the onset of estrus."

AI synchronization protocols can be effective, but Thomas cautioned that with sex-sorted semen, tracking estrus expression is still important. Estrus detection aids, like patches, are a good tool for making sure a female has actually come into heat. Additionally, checking females







Being prepared and having a plan is essential for successfully using sex-sorted semen.

for heat more frequently can improve the success of sexsorted semen. "Devote time to check those animals at least three times per day," Thomas shared. "The reason is, our best recommendation with AI and sex-sorted semen following detected estrus is to be closer to the 18–24-hour window after the detection of estrus for the actual AI to occur, rather than the 12-hour time window that might be more acceptable with conventional semen."

For example, a female in heat in the morning would still be bred at night with sex-sorted semen, but by adding a check in the afternoon, a female that is in heat midday could be bred the next morning instead of that evening.

Timed AI protocols are popular because when done correctly, producers can get high conception rates in less time, and with less labor. Thomas shared that if a producer wants to utilize sex-sorted semen, they should pick a synchronization protocol that is well-validated with sex-sorted semen, and one where animals actually express estrus before breeding.

Sex-sorted semen can open up many possibilities for producers who want to be extremely selective in their mating decisions. Sex-sorted semen is more expensive than conventional, and producers should ensure that their system is set up for success. "I would only consider using sex-sorted semen if females have an activated estrus detection aid, and I would also have conventional semen on hand," Thomas concluded.



Please scan the QR code for more information from the University of Missouri on using sex-sorted semen.

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Back to the **Basics**: Terminal Crossbreeding Bridges Cow-Calf Efficiency and Carcass Value

by Dr. Troy Rowan, University of Tennessee

Terminal crossbreeding is a solution to economic antagonisms in the beef industry.

Editor's note: This article originally appeared in Drover's.

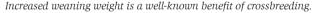
The beef industry stands at a pivotal moment, caught between historically high market prices, rising input costs, and a shrinking agricultural land base. Once again, we're being asked to do more with less: run more cows on fewer acres, produce heavier carcasses with less feed, and raise healthier animals with fewer pharmaceutical inputs.

Given the remarkable progress made in recent decades, it may seem like we've already harvested all the low-hanging fruit. Yet many opportunities in nutrition, reproduction, and genetics remain untapped. Among these, no genetic strategy offers greater potential for simultaneously improving cow efficiency and carcass value than crossbreeding. While not a new concept, crossbreeding remains one of the most underutilized tools in the beef industry.

No genetic strategy offers greater potential for simultaneously improving cow efficiency and carcass value than crossbreeding, which remains one of the most underutilized tools in the beef industry.

Balancing Cow-Calf Efficiency and Terminal Outputs

In our segmented industry, genetic decision-making is often caught between conflicting economic signals, especially when genetically correlated traits pull in opposite directions. Feeding and packing sectors are incentivized to produce ever-larger carcasses, driven by limited feeder cattle supplies, relatively cheap feed, and steady demand for high-quality beef. As a result, pushing cattle to the upper limits of finished weight is becoming the new norm.





Animal size across life stages is highly heritable, and genetic selection has significantly contributed to historical increases in carcass weights. Size traits at different points in an animal's life are largely controlled by overlapping sets of genes, leading to strong genetic correlations. For example, selection for heavier weaning or carcass weights typically results in larger mature weights in replacement females.

Genetic correlations between mature cow weight and carcass weight have been shown to exceed 80%. Since cow feed costs represent more than half of an operation's annual variable costs, this creates a critical trade-off where increasing output often comes at the expense of higher input needs.

Beyond the challenge of balancing cow size with terminal performance, cow-calf operations frequently assess efficiency on a per-cow basis. However, in forage-limited systems, land—not cows—is the true constraint. More efficient cows are those that better convert available forage into marketable calf weight.

In the absence of direct genetic selection tools for forage-based efficiency, mature cow weight remains our best proxy. Across grazing environments, we consistently observe that smaller cows can be stocked at higher densities on the same land base, offering a practical pathway to greater efficiency.

Breed Complementarity: Heterosis' Underappreciated Counterpart

Understanding the economic tension between cow size and terminal output, crossbreeding offers one of the most effective tools to address this challenge. We often discuss

crossbreeding in terms of heterosis or hybrid vigor: The added performance observed in crossbred animals compared to purebreds. This advantage is especially valuable for cow-focused traits like fertility, health, and longevity. But heterosis is only half the story.

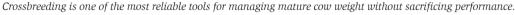
Understanding the economic tension between cow size and terminal output, crossbreeding offers one of the most effective tools to address this challenge.

The other major benefit of crossbreeding is breed complementarity: The ability to combine the strengths of different breeds or lines to target specific production goals. Historical selection both within and among breeds has created animals with specialized strengths in either maternal or terminal traits. This allows producers to match the right genetics to the right role in their operation.

For example, maternal lines can be selected specifically for traits like moderate mature size, reproductive efficiency, and longevity. These females can then be bred to terminal sires focused on maximizing growth and carcass merit. When designed correctly, such a system produces cows with lower resource requirements without compromising the performance of their terminal calves.

This kind of targeted crossbreeding can dramatically improve efficiency, regardless of herd size. By decoupling maternal and terminal breeding objectives, selection pressure can be concentrated on traits that matter most for each purpose. For the cow herd, this means a greater focus

(Continued on page 20)







Harnessing breed complementarity can help producers increase profit, and increase the rate of genetic progress. For example, maternal lines can be selected specifically for traits like moderate mature size, reproductive efficiency, and longevity.

on fertility, longevity, and moderating mature weight, enabling producers to stock more cows per acre and reduce losses from open or underperforming females. Meanwhile, terminal sires can more than compensate for any growth potential sacrificed in smaller replacement females. Calves from these matings will have the added advantage of direct and maternal heterosis impacting growth. This means more red meat with less days on feed.

To make this system work, seedstock breeders must also be intentional about their breeding goals. By developing purpose-built maternal and terminal lines, they can serve commercial producers more effectively. Instead of spreading selection pressure thinly across a broad range of traits, breeders can focus on moving the needle farther and faster for clearly defined outcomes, whether that's maternal efficiency or terminal performance. This clarity of purpose benefits the full value chain.

Developing purpose-built maternal and terminal lines can serve commercial producers more effectively. Instead of spreading selection pressure thinly across a broad range of traits, breeders can focus on moving the needle farther and faster for clearly defined outcomes.

New Tools to Further Exploit Crossbreeding

Advanced reproductive technologies and genomics offer powerful tools to maximize the efficiency of cross-breeding programs, especially for small and mid-sized operations. In general, the crossbreeding systems that

most effectively retain heterosis tend to be the most difficult to implement. But tools like sex-sorted semen help overcome this barrier by allowing commercial producers to intentionally generate their replacement females.

These heifers can be concentrated early in the calving season, giving them a developmental advantage. Laterborn calves can then be sired by terminal bulls with high feedlot and carcass potential. This empowers even singlebull herds to implement a terminal crossbreeding program.

Affordable genomic testing further enhances this system by enabling more accurate selection of replacement heifers, ensuring that genetic investment is made in the right animals. Genomic data can also support valueadded marketing of terminal calves and inform bull purchases or mating decisions by revealing individual animals' genetic strengths and weaknesses.

Critically, genomic testing allows producers to track breed composition in crossbred heifers, helping identify those with higher heterosis potential.

When combined with strategic sire selection, these technologies can accelerate genetic progress and bring structure and precision to crossbreeding programs. While crossbreeding is not a new concept, it remains one of the most powerful tools for bridging the gap between cow-calf efficiency and terminal profitability. New technologies like sex-sorted semen and genomic testing are making it more accessible and impactful than ever.

2026 SIMGENETICS SCHEDULE







Friday, January 9 5 pm Arrival Deadline

Saturday, January 10

9 am Pen Show Check-In Performance Arena Breezeway

Open and Junior Show Check-In 10:30 am ASA Booth, Super Barn

Sunday, January 11

11 am Simmental Pen Show Performance Arena, Judge TBA Monday, January 12

Junior SimGenetics Show National SimGenetics PTP Show, Day 1

OG&E Coliseum

Junior Judge: Matt Claevs, IN

Open Judges: Matt Copeland, NM and Associate TBA

Order: Junior Fullblood, Open Fullblood, Open Simbrah, Junior Simbrah, Junior Percentage Simmental, Junior Purebred Simmental

Tuesday, January 13

8 am National SimGenetics PTP Show, Day 2

OG&E Coliseum

Open Judges: Matt Copeland, NM and Associate TBA

Order: Percentage Females then Bulls, Purebred Bulls then Females



Mature Weight and Cow Energy Requirement EPD Released in Research Format

by Dr. Elizabeth Dressler, ASA Geneticist

Expected progeny differences (EPD) for mature weight (MW) and cow energy requirement (CER) have been released by the American Simmental Association (ASA) in a research release format. Mature weight and energy requirements have a direct economic impact through cow salvage value and annual feed costs. These EPD provide breeders with tools to better assess cow productivity and efficiency.

The MW and CER EPD were developed by International Genetic Solutions (IGS). IGS and ASA are committed to the development of genetic tools that aid breeders in making selection decisions on economically and commercially relevant traits.

MW EPD

The MW EPD is expressed as the difference in pounds of cow body weight at six years of age and a body condition score (BCS) of 5. A higher MW EPD indicates a genetic tendency for heavier daughters at maturity, while a lower MW EPD indicates a genetic tendency for lighter daughters at maturity. For example:

Bull A = 100 MW EPD

Bull B = 50 MW EPD

You would expect daughters from Bull B to weigh 50 pounds less, on average, at age six and BCS 5 compared to daughters from Bull A.

Mature cow weights can be collected at any age after yearling. Entire cow groups should be weighed on the same day and within 45 days of weaning their calf. Members are encouraged to take a BCS at the same time as mature weight collection. Entire cow groups should be scored on the same day, and by the same person, for contemporary grouping.

Members can submit weights and BCS for cows of any age between two and 12. Records on the same cow across multiple years are also accepted.



Please scan the QR code for more information on mature cow weight and BCS.

CER EPD

The CER EPD is expressed as the yearly difference in pounds of total digestible nutrients (TDN) required for a cow aged six years. A lower CER EPD indicates a genetic tendency for daughters that require less energy to support production, while a higher CER EPD indicates a genetic tendency for daughters that have higher energy demands. For example:

Bull A = 100 CER EPD

Bull B = 50 CER EPD

You would expect daughters from Bull B to require 50 pounds of TDN less per year at age six, on average, compared to daughters from Bull A.

Birth weight, milk, and mature weight EPD are utilized in prediction equations to estimate cow energy requirements representing the primary cow energy expenditures: gestation, lactation, and maintenance.

To view the research release of MW and CER EPD on high-use sires and high-accuracy MW and CER EPD animals, please scan the QR code below. As research EPD, these traits will not yet be evaluated weekly or published on an animal page on Herdbook.org.



To view the research release of MW and CER EPD on high-use sires and high-accuracy MW and CER EPD animals, scan the QR code. Please note, as research EPD, these traits will not yet be evaluated weekly or published on an animal page on Herdbook.org.

As part of their development, these EPD have undergone an extensive validation process. Membership is encouraged to review the research release predictions for MW and CER. Members who have feedback on this evaluation or any questions should contact Dr. Elizabeth Dressler, ASA Geneticist, at edressler@simmgene.com.









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2026 SIMGENETICS SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16

9 am **Pen Show Check-In** Stockyards Processing Tent

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17

9 am PTP Pen Bull Show and P&G Pen Bull Show

Stockyards Event Center Show Order TBA

PTP Judges: Kevin Jensen, KS and Robin Hogberg, SK P&G Judges: Gabe Jennings, TX and Gabriel Connealy, NE

2:30 pm Open and Junior Show Check-In

Stockyards Event Center, Room 116

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18

9 am PTP Pen Heifer Show Rancher's Best Pen Show

Stockyards Event Center
Judges: Kevin Jensen, KS and Robin Hogberg, SK

1pm Meet & Greet

In The Yards

Hosted by Colorado Simmental Association

2 pm The One & Only Simmental Sale

Wagner Equipment Auction Arena Managed by M3 Marketing

MONDAY, JANUARY 19

2 pm Junior Show

CoBank Arena

Judges: Marcus and Paige Arnold, IA Order: Percentage Heifers followed by Purebred Heifers

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20

9 am National PTP SimGenetics Show

CoBank Arena

Judges: Tyler Bush, SD and Tucker Schlipf, IL Order: Percentage Females then Bulls, Purebred Bulls then Females





by Larry H. Maxey, founder and superintendent, NAILE Fullblood Simmental Shows

Our Pioneers - E. C. "Teddy Blue" Abbott

In his compellingly interesting book *Cattle Kingdom*, Christopher Knowlton introduces his readers to a thorough "Hidden History of the Cowboy West," as he describes it. Of the many fascinating accounts he sets

forth, perhaps even more amazing is the seemingly endless stories of the individuals who contributed to the growth of the American West. Some of those names we readily recognize. Most are unfamiliar, including our featured pioneer for this edition.

His name was E.C. "Teddy Blue" Abbott. In the April 2025 Fleckvieh Forum, I mentioned Abbott. It was 1886. Abbott was a veteran trail driver working for Granville Stewart on the DHS Ranch in Montana when they witnessed the "Snowy Owl" prophecy, described in the April article. They also witnessed the devastating results of that Native American prophecy that coming winter.

Abbott was born in England in 1860. In 1871, he came to the US with his parents, and they settled down in Lincoln, Nebraska. His father learned of the opportunities available in Texas to drive cattle north. Abbott and his father went by train to New Orleans, and then by boat to Texas. Abbott was only 11 years old when he began moving cattle by trail. His first trip started near the Red River. It wasn't long before he determined that the cowboy way of life was his calling. It remained so until his death.

This column has covered the hardships that cowboys experienced while moving vast herds of cattle north and west during the heyday of the cattle drives. While those hardships came with the job, once the work was completed, recreation followed. Abbott was a lead character in Knowlton's stories, popping up multiple times throughout the book. And with this character a different side of the cowboy life was presented. How he got his nickname is a perfect example.

According to lore, it was in Montana when Abbott acquired the nickname "Teddy Blue." After consuming large quantities of alcohol while attending a vaudeville show, when the curtain went up, Abbott grabbed a chair and rode it across the stage yelling "Whoa Blue!" Blue was a cowboy term for a gray horse. He received a roaring applause from the audience. From that point on his friends called him "Teddy Blue."

A cowboy's highest priority upon arriving in a cattle town was to get clean. Weeks on the trail and the absence of soap and water made this an essential priority. Cowboys often used communal bath houses and "communal" amenities such as toothbrushes, towels, hair brushes, mirrors, and combs. In his book *Roughing It*, Mark Twain described one such comb as apparently handed down ever since the age of Samson and Esau, gathering hair and "certain impurities." Once all cleaned up, the cowboy joined hundreds of others wandering the streets searching for supplies, getting a haircut (\$0.35), or perhaps having a black-and-white portrait taken, the latest fad. Abbott was no exception, and joined the ranks of the curious trail riders in their quest for rest and relaxation.

Abbott remembered this account: "I bought some new clothes and got my picture taken... I had a new white Stetson hat that I paid \$10.00 for and new pants that cost \$12.00 and a good shirt

and fancy boots. Lord, I was proud of those clothes! When my sister saw me, she said take your pants out of your boots and put your coat on. You look like an outlaw! I told her to go to hell and I never did like her after that."

After all of the frills of getting the R&R process rolling, almost like herding the cattle they were accustomed to, the next stop for all cowboys was a local saloon. "Rot Gut" whiskey flowed like a river and its toll was often heavy. When the dust had settled and yet another cattle town adventure had passed, it was back to the trails where the cycle would start anew.

Abbott made several cattle drives north. He fell in love with Montana. He also fell in love with Granville Stewart's daughter, Mary. When the winter of 1886–87 brought about the demise of the DHS herds, Abbott worked for other outfits. In 1889 he started his own operation, the Three Deuce Ranch. He had married Mary Stewart. Together they would raise eight children. Their hardships were extreme but similar to others of the time. He described farm work as much harder than trailing cattle. He added a few milk cows and sold milk to a boarding house in Maiden, Montana. With proceeds from his farm, he built up his beef cattle herd and in 1900 secured grazing rights to 2,000 acres. By 1919, he had \$50,000 in the bank. Then, the next big cattle bust came: "I lost most everything. Such is life in the West," he said. He started over.

Abbott lived long enough to see most cowboys put their guns away, but he refused to give up his. He wrote in his memoir: "A six-shooter's an awful lot of company. Suppose you break your leg, you can signal. If you're caught afoot, you can shoot a jackrabbit. If you're held up you can defend yourself." He continued: "A man has got to be at least 75 years old to be a real old cowhand. I started young and I am 78. Only a few of us are left now, and they are scattered from Texas to Canada. The rest have left the wagon. I hope they find good water and plenty of grass. But wherever they are is where I want to go." Abbott passed away on April 7, 1939, just days after his memoir, *We Pointed Them North: Recollections of a Cowpuncher*, was published.

In 2008, the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame inducted Abbott into their ranks, recognizing his lifetime of devotion to the cowboy way of life. He certainly is another fine example of the "Pioneers" we have featured for this column. Job well done, "Teddy Blue"!

Editor's note: This is the forty-ninth in the series Our Pioneers.

Is there a Simmental pioneer who you would like to see profiled in this series? Reach out to Larry Maxey or the editor to submit your suggestions:

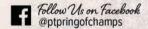
larryhmaxey@gmail.com • editor@simmgene.com



STOCK SHOW & RODEO







2026 SIMGENETICS SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28

8am Arrival Begins 6pm Arrival Ends

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

9 am Cattle Check-In Exhibits Hall Building, Cactus Room Check-in ends at 2 pm Proof of Registration Required

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30

Noon National SimGenetic PTP Show W.R. Watt Arena

Judges: Randy Daniel, GA and Associate TBA Order: Percentage Simbrah, Purebred Simbrah, Percentage Simmental, Purebred Simmental

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31

10 am Breakfast Meet & Greet
Simmental Stalls
Hosted by Texas Simmental Simbrah Association

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1

3 pm Cattle Released



by Cecillia Newby

Growing Up Simmental: The Breed that Built Me

One of my favorite questions that I am asked is "Why Simmental?" As a kid, I would simply answer, "Because that is what my

family raises," but now, that answer means so much more.

As a third-generation Simmental breeder, it is important to me to know the history behind our operation. In the early 1970s, my grandfather began breeding Simmental cattle. He and a close friend began hosting a sale with their offspring and quickly found a breed that they loved. My grandpa's passion for the Simmental breed is evident as he continues to stand strong to his roots and has been raising this breed for five decades. He has passed on his love for Simmental cattle to my father and me as we all three continue to strive and better our Simmental herds. Some of my favorite memories are working cattle with some of the most influential people in my life.

In addition to the strong roots of raising this breed, Simmental cattle have been a strong part of my life. My father enjoyed traveling to competitions to show cattle and participate in the educational contests at the state, regional, and national levels. Like him, some of my favorite times of the year are when we load up the trailer and hit the road to the next show. Not

only do I enjoy showing cattle in the ring, but I also love participating in the educational contests. From public speaking and sales talk to quizzes and interviews, all of these areas allow me to grow and sharpen my skills as a leader and a person. These areas always challenge and excite me to learn more about this breed and the incredibly talented people involved with it. However, the most influential part of my experience with the Simmental breed is the friendships I have built throughout the years. Whether it is joking and teasing each other on the walk to tieouts at the end of a long day, having a conversation about what answers are right or wrong at the stalls after a quiz, or helping each other fit cattle before we head to the show ring, these friendships and relationships grow and flourish because of youth organizations like the AJSA that allow members to connect with others who have the same passions.

It doesn't matter if you come from a multigenerational Simmental ranch or are new to the breed. This organization provides many opportunities, like the National Classic, the IGS Summit, and Fall Focus, that allow members to learn and grow in the Simmental breed. Everyone has the opportunity to gain unique experiences and grow in the cattle industry. These experiences and the relationships that we build along the way show that we will always Stand Strong Simmental.

also property of the second of

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STCC Pays To Prove 104N



Foundation Female

Donated By: Trennepohl Farms, IN Sells At: Bricktown National

STCC PAYS TO PROVE 104N

ASA# 4562454

DOB: 01/05/2025 • Purebred Simmental

WHF POINT PROVEN H45 x STCC FANCY AND PRIMED 063J

Proceeds from the sale of this female go directly to the Merit Scholarship Program.

To pledge a donation prior to the sale, contact Mia Bayer at 715-573-0139

Simmentals, Food, and Fellowship

Sunday, January 11, 2026 • 4:00 pm

Join us prior to the Bricktown National Sale at the Cattlemen's Congress in Oklahoma City to view this outstanding female.

AUCTION 2026

Bass Fishing Trip

Donated by: Fenton Farms Simmentals, MS Sells at: Bricktown National Simmental Sale at the Cattlemen's Congress, Oklahoma City, OK

One night lodging and a full day of fishing for

two people.

Adventure Lake is a private 80-acre lake in Ellisville, MS, stocked with largemouth bass, coppernose bream,

and white perch. The wide variety gives the angler much to choose from for enjoying the fishing experience.

Adventure Lake has been fished by several professional anglers including Shaw Grisby, Cliff Pace, and Paul Elias. Our beautiful lodge sits overlooking the lake for a great view. Spend the night in our lodge and

fishing. If timing is right, we may be able to include a local professional angler to accompany you. Current record for largemouth bass is 13 lbs 4 ounces.





Marketing Opportunities

Donated by: American Simmental Association Sells at: Upcoming PTP Shows and Events

Selling back cover ad space in the following show programs:

2026 National Classic

2026 ASA Sire Source Directory

2027 Cattlemen's Congress Open Show

2027 Cattlemen's Congress Jr Show

2027 National Western Open Show

2027 National Western Jr Show

2027 National Western Pen Show

2027 Fort Worth Stock Show Open Show

For additional details, including photos or samples of these items, visit American Simmental Association on Facebook.





January 11, 2026 | 4:00 pm At Cattlemen's Congress Oklahoma City, OK



January 18, 2026 | 2:00 pm At National Western Stock Show Denver, CO

Rifle and Unique Liquor Assortment

Rifle donated by: Circle M Farms, TX
Liquor donated by: Val & Lori Eberspacher
and Steve & Cathy Eichacker
The One and Only Sale, Denver, CO







Visit simmental.org/foundation to learn more about the ASF

Please consider making a taxable donation. Making a difference for the future of our youth and the breed.

If you're interested in purchasing or making a donation, contact Mia Bayer at 715-573-0139.





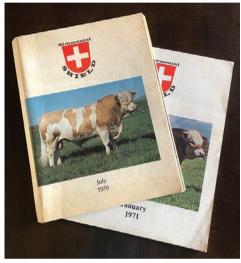
OUR ROOTS

Register

Remembering the history of the Simmental breed and its people.

ASA Publication, Inc., Archive Grows with Donation from Member

ASA Publication's historical archive received a meaningful and unexpected boost when Marty McDermott of Iowa reached out to inquire whether we had need for back issues of magazines. His father's archive goes back to the very earliest *Simmental Shield* magazine, which was published in July 1970. While our archive is mostly complete, we had empty spots that Marty and his dad, Mike, were happy to fill. Thank you, McDermott family, for helping to build out our archive!



Early issues of Simmental Shield.

Quick fact:

Simmental Shield was published from July 1970 through June 1987. It was replaced by *the Register*, which first went out in magazine form to members in September 1987.







WWW.JUNIORSIMMENTAL.ORG

for american juniors immental

AJSA DATES

Merit award & ajsa trustee application deadline

June 1 | Juniorsimmental.org

eastern regional classic June 10-13 | Lebanon, in

WESTERN REGIONAL CLASSIC

June 17-20 | TWIN Falls. ID PENDING ASA BOARD APPROVAL

ausa national classic JULY 4-10 | GRAND ISLAND, NO

annual membership \$50/year | Renews July 1

STAY TUNED TO THE AJSA WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA FOR ADDITIONAL EVENTS AND DEADLINES



2025-26 AJSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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DNA Testing Requirements for Herdsires

In January, ASA membership voted to require a DNA test (GGP-100K genomic panel) on all herd bulls/natural service sires born on or after January 1, 2025. This new rule mimics the current DNA requirement for AI sires and donor dams.

Although the rule change isn't immediately affecting membership, it is never too early to prepare. By collecting and submitting DNA samples on bull calves born this spring and beyond if they'll go on to sire registered calves, producers can avoid future issues.

DNA Test for Bovine Congestive Heart Failure (BCHF) Risk Now Available

A test estimating a genomic prediction for risk for development of Bovine Congestive Heart Failure (BCHF) is now available as an add-on the GGP100K (\$9.50) or a standalone test (\$19.50). This is not an IGS prediction but molecular breeding value based on the Simplot and Neogen partnership studying heart failure in feedlot cattle. Because this is a molecular breeding value, results will be based solely on the DNA marker information and will not include other pertinent information that goes into EPD like pedigree, breed, and performance records. The test returns a molecular breeding value for risk of progeny developing heart scores correlated to BCHF (lower number is better). The average accuracy of animals tested is 0.32 (standard deviation 0.09). At this time the results will be reported through an email but not uploaded to Herdbook. Please contact Jackie Atkins at jatkins@simmgene.com with any questions.

W/C Double Down 5014E (ASA 3336150) Pedigree Update

The American Simmental Association has completed a pedigree correction for the bull W/C Double Down 5014E (ASA 3336150) following parent-verification DNA testing on his dam, W/C Miss Werning 5014C (ASA 3211676), which resulted in a change to her recorded sire. This adjustment has altered W/C DOUBLE DOWN 5014E's pedigree and breed composition, which in turn affects the breed composition and pedigree of his progeny. All impacted records were automatically updated in the ASA database immediately following his dam's pedigree change. For questions regarding affected animals, please contact the ASA DNA Department at dna@simmgene.com, or 406-587-4531.

Seeking Sire Nominations For CMP

Looking to test your top young sire across different environments? Want to enhance accuracy and gain valuable data on your young sire? The Carcass Merit Program (CMP) is for you!

Since 1997, the CMP has relied on select cooperator herds to test sires; however, ASA recently added a new CMP testing avenue, which will allow for MORE SIRES to be tested annually. CMP collects vital carcass data on calves, which improves carcass trait predictions and DNA marker predictions for all cattle in the IGS genetic evaluation, and supports breeders in evaluating their young sires and advancing their genetic programs. If you're interested in nominating a sire, fill out the nomination form at simmental.org (Programs, ASA Programs, CMP).

Sale Catalog Resources Added to ASA Website

Looking to add some information about EPD and indexes, genomics, the IGS multi-breed genetic evaluation, or the benefits of participating in ASA's programs to your sale catalog? Look no further! ASA has compiled a folder with various resources like logos, camera-ready ads, and answers to frequently asked questions that can be used in sale catalogs or other marketing materials. Visit www.simmental.org and click on "Sale Catalog Resources" under the Marketing tab to view the material.

Hydrops Update: TraitTrac and a Recommended Marketing Statement

ASA has been investigating a developing genetic condition that causes Hydrops pregnancies in a certain line of Simmental genetics. Here are some updates in relation to this research and ASA's actions/suggestions:

Hydrops has been added to Herdbook's TraitTrac with WS All Aboard B80 listed as a documented carrier. At this time there are no genetic holds placed on his descendants as there is not a DNA test available yet. Once there is a test, then Hydrops will follow the same policy as other genetic conditions.

Female progeny who are descendants of or are directly sired by WS All Aboard B80 (ASA# 2852207) are at risk for carrying a genetic abnormality called Hydrops. Daughters may develop a serious condition during late gestation that results in excess fluid in the fetal membrane, which typically causes the loss of the calf and occasionally the dam. There is no current test at this time to identify animals carrying this mutation. Research is ongoing regarding the transmission of the abnormality, and to develop a genetic test. Helping our producers navigate this issue is of the utmost importance to us. Therefore, given that there is neither a full understanding of this condition nor a test, careful consideration should be given regarding the question of whether to breed WS All Aboard B80 descendant females until more information is available to breeders.

For questions regarding established WS All Aboard B80 genetics, Hydrops symptoms, reporting an active case, or additional information, please visit the Hydrops Information Center at www.simmental.org or reach out to Jackie Atkins at jatkins@simmgene.com.

Price Adjustment Notification: uLD Genomic Panel, Semen Sample Processing, and TSU Fees

Due to increased costs from ASA's contracted laboratory, ASA will be raising the price of the ultra-Low Density (uLD or 9K) genomic panel and the processing fees for semen samples, effective immediately. Due to increased costs from the manufacturer, ASA will be raising the price of TSUs from \$22/box to \$23/box, effective immediately. These price adjustments are essential to cover rising expenses and production costs, and we thank you for your understanding.

If you have any questions, contact the DNA department at dna@simmgene.com. To view the current DNA testing prices visit simmental.org.

Second Quarter Check-Off Dollars Available

December 31 marks the end of the second quarter in ASA's fiscal year. State associations wishing to claim their second quarter check-off dollars can do so at any time by visiting simmental.org and completing the "Promotional Check-off Dollars Request Form" found in the Membership/State Association section. Remember that cost share reimbursement requests can be sent at any time. For the complete cost share program guidelines and reimbursement request directions, visit ASA's website. Contact Callie Cooley at stateassoc@simmgene.com with any questions.

2025 Year-Letter is N

In accordance with the Beef Improvement Federation guidelines, the year-letter animal identification for 2025 is N, and will be followed by P in 2026, and R in 2027. The letter M was the year-letter designated during 2024. Per the BIF guidelines, the following letters are not used: I, O, Q, and V.

Office Holiday Schedule

Wednesday, December 24, Thursday, December 25 & Friday, December 26, 2025

Christmas

Monday, January 1

New Year's Day

Friday, April 3

Spring Holiday

Monday, May 25

Memorial Day

Friday, July 3

Fourth of July

Monday, September 7

Labor Day

Thursday, November 26 & Friday, November 27

Thanksgiving

Wednesday, December 23, Thursday, December 24 & Friday,

December 25

Christmas



BUILD, BREED, ACHIEVE

BUILD YOUR SYSTEM. ACHIEVE YOUR GENETIC IMPROVEMENT GOALS.

- 6 Steps to Achieve Your Genetic Goals -
 - 1. Clearly define breeding objectives
 - 2. Use whole herd reporting
- 3. Properly define contemporary groups
- 4. Commit to thorough and accurate data collection and reporting on economically relevant traits
- 5. Use index-based selection
- **6.** Incorporate genomics

GENOMIC TESTING SYSTEM TO REACH YOUR GOALS

"You do not rise to the level of your goals.
You fall to the level of your systems."
- James Clear, Atomic Habits

SimGenetics PROFIT THROUGH SCIENCE

American Simmental Associatio

TOTAL HERD ENROLLMENT



THE is a whole herd reporting program that benefits participants by providing improved female records, more informative EPD, and faster genetic improvement.

COW HERD DNA ROUNDUP



CHR facilitates DNA testing on entire cow herds to improve female trait predictions, improve all genomically enhanced EPD, and establish parentage markers on the entire cow herd for easier parent verification in future calves.

CALF CROP GENOMICS



CCG provides members with the opportunity to genotype entire calf crops, allowing participants to make informed genetic selection decisions based on the most accurate predictions available.

CARCASS EXPANSION PROJECT & CARCASS MERIT PROGRAM



CXP and CMP collect vital carcass data on genotyped calves, which improves carcass trait predictions and DNA marker predictions for all cattle in the IGS genetic evaluation and supports breeders in advancing their genetic programs.

- 1 Genotype all animals within a contemporary group
- 2. Genotype males and females
- 3. Incorporate genomic enhanced predictions into selection decisions as early as possible

Tax Planning for Cow-Calf Operations: Don't Let the Snowball Roll out of Control

by Tina Barrett, Executive Director of Nebraska Farm Business Inc.

The past several years have been profitable for cattle producers. Cow-calf operations are amid a period of unprecedented high incomes—something that crop farmers experienced back in 2012 and again in 2022. Strong income years are a blessing, but they also bring challenges: larger tax bills, pressure to spend on prepaid expenses, and the temptation to push income forward or load up on depreciable purchases. There are some lessons that we can learn from the peaks of crop profitability that will hopefully avoid some of the pitfalls that come with a downturn that is inevitably ahead.

Early, proactive tax planning is one of the most valuable tools you have. Getting to your tax preparer sooner will allow you more time to make the adjustments that are right for your operation. Oftentimes, if you have just a few weeks to move a lot of income around, panic or quick decisions can turn into decisions you wish you hadn't made.

Smart Spending vs. Quick Spending

The most common mistake I see is year-end panic spending. A producer says, "If I buy this piece of equipment, I'll save on taxes." But let's step back and do the math.

If you spend \$100,000 just to save \$30,000 in taxes, you still spent \$70,000 you did not need to. It often makes more sense to have that \$70,000 available to pay down debt, and shore up liquidity for the next downturn. Debt reduction cannot happen without taxable income, especially when that debt is carryover operating or land debt. To have money to pay principal (a non-deductible expense), your taxable income must be higher than your non-farm expenses, income taxes, and principal payments for the year. If it is not, you will have to borrow more money from your operating note to pay for your expenses.

Buying assets or breeding livestock should be a business decision first, and a tax decision second. When the order flips, that snowball of debt, depreciation, and future tax problems starts rolling—and it can grow faster than you think.

Using Depreciation Wisely

Accelerated depreciation can be an excellent tool, but it needs to be used with caution. We have two options to accelerate depreciation: Section 179 and Bonus (or Special) Depreciation. Both of these provisions received updates with the One Big Beautiful Bill Act passed in July of 2025. The bill enhanced Section 179 limits and made 100% bonus depreciation permanent.

- Section 179: For 2025, producers can expense up to \$2.5 million of qualifying purchases, with a phase-out starting at \$4 million. That includes equipment, breeding livestock, and certain improvements. It does not include multi-purpose farm buildings such as a machine shed.
- Bonus Depreciation: Bonus depreciation allows you to deduct 100% of the purchase price of almost all new or used farm assets in the year of purchase with no limit. This option includes pretty much all asset purchases including multi-purpose farm buildings.

The key difference between these two options is flexibility. Section 179 allows you to elect in through a dollar for dollar method. You can choose any dollar amount up to the limits

that you want to use. With bonus depreciation you must elect out by asset life class (e.g., all seven-year assets), not just individual purchases. That makes it an "all or nothing" choice for each category.

Between these two tools, most farm assets can be written off in the year they are acquired. That's powerful — but it also means you can run out of depreciation when you need it most. Stretching deductions across multiple years often makes more long-term sense, especially when you are financing the purchase. In future years when you need to make principal payments, you won't have a deduction to offset that cash outlay. If you are paying for capital purchases with cash or recognizing gain on the sale of a traded asset, then using accelerated depreciation makes sense.

Prepaying Expenses

Another common tax strategy is prepaying expenses. IRS Publication 225 (the Farmer's Tax Guide) allows prepaying certain ordinary farm expenses if they meet the following guidelines.

- The expense must be for a specific quantity (e.g., 500 gallons of fuel, 50 tons of hay).
- It must be for a business purpose, not just to reduce taxes.
- The prepayment must not be a mere deposit it must be for an actual purchase, not just money held on account.
- Feed, seed, fertilizer, chemicals, fuel, and vet supplies are examples that may qualify.

Prepaying can be a good tool when used deliberately, but don't prepay just for the sake of lowering taxes if it strains your cash flow. Also, be sure to consider the impact that operating interest rates have on these decisions. With higher rates, the cost of carrying prepaid expenses can be significant and could be more than the actual tax savings. Planning prepaid expenses with a "business first, tax decision second" mentality can save your operation money in the long term.

Balancing Debt and Cash Flow

High-income years bring a unique temptation: borrowing money to "buy down" taxes. But remember—debt payments don't go away just because income is lower next year (or three years from now). If you finance \$200,000 in new purchases to save taxes today, you've committed to making those principal and interest payments for years to come.

That's where liquidity and cash flow planning becomes critical. Having strong cash reserves gives you options when markets soften, interest rates rise, or other things out of your control impact the operation. Paying down debt in good years may not feel as exciting as driving home new equipment, but it often leaves your operation in a far stronger position. This has to be one of the biggest lessons we can take from crop operations. The high-profit years led to increased spending and debt. When margins got tight, those debt payments were still waiting to be paid.

Final Thoughts

High-income years are opportunities to build lasting strength into your operation. By planning early, spending wisely, and using depreciation and prepay strategies with care, you can lower your tax bill without creating tomorrow's snowball problem. Smart tax planning keeps that snowball from gaining speed and size. Done wrong, it can crash into your operation.

(Continued on page 38)

ALL PURPOSE. ALL YOU NEED.

BUILD A HERD THAT WORKS AS HARD AS YOU DO.



The American Simmental Association's \$All Purpose Index, or \$API, predicts cow herd profitability while keeping pressure on terminal traits. Better genetics translate to increased profits for bulls used to sire replacement heifers and harvest remaining calves.

SIMMENTAL.ORG

STAND STRONG SIMMENTAL (Continued from page 36)

Done right, it can melt into opportunities that keep you stronger for the long haul.

The goal isn't just to reduce taxes—it's to keep your ranch resilient, flexible, and ready for whatever the cattle markets bring next.

Three Considerations When Comparing the Cost of Buying Bred Heifers to the Cost of Developing Them

by Dr. Kenny Burdine, University of Kentucky Extension/Southern Ag Today

As we roll through fall, spring-born calves will be weaned and many of those heifer calves will be held for replacement purposes. At the same time, a large number of bred heifers will hit the market and be available for the same purpose. It is not uncommon for someone to comment on how expensive bred heifers are and assume that they can develop their own heifers for much less. While this is true in some cases, I also think it is easy to underestimate some of those costs. The purpose of this article is to briefly highlight three things that are crucial to consider when a cow-calf operator tries to make this comparison. And I would argue these are even more significant given the strength of the current cattle market.

The Opportunity Cost is the Biggest Cost

I hope this one is obvious, but the largest cost of developing a heifer is the opportunity cost of that heifer at weaning. High-quality weaned heifers, in the 500–600-lb. range, are bringing \$2,000 and higher across most US markets. Whatever those heifer calves are worth in the marketplace is the first cost of heifer development. By not selling that heifer calf, one is forgoing that income. This cost is huge right now due to the strength of the calf market and higher interest rates, which makes forgoing that income even more significant. While the heifer herself is the easiest opportunity cost to quantify, this applies to all the costs of developing her (feed, pasture, breeding, facilities, labor, etc.).

They Won't All Make the Cut

After the initial cost of not selling the heifer at weaning, another year of expenses will be incurred to get that heifer to the same stage as those bred heifers on the marketplace. She will be carried through a full winter and summer grazing season and be bred to calve the following year. There are significant costs in doing this, but it is also important to understand that not all those heifers are going to end up being kept for breeding. Some will fail to breed, and others will simply not meet the expectations of the farmer. Heifers not kept for breeding will end up being sold as feeders and likely won't cover all those expenses. The "loss" on these heifers becomes an additional cost of the heifers that do enter the cow herd as replacements.

Next Year's Calf Should Be Very Profitable

This is another one that doesn't get much attention but really matters in a time like the present. It's easier to think about this one applied to a specific timeline so I will frame it for a heifer born this spring. A heifer calf weaned in the fall 2025, kept for replacement purposes and bred in 2026, won't wean her first calf until fall of 2027. Conversely, those bred heifers on the market in

fall of 2025 should wean their first calf in 2026. While nothing is guaranteed in the cattle markets, fundamentals suggest that 2026 should be a profitable year for cow-calf operations. The potential profit on that calf in 2026 becomes capitalized in the value of those bred heifers in 2025. For this reason, comparing the cost of a bred heifer in fall 2025 to the cost of developing a heifer weaned in fall of 2025 can be misleading.

The purpose of this article was not to suggest that either replacement strategy was best. There is merit in both approaches, and it largely comes down to the goals of the operator. While I am an economist, I also recognize there are a lot of non-economic considerations that come into play. But the economics of the decision is complex, and carefully thinking through all aspects of the decision is likely time well spent.

Insights into Calf Mortality at Commercial Calf Ranches

by Andrea Bedford, Bovine Veterinarian

New data from four calf ranches highlight the dominance of respiratory disease and the year-round consistency of health challenges in beef-dairy cross calves. As the dairy industry embraces beef-on-dairy crossbreeding, a new type of animal is reshaping the US calf and feedlot landscape. These calves, born on dairies but destined for the beef supply chain, are prized for their hybrid vigor, growth potential, and carcass quality. Their journey often includes an early stay at commercial calf ranches, where young calves are reared in large groups under varying environmental and management conditions.

While these specialized facilities play a key role in raising thousands of calves efficiently, they also present unique animal health challenges. Calves arrive from multiple dairies, often within days of birth, and face stresses from transport, commingling, and pathogen exposure. The industry has long suspected that respiratory disease dominates mortality at these sites, but until recently, detailed, systematic data to confirm those patterns were limited.

A new study by Rebecca Bigelow and colleagues from Kansas State University set out to change that. The study compiles data from over 240 necropsies performed across four different commercial calf ranches over a 12-month period documenting cause of death, concurrent conditions, and whether these patterns shifted by season, sex, breed, or location. These necropsies included both beef-dairy cross (152) and dairy calves (91). Their findings confirm respiratory disease is indeed the leading cause of death, but they also shed light on gastrointestinal (GI) disease, and septicemia. Their work provides a valuable benchmark for working to improve early-life calf health.

Of the 243 necropsied calves, 67.5% of them had a primary diagnosis of respiratory disease. Gastrointestinal causes accounted for 11.5%, septicemia for 9.5%, and miscellaneous cases (including trauma, umbilical infection, and liver abscesses) for the remaining 11.5%.

Most calves had no additional comorbidities recorded, but among those that did, respiratory plus another condition was the most common combination. Within the respiratory category, bronchopneumonia represented nearly 90% of cases, while bronchopneumonia with interstitial pattern was less frequent.

(Continued on page 40)

The decision you make today will influence the next 20 years.



CALF CROP

GENOMICS

Make it a good one.







Register

(Continued from page 38)

Considering GI lesions, 49% of calves had no lesions, while 21% had upper GI lesions (rumen and abomasum), 13% had lower GI lesions (small and large intestine), and 30% had both.

One of the study's more surprising findings was what didn't change. Statistical modeling showed no significant associations between the likelihood of respiratory or GI diagnoses and season, sex, breed, or ranch. This result suggests the underlying disease pressures in these systems are persistent year-round rather than being driven by environmental conditions or genetic background. Further, beef-dairy cross calves had no improved disease resistance compared to dairy calves under commercial rearing conditions.

These results can be summarized into the following takeaway points for animal caretakers:

- 1. Prioritize respiratory prevention. With two thirds of deaths linked to respiratory causes, calf ranches must focus on preventative strategies: proper ventilation, gradual group transitions, and consistent monitoring for early signs of respiratory illness. Review vaccination programs and align them for protection at times of stress and exposure.
- 2. Necropsies pay off. Routine necropsy programs can help producers spot emerging disease trends before they escalate.
- 3. Maintain consistent management year-round. Prevention and monitoring must remain equally rigorous through all seasons, not just in winter or transport peaks.
- 4. Collaborate across the production chain. Calf health outcomes at ranches depend on colostrum management, navel care, and nutrition practices at the dairy of origin, as well as transport and receiving protocols. Strong communication between dairies, calf ranches, and veterinarians ensures continuity of care.







If Beef Is Your Business



demanding and informative young sire test. The program is a hallmark of ASA breed improvement for economically relevant carcass traits. Commercial producers play an integral part in this project.

The American Simmental Association Carcass Merit Program (CMP) is the beef industry's most

*****SimGenetics**

American Simmental Association

To learn more about the CMP visit www.simmental.org, then click Carcass Merit Program under the ASA Programs tab.

Questions, contact cmp@simmgene.com for more information regarding this program.

Participants receive:

- ◆ \$200 for each AI-sired calf with carcass information
- ◆ Free semen on top young herdsires
- ◆ Free ASA Genetic Evaluation on your cow herd
- ◆ Free genotyping on terminal progeny
- ◆ Keep any or all replacement females

Become a Carcass Merit Program test herd today

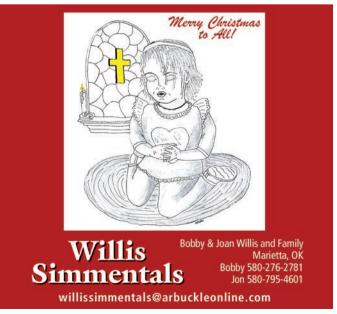
*The CMP is a structured young sire progeny test. Participating cooperator herds will random sample their cow herd with CMP semen, and the resulting male (or female) progeny will be harvested with individual carcass data gathered. ASA Staff will work with cooperator herds to provide bulls that fit the general criteria of your management program; however, only bulls nominated into the CMP program may be used. Producers are encouraged to be somewhat proficient in Microsoft Excel for accurate and consistent record-keeping.

GOP Senator Calls on DOJ to Investigate Beef Consolidation

Senator Kevin Cramer is urging the US Department of Justice (DOJ) to accelerate its long-running investigation into potential anticompetitive practices among the nation's largest beef packers—National Beef, Cargill, Tyson Foods, and JBS—citing renewed concerns over pricing power and market fairness.

The DOJ investigation was opened in March of 2020, but no action has been taken. The pressure to investigate anticompetitive practices has been mounting for years, and intensified during the COVID-19 pandemic; the recent discussions over importing more beef from Argentina have further heightened the tension. Cramer harnessed this renewed concern to put pressure back on the DOJ to pursue the investigation.





Cargill to Lay Off 80 Employees

Cargill recently announced that it will be permanently laying off 80 employees in Minnesota, as a part of a larger wave of job cuts globally. The layoffs, which are a part of a plan announced in 2024, are set to cut the company's workforce by 5%.

The employees being laid off in Minnesota will be offered severance pay, according to a letter sent to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development. The layoffs come as many corporations announce workforce reduction.

JBS Sued Over "Net Zero" Claims

US advocacy group Mighty Earth has accused JBS Brazil of making false claims about its commitment to reaching net-zero emissions by 2040. The case, which was filed with the District of Columbia Superior Court in Washington, is the latest in a long list of cases against the corporation that allege "greenwashing."

Mighty Earth claims that the net-zero claims are misleading because the company purposely omitted information about the environmental harm their operation causes, violating the DC Consumer Protection Procedures Act. JBS rejected the accusation, sharing the following in a statement: "Our actions are guided by science, transparency, and accountability, and we remain focused on delivering measurable, meaningful progress toward a more sustainable global food system."

Tyson, Cargill Agree to Multi-Million-Dollar Settlements in Beef Price-Fixing Case

Tyson Foods and Cargill have agreed to pay a combined \$87.5 million to settle a federal class-action lawsuit alleging they conspired to inflate US beef prices by limiting supply. According to court filings in late October in the US District Court for Minnesota, Tyson will pay \$55 million and Cargill \$32.5 million under preliminary settlements that still require a judge's approval. The agreements mark the first consumer settlements in the beef price-fixing litigation, which began in 2019.

Plaintiffs' attorneys estimate the class includes about 36 million consumers across 26 states and the District of Columbia who indirectly purchased beef products—such as chuck, loin and ribs—between August 2014 and December 2019 from retailers including Walmart and Costco. The retailers are not defendants in the case.

Under the settlement terms, Tyson and Cargill agreed to cooperate with consumers pursuing claims against the remaining defendants, JBS USA and National Beef Packing, which have denied wrongdoing. An expert for the plaintiffs estimated total consumer damages at \$1.9 billion.

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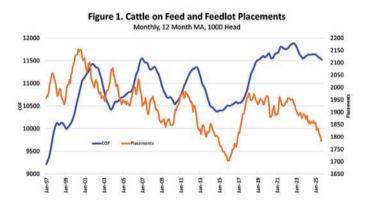
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Nancy at nchesterfield@simmgene.com | Rebecca at rprice@simmgene.com
Call 406-587-2778

Feedlot Production Continues to Decline

by Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension

The September 1, 2025, feedlot total was 11.08 million head, down 1.1% year-over-year, and the tenth consecutive monthly decrease compared to one year earlier. Feedlot inventories continue to decline slowly. Average inventories the past year are down just 3.1% from the peak in 2022, but the September 12-month moving average is at the lowest level since January 2019. With the September on-feed total up slightly from the previous month, the August total was likely the seasonal low for the year. The feedlot inventory on August 1 this year was the lowest monthly inventory since October 2017.

Total feedlot production is declining more rapidly than the slowly declining feedlot inventories would indicate. Feedlot placements in August were 90.1% of last year, and the smallest August placement total since 2015. Figure 1 shows the relative comparison between 12-month moving averages of cattle on-feed and feedlot placements. Placements have declined more than the on-feed inventory up to this point aided by a slower turnover rate in feedlots.



August marketings were down 13.6% compared to last year. Feedlot marketings for the first eight months of 2025 are down 5.4% year-over-year. Average feedlot marketings the past year are down 8.2% from peak average marketings in 2022. Smaller calf crops and limited feeder cattle supplies mean there is less cattle available for feedlot production. Feedlot production and beef production are expected to continue to decline into 2027.

USDA's Beef Industry Plan: What Does it Mean for the Small Processor

American Association for Meat Processors

USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins has released the long-awaited plan to fortify the American beef industry. The USDA plan aims to grow the herd, and reverse the shrinking number of cattle ranchers in the country. Other elements are targeted at the beef processing industry, including offering new grants, increased access to remote beef grading, and reducing inspection costs for small processors.

"I see things in the announcement that will have a positive impact on our members long-term," said Chris Young, American

Association for Meat Processors (AAMP) Executive Director. "The combination of new grant funds, low-interest loans, and a reduction in overtime inspection costs are all things that will help the small processors' bottom line and make their businesses more sustainable. Being able to add production space or automation will allow them to increase production and meet growing consumer demands for beef and other proteins."

Focusing on the elements of the plan that involve enhancing local processing and aiding small processors, there are many potential benefits for small processors, including the announcement of a fourth round of grant funding through the Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program (MPPEP). The first two rounds of the grant program helped many AAMP members advance their growth plans, whether through the purchase of new processing equipment or expansion of their facilities. This new program, which will focus on promoting local supply chains, will total up to \$2 million per award. As many as 50 small meat processors across the country could receive funding to diversify the beef supply chain and open local market opportunities. USDA will strategically direct funding to areas that have a lack of local processing but have a demand for these smaller processors.

Additionally, the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) will expand its remote grading program for beef, targeting small and medium processors that supply local and regional markets. The AMS will also expand its Instrument Enhanced Grading program, which leverages camera technology to improve the consistency and accuracy of the AMS grading program and reduce staffing needs, bringing costs down for meat processors of all sizes. Several AAMP companies have utilized this technology already, and it has allowed small butcher shops to sell Prime and Choice beef without the significant costs of bringing a USDA Grader to their facility.

During the COVID pandemic, the Food Safety and Inspection Service temporarily reduced the costs of overtime and holiday inspection for small and very small establishments. AAMP was a proponent of this initiative, as it helped offset the costs of keeping up with the demand for meat that members experienced. The agency will again reduce those fees by 75% for very small processors, and 30% for small processors.

Tallow Tops Food Trends at Whole Foods Market

Whole Foods Market's Trends Council recently unveiled their top food trends for 2026 in the retailer's annual Trends predictions report. Whole Foods Market predicts 2026 the year of fiber frenzy, fine-dining freezer finds, and an uptick in tallow. These and more are set to influence the food landscape in the coming year.

The Whole Foods Market Trends Council—a collective of Whole Foods Market team members ranging from foragers and buyers to culinary experts—develop these trend predictions each year through a combination of deep industry experience, keen observation of consumer preferences, and collaborative sessions with emerging and established brands. "Each year, our Trends report captures the pulse of what's next in food, and 2026 is no

(Continued on page 46)

PLAN AHEAD

NEW DNA REQUIREMENT FOR HERD SIRES

New DNA Rule:

All walking sires born on or after January 1, 2025 must have a high-density genomic DNA test completed before their progeny can be registered with ASA. The rule also applies to foundation/foreign sires (bulls registered with other breed associations).



Why it matters:

Parent verification = accurate pedigrees

GE-EPD = more accurate genetic predictions

Faster genetic improvement

Don't wait.

Collect and submit DNA samples early to prevent delays in future registrations.





Contact the ASA DNA Department at dna@simmgene.com with questions.

(Continued from page 44)

exception," said Sonya Gafsi Oblisk, Chief Merchandising and Marketing Officer at Whole Foods Market. "This year's trends highlight how curiosity, creativity, and conscious choices are shaping the way people eat and shop. We're inspired by the innovation we're seeing across the food landscape and can't wait to watch these ideas come to life in our aisles and beyond."

"Our trends predictions are inspired by the council's deep expertise and boots-on-the-ground discovery — at farmer's markets, industry trade shows, local restaurants, and more," said Cathy Strange, Ambassador of Food Culture for Whole Foods Market and member of the Trends Council. "The 2026 list reflects how quickly ideas can move from emerging concepts to everyday

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Secretary/Treasurer
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favorites. It's exciting to see how these trends will shape conversations in kitchens, communities, and the broader food culture in the year ahead."

From whipped to herb-infused varieties, beef tallow is making a comeback as a nourishing and nostalgic fat. Once a staple in traditional cooking and prized for its high smoke point and rich flavor, tallow is being rediscovered by consumers who value ancestral ingredients and are looking for oil alternatives. This old-school fat is having a moment on social media, though it's actually been used for centuries for frying and baking. Restaurants have also been trading in traditional oils for tallow to elevate everything from french fries to pastries. And for customers supporting "nose to tail" use of the animal, these brands provide a usage for fat that is normally discarded.

Gallup Poll Shows Consumer Trust in Food Safety at All-time Low

Since 1999, Gallup has been collecting data on the American people's trust in food safety measures. The latest data, collected in July 2024, shows that only 57% of US adults have either a "great deal" or "fair amount" of confidence in the government's ability to ensure food safety. Of the respondents, 14% have "no confidence at all." Previous Gallup polls, spanning a decade, showed that around 70–80% of people were confident in food safety.

Food recalls have been high in recent years, likely leading to this drop in confidence. In the first six months of 2024, over 500 food products were recalled. Previous data showed parents and non-parents having similar confidence in food safety, but the latest data shows a widening gap between these groups. Recalls of food intended for babies and young children have increased in recent years, likely explaining this difference.

Is Your Hay Supplying Enough Vitamin A this Winter?

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Vitamin A plays a critical role in young calf health. Calves are born with very limited vitamin A stores because little transfers from the dam during gestation. Newly born calves rely heavily on colostrum for their supply of vitamin A, making the cow's lategestation diet critically important. Milk is a poor source, so calves depend on the colostrum for their vitamin A supply for the first few months of life.

For most herds calving in late winter or spring, cows are fed stored or stockpiled forages during their last trimester. Recent research suggests that late-gestation cows need 75,000 to 90,000 IU/d of vitamin A, but the amount of vitamin A in hay varies widely. Factors such as forage type, maturity at harvest, haying and storage conditions, as well as how long hay has been stored influence vitamin A levels. This can mean supplementation needs range from none at all to nearly the full requirement coming from a supplement.

Color Can Be a Clue

Greener hay generally contains more beta-carotene, and therefore more vitamin A, than bleached or weathered hay. It's not a perfect measure, but it can give you a quick indication.





TJSC H-Town 131L STCC Tecumseh 058J x TJSC Diamond 312H ASA# 4274275 • Black • Polled 2024 NWSS Champion Bull by STCC Tecumseh



RJ Trust Fund 212K
W/C Bankroll 811D x Hara's Kim Kardashian 1C
ASA# 4147173 • Black • Polled
Exciting, NEW, 3/4 Bankroll x Broker x Harietta
for elite type!



Walsh Against The Odds
Bet on Red x WLE Big Deal
ASA# 4256400 • Red • Homo Polled
ATO has foot size, excellent design & body
dimension! His dam was a popular champion
for Walsh, WI.



Herbster Dynamic 451M 4/B Dynamo x FRKG Countess 924J ASA# 4450609 • Homo Black • Homo Polled 2025 Hartman Sale Feature to Bailey, ND! Ultrasound with wild phenotype! Dam was \$225,000 Freking record-seller.



OMF Journeyman J24
Mr SR Mic Drop G1534 x OMF Deka D23
ASA# 3953637 • Homo Black • Homo Polled
Hot outcross producing high sellers!



Only One 905K
SFI Platinum F5Y x TLLC One Eyed Jack
ASA# 4132878 • Black • Polled
Added hair, flexibility, rib & eye appeal!



LLSF Point of Proof M741
WHF Point Proven H45 x HPF Rite 2 Luv 398D
ASA# 4443743 • Hetero Black • Homo Polled
Improving calving ease, build, and eye appeal!



SFIS Unstoppable J3
W/C Bankroll 811D x SFIS Crystal Gayle
ASA# 3969316 • Heterozygous Black • Polled
Awesome son of famous donor Crystal Gale that'll
improve depth, profile & structure!



WHF/JS/CCS Woodford J001
EGL Firesteel 103F x WHF Summer 365C
ASA# 4068398 • Homo Black • Homo Polled
3/4 Simmental. NEW and exciting calving ease
and outcross pedigree with outstanding phenotype out of fantastic donor Summer 365C!



Revelation 2K
TL Revenant 35 x CSCX Bandwagon 513A
ASA# 4153090 • Black • Polled
\$200,000 exciting outcross to improve all!



LLSF Vantage Point F398
CCR Anchor x Uprising x Quantum Leap's Dam
ASA# 3492381 • Hetero Black • Homo Polled
3/4 Lead-off Bull in the 2019 NWSS Percentage
Champion for Lee.



Felt Perseverance 302F
W/C Executive Order 8543B x Rubys Rhythm Z231
ASA# 3493800 • Hetero Black • Homo Polled
Perseverance is a new, exciting baldy Executive
Order son with tremendous maternal genetics
behind him. The first dozen calves out of him have
been born light and easily out of first calf heifers.



LCDR Affirmed 212HEGL Firesteel 103F x WS Miss Sugar C4
ASA# 3812282 • Homo Black • Homo Polled
Use him to make those next generation Purebreds.
Excellent foot shape and depth of heel.



W/C Double Down x WHF Summer 365C ASA# 3658592 Double Up is by proven calving ease sensation

Double Up is by proven calving ease sensation Double Down out of the legendary WHF/Steenhoek multiple time champion WHF Summer 365C.



JBSF Berwick 41F
Rocking P Legendary C918 x JBSF 402B
ASA# 3462584 • Black • Polled
Newly available and producing extremely valuable progeny across the nation!



HL Tommy Boy K65CLRS Guardian 317G x HL Ms Smooth Criminal E174
ASA# 4167626 • Homo Black • Homo Polled
Blaze Calving ease Guardian son at Echard, IA, and Heartland.



SAS Black Majic L334

SRH Hannibal x Silver Lake Gold Digger
ASA# 4265277 • Hetero Black • Homo Polled
\$55,000 high-seller at Springer Simmentals 2024.
Add mass & outcross pedigree.





GOE Lets Roll 749J

W/C Bankroll 811D x W/C RJ Miss 8543 6105D ASA# 4141350 • Hetero Black • Homo Polled Lots of neck extension in a complete package!



WHF Entourage H450 KCC1 Exclusive 116E x

WHF Delilah 45D by TJ Main Event ASA# 3924201 • Hetero Black • Homo Polled WHF & Boyert's exciting new herdsire!



TJSC Coping with Destiny 9K
WLE Copacetic E02 x TJSC Diamonds Destiny 134C
ASA# 4103854 • Black • Polled
2023–2024 dominante Grand Champion!



Rocking P Private Stock H010
WLE Copacetic E02 x Rubys Wide Open 909W
ASA# 3775641 • Homo Black • Homo Polled
Private Stock was the 2022 Fort Worth Champion Bull and the 2021 NAILE Champion Bull.



JWC Engage 144M Mr Hoc Broker x Miss Werning 8543U ASA# 4389117 • Hetero Black • Hetero Polled \$230,000 JWC 2025 high seller!



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RP/BCR Eminence H005
WLE Copacetic x Rubys Wide Open
ASA# 3701500 • Homo Black• Homo Polled
Power & profile highlight at Buck Creek & RJ's!



KJK1 38 Special 801J

JSUL Something About Mary 8421 x

R Built To Believe 801F

ASA# 3972780 • Hetero Black • Hetero Polled
Cool profiled SAM son with a cool face backed
by a great cow family!



SO Remnant 418JSO Remedy 7F x STCC Ms Persistant 7161
ASA# 4035943 • Black • Polled
Great Remedy son who was Reserve Champ at NAILE & Cattlemen's Congress!



Potter Artisan L358
OMF Journeyman J24 x Hook's Eagle 6E
ASA# 4262152 • Homo Black• Homo Polled
New, exciting spread genetics with ideal build.



CLWTR Clear Advantage H4G LLSF Vantage Point F398 x Miss Sugar C4 ASA# 3858588 • Homo Black • Homo Polled Exciting, new sire that's ultra-complete out of one of the hottest donors!



B C R Dialed In L111

RP/BCR Eminence H005 x DWC Becca 35F

ASA# 4323168 • Homo Black • Homo Polled

New, exciting ¾ bull at Beshears!



R/C SFI Creedence 417J
SAM x SFI Love Me Later A9X
ASA# 3980387 • Homo Black • Homo Polled
2023 Cattlemen's Congress Grand Champion
Purebred Simmental Bull!



W/C Right Now 2302K
Mr SR 71 Right Now E1538 x W/C Miss Werning 899F
ASA# 4122781 • Homo Black • Homo Polled
Werning's calving ease replacement for Right Now!



SAS Infra-Red H804
All Aboard x Erixon Bitten
ASA# 3803257 • Red • Homo Polled
One of the hottest red bulls to sell in 2021!



S B C Buffalo TraceW/C Relentless x WLE Shez It D056
ASA# 4129329 • Homo polled • Hetero black
JS & Stephens new addition, exciting red gene
Relentless son!



Bar CK Red Empire 9153G
IR Imperial x CDI Verdict
ASA# 3766616 • Homo Polled
High-selling bull at BAR CKs 2021 Sale! Top 1%



ES Right Time FA110-4
Welshs Dew It Right 067T x ES A110
ASA# 3481590 • Homo Black • Homo Polled
Newly available power, phenotype and
marketability sire!



2/F JWC Unassisted 675KW/C Double Down x W/C RJ Miss 8543 6105D
ASA# 4154132 • Homo Black • Homo Polled
Exciting calving ease 3/4 blood in the top 2% for low BW. \$40,000 second top seller in JWC's 2024
Bull sale.



ALL/FCF Hot Topic 099H
Profit x FCF Phyllis 532
ASA# 3926810 • Hetero Black • Homo Polled
Hot Topic was the 2021 NAILE Grand Champion
% Bull! His dam is one of the hottest Angus
donors in the world!



RP/CMFM John B J104
HPF Quantum Leap Z952 x RP/BCR Stylish Love F158
ASA# 4109070 • Hetero Black • Homo Polled
Current 2023 Champion PTP % Bull! Champ at
Ft. Worth, OKC, Am Royal!



5&5 TSSC Limitless 041H (1/2)Conley No Limit x WS Revival
ASA# 3776857 • Black • Polled
Calf champion at 2020 NAILE and 2021 Royal!

Europe's Outbreaks Raise Alarms: Is Lumpy Skin Disease Headed Here?

by Andea Bedford, Bovine Veterinarian

Lumpy skin disease (LSD) is making its way through Western Europe. There is a current outbreak in France with recent cases being reported along the Spanish border. First seen in Zambia in 1929, the disease has since spread north through Africa with outbreaks in Israel in 1989, the Middle East in the 2000s, and in 2013 it was detected in Turkey and the Balkans. Since then, LSD has been reported in Georgia, Russia, Bangladesh, and China. LSD has never been detected in the Western hemisphere or Australia.

LSD is an infectious disease of cattle and water buffalo. It is characterized by firm, round nodules on the skin, mucous membranes, and internal organs that can ulcerate; fever; emaciation; enlarged lymph nodes; skin edema; decreased fertility; and can result in death. Cattle affected by LSD have exhibited physical weakness, reduced milk production, poor growth, infertility, and increased abortion rates.

LSD is transmitted primarily through blood-feeding insect bites (flies, mosquitoes, ticks), but it can also be spread by direct contact between animals. Control relies on prompt detection, control of animal movement, and vaccination.

While this virus is not a threat to humans, its production impacts on cattle can be severe. LSD morbidity can vary widely among herds depending on vaccination status. Mortality is usually low, but production losses result in an economic hit for producers due to decreased performance, costs of care, and the potential for trade bans. In addition, secondary bacterial infections of the skin lesions can increase morbidity and extend recovery times. Because biting insects are the main transmission route, LSD risk is seasonal, increasing during warm, wet periods.



The Current LSD Situation

In 2025, several western and southern European countries that had been free of LSD reported their first confirmed outbreaks. Italy and France recorded initial cases in June, while Spain reported its first case in October. Following this, France banned cattle exports and bullfighting, while Spain announced a cull of affected animals and export limitations as LSD continues to spread.

Authorities in affected countries have implemented vaccination campaigns, movement controls, and heightened surveillance. Regional and international bodies, including the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Organization for Animal Health, have convened experts to coordinate a response and have put together information sheets to aid in the development of LSD Contingency Plans and to answer any LSD vaccination questions.

What the US Needs to Know

To date, the US has not reported endemic LSD in domestic cattle, but USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has developed standard operating procedures for the disease. This document is meant to bolster the preparedness of the US for LSD occurrence and outlines the ecology of LSD, as well as information on vaccination and disease control. The FAO has also created an accredited veterinary LSD preparedness course.

The sudden appearance of characteristic skin nodules, concurrent fever, or unexplained drops in milk yield should be treated as suspicious and warrant immediate reporting to state animal health officials.

The following are some practical points for producers and vets surrounding LSD:

- Know the signs: Multiple round, firm skin nodules (sometimes with ulceration), fever, swollen lymph nodes, and sharp drops in milk production.
- 2. Report quickly: Early notification to a veterinarian and a state health official triggers tracing, testing, and control measures that limit spread.
- 3. Vector reduction: Reduce insect breeding sites, use physical barriers (screens and fans), and consider using insecticides to lower transmission.
- 4. Movement control and biosecurity: Quarantine suspect animals, disinfect equipment, and limit personnel traffic to reduce mechanical spread.
- 5. Vaccination planning: Where outbreaks have occurred, mass vaccination has been a key tool to control spread. No specific LSD vaccine is currently approved for use in the US as it has not been prevalent here.

LSD is primarily an animal health and economic threat rather than a public health threat, but its expanding geographic reach over the past decade should put previously unaffected regions on alert.

DAULUI ESSENTIAL INTERPORTATION OF THE PARTY OF THE PARTY

H28302

PB SIMMENTAL

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HPF/HILL UPRISING CIOY TUSC ONYX 44B

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CONTACT OWNERS FOR INFORMATION



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In Memoriam...



Joe Mercer *Belfalls, Texas*

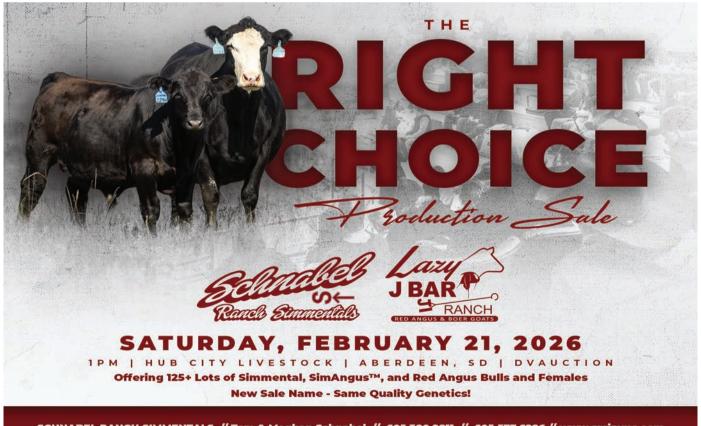
Arthur Joseph Mercer III was born on June 6, 1947, in Temple, Texas, and died on October 2, 2025, at the age of 78 at his home near Belfalls, Texas, after a long, fierce battle with cancer. He graduated from Temple High School in 1965 where he played football and participated in Golden Gloves. After a semester at Blinn College, he enlisted in the United

States Marine Corps in July 1966 to serve in Vietnam until 1968, during the beginning of the Tet Offensive. He was honorably discharged with the rank of Sargent having received a Purple Heart, Presidential Unit Citation, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnamese Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, and rifle Sharpshooter Badge.

Mercer returned to Texas to study at Trinity University in San Antonio and Texas A&M University in College Station where he graduated with a degree in building construction in 1974. He married Beth Ussery of Weslaco, Texas, in August 1974, after graduation and moved to Houston to work with Brown & Root in their offshore marine division designing offshore drilling platforms. Before he was transferred to Bahrain, he was offered a position with Ussery Engineering Inc. in Weslaco, Texas, to help

expand his father-in-law's business in the design and construction of underground drainage and irrigation pipelines on agricultural land in the Rio Grande Valley. The Mercers moved to Monte Alto, Texas, where they both worked for the family business. Mercer later left Ussery Engineering and started Mercer Apiaries, a commercial beekeeping business producing honey and providing pollination services to local farming operations for the production of cucurbit crops.

The Mercers bought land, planted pasture, and raised Simbrah cattle, naming that operation Filegonia Cattle Company. Both were active in the Rio Grande Valley Simbrah-Simmental Association for many years. In 2008, the decision was made to shut down the business, pack up, and move everything to Central Texas near Belfalls, close to where most of Mercer's immediate family lived. Mercer was preceded in death by his parents. Survivors include his wife, Beth; his brother, Mike, and sister-in-law, Nancy Mercer, of Temple; cousins, nieces, and nephews; and a godson, Frank Barker of Cypress, Texas.



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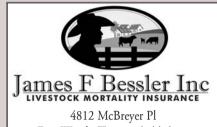


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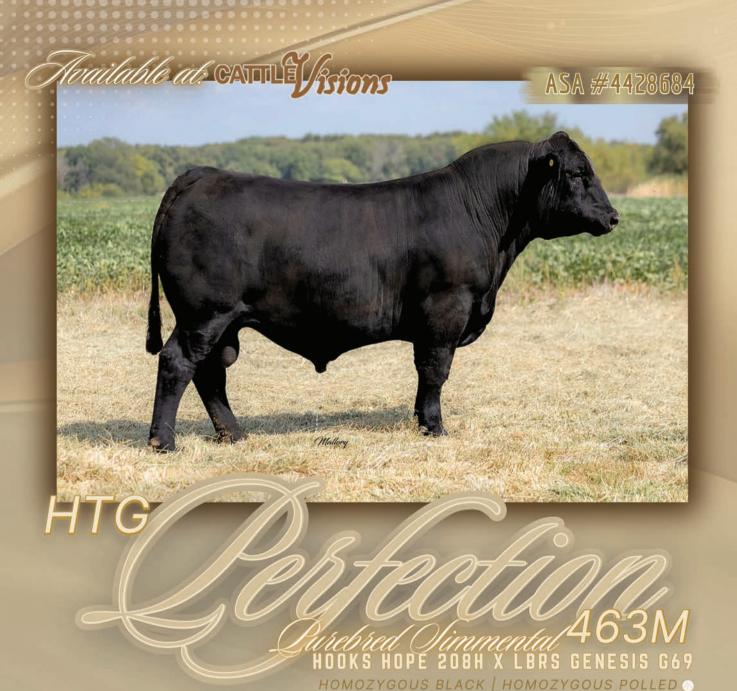
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Simbrah Synergy Showcase XVIII

Date: Sept. 27–28, 2025
Location: Giddings, TX
Judges: Barry Wesner, IN
(Cattle); and
Rusty Mertink
(Showmanship),
Giddings

Percentage Simbrah Females



Grand Champion
Exh. by Kaden Pilat, "Smith
Dancing Diva Georgia Gal," s. by
CFCM Caught Looking, sponsored
by Smith Genetics, Giddings.



Reserve Grand Champion Exh. by Morgan Crane, "Smith Jazz Miss Mia Marie 993N," s. by Smith Follow My Lead, sponsored by Pilat and Smith Genetics, Giddings.

Purebred Simbrah Females



Calf Champion
Exh. by Kannon Hill, "Smith Diva
Do U Wanna Dance," s. by Smith
Follow My Lead, sponsored by
Smith Genetics, Giddings.



Reserve Calf Champion Exh. by Kaden Pilat, "Smith Pilat Penny's Clover 82N," s. by Smith Made Solid, sponsored by Pilat and Smith Genetics, Giddings.



Reserve Grand Champion and Junior Champion Exh. by Parker Pilat, "Smith Pilat Penny Outtaline," s. by Smith Follow My Lead, sponsored by Pilat and Smith Genetics, Giddings.



Reserve Junior Champion Exh. by Jenna Tyler, "Smith Miss Darling Diva 20M," s. by Smith Follow My Lead, sponsored by Smith Genetics, Giddings.



Grand Champion and Senior Champion Exh. by Kannon Hill, "Smith Fabled Farmers Daughter," s. by Smith Follow My Lead, sponsored by Smith Genetics, Giddings.



Reserve Senior Champion
Exh. by Gavin Hinckley, "Smith
TMP Bella Paula Teresa," s. by
Smith Follow My Lead, sponsored
by TMP and Smith Genetics,
Giddings.

Showmanship Winners



10–11-Year-Old Division (Winners L–R, 1st–4th): Zadie Bates, Tilden Lightfoot, Brentley Sandifer, and William Burch.



12–13-Year-Old Division (Winners L–R, 1st–7th): Kannon Hill, Brynn Pilat, Jacob Merrit, Bryleigh Sandifer, Stockton Lightfoot (not pictured), Ben Burch, and John Patton Reavis



14–15-Year-Old Division (Winners L–R, 1st–5th): Emily Burch, Paisley Lightfoot, Parker Pilat, Brooklyn Hurst, and Griffin Dodson.



16 Years and Older (Winners L-R, 1st-10th): Callie Heaton, Morgan Crane, Kate Martin, Jenna Tyler, Areaya McNeal, Aubrey Schneider, Savannah Daniels, Kaden Pilat, Lillian Alvarado, and Gavin Hinckley.



The Simbrah Synergy Showcase was held for junior members with heifers from participating sponsors. The show featured \$15,000 in premiums and awards, with half of that money awarded in showmanship.

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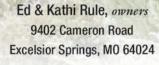
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Saturday, April 4, 2026

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THE Enrollment

Spring 2026 THE Enrollment — (dams calve January 1–June 30) — Early enrollment open October 15 through **December 15, 2025**. Late enrollment available until February 15, 2026.

Fall 2026 THE Enrollment — (dams calve July 1–December 31) — Early enrollment open April 15 through **June 15, 2026**. Late enrollment available until August 15, 2026.

	Option A (TR)	Option B (SR)	Option C	Option D (CM)
Early Enrollment	\$15.00	FREE	\$7.50	\$500/herd
*Late Enrollment	\$16.00	\$1.00	\$8.50	\$500/herd
*Late enrollment fee	es			

A re-enrollment fee of \$35.00 applies to any dam that is removed from inventory and re-enters the herd at a later date.

A member who has dropped out of THE and wishes to return, may do so for the next enrollment season. Re-enrollment fee is \$35 per animal (maximum of \$350) plus enrollment fees. Non-THE registration fees will apply to the calendar year when a member did not participate in THE.

American Simment	al Association Fees
First Time Membership Fee: Adult First Time Membership Fee*	Transfer Fees: First Transfer
Junior Membership	Corrections \$5 Registration Foreign/Foundation Fees: Register Foundation Cow \$5 Register Foundation Bull \$25 Registration Fees not enrolled in THE: Non-THE <10 months \$42 Non-THE 10 months <15 months \$52 Non-THE >15 months \$62

Great Northern Bull Sale

Friday, March 27, 2026 - 1:00 PM CST

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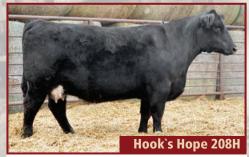
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ASA# 3715193 • PB SM TJ Heisman 388F x Hook's Ceres 11C

CE BW WW YW ADG MCE Milk MWW MB \$API \$TI 10 1.3 85 137 .3 60 23 66

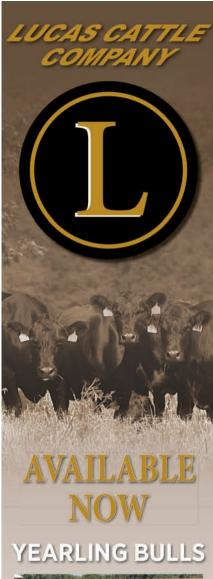
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DECEMBER

- 14 Trauernicht Simmental's Nebraska Platinum Standard Sale Beatrice, NE
- 19 Buck Creek Ranch's Grand Event Vol. VI Yale, OK
- 20 Griswold Cattle Company's Classic Female Sale Stillwater, OK

JANUARY 2026

- 5 Little Bitterroot Ranch's Private Treaty Sale (Beginning) Hot Springs, MT
- 9 Diamond Bar S Bull Sale Great Falls, MT (pg. 55)
- 11 Bricktown National Simmental Sale Oklahoma City, OK (pgs. 21, 28, 29)
- 15 Walking 5 Ranch's Annual Bull Sale Lavina, MT
- 18 The One and Only Simmental Sale Denver, CO (pgs. 7, 23, 28, 29)
- 20 Franzen Simmental's Production Sale Leigh, NE
- 20 Powerline Genetics' Arapahoe Sale Arapahoe, NE
- 23 Double J Farms' 52nd Annual Bull and Female Sale Garretson, SD (pg. 57, Jan. cal.)
- 23 Ellingson Simmentals' Annual Production Sale Dahlen, ND (pgs. 11, 56)
- 24 Cow Camp Ranch's Annual Spring Bull Sale Lost Springs, KS (pg. 54, April cal.)
- 24 Forster Farms' 47th Annual Production Sale Smithfield, NE (Jan. cal.)
- **24** J&C Simmentals' Annual Bull Sale Arlington, NE (pgs. 55, 71)
- 25 Reck Brothers-N-Sons' Genetic Advantage Production Sale Blakesburg, IA
- **25** Triangle J Ranch's Bull Sale Miller, NE (pg. 55)
- 26 APEX Cattle's Annual "Heterosis Headquarters" Bull and Female Sale Dannebrog, NE (pg. 5)
- 29 Trifecta Cattle Company's Sale Clear Lake, SD
- **30** Drake Simmental's Bull and Female Sale Centerville, IA
- 31 The Vision Elite Bred Female Sale Des Moines, IA

FEBRUARY 2026

- 1 Hartman Cattle Company's 12th Annual Simmental Bull Sale Tecumseh, NE
- 1 Kline Simmental Ranch's 14th Annual Bull Sale Hurdsfield, ND
- 2 46th Annual Gateway "Breeding Value" Bull Sale Lewistown, MT
- 2 Bell Simmentals' Annual Production Sale Fordville, ND
- 2 Long Simmentals' 6th Annual Production Sale Creston, IA
- 3 Koepplin's Black Simmental 38th Annual Bull Sale Mandan ND
- Begger's Diamond V Big Sky Genetic Source Bull Sale Wibaux, MT (pg. 55, Jan. cal.)
- K-LER Cattle Company's Annual Sale St. Charles, MN (pg. 54)
- 5 Genetic Edge Production Sale Mandan, ND (Feb. cal.)
- 5 Stavick Simmental's King of the Range Bull Sale Veblen, SD (pg. 57)
- 6 Kunkel Simmentals' Annual Production Sale New Salem, ND
- 6 Silver Dollar Simmentals' 2nd Annual Bull Sale Rugby, ND
- 7 Blue River Gang's 44th Annual Production Sale Rising City, NE
- 7 Gibbs Farms' 3rd Annual Spring Sale Ranburne, AL
- 7 Klain Simmental Ranch's Annual Production Sale Ruso, ND (pg. 61)
- 7 Ruby Cattle Company's Annual Bull Sale Murray, IA
- 7 Springer Simmental's Sale of Value Based Genetics Decorah, IA (pg. 69)
- 8 Oak Meadow Farms' 8th Annual Production Sale Cresco, IA
- Nelson Livestock Company's Production Sale Wibaux, MT
- 9 Prickly Pear Simmental Ranch's Bull Sale Helena, MT
- 10 Kaelberer Ranch Production Sale Mandan, ND (pg. 56)
- 10 Werning Cattle Company's 45th Annual Production Sale Emery, SD
- 11 Jackpot Cattle Co.'s Annual Private Treaty Bull and Heifer Sale Miller, SD
- 11 River Creek Farms 36th Annual Production Sale Manhattan, KS (pg. 54, Jan. cal.)
- 11 Traxinger Simmental's Annual Bull Sale Houghton, SD
- **12** Bar CK "Profit Sharing" Bull Sale Culver, OR
- 12 Lassle Ranch Simmentals' 33rd Annual Production Sale Glendive, MT (Feb. cal.)
- 13 11th Annual Modoc Bull Sale Alturas, CA
- 13 Bred for Balance Sale Starbuck, MN
- 13 Jared Werning Cattle's 4th Annual Production Sale Parkston, SD
- 13 TNT Simmentals' 41st Annual "Explosive Difference" Sale Lehr, ND (pg. 56, Feb. cal.)
- 14 CK Cattle and Wager Cattle's 9th Annual Production Sale Highmore, SD
- 14 Kenner Simmentals' 30th Annual Production Sale Leeds, ND (Feb. cal.)
- 14 Rhodes Angus Open House Bull Sale Carlinville, IL
- 14 Rydeen Farms' Annual "Vision" Sale Clearbook, MN
- 15 Trauernicht Simmentals' Bull Sale Wymore, NE

- **16** Bulls of the Big Sky Billings, MT (pg. 55, Feb. cal.)
- 16 TC Reds and Weis Cattle's Bull Sale Saint Ansgar, IA
- 17 Quandt Brothers' 14th Annual Production Sale Oakes. ND (pg. 56)
- 18 Hart Simmentals' 51st Annual Production Sale Frederick, SD (pg. 33)
- 19 Illinois Performance Tested (IPT) Bull Sale Springfield, IL
- 19 Wilkinson Farms' Breeding for the Future Sale C-B Sale Facility (Feb. cal.)
- 20 Dakota Xpress Annual Bull and Female Sale Mandan, ND (pq. 56)
- 20 Illinois Beef Expo Multi-Breed Sale Springfield, IL
- 20 R&R Cattle Company's Annual Production Sale Chamberlain, SD
- **20** Sandy Acres Simmentals' Bull Sale Creighton, NE (pg. 55)
- 21 Lyman Livestock's Sale Salina, UT
- 21 The Right Choice Production Sale Aberdeen, SD (pgs. 52, 57)
- 23 Peterson Cattle Company Bull Sale Twin Bridges, MT
- 23 Raatz Farms' Production Sale Jasper, MN
- 24 Barker Cattle Co.'s Sale Burley, ID
- 24 TSN Simmentals' Sale Platte, SD
- 25 C Diamond Simmentals' Annual Production Sale Dawson, ND (Jan. cal.)
- 26 Felt Farms' Bull Sale West Point, NE
- 26 Meyring Cattle Company's 2nd Annual Production Sale Alliance. NE
- 28 Emmons' Ranch Bull Sale Olive, MT
- **28–3/7** Hofmann Simmental Farms' "Buy Your Way" Bull Sale Clay Center, KS

MARCH 2026

- 1 Windy Creek Cattle Company's Bull Sale Spencer, SD
- 2 Hanel's Black Simmentals' 8th Annual Production Sale Courtland, KS
- 2 S/M Fleckvieh Cattle's Private Treaty Bull Sale Garretson, SD
- 4 Klein Ranch's Heart of the Herd Sale Atwood, KS
- 5 22nd Annual Cattleman's Kind Bull Sale San Saba, TX
- 5 Hill's Ranch Production Sale Stanford, MT
- 5 Kearns Cattle Company's 37th Annual Bull Sale Rushville, NE
- 5 Keller Broken Heart Ranch's Annual Production Sale Mandan, ND (pg. 56, March cal.)
- 6 Eichacker Simmentals' Annual Production Sale Salem, SD (pg. 57)
- 7 Cason's Price and Joy Spring Bull Sale Albia, IA (pg. 54, May cal.)
- 7 Gibbs Farms' 3rd Annual Spring Sale Ranburne, AL
- 7 MO Select Genetics Production Sale Keytesville, MO
- 7 Moriondo Farms and MM Cattle Company's Spring Production Sale — Mount Vernon, MO
- 7 Powerline Genetics' PAP-Tested Bull Sale Castle Dale, UT
- 7 Trinity Farms' Generations of Excellence Sale Ellensburg, WA (pg. 9, March cal.)
- 12 B&B Simmental's Bull and Heifer Auction Sale Gregory, SD
- **13** Powerline Genetics' March Edition Bull Sale Arapahoe, NE
- 14 Carcass Performance Partners' Bull Sale Lucedale, MS
- 14 Gonsior Simmentals' 26th Annual "In the Heartland" Sale Fullerton, NE
- 14 Great Lakes Beef Connection Bull Sale Clare, MI
- 19 Brink Genetics' Spring Bull and Heifer Sale Elkader, IA
- 19 Western Cattle Source's Annual Bull Sale Crawford, NE
- **20** 3C Christensen Ranch and NLC Simmental Ranch 54th Annual Production Sale Wessington, SD (pg. 57)
- 20 Black Summit Annual Bull Sale Powell, WY
- 20 Colorado Select Bull Sale Fort Collins, CO
- 21 The Bull Sale at Buck Creek Ranch Yale, OK (BC cal.)

- 21 Lechleiter Simmentals' Annual Bull Sale Loma, CO
- 21 Ohio Beef Expo Eastern Spring Classic Sale Columbus, OH
- 21 Red Hill Farms' More Than a Bull Sale XXI Lafayette, TN (Oct. cal.)
- 21 Rocking H Simmental's Production Sale Canby, MN
- 21 TeKrony Brothers Simmental's 14th Annual Bull Sale Clear Lake. SD
- 23 Bridle Bit Simmentals' All Terrain Bull Sale Walsh, CO
- 25 Diamond H Ranch's Annual Production Sale Victoria. KS
- 25 Heartland Performance With Class Production Sale Waverly, IA
- 27 Great Northern Bull and Female Sale Clear Lake, MN (pq. 65)
- 28 Clear Choice Bull Sale Milan, IN (pg. 54)
- 28 Heishman Cattle Company's Blue Ridge Classic Sale Mt Jackson. VA
- 28 T-Heart Ranch's High-Altitude Bull Sale La Garita, CO

APRIL 2026

- 1 Roller Ranch's 3rd Annual Bull Sale Hewitt, MN
- 4 Clarks Fork Angus and Simmental Ranch's Sale Cody, WY
- 4 Laird Simmentals' Sale Dubois, ID
- 4 McDonald Farms' 23rd Annual "Pick of the Pen" Bull Sale Blacksburg, VA
- 4 Belles and Bulls of the Bluegrass Lexington, KY
- 4 The Gathering at Shoal Creek Excelsior Springs, MO
- 8 WD Cattle Company's Bull Sale Washington, KS
- 11 Lucas Cattle Company's Bull Sale Cross Timbers, MO
- 15 Trennepohl Farms' Top Ten Sale Middletown, IN
- 17 Foster Brothers Farms' "Hybrid Advantage" Bull Sale Wildorado, TX
- 17 Trennepohl Farms' Turn-Out Time Sale Middletown, IN
- 18 New Day Beef Genetics' Bull Sale Salem, MO
- 25 Clear Choice Customer Sale Milan, IN (pg. 54)
- 25 Cow Camp Ranch's Spring Turn-Out Sale Lost Springs, KS (pg. 54, April cal.)

MAY 2026

- 2 Stars and Stripes Sale Hummelstown, PA
- 16 Mississippi/Alabama Simmental State Sale Cullman, AL
- 18 Red Hill Farms' Maternal Monday Online Sale www.redhillfarms.net

JUNE 2026

10-13 AJSA Eastern Regional Classic - Lebanon, IN

JULY 2026

4-10 AJSA National Classic - Grand Island, NE

SEPTEMBER 2026

5 North Carolina Fall Harvest Sale — Union Grove, NC

OCTOBER 2026

- 10 Trinity Farms' Fall Female Sale Ellensburg, WA (March cal.)
- 17 Sloup Simmentals' New Direction Sale Seward, NE (pg. 55)
- 24 Clear Choice Female Sale Milan, IN (pg. 54)
- **31** Red Hill Farms' "Bulls of Fall XII" Sale Lafayette, TN (Oct. cal.)

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the Register is an 8 1/8 x 10 7/8 inch glossy, full-color publication that provides a direct and consistent line of communication to the ASA membership.

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Subscriptions

- Domestic \$50/year
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ASA Publication, Inc

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