#Register

Why Use EPD and Indices to Make Decisions for Bull Sales?

EPD predictions better estimate a bull's potential.
The All Purpose Index (\$API) and Terminal Index (\$TI) combine many EPD into one value.
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Sexed Semen: An Opportunity
to Capture More Value
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As markets fluctuate, breeding for either heifers or steers can help you meet demand.

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Northern SimGenetics breeders are taking advantage of fall pasture before winter arrives. Photo taken by the Grant Company at Stavick Simmental in Veblen, South Dakota.

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by Troy Marple, North Central Region

Hopefully this viewpoint finds you, your family, and your ranches doing well. I know I personally look forward to this time of year when we transition from summer grazing season into fall. With the season change comes weaning the spring calves, and fall calving is underway; this may be my favorite time of year. As I

write this, I am traveling home from the annual Fall Focus and our August board meetings, held in Denver, Colorado. A big shout out to the Colorado Simmental Association for hosting and the ASA staff for organizing an amazing program. Those of you who were able to attend can fully understand what an undertaking this event is, and for those of you who were not there or maybe haven't come to one yet, I would encourage you to look at future Fall Focus events. Breeders come together from all over the country with one common goal in mind — to keep moving our breed and our beef industry forward. Next year's event will be held in Amarillo, Texas.

In early July the ASA and AJSA concluded the largest National Classic to date in Des Moines, Iowa, in terms of both Simmental cattle and Simmental youth. This was somewhat bittersweet for my family as my daughter aged out this year and this was our final National Classic, but we will never lose all the memories. Again, I'm hopeful you were able to attend but if not,

I would once again encourage you to try and attend it as you will not only see some tremendous Simmental genetics but some even better young Simmental enthusiasts. Next year's event is in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

In mid-June ASA staff wrapped up the second SimGenetic Training for Young Leaders and Entrepreneurs (STYLE) event. It is a new leadership program that has been held in Oklahoma City and is designed to develop leaders in our industry. I personally know multiple individuals who have attended this event and it is getting rave reviews. Much like Fall Focus and the National Classic, if you qualify to participate I encourage you to do so. STYLE is designed to educate and mold our next generation of producers.

These are just a few of the major things going on in our breed recently. As I look back at the first half of 2023, we have seen strong demand for SimGenetics at almost every level of the industry and the second half looks to be even more promising. I personally believe our breed is positioned nicely for the coming years in terms of what SimGenetics can offer to the beef industry. We have our predecessors on the Board of Trustees and an amazing staff at ASA to thank for this. However, I know myself and my fellow colleagues on the current Board understand that we cannot rest on our laurels, and that there is a tremendous amount of work still to be done to keep us positioned in the forefront of the beef industry.

In closing I believe we are heading into very exciting times as demand for SimGenetics is trending in the right direction and is

> in strong demand. It is truly an honor to represent each one of you. I wish you and your ranches nothing but continued success. If I can do anything for you, feel free to reach out as I have an open door and open ear policy. I cannot always promise change, but I can promise your voice will be heard. So, until next time, may the grass remain green, the creeks keep running strong, and the calves weigh heavy. May you all have a safe and blessed end to summer and an even better end to the year.

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by Chip Kemp, director, ASA and IGS Commercial and Industry Operations

A mirror and a windshield — both are vital for a productive journey.

Looking in the mirror at the bulk of 2023 causes me to harken back to Fall Focus in Denver. No doubt, those of you who were fortunate enough to attend can remember the demos at the new National Western Stock Show grounds, or the socializ-

ing with old friends, or the most powerful lineup of speakers and topics since Focus 2000. Ideally, you left with tangible tools that will directly impact your decision-making going forward and add an enhanced enthusiasm about your responsibilities as stewards of the Simmental mindset.

If you weren't present, watch for videos in the coming weeks and months that were captured during the educational day. The content from the heart health panel is, and will remain, tremendously valuable as you work to understand and communicate about one of the premier concerns in the modern beef business. Or, listen to one of the most honest and straightforward discussions on the sustainability front that you are going to hear. Like your birth weights or carcass records, this data is hard to capture. These experts came together to inform and empower you and your family. Respect their efforts by using their efforts. Use your own website, social media pages, or sale catalog to highlight the forthcoming videos and articles. Will they provide you with some



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marketing opportunities? Likely. But even more, they will empower your customers with facts and knowledge that'll pay dividends for years to come.

Also stay abreast of the steps and actions from the board meetings. Your elected representatives served you remarkably well during the board meetings following the educational weekend. Reach out to them. They can provide you well-rounded and well-informed perspectives on the topics of the day.

Or even better yet, plan to be at the 2024 Fall Focus in Amarillo, TX. Then you and your family can take it all in firsthand.

I confess, with a little time the Fall Focus recollections that resonate the most for me are a bit more subtle. The selfless service of so many friends, breeders, and coworkers. The humble and charitable on-stage interaction between beef leaders who were willing to "learn in public" as they worked through weighty panel discussions on difficult and pressing industry issues. A CEO's touching recognition of long-time staffers and friends. The model set forth by your ASA trustees as they tackled and solved challenging issues with maturity, thoughtfulness, and the requisite level of compromise. That is servant leadership. That is co-responsibility and engagement. That is stewardship. That is "Love of Neighbor." Not purely in some emotive sense, but rather as action that works for the good of the other. As I've said before, this is part of the uniqueness of the Simmental way. We commit to sound, credible, unbiased science, but we do that while holding fast to our commitment to core values. It is that balance of science and values that will continue our ability to honor our core constituency: the commercial beef producer. Period. Lose that focus and we lose our purpose.

But, enough looking backward. Let's put that science and value system to work in your sphere. Out your windshield is what comes next. What will you keep the same as we prepare for the next bull sale season? What must change? What are you going to do about it? Who are you going to rely on for help? May I encourage you to think about these hard questions now. Look over the hood of your pickup. Pick your spot on the horizon. Now drive.

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Why Use EPD and Indices to Make Decisions for Bull Sales?

by Chad Russell, PhD student with Dr. Spangler at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Until the development of expected progeny differences (EPD), most purchasing decisions of bulls were based on phenotypic measurements and features as an estimate to how that bull's calves would perform. Phenotypes (P) are the combination of genetics (G) and environment (E); (P = G + E). There are components of genetics that aren't heritable, such as the unique combination of genes that results in hybrid vigor, or inbreeding suppression. These gene combinations will influence an animal's own phenotype, but won't be passed down to their offspring. EPD estimates only the heritable genetic component of that animal. So why would you want to make a purchase decision just on the genetic merit?

For an example, let's look at the relationship between an animal's own birth weight and the portion of that phenotype related to their genetic merit for birth weight. If you were to take two bulls whose EPD for birth weight were -1.0 and -4.0 lbs. and you breed your herd to both of these bulls, in a hypothetical situation where the calves have the same environment, the equation P = G. As a result, the second bull's calves would on average be 3 lbs. lighter at birth, all other factors equal, which may reduce the number of problematic births caused by dystocia.

But that single birth weight you see in the catalog for that bull is influenced by his environment and his unique gene combinations, which aren't heritable. Was he treated differently than other bulls, or weighed later or as soon as he hit the ground? EPD predictions use his own birth weight record as well as records from his half-sibs, parents, and any relevant genetic information — such as breed, birth year, comparisons to contemporaries, genomics, and pedigree — to better estimate his true potential and prevent over- or underestimation based off of just his own birth weight record.

Similarly, we are able to improve the accuracy of the estimate of his potential by using records from his progeny. However, it takes time for his calves to hit the ground, and a risk is being taken by using him for breeding when

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- 25+ yearling weights
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- 6 carcass weights
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the accuracy is lower. Enter genomic testing. By identifying markers in his DNA that play major parts in his performance, we can incorporate information that is equivalent to already having ~ 20 calves on the ground. This provides an increase in accuracy that may alleviate some risk from breeding a bull to your cows and not getting what you want.

These influences on phenotypes hold true for all heritable traits, which leaves a lot to consider when buying a bull. In order to make it simpler, we have indices such as the All Purpose Index (\$API) and Terminal Index (\$TI) that take into account many EPD and combine them in one value expressed in dollars of profitability predictions among bulls. These indices estimate profitability when a percentage of daughters remain in the herd as replacements and other calves are terminal (\$API), or a strictly terminal system (\$TI), depending on what your operation needs to meet its goals.

\$All Purpose Index (\$API)

Predicts cow herd profitability using valuable traits like cow longevity (STAY) and calving ease while keeping pressure on terminal traits.

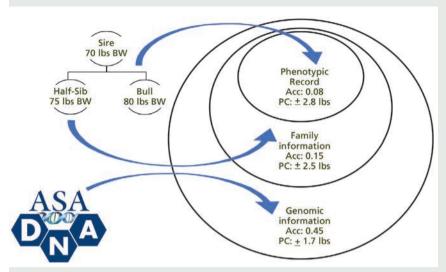
Compare the profit potential of two Simmental bulls using \$API

- 1 Bull A's \$API = \$120 and Bull B's \$API = \$180
- Breeding 25 females/year
- Used for 5 years

Bull	II \$API		PI # Females per year		# years using the bull		Profit Potential	
Α	\$120	X	25	X	5	=	\$15,000	
В	\$180	Х	25	Х	5	=	\$22,500	
					Difference	=	\$7,500	

Just like an EPD, compare two bulls to see the expected difference in profit. Bull B is likely to result in direct revenue and expense savings of an additional \$7,500 over the course of five years. Plug in your numbers for \(\bigcap_1, \(\bigcap_2 \), and \(\bigcap_3 \) to compare your potential earnings.

Incremental increase in accuracy of an EPD



As more information is known on an animal, the accuracy of the EPD increases. Information includes an animal's own records; family information, such as parents and siblings and their records; genomics; and eventually progeny. Genomic information for BW adds an equivalent of 22 progeny records. For example, if a bull had a BW EPD of 2.0 lbs. and an accuracy (Acc) value of 0.15., the associated possible change (PC) is ± 2.5 lbs. Therefore, we would expect his "true" BW EPD to be between -0.5 and 4.5 lbs. (2.0 ± 2.5) 68% of the time. If genomics are added, the accuracy might increase to 0.45 and the possible change will drop to 1.7, leaving a range for his "true" BW EPD between 0.3 and 3.7.

This bull sale season, study the numbers to ensure you select the heritable portion of what you see and pay attention to economic indexes to select for profitability of future genetics.

Editor's note: This article originally appeared in the January 2022 issue of SimTalk.



Chad Russell grew up on a ranch raising Simmental and SimAngus cattle with his parents, Curtis and Susan Russell. His work on the ranch and love for animals and math, along with discussions with Dr. Wade Shafer, drove him to to study animal genetics. Russell attended Colorado State University where he double majored in animal science and mathematics. He is now at the University of

Nebraska–Lincoln, where he completed a master's degree and is now working on a PhD with Dr. Matt Spangler.



Saturday Nov 18th, 2023 1:00 MST in Beaver, UT FOCUS ON THE Ferna

100 BRED HEIFERS AND COWS SELL! SIMMENTAL, BLACK ANGUS, & MAINE ANJOU 10 ELITE SHOW HEIFER PROSPECTS



3/4 SM 1/4 AN Loverboy x Stepping Stone



5/8 SM 3/8 AN Yardley Highlight x Stepping Stone



3/4 SM 1/4 AN Loverboy x Yardley High Regard



PB AN Charlo x Duff Basic Instinct



5/8 SM 3/8 AN Loverboy x Yardley Ensign



1/2 SM 1/2 AN Yardley Top Gun x OCC Jet Stream

Don't miss out on the opportunity to attend our sale November 18, 2023. The females in this offering represent a lifetime of breeding the best to the best for cattle that excel in the showring, on the range, in the pasture, and in the feedlot! Our focus has always been on our maternal traits and cow families. We have Al'd for 54 years selecting the best bulls we can find; it shows throughout this offering. They are moderate made, solid footed, big topped, deep bodied, broody females loaded with style, substance, excellent teat and udder quality. Our cattle are low maintenance, good dispositioned cattle with natural fleshing ability to stay fat on grass. They take care of themselves wintering on desert winter range without hay and calve unassisted.

IF YOU WANT THE BEST-WE HAVE THEM IN VOLUME. OUR CATTLE HAVE SOLD AND SHIPPED TO 32 STATES, CANADA, & MEXICO.



BEST PRACTICES FOR SEEDSTOCK PRODUCERS

Best Practices to Receive the Most Accurate Genetic Predictions

1 Clearly define breeding objectives

With the ability to increase the rate of genetic change comes the possibility to make mistakes at a faster pace. Breeding goals need to be clearly identified to ensure that selection at the nucleus level matches the profit-oriented needs of the commercial industry.

2 Use whole herd reporting

Inventory-based reporting captures more complete phenotypes on reproduction and longevity traits, and thus creates more accurate genetic selection tools.

3 Properly define contemporary groups

It is important for the precision of the genetic evaluation to group animals treated uniformly. Proper reporting of contemporary groups reduces bias in EPD.

4 Take data collection and reporting seriously

Phenotypes are the fuel that drives the genetic evaluation. Take pride in collecting accurate data. Report records on the complete contemporary group in order to paint the most accurate picture of the genetics in these cattle. If possible, collect additional phenotypes like mature cow weight, cow body condition score, udder scores, feed intake, and carcass data.

Make both thorough and accurate phenotypic data collection for economically relevant traits a high priority

The quantity and quality of fertility traits need to dramatically improve. Providing disposal codes to identify why females leave the herd is vital. Commercial data resources, where the true economically relevant traits exist, are going to become more critical to capture. Breeders can help prove the genetics of their own seedstock by encouraging their commercial customers to join ASA's Commercial Total Herd Enrollment (THE) option and add valuable data to the evaluation.

6 Use index-based selection

As the list of published EPD continues to grow, using economic selection indices will become even more helpful to reduce the complexity of multiple trait selection.

If the number of EPD increase, tools to reduce the complexity of sire selection for commercial producers must continue to develop. Breed associations and seedstock producers have the obligation to aid commercial clientele in making profitable bull selection decisions.



Jackie Atkins, PhD



Matt Spangler, PhD



Bob Weaber, PhD



Wade Shafer, PhD

7 Use genomics

Genomic selection offers an opportunity to increase the rate of genetic change and break the antagonistic relationship between generation interval (the average age of the parents when the next generation is born) and the accuracy of selection (e.g., accuracy of EPD) — two components that determine the rate of genetic change. However, as with any tool, genomic information must be used correctly and to its fullest extent.

Adding a DNA test to your decision is like knowing...

- ◆ 25+ calving ease scores
- 22 birth weights
- ♦ 25+ weaning weights
- ♦ 25+ yearling weights
- Stayability/productivity records on 15 daughters
- 6 carcass weights
- ♦ 10 marbling scores
- ♦ 8 ribeye area measurements

All this from a test you can complete before you wean the calf.



Best Practices for Genomic Testing

All animals within a contemporary group should be genotyped.

If genomic data are meant to truly enable selection decisions, this information must be collected on animals before selection decisions are made. The return on investment of this technology is substantially reduced if it is used after the decision is made. The ASA's Calf Crop Genomics (CCG) program offers 50% off GGP100K test for breeders who commit to genotype the entire calf crop. See sidebar for more details.

2 Both male and female animals should be genotyped.

The promise of genomic selection has always suggested the largest impact is for lowly heritable and/or sex limited (e.g., fertility) traits or those that are not routinely collected (e.g., disease). This is indeed true, but it necessitates that genotyped animals have phenotypes. For sex-limited traits, this becomes a critical choke point, given that historically the vast the vast majority of genotyped cattle are males. If producers wish to have genomic-enhanced EPD for traits such as calving ease maternal and heifer pregnancy, they must begin or continue to genotype females. The ASA has a unique program called the Cow Herd DNA Roundup (CHR) to help herds collect female genotypes. See sidebar for more details.

Genotypes can provide useful information in addition to predictions of additive genetic merit.

Do not forget the value in correcting parentage errors, tracking inbreeding levels, identifying unfavorable haplotypes, estimating breed composition, and estimating retained heterozygosity. All of these can be garnered from populations that have a well-defined set of genotyping protocols.

The beef industry should be congratulated for the rapid adoption of genomic technology, but there is a lot of work to do. Of critical importance is the fact that genomic technology will continue to change and does not replace the need for phenotypes nor the fundamental understanding of traditional selection principles including EPD and accuracy.

Total Herd Enrollment (THE)

A cow inventory reporting program, THE requires participants to provide annual reproductive and inventory status on their cow herd. THE is designed to improve quality of data submitted for the genetic evaluation, and in turn improve and develop reproductive EPD. By



submitting data on the entire calf crop or contemporary group, breeders will receive more accurate predictions of their cattle. The ASA has four THE options to fit most seedstock and commercial operations.

Cow Herd DNA Roundup (CHR)

The Cow Herd DNA Roundup (CHR) is designed to increase the number of female genotypes to better predict maternal traits, such

as maternal calving ease. Genotyping entire herds reduces bias created when only the best cattle are genotyped. Gathering massive amounts of genotypes on entire cow herds will significantly improve the genomic predictions and rate of genetic progress. As parentage testing is included, CHR herds will have pedigrees validated through



DNA. Participating breeders benefit from having genomically enhanced EPD on the entire cow herd — equivalent to a lifetime number of calf records in several traits for an exceptionally low cost.

Calf Crop Genomics (CCG)

Calf Crop Genomics, a research project launched by the ASA in collaboration with Neogen Genomics, offers 50% off GGP100K genomic test including parentage (\$25 compared to \$50 equivalent test) to participating breeders who test their entire calf crop. Geno-

typing entire calf crops is important to use genomically enhanced EPD (GE-EPD) for selection decisions, reduce selection bias in genomic predictions, and increase the volume of genotyped animals for future improvements to genetic predictions. The latter two points make any singular genomic test in the future better for all members using genomics.



Carcass Expansion Project (CXP)

Despite the importance of carcass traits to our industry, few producers devote resources to collecting and recording actual carcass data. While the Carcass Merit Program (CMP) is a valuable

progeny test, it is limited in the number of records produced. We cannot depend on the CMP alone to bring in carcass data. In the age of genomics, it is clear we need genotypes on animals with actual carcass phenotypes.



Adding another layer of commitment to predicting carcass traits, the ASA initiated a

new program, called the Carcass Expansion Project, in the fall of 2018 to increase the number of carcass records on genotyped animals. The ASA is are ramping up both phenotypic and genotypic data collection on terminal calves — a vital part of our vision.

Comparing Breed, Heterosis Effects on Mature Weight

by Dr. Robert Hough

In a recent issue of the *Journal of Animal Science*, the scientists at the University of Nebraska and US Meat Animal Research Center (USMARC) published their findings on the mature weight differences of the 16 breeds in the current USMARC Germplasm Evaluation Program (GEP).

The article, "Breed and Heterotic Effects for Mature Weight in Beef Cattle," is found in Volume 99, Issue 7 of the July 2021 *Journal of Animal Science*.

As usual, the results of their analysis demonstrate breed differences — although in this case, a single trait — which help producers design breeding programs that account for and take advantage of these breed differences and complementarity.

The USMARC, part of USDA's Agricultural Research Service, is located in Clay Center, Nebraska, on what was a 34,000-acre decommissioned US Navy munitions depot. Starting with the 1970 calf crop, the Germplasm Evaluation Program has been our country's — and for that matter, the world's — most comprehensive comparison characterizing breeds for various biological properties.

Whereas in the early years the GEP was run in cycles, they have recently gone to a continuous approach of studying our country's most economically important breeds. This has presented some unique statistical challenges, one of which is accounting for sampling bias in

the sires they use. In this case, they adjusted for selection bias using the sire's yearling weight EPD compared to the average of the various breeds' industry population.

In terms of the data used in the mature weight comparisons, the study involved 5,156 cows with 108,957 weight records collected throughout the animals' lifetime, up to six years of age. Most cows had three records per year, which included the third trimester prior to calving, prior to breeding, and when palpated for pregnancy.

A number of statistical models were fit to determine what best explained the breed differences found within the cows in the germplasm study, which had varying breed percentages and repeated weight measures taken over their lifespans.

This alone resulted in a stand-alone peer-reviewed journal article comparing these statistical methodologies: "Comparison of Different Functions to Describe Growth from Weaning to Maturity in Crossbred Beef Cattle." The article can be found in Volume 97, Issue 4 of the April 2019 *Journal of Animal Science*.



	Direct breed solution for MWT ² (1)	Industry average YWT EPD ³ (2)	USMARC average YWT EPD (3)	Direct breed effect for MWT ² (4)	
Breed	Est.	Est.	Est.	Est.	
Angus	0.0	95.7	60.1	0.0	
Red Angus	-47.1	89.1	82.9	-98.6	
Beefmaster	-84.3	41.1	44.0	-151.4	
Brahman	-5.5	28.8	17.2	-47.1	
Brangus	-59.0	49.5	42.0	-108.2	
Braunvieh	-248.4	74.6	69.1	-300.7	
Charolais	10.6	53.9	35.4	-19.6	
Chiangus	-56.5	70.0	70.6	-119.9	
Gelbvieh	-112.9	89.8	72.8	-145.4	
Hereford	8.4	80.7	71.9	-38.5	
Limousin	-70.8	94.8	73.0	-95.3	
Maine Anjou	-20.7	56.8	55.9	-81.2	
Salers	-18.5	82.7	67.8	-54.6	
Santa Gertrudis	-4.0	9.0	9.5	-66.7	
Shorthorn	-74.1	75.9	73.7	-132.4	
Simmental	-32.6	100.8	88.7	-73.5	

Table 3: Direct breed solutions for MWT (lb.), average EPD for YWT (lb.), and adjusted breed effects for MWT for 16 breeds evaluated in the GPE program at the USMARC¹.

The average weight of the age-adjusted cows was 1,430 pounds, and the direct heterosis was determined to be 2.4 percent. We generally look at heterosis as a "free lunch," and in most cases it is, but heterotic effects like increased mature weight and increased milk come at a cost that needs to be considered. The authors' estimate of heritability of mature weight from these data was 0.56, indicating this is a trait that will respond rapidly to selection.

When viewing the results found in Table 3, Angus, representing the country's most populous breed, is used as the base upon which other breeds are deviated. This is usual with USMARC germplasm reports.

Column 1 in the table represents the direct mature weight breed solutions, which demonstrates considerable breed variation. For example, Charolais is slightly heavier at 10.6 pounds, compared to Braunvieh at the other extreme at -248.4 pounds.

The direct breed effect estimates seen in column 1 were then adjusted to account for the sire sampling utilizing yearling weight EPD. Yearling weight genetic predictions were chosen because they are based on a commonly reported weight trait most closely associated with mature weight.

Any sire sampling bias was accounted for through regression analysis, which included the average of each breed's 2017 calf crop's yearling weight EPD (column 2), and the weighted average of the sires' yearling weight EPD (column 3) used to produce the USMARC population from which the data was collected. This methodology would also account for bias based on when sires were sampled and the genetic trend differences between breeds.

For example, little difference would be expected in sires sampled over time from a breed with a flat genetic trend. However, because Angus exhibited a particularly steep genetic trend, it resulted in the higher magnitude difference in the averages seen in columns 2 and 3. These breed differences made the researchers' decision to adjust for sampling bias appropriate and necessary for the mature weight comparisons to be valid.

When this adjustment is made (column 4), the breed differences are magnified. Angus are clearly the heaviest cows in this population, with the next closest breeds being Charolais and Hereford at -19.6 and -38.5 pounds, respectively. Others examples of high-use breeds were Red Angus (-98.6 lbs.), Gelbvieh (-145.4 lbs.), Limousin (-95.3 lbs.), Shorthorn (-132.4 lbs.), and Simmental

(Continued on page 18)

¹ Solutions are deviations from Angus. The YWT EPD were extracted from genetic evaluations conducted in 2019.

² Estimate of MWT differences at 6 yrs of age.

³ Average of 2017-born animals.

 $^{4(4) = (1) + 2 \}times b$ [(2) - (3)], where b = 0.868 ± 0.999 lb./lb. is the regression of MWT phenotype at USMARC on sire's YWT EPD from breed association genetic evaluation from 2019.

Comparing Breed, Heterosis Effects on Mature Weight

(Continued from page 17)

(-73.5 lbs.). The most extreme breed difference seen was Braunvieh at -300.7 pounds lower than Angus.

There are considerable differences between the breeds as represented in their deviations that could be exploited in a breeding program. When viewed alone, mature weight represents a cost to an operation in the form of maintenance requirements, and, to a lesser extent, potential revenue in the form of salvage value. However, no single trait should ever be considered in a vacuum.

When evaluating breeding decisions — beyond these mature weight estimates — the corresponding revenue potential for things such as the genetic potential for growth and carcass weight must be considered, as well as the ability of an animal to express this potential based on the environment in which it will be asked to perform.

Ultimately, all breeders' operations are unique systems, and every producer, whether they are separated by region of the country or just a strand of barbed wire, must operate within their unique matrix of environment, feed resources, management, and market. There is no overarching ideal breed or animal, and mature cow size is not a proxy for efficiency, as biologically efficient and inefficient cows come in all sizes.

Therefore, the USMARC scientists, aided by researchers at the University of Nebraska, continue to provide our

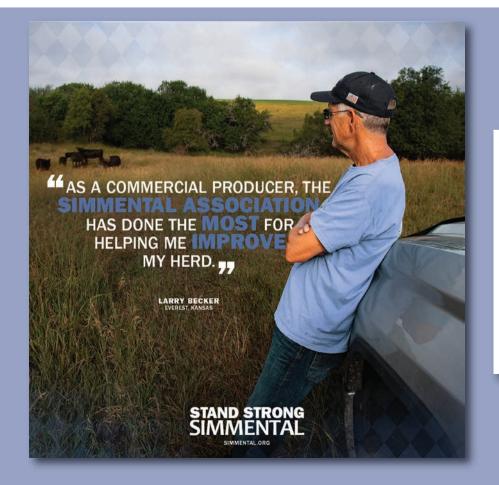
industry with the great service of the Germplasm Evaluation Program. These across-breed comparisons are necessary to build across-breed EPD, indexes, and decision-support software, which will allow producers to make better breeding decisions with each passing year.

Editor's note: This article was originally published in Western Livestock Journal, and also appeared in the Late Fall 2021 issue of SimTalk.



Dr. Robert Hough has been responsible for recording the story of several breeds through his work as an author. In 2018, he authored Simmental's American Journey, which documents the breed's path to the United States, and lays out the events that led the Association to its current place in the industry. He is also a beef industry professional, holding a PhD in animal science from

Virginia Tech. Hough has worked in Extension, as the CEO for Red Angus of America, traveled across the world evaluating cattle, and has authored hundreds of industry-focused articles for a variety of publications.





Scan this QR code to learn how Larry Becker uses genetic selection tools and carcass data to make continued improvement to his herd.



If Beef Is Your Business





American Simmental Association

To learm more about the CMP visit www.simmental.org, then click Carcass Merit Program under the Commercial tab.

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

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

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.

A Look Back at Fall Focus 2023

by Callie Cooley, communications coordinator



Fall Focus 2023 took us to the Centennial State. Simmental enthusiasts, representing 28 states and three provinces, attended the successful gathering that was held in Denver, Colorado, August 25–29. The event featured a "Ranch Gathering," live cattle demonstrations, a day-long educational symposium, a celebration of the Golden Book and Lifetime Promoter recipients, interactive committee meetings, and a productive board meeting. The Colorado Simmental Association (CSA) co-hosted the event and did a phenomenal job showcasing topics that not only provided a snapshot of issues important to Colorado's beef industry, but that were arguably just as important to everyone else in attendance. A huge thank you to everyone with the CSA for their help organizing and hosting.

Friday morning began with Simbrah committee, SimSpecialist, and ASA Publication board meetings. The SimSpecialists in attendance strategized, with some of the more experienced specialists offering insight into what has worked well for them in the past. This team is unlike any other in the industry. Giving presentations at field days or answering questions at sales is no big deal to these individuals, many of whom are retired Extension professionals and researchers.

The CSA's hard work shined brightly at the Ranch Gathering that they co-hosted with the Colorado Cattlemen's Association (CCA) on Friday afternoon. The event was held at the National Western's HW Hutchison Family Stockyards Event Center. If you haven't been to the grounds since they've been updated, it's worth the trip. At the event center, cattle were on display from Bridle Bit Simmentals,

Hill Brothers Livestock, and Reflected R Ranch. Willie Altenberg, Jake Owen, and Ben Elliot also brought cattle for the demonstrations — a special thank you goes out to those individuals for bringing cattle in from miles away. A feet and leg scoring demonstration was given by ASA Geneticist Lane Giess, and a pulmonary arterial pressure (PAP) test demonstration was performed by Dr. Tim Holt, DVM, of Colorado State University (CSU). The welcome rain shower deterred most from visiting the CSU Spur campus; however, the impressive nature of the campus was evident by even the craftsmanship of the Vida, Terra, and Hydro buildings. The evening concluded with a tritip dinner prepared by several CCA members and surprise recognition of Susan Russell, who was given a custommade brand necklace in honor of her 25th year as the CSA secretary/treasurer. Congratulations, Susan.



gathering

Opposite: ASA Geneticist Lane Giess gave a feet and leg scoring demonstration. Above: Colorado Simmental breeders brought cattle for display at the HW Hutchison Family Stockyards Event Center. Right: Lane Giess.

Bottom, L to R: Dr. Tim Holt led a live PAP demonstration. Attendees watched the monitor as Holt explained the measurement process.

(Continued on page 22)





A Look Back at Fall Focus 2023

(Continued from page 21)



L to R: ASA EVP Dr. Wade Shafer conversing with Fall Focus attendees. The Colorado Simmental Association and Colorado Cattlemen's Association hosted a day focused on the state's beef industry, capping the day with a tri-tip dinner.

symposium



Saturday's Educational Symposium took on a new format. Dr. Jackie Atkins set the tone for the day, challenging attendees to "Walk Around the Cylinder" and consider multiple perspectives before drawing conclusions. The remainder of the morning was spent taking a deep dive into bovine heart health, focusing on bovine congestive heart failure (BCHF) and PAP. Given 20 minutes to hit the high points in "Ted Talk" style presentations, five of the topic's experts shared their knowledge. The high-caliber speaker line-up consisted of Dr. Tim Holt, DVM, of CSU, Dr. Brian Vander Ley, DVM, of University of Nebraska–Lincoln, Dr. Mark Enns of CSU, Dr. Scott Speidel of CSU, and Dr. Justin Buchanan of J.R. Simplot Company.

Why was it important to spend all morning listening to these presenters? BCHF and PAP are perhaps two of the most pressing and economically relevant issues within the beef industry today. With the frequency of heart failure increasing in feedlot cattle, finding a solution is a top priority for many university and industry researchers, who are working diligently to identify BCHF risk factors and genetic correlations. Bovine pulmonary hypertension is essentially critically high blood pressure in the vessels that run from the heart into the lungs. Related to PAP, it can be triggered at high elevations when lower oxygen levels are available, causing high-mountain disease and then brisket disease when body fluid pools and causes swelling in the brisket area. Hence, the importance of PAP testing, genetics, and thoughtful breeding programs

 $ASA \ensuremath{{\it 's Dr. Jackie Atkins kicked off the educational symposium.}}$



Lane Giess (far left) moderated a panel discussion focused on bovine heart health. The speakers (L to R) included Justin Buchanan, Dr. Bryan Vander Ley, Dr. Scott Speidel, Dr. Mark Enns, and Dr. Tim Holt.

is crucial, especially to those raising cattle in highelevation areas or providing genetics to individuals raising cattle in that setting.

Lane Giess moderated the monumental panel discussion with the heart health speakers. The audience got one-and-a-half hours to ask the experts any and all questions. Not a second was spared, with many questioning management implications, the role of genetics, and tangible steps that can be taken now to decrease the likelihood of the issues.

After an informative state of the beef industry update from Billy Schmitz with Five Rivers Cattle Feeding, Steve Wooten took the stage to discuss his experience as the chair of the US Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (USRSB). The USRSB holds a proactive mindset and believes it's best to bring everyone from the beef supply chain to the

table when discussing sustainability. A couple of Wooten's comments resonated with the audience, such as the need to keep working lands in working hands, and the importance of being involved in the conversation to help ensure success for the next generation and future stewards.

Chip Kemp moderated the sustainability panel discussion that followed and included Wooten, Dr. Sara Place of CSU, Dr. Scott Howard of Meyer Natural Foods, and Dr. John Crowley of AbacusBio. The panelists tactfully navigated what can be a sensitive topic, recognizing that while keeping sustainability measures in mind is essential, we still have to produce food. Furthermore, all panelists communicated their ideas for what genetics producers should be selecting for, Crowley and Place agreeing that traits like stayability and fertility are key, with Howard adding the importance of cutability and quality.

(Continued on page 24)

Chip Kemp (far left) moderated the panel discussion focused on sustainability. The speakers (L to R) included Dr. Sara Place, Steve Wooten, Dr. Scott Howard, and John Crowley.



A Look Back at Fall Focus 2023

(Continued from page 23)

celebration



Above: Fall Focus attendees gathered to celebrate the Golden Book and Lifetime Promoter award recipients, as well as retiring trustees. Right: Simmental enthusiasts representing 28 states and three provinces attended the 2023 Fall Focus event.



Saturday evening was a time for visiting, networking, and celebration. The Golden Book Award recipients, 2023 Lifetime Promoter, retiring ASA trustees, and outgoing chairman were recognized. Well-deserving Golden Book recipients Neil Martin, Jim Largess, and Cynthia Conner were in attendance with their families to accept their award.

Sunday morning started with a Town Hall meeting, which gave Fall Focus attendees the opportunity to ask questions of board trustees and staff members. These exchanges sparked discussions that continued into the committee meetings.



Please make plans to join us for Fall Focus 2024 in Amarillo, Texas

ASA Is Here For You

Our Customer Service Team is:

Ready to answer any questions Knowledgeable about all ASA Services Committed to accuracy and timeliness Provides friendly, fast service

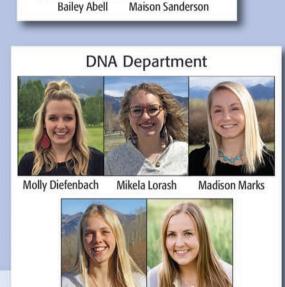
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To help us help you, when you call or email please provide:

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Jannine Story

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- 3. If you get our voicemail, we return calls within one business day. Please leave a detailed message and we will research before we call you back. It will help us help you sooner.

Timeline of registrations:

- Registrations sent to ASA are completed within 7 days
- Foundation registrations are completed within 2 - 3 weeks
- Certificates are mailed within 3 – 6 business days
- Emails are responded to with in 2 business days

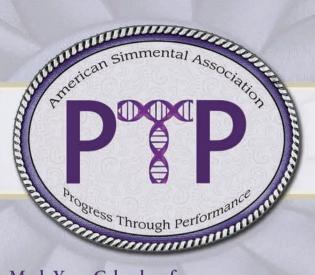
Need help? We are just a call or email away:

> 406-587-4531

Shelby Monsaas

➤ simmental@simmgene.com

Callie Cooley



Mark Your Calendars for 2023–2024 Major PTP Open Shows

Visit event websites for show schedules.

American Royal October 2023 www.americanroyal.com

North American International Livestock Exposition November 2023 www.livestockexpo.org This is the National SimGenetics Show for 2023–2024

Cattlemen's Congress January 2024 www.cattlemenscongress.com

National Western Stock Show January 2024 www.nationalwestern.com

Fort Worth Stock Show January 2024 www.fwssr.com

Dixie National Livestock Show February 2024 www.dixienational.org

Progress Through Performance Shows

The American Simmental Association is proud to sanction high-quality Purebred Simmental, Percentage Simmental, and Simbrah Progress Through Performance (PTP) shows throughout the country. The PTP program is designed to promote multi-level progress within the SimGenetics industry. PTP shows effectively combine the assessment of statistical data, such as EPD and actual measurements, with traditional phenotype evaluation.

PTP Judges

PTP approved judges have been deemed as respectable and knowledgeable cattle evaluators by the ASA Board of Trustees Activities & Events (A&E) Committee. View the PTP approved judges list at: www.simmental.org.



ASA PTP RING OF CHAMPIONS 2023–2024





Only the Major PTP Shows involved in the National Show rotation are eligible for ASA PTP RING OF CHAMPIONS 2023-2024.

Shows include: 2023 American Royal

2023 North American International

Livestock Exposition 2024 Cattlemen's Congress

2024 National Western Stock Show

2024 Fort Worth Stock Show

2024 Dixie National Livestock Show



- ◆ Purebred Simmental Female of the Year
- Purebred Simmental Bull of the Year
- ◆ Percentage Simmental Female of the Year
- ◆ Percentage Simmental Bull of the Year
- ◆ People's Choice Female of the Year
- ◆ People's Choice Bull of the Year

Qualifications

- Exhibitors must be active members in good standing with the American Simmental Association
- ◆ Purebred Simmental: 7/8 Simmental and up
- ◆ Percentage Simmental: at least 1/2 Simmental, but less than 7/8 Simmental
- ◆ Animals and their exhibitors must abide by the rules of the show(s) in which they participate
- ◆ All ASA Ring of Champions award winners must at a minimum complete an ultra-low density DNA test before awards are given



PTP Coordinator Chance Uiazdowski 920-740-7536 chanceu@simmgene.com















STYLE 2023 Focuses on the Future

by Sarah Goss, participant

The second annual SimGenetic Training for Young Leaders and Entrepreneurs was held in Oklahoma City June 9–11. The event gathers young people from across the country to focus on leadership and self discovery, learn about ASA governance, and build relationships with other leaders in the industry.



Leadership — true leadership — looks different. It has to. Or organizations (and the people and ideas that drive organizations) can't move forward.

For three days in Oklahoma City in mid-June, ten members of the American Simmental Association participated in SimGenetics Training for Young Leaders and Entrepreneurs (STYLE), and had the opportunity to get an inside look at how the people and ideas driving ASA are moving forward. Differently.

The young leaders that gathered from across the county were as unique and diverse as the flow and structure of the STYLE event. A few of the inspiring interactions and experiences I observed included:

- A barely-getting-started small breeder from Wisconsin meets a fifth-generation operation from Alabama.
- Discover and define personal core values assignment followed by an in-depth discussion on Economically Relevant Traits.
- Young breeder relocates from West Virginia to Kansas and meets up-and-coming leader in a genetics company. They share a table with industry-seasoned Simmental breeders/mentors from Alabama and Colorado.
- Conversation on "Good to Great" Level 5 Leadership transitions into discussion on growth and opportunities in natural and source-branded meat products.

Clearly, the agenda bounced from personal leadership to industry experts to association history to the intricacies of EPD. And it worked. A day in the life of a Simmental producer bounces from the basics of animal husbandry to forward-looking genetic decisions to finance and economics to rolling up shirtsleeves and volunteering at a junior stock show. Bouncing, adapting, and demonstrating competencies at every stage is what it takes to succeed in today's beef industry.

And today's beef industry — and the success of the beef industry — is the singular measure of success for ASA. Members' cattle, plus science, technology, and collaboration, exist to serve the beef industry. It's that simple. Dr. Wade Schafer said so.

When the beef industry succeeds, so do ASA members. And when that singular focus is the target of every employee and every member of the Association, the cattle get better, the breed grows, memberships grow, junior programs grow, the Association moves forward.

So simple. Yet, so refreshing. Over the course of the weekend in Oklahoma City, it was said, "Our model may not look like everyone else's, but that's ok."

The model is a fresh take on an old industry. STYLE participants left Oklahoma City *different* than when they arrived. And that's ok.



Sarah Goss makes her home in Kansas with her husband Brent and four children: Noah, Tucker, Nell, and Britta. She is the co-founder of Roots and Legacies, an agricultural consulting agency. She started her career in economic development, and later moved to banking. The Goss family owns a farm, and is actively involved in their community, 4-H, and more.



Sexed Semen: An Opportunity to Capture More Value for Cattle

by Wyatt Bechtel, Filament Ag

Breeding with sexed semen can help your bottom line by creating cattle the market demands.

Sexed semen breeding programs for the beef industry have primarily focused on developing genetically superior replacement heifers.

"Male sexed semen is an opportunity to capture value. The opportunity is greater when the price spread between steers and heifers is significant," says Ken Odde, DVM and PhD, professor and department head emeritus of the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry at Kansas State University.



Dr. Ken Odde served as Department Head for the Animal Sciences and Industry Department at Kansas State University from 2007 to 2018. Dr. Odde now works full-time on the family ranch in South Dakota and serves as a SimSpecialist for ASA.

Since retiring from academia, Odde has focused on creating more profitability for his family's commercial cow-calf ranch in South Dakota.

"About six years ago, I was sitting at the sale barn in Mobridge, South Dakota, and the price spread between steers and heifers just struck me that day," Odde says.

From that "aha moment," Odde started to pursue what a sexed semen breeding program could look like for his ranch. He shares strategies and protocols to consider for success, including fertility differences between cows and heifers, the use of split-time or fixed-time artificial insemination (AI) and the value of using breeding indicator patches to measure estrus intensity.

Value of breeding for males

Before breeding with sexed semen, Odde looked back at industry trends to see the economic impact of breeding for more males.

"We've got years of history when most sexed semen was targeted at producing females," Odde says. "Breeding for males is a shift in thinking, and ultimately it's driven by how high the price difference is between steers and heifers."

Data from Superior Livestock (see Figure 1) shows the price per hundredweight (cwt) difference between steers and heifers has been on an upward trend for nearly three decades. Odde says the price difference between steers and heifers has been primarily driven by increasing carcass weights and the rising cost of gain.

Year	Mean Base (lbs.)	Mean Price 100 lbs. (US\$)	Price Spread between Steer and Heifer Lots (US\$/100 lbs.)
1995	527	67.55	6.83
2000	540	100.06	8.00
2005	575	121.43	9.04
2010	567	118.77	10.68
2015	578	248.39	20.94
2020	580	154.22	15.81
2021	572	172.50	18.47

Figure 1: Value of Heifer Calves Relative to Steer Calves, Superior Livestock Data, 1995–2021.

Feedlot closeout performance data in Kansas (see Figure 2) from August 2017 showed the average cost of gain was \$5.66 per cwt higher for heifers versus steers. That year corn was relatively cheap to feed at \$3.91 per bushel. In August 2022, the average cost of gain was \$12.77 per cwt higher for heifers than for steers when the corn price was \$8.69 per bushel.

"Steers can be fed to higher weights more efficiently," Odde adds. "The trend of increasing carcass weights could be a driver of producing more male calves with sexed semen, particularly when feed prices are higher."

Closeout Date	# of Head	In Weight (lbs.)	Final Weight (lbs.)	Average Days on Feed	Average Daily Gain (lbs./day)	Feed to Gain (Dry Basis)	Death Loss (%)	Average Cost of Gain/CWT (US\$)
August 2022 (steer	30,069 s)	766	1,439	180	3.61	6.02	2.06	129.41
August 2022 (heife	25,912 rs)	736	1,296	169	3.14	6.52	2.72	142.18
August 2017 (steer	34,951 s)	793	1,379	169	3.62	6.05	1.27	73.88
August 2017 (heife	22,764 rs)	711	1,231	165	3.11	6.61	1.69	79.54

Figure 2: Gender Performance Differences in Feeder Cattle, Focus on Feedlots, Kansas State University.

August 2022 corn price = US\$8.69/bushel and August 2017 corn price = US\$3.91/bushel.

On-ranch experience

The first set of females to be bred with sexed semen on Odde's ranch used maternal female sexed semen on heifers (see Table 1) and predominantly utilized terminal male sexed semen on cows (see Table 2).

Year	Semen Gender	Breed of Sire	# of Heifers	Estrus Synchronization Protocol	Breeding Protocol	# Pregnant A.I.	A.I. Pregnancy Rate (%)
2019	Female	Angus	101	MGA-PGF2α	Breed by Estrus	64	63.4
2021	Female	Simmental	69	MGA-PGF2α	Breed by Estrus	40	58.0
2021	Female	Angus	73	MGA-PGF2α	Breed by Estrus	41	56.2
2022	Male	Angus	148	MGA-PGF2α	Breed by Estrus	77	52.0

Table 1: AI Pregnancy Rates for Gender Sorted Semen in Yearling Heifers, 2019, 2021, and 2022.

Year	Semen Gender	Breed of Sire	# of Cows	Estrus Synchronization Protocol	Breeding Protocol	# Pregnant A.I.	A.I. Pregnancy Rate (%)
2019	Male	Charolais	88	CO-Synch-CDIR	FTAI	36	40.9
2019	Male	Charolais	80	CO-Synch-CDIR	STAI	36	45.0
2019	Female	Angus	51	CO-Synch-CDIR	STAI	24	47.0
2021	Male	Charolais	204	CO-Synch-CDIR or 7&7 Synch	FTAI	96	47.0
2022	Male	Charolais	46	CO-Synch-CDIR	FTAI	24	52.2
2022	Male	Charolais	78	CO-Synch-CDIR	FTAI	35	44.9

Table 2: AI Pregnancy Rates for Gender Sorted Semen in Cows, 2019, 2021, and 2022.



Some breeding indicators have easy-to-read bullseyes (black surface ink) on them. Once the bullseye (or the equivalent surface area) is rubbed off the animal, that animal is ready to breed and is up to three times more likely to result in a confirmed pregnancy.

(Continued on page 32)

Sexed Semen: An Opportunity to Capture More Value for Cattle

(Continued from page 31)



The breeding indicator's surface ink is rubbed off by friction during mounting and reveals an indicator color. When enough color is exposed, the animal is considered ready to breed.

Following an estrus synchronization protocol, heifers were bred by visual heat detection using ESTROTECT Breeding Indicator patches to aid in estrus detection during five days of monitoring. The heifers' AI pregnancy rate was $63.4\,\%$.

In the first year, cows were bred using multiple protocols. With fixed-time AI, cow reproduction rates were 40.9%. Two cow groups were bred using split-time AI at 70 hours post prostaglandin injection for cows with activated ESTROTECT patches. If patches weren't activated, insemination happened at 90 hours with an injection of GnRH. The split-time groups had pregnancy rates of 45% and 47%.

"We think with split-time AI, we were able to pick up a few more cows running them through a second time," Odde relates. "However, it is pretty labor intensive, so we've moved towards more fixed-time AI with the cows."

In the third year of research, male sexed semen was used across all the heifers and cows. "We have learned we get better fertility on our yearling heifers than on mature cows," Odde says. "We can easily produce more bull calves from our heifers, so that's something we want to evaluate further."

Words of advice

If you are considering breeding with sexed semen, Odde has a few tips. Odde suggests using a protocol that helps make chute-side breeding decisions based on estrus intensity via a breeding indicator patch.

If half of the patch or more is rubbed off, females are good candidates to be bred with sexed semen. Should less than half of the patch surface ink be rubbed off, it's best

to use less expensive conventional semen to help manage costs of your genetics investment.

Keeping an eye on market trends is another management practice to consider. "You need an understanding of the economic dynamics," Odde says.

For some herds, it may work better to develop more replacement heifers via sexed semen and marketing those replacements to terminal-focused operations, particularly when replacement females are in demand.

"It could be that male sexed semen works well in some situations, and a few years later, it may not have the same incentive," Odde adds. "When there is a good price difference between steers and heifers, it can really work well."

Odde presented his on-ranch research findings during the Beef Improvement Federation Annual Symposium in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, on July 3.

Editor's note: This piece was originally published by ESTROTECT. For more information go to ESTROTECT.com. Dr. Ken Odde is a longtime Simmental breeder, and currently serves as a SimSpecialist.



Wyatt Bechtel is a manager at Filament Ag, a marketing and communications firm based in Wisconsin. Bechtel is a writer and communicator, and also spends time at his family's ranch in the Flint Hills of Kansas. The business includes a custom grazing stocker operation, a commercial Angus cow/calf herd, outfitting deer hunters, and hosting bird dog field trials.

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by Blake Fabrizius, Western Region

Upcoming PTP Schedule

As many of us are getting settled into the school year I thought it would be a good time to catch up on the upcoming Progress Through Performance (PTP)

schedule. First up, The American Royal in Kansas City, Missouri. The 124th annual American Royal's tentative schedule lists Tuesday, October 17, and Wednesday, October 18, as Simmental move-in days. The Junior Simmental show will occur on Friday, October 20, and be sorted by Amanda Schnoor with the Supreme Junior Heifer drive the following day. Jeff Paulsen will be joining us on October 22 for the Open show.

The North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in Louisville, Kentucky, takes place November 2–16. The Junior Simmental show will take place in Broadbent Arena starting at 8 AM on Saturday, November 11, with the Junior SimSolution show the following day in Freedom Hall after the conclusion of the Junior Angus show. Fullbloods will show following the Chianina and Limousin shows in Broadbent Arena. The Junior Heifer show Supreme Drive will start at 5:30 PM in Freedom Hall on Sunday, November 12. All Simmental cattle showing in the Open show will exhibit on Tuesday in Freedom Hall

starting with the Fullblood show at 8 AM. Judges Andy Higgins and Ryan Haefner will sort the Junior Simmental/SimSolution and Junior Fullblood Simmental shows, respectively, while Matt Aggen will sift the Open Simmental cattle. Don't forget, NAILE is our 2023–24 PTP National SimGenetics Show! All dates and times were updated as of June and are tentative.

Cattlemen's Congress in Oklahoma City is approaching its 4th annual event. The Junior Simmental Show is scheduled for January 8, while the open show will take place on both the 8th and 9th. Lydell Meier will evaluate the junior show, with Scott Trennepohl on the Open show. Turn to the next week on the calendar for the National Western Stock Show (NWSS) Simmental schedule. Denver, Colorado, is excited to welcome Cary Crow to sort the Junior show on January 15, and Brent Murphy for the Open show the following day.

Just 12 short days later on January 28, judge Shane Bedwell will give his thoughts on the Open Simmental show at the Fort Worth Stock Show. The AJSA Board of Trustees is ecstatic to see all our junior and open show exhibitors take on the busy yet exciting PTP shows. We will have several board members present at each show who will be working rings and happy to help in any way so please don't hesitate to ask!

Editor's note: A schedule of PTP shows appears on pg. 26.



www.juniorsimmental.org



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by Larry H. Maxey, founder and superintendent, NAILE Fullblood Simmental Shows larryhmaxey@gmail.com

Our Pioneers — Pat Garrett

You may recall the conclusion of this column for the July/August issue of *the Register* and the reference to Pat Garrett. In that piece, much attention was given to the infamous Lincoln County War in the New Mexico Territory, beginning in 1878. It was a brutal war. Essentially all involved ended up either wounded or dead. The few survivors suffered huge financial and reputational losses. Such is the case with all wars.

In 1880, a newcomer to the area, Pat Garrett, was elected as sheriff. Lawlessness and violence were out of control. Garrett's task was to stop it. No small feat given the many outlaw groups that thrived unabated. Who in their right mind would undertake such a risky challenge? Garrett appeared to have no qualms. So who was this guy with apparent nerves of steel?

Patrick Floyd Jarvis Garrett was born June 5, 1850, in Chambers County, Alabama. He was of English ancestry. Coincidentally, one place of the family's origin in England was listed as Northamptonshire, which includes the Village of Maxey. When my wife and I visited there a few years ago we learned the Maxey name has been in continuous use for over 1,000 years.

When Garrett was three his father purchased the John Greer Plantation in Claiborne Parish, Louisiana. The Civil War destroyed the family finances. By age 18, Garrett had lost both his father and mother. He and his siblings were left with a debt of \$30,000. In 1869, Garrett headed west, apparently wandering around for seven years; his whereabouts were unknown until he surfaced in Texas in 1876. He had been hunting buffalo. During a confrontation with another buffalo hunter, Joe Briscoe, Briscoe was shot and killed. Garrett surrendered to the authorities at Fort Griffin, Texas, but they declined to prosecute.

Following his buffalo hunting years, Garrett rode west to New Mexico Territory and Fort Sumner. There he made efforts to settle down and start a family. This was hard to do with the Lincoln County War raging. He decided to run for sheriff and surprisingly was elected on November 2, 1880, defeating the incumbent Sheriff George Kimbell with 320 votes to 179.

After taking office, he obtained a deputy US Marshall's commission. This allowed him to pursue outlaws across state lines. Among those many notorious criminals was his main target, William H. Bonney, a.k.a. "Billy the Kid." With posse in tow and certain that the "Kid" was at the Dedrick Ranch at Basque Grande, they stormed the ranch on November 30, 1880. The Kid was not there. Several other outlaws were apprehended and turned over to the sheriff of San Miguel County.

Continuing his search, in the settlement of Puerto de Luna, a local thug named Mariano Leiva picked a fight with Garrett and was shot in the shoulder. More gang lawlessness ensued. Emboldened with perceived invincibility, the Kid and his cohorts brazenly rode into Fort Sumner with Garrett and his posse lying in wait. A shootout ensued and once again Billy escaped. Garrett followed him to Stinking Springs where Billy was captured.

On April 15, 1881, Judge Warren Bristol sentenced Billy to be hanged. Awaiting final justice, somehow he managed to escape

jail. Within two weeks he had murdered two deputies. A determined Garrett was in dogged pursuit. Rumor had it that Billy was holed up with Pedro "Pete" Maxwell at his house. Garrett waited until midnight and entered the house. He shot and killed Billy.

To this day, controversy and uncertainty remain as to the events of that fatal night. Various accounts by many historians over the years have tried to glorify the life of Billy the Kid and claim less heroic actions by Garrett in the Kid's demise. One has to remember that Garrett was ordered to bring in the Kid, "dead or alive!". Whatever the factual circumstances were, "Law and Order–Old West Style" had been rendered. The courage of this lawman had drawn the region one step closer to the rule of law.

Following his stint in New Mexico, he moved on to Texas. He ran unsuccessfully for state senate. He became a captain in the Texas Rangers but gave it up within a month and headed back to Roswell, New Mexico. There he was involved in various business ventures which all failed. By 1892, he moved his large family back to Texas. In Uvalde, he became friends with John Nance Garner, who would later become a US Vice President.

Lawlessness in New Mexico was surging once again. He was drawn back to help get things under control. Multiple episodes ensued and true to his core, he pursued justice with unwavering gusto. The West was his domain. Countless outlaws knew his name and shivered in fear when they knew he was on their trail.

The remainder of Garrett's life was filled with controversy. His heroic reputation led President Theodore Roosevelt to appoint him to the post of Collector of Customs in El Paso on December 16, 1901. That reputation soon became tarnished. Allegations of incompetence swirled, along with a long list of infractions, both personal and professional. Roosevelt was forced to replace him.

Garrett's financial troubles were large. Continuing his efforts to right them led to a dispute over a livestock transaction and a confrontation in which Garrett was shot and killed. By whom was never factually determined. He died February 29, 1908. His ending fits a pattern of how the peace was "kept" in the lawless West. He was indeed a Western hero, however immensely complex, controversial, and enigmatic his legacy may be.

Editor's note: This is the thirty-first 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:

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American Simmental-Simbrah Foundation Raises \$14,500 at AJSA National Classic

by Carrie Horman, CNN Cattle Company

The week of the AJSA National Classic brings a lot of anticipation for something new, what is going to take place, excitement for the old traditions to carry on, and everything in between. The American Simmental-Simbrah Foundation (ASF) had a lot of the same emotions going into the 2023 National Classic with hosting of the seventh annual Breeders Cup Golf Tournament, and kicking off the inaugural Barbecue Contest. Both events are designed to raise funds for the youth of the Simmental breed for the Merit Scholarships and Leadership Workshop.

The grills, smokers, and crock pots of six teams rolled up on Sunday, July 9, for their opportunity to showcase how they could prepare and present a tri-tip roast, shoulder tender, beef short ribs, Iowa sweet corn, and a dish of their choice for the open category.

Four judges evaluated all categories based on presentation, taste, tenderness, and overall effectiveness of the beef cut, sweet corn, and open category, which included desserts, dips, and more. A People's Choice vote also took place as teams prepared samples for the audiences to taste and vote on by placing cash in the team's jar.



Competitors gathered for the first annual Barbecue Competition at the AJSA National Classic.

A lot of conversation on recipes, how to prepare different cuts of meat and "oh my that was incredible," was overheard all day as the teams tended to their secret method of preparing for turnin time to the judges. "This is the most fun I've had at a Junior National," said Thomas Lundy, leader of Team 1.

After the judges evaluated the dishes, the following won in each category:

Shoulder Tender: Matt, Brandi, and Mason Karisch Tri-tip Roast: Bradley Warren, Todd Kitzerow,

and Kevin Maas

Beef Short Ribs: Thomas Lundy, Blake Runner,

and Adrianne Trennepohl

Iowa Sweet Corn: Thomas Lundy, Blake Runner,

and Adrianne Trennepohl

Open Category: Thomas Lundy, Blake Runner,

and Adrianne Trennepohl

Overall Team: Thomas Lundy, Blake Runner,

and Adrianne Trennepohl

People's Choice Award: Steve and Kristen Hicks

Then on Monday, July 10, the seventh annual ASF Breeders Cup Golf Tournament returned to the great state of Iowa, where it all began! Twenty-five teams made their way to the Bright Grandview Golf Course for a fun-filled day out on the course. Teams from all over the country came together for a little friendly competition of golf strategy, birdies, some cow talk, some trash talk, and a whole lot of laughs.

"This is so much fun, I look forward to this every year," said Kyle Hotz of Hotz Cattle Company.



The ASF held their seventh annual Breeder's Cup Golf Tournament.

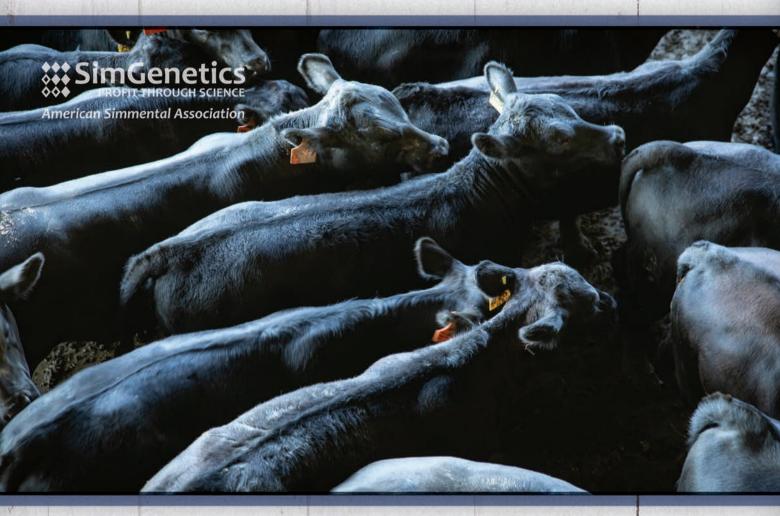
The course was tight and short, which made for a different strategy in many players' games. The "Purple Ribbon Beef" team, made up of Jess Recknor, Nick Zastrow, Jayson Olson, and Trevor Biley, came out on top with a score of 56. We're all about hanging banners in this business; the Champion team can now hang their banners and hold bragging rights until 2024! Buck Creek Cattle with Jacob Moore, Justin Johnson, Garret Cloud, and Kent Jaecke were our reserve champion team.

Individual contests were set up as the players shot their 18 holes for added fun and competition. It's always fun to see the ladies getting in on the competition as well! Sheryl Clanton from Kansas took home the Longest Putt championship. We had two Closest to the Pin competitions where Ryan Mesch won Hole 9 and Mark Schoenfeld won Hole 13.

Together the BBQ Contest and Golf Tournament raised over \$14,500 to go back to our Simmental kids. We could not have done that without the donations of all our sponsors of the events, and cannot say THANK YOU enough for your support and generosity.

Make plans for the 2024 AJSA National Classic to be held in Tulsa, Oklahoma, July 7–13. Plans are already in the making for the second annual Barbecue Contest and eighth Annual ASF Breeders Cup Golf Tournament.

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Hydrops Pregnancies in Simmentals

Seeking reports of active cases

The Nebraska Bovine Congenital Defects program recently recognized an increased number of reports of hydrops pregnancies in a line of Simmental cows. Hydrops is expressed by females developing markedly enlarged abdomens in late pregnancy due to a dramatic excess of fluid in the fetal membranes. At present, these cases point to a genetic link but the pattern of inheritance and percent of affected offspring is unknown. Reports involve daughters and granddaughters of the bull WS All Aboard B80, ASA #2852207.

For the most up-to-date information, please see the "Further Information" link on Simmental.org. A webinar discussing what is currently known with the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and ASA team is available at simmental.org. Finally, if you have a potential case to report, please use the "Report Case" link at simmental.org to provide us with your contact information, and a team member will get back to you soon.

Stay Involved with Trustee Elections and Rule & Bylaw Changes

ASA's fiscal year ended on June 30, which means you likely noticed the Annual Membership Fee charged to your Herdbook account. There are two important steps to remain active:

- 1. Pay your Annual Membership Fee.
- Register and/or transfer at least one animal record within two years.

Your account must be in active status in order to elect trustees from your region and to vote on Rule and Bylaw amendments. We want your voice to be heard, so make sure your account is active today! If you have any questions, contact ASA's Membership Department at 406-587-4531 or members@simmgene.com.

ASA's New and Improved Website Is Live

Simmental.org was recently updated to make it quicker and easier for you to find all things ASA related. In addition to the resources you're used to, it also features a breeder's resources section that highlights information on SimGenetics, performance data reporting, simple trait selection, and genetic improvement tools. If you have questions or need assistance finding something, contact our office at 406-587-4531.

DNA Updates

DNA Research Fee Application

DNA research fees are \$1/minute and may apply to parentage rechecks, misidentified samples, or other scenarios involving unusual increase in staff time. Each case is unique, so estimating the final charge is difficult. If there are a significant number of animals not qualifying to a parent(s), please reach out to the DNA Department to discuss a rough estimate of time and cost.

Testing Timeline

Allow 4–5 weeks. Please communicate any deadlines you may be working with to the ASA DNA staff. Expedited and tracked shipping is always recommended when ordering kits and shipping samples to Neogen.

\$30 DNA Research Fee

Sample packages sent to the ASA office (with or without paperwork), instead of the lab, will incur a \$30 research fee.

With the exception of research projects (CHR, CCG, CXP), all samples are to be sent directly to the lab with ASA paperwork.

TSU/Applicator Price Increase

Due to rising costs from the TSU manufacturer AllFlexTM, ASA has increased the price of TSU sampling kits to \$22 per box. Each box will still include ten individual tissue sampling units. The cost of TSU applicators has also been increased from \$40 to \$50 each.

Semen Sample Fee

Effective immediately, ASA will be implementing a \$7.20 processing fee for all semen straws and/or semen samples submitted to Neogen for DNA testing.

State Association Check-Off Bonus Program Reminder

While the July 15 deadline to submit all state association program requests seems far away, it's a good time for state associations to familiarize themselves with the check-off bonus program. Aside from the quarterly check-off money states can receive, state associations are also eligible for additional money in the form of yearly bonus checks if certain activities are completed throughout the year. Examples include hosting a field day with ASA representation and participating in the cost share program. To learn about the check-off bonus program, visit simmental.org and contact Callie Cooley at stateassoc@simmgene.com with any questions.

Digital Certificates Available

ASA recently launched a new feature on Herdbook allowing members to download official digital certificates for registered animals. After September 1, 2022, ASA will no longer scan and email or fax copies of printed certificates, and is encouraging shows, sales, and other events to utilize digital certificates. Digital certificates are the easiest, most reliable way to obtain an official record quickly. To download a digital certificate, search for your registered animal on Herdbook. If you are logged in and the animal is registered in good standing, there will be a button to download a digital certificate. Only the current owner of an animal can access the digital certificate. Please contact the registrations department with any questions at simmental@simmgene.com.

DNA Research Programs Continue





The Calf Crop Genomic (CCG) testing project, and Cow Herd DNA Roundup (CHR) continue to accept new submissions. The CCG offers a 50% off GGP-100K genomic test including parentage (\$25 compared to \$50 equivalent test) to participating breeders who test their entire calf crop group.

The CHR program also continues to accept new herds. The project tests females at \$25 per sample for a GGP-100K genomic test. Members must test 90% of their calving-age cows to qualify for the reduced price. When members submit mature cow body weights and

body condition scores or hip heights on 90% of their calving-age cows, they will receive a \$5 credit to their account for each

reported cow. Cows must be 18 months of age or older when mature cow measurements are taken to qualify for the \$5 credit. The \$5 credit will only be applied once in an animal's life. For example, if a member received a credit for the phenotypes in 2018 for that cow, they cannot receive another credit for the same cow with a new weight and BCS in 2019.

Additional requirements apply for both programs. Please visit simmental.org, and email researchdna@simmgene.com for full program requirements and more information.

2023 Year-Letter is L

In accordance with the Beef Improvement Federation guidelines, the year-letter animal identification for 2023 is L, and will be followed by M in 2024, and N in 2025. The letter K was the year-letter designated during 2022.

Per the BIF guidelines, the following letters are not used: I, O, Q, and V.

Digital Billing Statements

As of August 1, 2022, members who have provided an email address only receive digital statements. As postal service delays continue to increase, digital statements allow for fast and effective communication. If you did not receive a statement please check your spam folder. Your billing history is available any time through your Herdbook account. Log in, select the My Account tab, select View ASA Billing History, choose the Month and Year and click on Apply. Please log in, go to the My Account tab and make sure the email that is on file is current.

Office Holiday Schedule

Thursday, November 23 & Friday, November 24
Thanksgiving
Monday, December 25, & Tuesday, December 26
Christmas ■

CORPORATE REPORT

Register

SEC Urged to Halt JBS US IPO

Environmental groups are calling on the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to call a halt on JBS USA's US initial public offering over the Brazilian meatpacker's impact on the climate. Organizations including Rainforest Action Network (RAN) and Mighty Earth have filed complaints with the SEC, urging a probe of allegations against the processor. A spokesperson for RAN said that the organization requests that the SEC conduct a thorough investigation into "the pattern of alarming and unacceptable corporate conduct by JBS before granting it an IPO on the New York Stock Exchange."

Echoing the call was Mighty Earth, which questioned the validity of information provided by JBS in its prospectus, saying the company underestimated its climate impact. JBS did not respond to a request for comment, while an SEC spokesperson stated the agency "does not comment on specific entities." JBS had unveiled plans to list its shares in the US and Brazil in July to expand its investment capacity and unlock value for shareholders. The firm also said its proposal would "enhance transparency and strengthen corporate governance."

Smithfield Cuts Waste Dumped into River

Smithfield Foods' pork processing complex in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, is now equipped with a \$45 million wastewater system that will cut two-thirds of the nitrogen emissions into the Big Sioux River. Smithfield accounted for the release of roughly six million pounds of discharge into the river in 2021, or about 2.5% of the nation's overall generated waste water, according to the Environmental Protection Agency data.

The upgrade converts ammonia-nitrogen in wastewater to a less environmentally damaging nitrate-nitrogen, and replaces a majority of the existing system at the facility. Smithfield has spent \$10 million over the past several years improving its wastewater system in Sioux Falls. The facility had been fined more

than \$45,000 in 2019 and more than \$50,000 in 2018 for violating its surface water discharge permit. It went for more than a year between 2019 and 2020 without a violation. The Sioux Falls wastewater plant operated with a single notice of violation from 2010 to 2018 and had no violations that resulted in any environmental impacts.

Cargill Tackles Methane Emissions

Cargill is hoping to take on methane emissions linked to climate change by partnering with a consulting firm to develop Gold Standard-approved beef methodology that offers the global beef industry a framework for measuring methane emissions reduction using feed supplements that have been incorporated into beef cattle diets. The certification enables climate and sustainable development initiatives to demonstrate their positive contributions toward climate security and achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development goals. Moreover, Gold Standard's Verified Emissions Reductions (VERS) can be traded in carbon markets, offering support for climate-friendly projects while also benefiting corporate value chains in meeting targets.

Cargill is taking measures through its own Reach-4-Reduction program to mitigate methane emissions. By optimizing feed management, nutrition, and animal health, Cargill aims to reduce emissions while ensuring food security and environmental protection. The methodology, entitled "Reducing Methane Emissions from Enteric Fermentation in Beef Cattle through Application of Feed Supplements," empowers beef producers to accurately measure and showcase their efforts in methane reduction. The newly developed methodology signifies a crucial stop toward creating a more sustainable and climate-friendly beef supply chain. Earlier this year, JBS had announced a similar initiative to cut emissions in Brazil.



Beef Prices Experience Inflation

Meat and poultry prices rose by 0.9% in the month of July, when comparing year-over-year, according to the latest Consumer Price Index released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The increase was less than the overall "food away from home," which posted an increase of 7.1%. Although the meat category saw a modest price increase, there was great variety among the various proteins.

Beef and veal prices were up 5.3%, with steaks rising the most at 7.8%. Ground beef prices, meanwhile, rose just 3.1%, with roasts priced at a 6.3% increase. Pork and veal prices were both up 3.7%, with bacon prices down 10.7%, and breakfast sausage prices up slightly at 0.3%. Pork chops, on the other hand, were down by 2.4%, and roasts/steaks/ribs were down 6.8%. Poultry experienced a decrease of 0.2%, with chicken down 2.5%, but turkey substantially up by 9.4%. Frankfurters and lunch meats (which saw big increases in the early days of the recent inflationary period), still posted price increases, but those items were relatively low at 3.35% and 4.4%, respectively.

Cattle Inventory Hits 50-Year Low

The mid-year cattle inventory data, released in mid-August, showed producers are raising the smallest total herd since 1971, down 3% from the same data one year earlier. USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service reported all cattle and calves in the US on July 1 totaled 95.9 million head, compared to the previous year of 98.6 million head. The declines were apparent in every category. All cows and heifers that have calves totaled 38.8 million head, 2% below the 39.6 million head one year previously. Beef cows, at 29.4 million head, were down 3% from a year ago. All heifers 500 pounds and over totaled 15.0 million head, 4% below the 15.6 million head of 2022, while beef replacement heifers, at 4.05 million head were also down by 2% from a year ago.

Meanwhile, steers 500 pounds and over on July 1 totaled 13.9 million head, down 3% from 2022. Calves under 500 pounds totaled 26.3 million head, also down 3% from the previous year. Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in the United States for all feedlots totaled 13.1 million head during the current year, down 2% for last year. Cattle on feed in feedlots with capacity of 1,000 head or more accounted for 85.5% of the total cattle on feed, up slightly from the previous year. The droughtfueled decline promises elevated costs for processors and ultimately for consumers for years to come.

WFO Rejects Cultivated Meat

The World Farmers' Organization (WFO), in a recent position paper approved by its General Assembly, took a "resolute stand" against adopting cultivated meat as an alternative to conventional meat products.

"Lab-grown food, substances produced in laboratories for human consumption, are created using tissues or cells and are not naturally occurring on a large scale. They are supported by marketing campaigns that enhance the myth of greater sustainability compared to agriculture. Farmers firmly reject this narrative," said a spokesperson for the Rome-based organization.

Citing concerns that cultivated meat might affect human health and spread zoonotic diseases, as well as concerns about the processes' environmental sustainability, the WFO called for focusing on improvements in conventional animal agriculture to deliver sustainable solutions to produce, process, distribute, and

consume food in a sustainable manner. "The WFO strongly opposes replacing farmer-grown food with lab-made foodstuff," the organization said in a press release. "Such substitutes dismiss the work and contribution of farmers to sustainability and push consumers toward a homogenous dietary model that undermines the tradition, diversity, quality, and uniqueness of regional food systems across the planet."

Effective Fenceline Weaning for Calves: Stress Reduction and Benefits

by Drovers

Regardless of when and how many calves you will wean, methods of reducing stress on fresh-weaned calves is of great interest to cattle producers and of benefit to cow-calf operations, says Mark Johnson, professor of animal and food science at Oklahoma State University. Traditional calf weaning methods often involve complete separation from their mothers by relocating them to new pastures or dry lot pens.

For cow-calf producers, the concept of "fenceline weaning" is worth considering. A management approach that promotes fenceline contact between calves and dams for a minimum of four to ten days after weaning, fenceline weaning helps decrease stress in calves along with many other benefits outlined below.

For fenceline weaning to be successful, sturdy fences are required, allowing nose-to-nose interaction while preventing nursing. The primary goal of fenceline weaning is to facilitate social interaction between calves and dams while transitioning the calves from mother's milk to other sources of nutrition.

Benefits of Fenceline Weaning:

Studies have demonstrated several advantages associated with fenceline weaning:

- Reduced Vocalization and Movement: Calves exhibit fewer distress calls and reduced restlessness during the initial days after weaning.
- Improved Rest and Feeding Behavior: Calves allocate more time to resting and feeding during the early post-weaning period.
- Enhanced Weight Gain: Calves tend to gain more weight in the first few weeks following weaning.
- Healthier Calves: Calves that consume more food and water immediately after weaning generally experience better overall health.

Best Practices for Successful Fenceline Weaning:

Maintain Cows and Calves in the Same Area. If feasible, keep the cows and calves in the same pasture or lot during weaning. This approach allows the calves to familiarize themselves with the locations of water sources, feed, and grazing areas. Alternatively, if separation is necessary, position water troughs and feeders along the fenceline where both calves and cows will initially gather. This increases the likelihood of calves finding water and feed quickly, minimizing unnecessary perimeter fence walking.

Minimize Additional Stress. To avoid adding extra stress during weaning, such as castrating, dehorning, branding, or vaccinations, plan these procedures several weeks before or after the weaning process is complete.

Ensure Adequate Fencing. Adequate fencing is essential for successful fenceline weaning. A standard five-strand barbed wire fence is typically sufficient. If calves can still nurse through the fence, consider adding a single strand of electric fence offset from the main fence, possibly on both sides, to deter nursing.

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BEEF BUSINESS

(Continued from page 42)

Incorporating these best practices for fenceline weaning can help reduce stress for calves and improve the overall success of your cow-calf operation.

Rapidly Growing Beef-on-Dairy Segment Holds Promise for All Stakeholders

by Greg Henderson, Bovine Veterinarian

While America's dairy producers are rapidly embracing beefon-dairy breeding programs, cattle feeders are learning to embrace and cope with both the opportunities and challenges the new crossbreds represent.

For instance, black-hided cattle at the bunks are a dramatic change for Arizona cattle feeder Paul Heiden.

"We have been 100 percent Holstein yard the last 20 years," Heiden says. "Now we are feeding a growing percentage of cattle that are Angus x Holstein."

The switch was due to both the benefits of the crossbreds and also availability. "Over half the calves offered at the auction we use in California are beef-on-dairy crossbreds," he says.

Future Expectations

Indeed, beef-on-dairy is arguably the most significant advancement for America's beef industry in a generation, and many believe it has been significant enough that it may alter the cyclical impact the beef industry is experiencing from drought-forced herd reductions. For instance, Patrick Linnell, analyst for CattleFax, says his group estimates the industry will produce 2.92 million beef-on-dairy calves this year and 3.22 million in 2024. Some industry observers believe those estimates may be conservative.

"We expect the adoption of beef genetics in dairy breeding programs will accelerate as producers capitalize on the opportunity for improved margins, particularly given the reduction in beef calf availability," said Brian Earnest, lead animal protein economist for CoBank. "And while the impact on the overall beef supply will be relatively small, an increase in beef and dairy crossbred calves entering the beef supply chain is something cattle feeders and packers will want to keep an eye on."

Regardless of the exact number, Dale Woerner, animal and food science professor at Texas Tech University, says, "the number will continue to grow as the beef cow herd shrinks."

That's due, primarily, to the growing acceptance of beef-ondairy calves by both cattle feeders and beef packers, and the realities of empty pens and shackle space the industry faces over the next few years.

Financial Gains

"Right now, everybody needs cattle," says Jared Wareham, North America NuEra Business Development Manager at Genus ABS. "The beef-on-dairy crosses, especially the good ones, are in high demand."

For dairies, the financial benefit of the crossbred calves is immediate. On average, day-old beef and dairy crossbred calves sell for \$100-\$300 more than their 100% dairy-bred counterparts.

"Yes, they cost more," Heiden says, "but you make it up in feedyard performance, and they are generally healthier calves."

Heiden says the beef-on-dairy crossbreds also produce better beef yields, a key benefit as all of his yard's cattle are sold to JBS on a carcass basis.



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- 1. Avoid priority registration fee charges (\$50.00 per animal) by logging in online and completing the registration or transfer yourself. *Priority is within two-business days.
- Special mailing by FedEx or UPS needed? Send an email to mailout@simmgene.com with the job/invoice number, physical address, and desired mailing method.

Note: there is a handling fee of \$50.00 plus FedEx or UPS shipping charges. Remember to supply a physical address. Plan ahead and avoid these charges.

Need more encouragement to register online?

- 1. Data Registration/Processing Services: Applications submitted to ASA for processing/registration may take 3–7 business days (error-free and payment received) depending on the time of year. Any holiday season will extend the turnaround time.
- Mailing services: Data and registration certificates will be mailed (US Post) normally within 5–7 business after processing has completed.

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- 1. There are peak times and days when there are large volumes of calls, especially close to deadlines. Don't get caught waiting until the last minute; submit early.
- 2. If you are unable to get through, please leave a voicemail. Our goal is to return calls as soon as possible, normally within 3–4 hours.
- 3. If your question can be answered by email, send an email to:

simmental@simmgene.com

for general questions or priority handling

dna@simmgene.com

for DNA questions or kit requests

the@simmgene.com

for Total Herd Enrollment (THE)

members@simmgene.com

to apply for membership or, account changes, or annual service fee questions

carcdata@simmgene.com

for Carcass Merit Program (CMP) and Carcass Expansion project.

ultrasound@simmgene.com

for ultrasound and barn sheets

To help you plan, here are some items that may hold up registration for a length of time:

- DNA / Genetic Abnormalities / Parental Validation / AI Sire / ET Requirements: DNA Testing is a standard process without any options to expedite this service.
 - a. Normal DNA Testing: 5–9 weeks for results. Sample failure and misidentified samples doubles this time.
 - b. DNA kit paperwork requests: 48-hour turnaround.

2. Non-Compliance:

Total Herd Enrollment breeders: there is a deadline each year that the previous year's calf data must be submitted. You'll be notified of the dams in your herd that need calf data or a reason the cow didn't calve when you go online to submit new registrations. Until this information is completed, no new data will be accepted.

3. Foundation Registration:

Sires registered with other breed associations MUST be registered with ASA prior to registering progeny. Other breed dams may be registered with ASA as a Foundation, but it is optional, not mandatory. Normal processing is 10–12 business days (error-free, payment received, DNA requirements completed).

4. Breeder Signature:

If the owner of the dam at the time of conception is different than the person applying for registration, ASA requires the breeder to sign off on the calf you are registering. Make sure the breeder signs the calf's registration application, or breeding information is supplied on the transfer of the dam. If the dam was sold with the calf at side, make sure the seller has registered and transferred the calf to you.

5. Non-payment:

Payment is required to complete registrations.



Priority Handling Processing Service:

ASA offers priority handling services if you are unable to complete your registration online. If the data is error-free and payment is received, normal turn-

around time for registration is within two business days. There is a priority handling processing fee \$50 per animal. Regular US Mail service is at no charge; however, other mailing services (i.e., FedEx, UPS, or Express Mail) will incur additional charges.

WTO Rules for US Against China

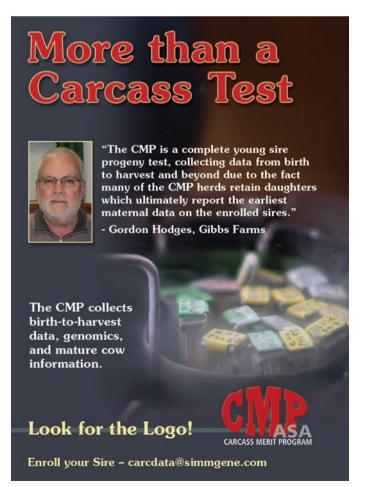
The World Trade Organization (WTO) has ruled against China in a trade and tariff dispute with the United States. The dispute dates back to 2018, when the Trump administration placed 25% tariffs on China-imported steel and 10% on Chinese aluminum. China then responded with a 25% tariff on 128 US-made products (including pork), and shortly afterward, levied another tariff on 106 additional products, including beef and soybeans.

The US filed a complaint with the WTO, and in a rule, the organization sided with the US, stating that China's retaliatory tariffs were "inconsistent" with current trade regulations. In a statement to the *Wall Street Journal*, China's Commerce Ministry said it is studying the WTO's conclusions and will follow up in accordance with WTO rules. The ministry also called on the US to lift its steel/aluminum tariffs, and said the entire 2018 dispute began with the unilateralist and protectionist behaviors of the US.

China Ranks First in Meat Imports

China has been the world's largest meat importer since 2019, despite a decrease in imported meat volumes, according to a USDA Economic Research Service report. In 2022, China's meat imports were 43% higher that those of Japan, the second-largest meat-importing country. Analysts said strict environmental laws and the departure of small-scale farmers limited China's meat supply, resulting in an increase in domestic prices and making imports more appealing.

Pork, the most consumed meat in China, generally dictates the nation's meat supply and demand trends. Longer production



cycles, insufficient grazing lands, and persistent disease have hindered China's ability to meet domestic beef demand, which boosted the country's beef imports. Chinese consumers are also consuming more poultry — mainly because it tends to be the most affordable meat — yet rising feed costs and diseases have inflated domestic poultry prices, leading to higher poultry imports.

While China's meat consumption appeared to reach a peak after 2014, statistical models project usage will continue to rise through 2031, driven by changes in diet and moderate growth in income and prices. However, the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent economic downturns had severely dampened consumption and the associated import prospects.

Canada Wants UK Blocked

Register

Canadian meat associations, producers, and processors want their government to vote against the United Kingdom's efforts to join a major Asian–Pacific trade organization because of limits the nation placed on Canadian beef and pork exports since 2021. Earlier this year, UK officials signed an agreement to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement of Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), a five-year coalition that also includes Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam. The member nations represent an estimated 15% of the world's economy and they receive significant relief from tariffs for goods traded among the partners.

The United Kingdom formally requested approval to join the CPTPP in early 2021 and talks on the membership accession concluded in March, according to the group's website. CPTPP members must vote to ratify the UK membership plan. The Canadian Cattle Association, Canadian Pork Council, and a variety of Canadian meat processors and exporters are asking the Canadian Parliament to vote against the proposal because of several British government rules that the groups say limit Canadian meat exports to the UK. British regulators currently refuse to allow beef treated with hormones from entering the country and reject Canada's use of antimicrobials on carcasses in slaughterhouses, throwing off the balance of trade between the two nations. For example, Canada exported 657 metric tons of beef to the UK over 2021 and 2022, while British beef exports to Canada reached more than 7,000 metric tons in the same period.

Canada, Manitoba to Invest C\$2.85M for Beef and Forage Programs

The governments of Canada and Manitoba plan to spend up to C\$2.85 million over the next five years to support programs aimed at improving economic and environmental impacts of beef production.

The Manitoba Beef and Forage Initiatives (MBFI) is a nine-year-old collaboration between Manitoba beef producers, Ducks Unlimited Canada, and Manitoba Agriculture that uses research and demonstrations to help boost profitability and sustainability in the beef industry. The new funds will expand operational capacity by creating new positions to focus on technology, field operations, and outreach for beef producers, the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada agency said in a news release.

The investment also will expand the Manitoba Advanced Grazing Systems Mentor Program, which connects producers to peers with experience in diverse grazing management systems.

Since 2018, MBFI has worked with 28 collaborators to deliver more than 40 innovative studies regarding beef production, including precision ranching, pasture rejuvenation, herd health, and forage variety testing, the release added.

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AI From a Different Angle

submitted by Dan Rieder

Artificial Insemination — well-known as "AI" to cattle producers — often leads to dramatic breed improvement through scientific utilization of superior genetics. However, there is another scientific development also known as AI that has recently emerged under the terminology of Artificial Intelligence.

Recently, my stepson Bill Becorest and his family from San Diego spent a couple of days visiting and amazed us with a vivid illustration of the recently developed Artificial Intelligence. To demonstrate its usefulness in his work, Bill asked me to provide a subject. I said: "Create a poem which combines Simmental cattle and ice cream." Seconds later, starting from that simple sentence, the poem below was produced.

In fields of green, where Simmental cattle graze, their gentle presence, a sight to amaze.

With coats of gold and white, they roam so free, a breed of beauty, strong, and full of glee.

Their eyes so kind, their stature so grand, Simmental cattle, a majestic band.

Their milk, a gift, so rich and pure, from which sweet ice cream we can ensure.

Creamy and smooth, a delight to taste, ice cream made with love, no time to waste.

With flavors endless, from vanilla to mint, each spoonful a moment of pure bliss.

Simmental cattle and ice cream unite, nature's wonders, a true delight.

From pastures green to cones held tight, 'tis a perfect pairing, a sweet delight.

Determining How Male Behaviors, Environment Affect Offspring in Livestock

by Kay Ledbetter, Bovine Veterinarian

Lacey Luense, PhD, spent the first ten years of her career using live animal models to understand the mechanisms of the sperm epigenome and its role in human disease and development. But now, she is taking her epigenetics research program in a new direction.

Luense is getting back to her first love — agriculture — as an assistant professor in the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Department of Animal Science.

"I grew up in northwest Iowa in a rural area, and my family owns a steakhouse," she said. "All my friends lived on farms, and I was in 4-H, so I grew up in an agricultural background. I knew from an early age that I wanted to study genetics and always thought I would go through graduate school and return to Iowa to apply my understanding of epigenetics to agricultural questions."

But her path took her in a different direction. She earned her bachelor's in biology at Augustana University in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, her master's in genetics at Iowa State University, and her doctorate in molecular and integrative physiology at the University of Kansas Medical Center.

She then spent the next ten years, first as a postdoctoral fellow and then as a research associate, at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine.

"I ended up working with mice, which is a great system to better understand the basic mechanisms of genetics and epigenetics," Luense said. "But I wanted to come back to the initial drive that I had while in high school and college to bring this area of study back around to answer agricultural questions. Texas A&M is a wonderful place to do that type of research. Obviously, the animal science program in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences is extraordinarily strong."

Epigenetics, Going Beyond DNA

The study of epigenetics identifies changes in gene function that are not due to mutations but rather how the DNA is packaged in the cell and turned on or off in the wrong conditions.

"This is often influenced by the environment, so things like diet, drugs, alcohol, heavy metals, toxicants," she said. "All sorts of things can influence the epigenome or how our DNA is coiled in the cell and then turns genes on or off. And that all affects disease and development."

For Luense, her research interest is with the germ line epigenome and how DNA in the sperm of cattle or humans, the paternal epigenome, can be influenced by the environment.

"We know the environment can affect the epigenome and absolutely alter how the DNA is packaged. I am extremely interested in using the basic mechanisms we are examining now and applying this knowledge to other questions such as climate change, drought, increasing temperatures, or health."

She said the current hot temperatures will continue to affect ranchers throughout the state, and her goal is to understand how these environmental stressors impact reproduction.

"These are problems Texans need to understand to help their production operations," she said. "By understanding the basic mechanism, looking for biomarkers, and understanding how this works, we can hopefully improve the fertility of bulls in the future."

Luense said she is trying to understand how the environment can influence offspring or the early embryo. For instance, there are more long-term implications to look at, such as implantation — how does the paternal epigenetic system regulate the embryo to allow it to grow normally in the uterus? Does it affect long-term health and development, and potential disease for the offspring, whether children or livestock?

Scientists have understood a mother's influence on offspring but are becoming more aware of how epigenetics within sperm can have a strong influence. Luense is interested in a deeper understanding of how male epigenetics impact progeny.

She said one of the important things she is excited about at Texas A&M and in animal science is using these technologies and knowledge to look at larger animals.

One of her first projects will look at the epigenome and sperm of cattle to understand fertility and how it relates to embryo development, long-term health and development of the offspring.

"I'm very much interested in how epigenetics affects dad and then how that affects their children," Luense said.

Bringing Her Research Full Circle

While she is now concentrating on livestock, Luense said an exciting avenue would be to use her large animal research models to study human disease and development.

(Continued on page 50)

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(Continued from page 48)

"I'm excited to have dual paths of translational value, to understand how the epigenome affects agricultural production and then utilize that for understanding human fertility and human development," Luense said. "I would like to develop this into a research program where we can make impactful findings to multiple stakeholders on the animal production and human sides."

She said there are similarities between bovine and human sperm and embryos, as well as more long-term development, and the discoveries in cattle can provide a better understanding of humans.

Luense will continue to use mice models in her research because they can help answer some questions quickly, but she hopes to answer more applied questions by studying cattle.

"It's been a really nice opportunity to come full circle — my background, my training and then being able to come back and pull everything together in these different research areas," Luense said. "We can study both agricultural questions, but then also gain an understanding of human health and disease."

She has developed strong collaborative studies with experts at Texas A&M who have researched cattle, sheep, and other animals within different production systems.

Luense is also passionate about developing the next generation of scientists as a mentor for students. "That's something I find really important, to mentor our students to become scientists, Extension agents, and teachers, and to help them get the training and encouragement they need."

Strategies for Employing Whole Genome Sequencing and Its Benefits

by Drovers

"The use of whole-genome sequencing at low-depth enables detection of rare variation, SNP discovery, CNV detection, and can eliminate the need for chip redesign and updates, and there is the potential for further cost reduction in the future" said Dr. Troy Rowan, University of Tennessee assistant professor, Knoxville.

Rowan delivered his presentation "Sequencing Strategies to Enhance the Next Generation of Genetic Evaluations" during the Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Symposium July 4, in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

The Big Questions

Rowan framed three big questions surrounding sequencing and imputation: Who do we sequence, how deep do we sequence, and how often do we update the reference and the imputed samples in the evaluation.

Relative to the first question, Rowan suggested, "We should be sequencing all sires with even moderate levels of AI usage."

By sequencing AI sires the industry could generate an insurance policy, enabling faster mapping and management of genetic abnormalities when they arise. Sequencing AI sires also improves the quality of imputation throughout the population(s) that they are influential in. While widespread sequencing may have been out of reach in the past, the current cost of sequencing makes this tenable.

He also stated that multi-breed populations will need to make use of multi-breed reference populations for successful imputation. He also pointed out that we need to move beyond only sequencing the most highly utilized animals; such a strategy may only sample a small portion of haplotypes that exist in the population.

Regarding depth of sequencing, Rowan suggested animals in the imputation reference set should be sequenced to at least ten times the coverage. He also mentioned that careful attention should be paid to downstream computational approaches to ensure that high quality genotype calls and phasing occurs.

Other Considerations

"The quality of information coming out cannot be better than the quality of information that went in — garbage in, garbage out," Rowan said.

The reference population needs to be representative of the target population and be sequenced to a sufficient depth. Imputation accuracy, in terms of animals and SNPs, should be regularly evaluated to diagnose problems or shortcomings of the reference panel or imputation approach.

For breed associations and genetic evaluation service providers, the storage of genomes and imputed genotypes must also be considered. Moreover, the potential benefit, particularly in terms of improved accuracy of EPD (expected progeny difference), needs to be fully understood and quantified.

COW SENSE

Register

Ten questions designed to test your beef industry knowledge:

- 1. How soon after calving must a cow rebreed if she is to produce a calf on a regular 365-day interval?
- 2. A neutral pH is represented by what number?
- 3. Where in the body is vitamin A stored?
- 4. Where is the National Cattlemen's Beef Association headquartered?
- 5. Who was the first President/Chairman of the American Simmental Association?
- 6. In an open cow, progesterone secretion ceases around how many days after heat?
- 7. What is the generally accepted minimum scrotal circumference for a yearling

- Simmental bull undergoing a breeding soundness examination?
- 8. Which of the following would you expect to be highest in protein: wheat straw; alfalfa hay; oat hay; or ground ear corn?
- 9. For what purpose would a cannula be used in a university setting?
- 10. Name the two countries where most Fleckvieh cattle originate. ■

Answers:

1. Within 83 days; 2. Seven; 3. Liver; 4. Denver; 5. Jack Winniger of Meeteetse, WY; 6. Sixteen days; 7. Thirty-two centimeters; 8. Alfalfa hay; 9. research; 10. Germany and Austria.

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"USMARC, Zimmerman, M., et al., "Breed and heterotic effects for mature weight in beef cattle," J. of Anim. Sci., Vol. 99, 2021. Adjusted for site sampling, Angus was the heaviest at maturity among the 16 breeds evaluated. Solutions are deviations from Angus. YW EPDs were extracted from genetic evaluations conducted in 2019. Estimate of MVT differences at 6 years of age. The study considered 108,857 weight records from 5,156 crossbred cows sired by 787 bulls. "Effect of 15 ire breed group on carcass value of feedlot cattle harvested through TiT-County Steer Carcass Futurity Cooperative, Jewis, lows, 2002 to 2018. Odde, K. & King, M. (March 2021). Kansas State University. Relationships Among Sire-Breed Group, Calf Sex and Year Group on Carcass Traits. Breeds represented in the English-sired group: Angus, Red Angus, South Devon, Hereford and Shorthorn.

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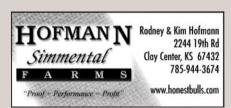
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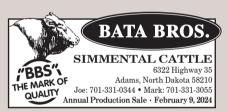
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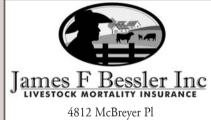
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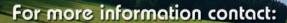
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Red Charlie.\$26Horned/Polled.\$33PMel (Diluter)\$22Oculocutaneous Hypopigmentation (OH)\$25	\$16 \$22 \$2	Contractural Arachnodactyly (CA) (Individual defect tests can be ordered in the second secon			

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Spring 2024 THE Enrollment — (dams calve January 1–June 30) — Early enrollment open October 15 through **December 15, 2023**. Late enrollment available until February 15, 2024.

Fall 2024 THE Enrollment — (dams calve July 1—December 31) — Early enrollment open April 15 through **June 15, 2024**. Late enrollment available until August 15, 2024.

	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 fe	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 Simmental Association Fees			
First Time Membership Fee: Adult First Time Membership Fee*\$160 (Includes: \$50 set-up fee and \$110 ASF) Junior First Time Membership Fee*\$40 Prefix Registration\$10 *After January 1: \$105 for Adults and \$40 for Juniors	Transfer Fees: First Transfer		
Annual Service Fee (ASF)*: Adult Membership\$110 Junior Membership\$40 Fiscal year runs from July 1 – June 30	Additional Transactions: Priority Processing (not including shipping or mailing)\$50 Corrections\$5 Registration Foreign/Foundation Fees:		
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OCTOBER

- 6 Mississippi State Elite Heifer and Bull Sale Jackson, MS
- 7 Factory Direct Sale West Lafayette, IN
- 7 Lucas Cattle Company's Fall Bull Sale Cross Timbers, MO
- 8 Our Vision, Your Future Sale Chalmers, IN
- **9** Burlap and Barbed Wire Female Sale, Vol. VII Clay Center, KS
- 10 Coleman Angus' Complete Fall Herd Dispersal Sale Charlo, MT
- 10-11 RA Brown Ranch's 49th Annual Sale Throckmorton, TX
 - 14 C&C Farms' Clear Vision Fall Production Sale Winder, GA
 - 14 Fred Smith Company's Extra Effort Sale Clayton, NC
 - 14 Trinity Farms' Fall Female Sale Ellensburg, WA
 - 15 Houck Rock Creek Ranch's Private Treaty Sale Allen, KS
 - 21 The Black Label Grandview, TX
 - 21 Blackjack and Guests Female Production Sale Seminole, OK
 - 21 Ferguson Show Cattle's Annual Rare Vintage Production Sale Jefferson, OH
 - 21 Little Creek Cattle's Magnolia Classic Starkville, MS
 - 21 New Day Genetics' Fall Bull Sale Salem, MO
 - 21 New Direction Sale Seward, NE (pgs. 53, 61)
 - 27 29th Annual Hokie Harvest Sale Blacksburg, VA
 - 27 Yon Family Farms' Fall Female Sale Ridge Spring, SC
 - 28 7P Ranch's 48th Annual Production Sale Winona, TX (pg. 7)
 - 28 Clear Choice Female Sale Milan, IN (pgs. 52, 65)
 - 28 Deep South Genetics Troy, AL
 - 28 Pennsylvania Simmental's Fall Classic Sale Waynesburg, PA
 - 28 Red Hill Farms' Bulls and Females of Fall Sale IX Lafayette, TN
 - 28 Yon Family Farms' Fall Bull Sale Ridge Spring, SC
 - 29 Red River Farms' Ladies of the Lonestar Annual Production Sale Grand Saline, TX

NOVEMBER

- **2–4** Boyle Ranch's Red, White and Beautiful Fleckvieh Female Online Sale www.auctions.boyleranchfleckvieh.com (pg. 10)
 - 4 27th Annual Southern Showcase Rome, GA
 - 4 Cason's Pride & Joy Simmentals' Maternally Inspired Female Sale Russell, IA
 - 4 Irvine Ranch's 19th Annual Production Sale Manhattan, KS
 - 4 Missouri Simmental Fall Harvest Sale Springfield, MO
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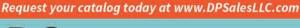
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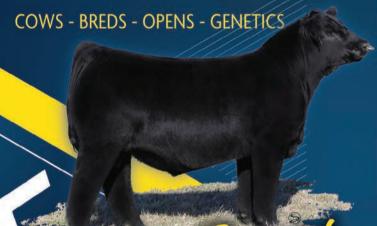
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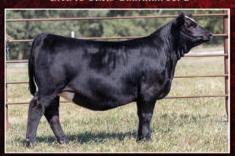
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