

Volume 29 • Number 4  
Early Fall 2021

# **SimTALK**

Linking SimGenetics to Commercial Cattle

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333

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Finding Consistency in Simmental

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Genomes Released

Simmental Provides Open  
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Acc	.53	.65	.51	.52	.27	.17	.29	.31	.34	.49	.38	.45	.38	.47		
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Acc	.49	.56	.48	.49	.26	.22	.31	.29	.35	.47	.37	.42	.36	.45		
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# SimTALK

VOLUME 29 – NO. 4  
Linking SimGenetics to Commercial Cattle

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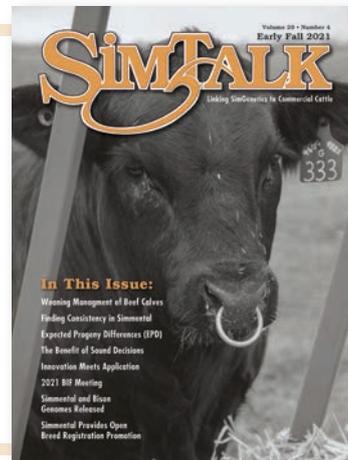
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*The herd bull Grey Goose.  
Photo by AJSA member, Jadalea Isles, Bryan, Texas.*



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Jackie Atkins, PhD

## Gratitude

In recent years, I have become a big fan of Dr. Brené Brown, a research professor, author, motivational speaker, and podcast host. She has studied courage, vulnerability, shame, and empathy for over two decades. Dr. Brown has a beautiful ability to put words and context to things many of us experience but might not know how to talk about. In

one of her studies, Brown researched people who live joyful and wholehearted lives. The one thing that all of these people had in common is being grateful. Pause and take that in. Living a joyful life was not tied to money, occupation, marital status, kids, or location, but ALL joyful participants practiced gratitude.

It's easy to feel discouraged by much of day-to-day life. That list might include the weather; discontented kids or family; the price of feed this winter; maybe a health concern for you or a loved one; a conundrum at work; an unwelcome policy in your town, state, or country. Those negative things are noisy and our mindsets can easily be overrun with anxiety, worry, anger, or frustration.

With all this noise, sometimes the good things in our lives are overlooked. Practicing gratitude is a way to bring the good things in life to the forefront. For instance, in my household, this might look like me being grateful to have healthy and robust kids with opinions (who might be sharing those views forcefully with their siblings), instead of just being annoyed at the sibling battle.

One part of my life I am grateful for is my team at the American Simmental Association. I get to work with people who genuinely care about the beef community and want to support beef cattle producers. In this issue, you will see a few of these colleagues highlighted in featured articles: editor Lilly Platts, who wrote about Cooper Ranches, a successful commercial operation in north-central Texas; Lane Giess, our director of non-traditional data writes about new developments in feet/leg scoring with updated visuals, guides, and live demonstration plans; and Dr. Randie Culbertson, our lead geneticist, walks you through the basics of using EPD for selection decisions. Another article from Oregon State University Extension compares different weaning practices, and which one might be best for you. Thanks to our editor, Emme Demendaal, for hunting down and coordinating communications with the OSU team for this article. I have many more colleagues who didn't make this list, but believe me, we have a great team and I am thankful to call them coworkers.

I am deeply grateful to work with and for beef cattle seedstock and commercial operations. Raising beef cattle is not for the faint of heart. Weather is a constant uncertainty, and in a year like this, with over one-third of agricultural land experiencing drought, the weather is a huge source of worry. Costs of land, feed, and equipment can make it seem almost impossible to make a living raising beef cattle. Perceptions of the consumer, animal rights activists, policy making, how to transfer the operation to the next generation, or is the next generation even interested in continuing the business . . . The list of potential discouraging things is longer than I care to admit.

And yet, I think most of you in this business are in it because you love cattle. You get to raise your family learning about animals, mother nature, and building a work ethic while providing food, water, medical attention, or other needs for your cattle. Your headquarters are in the great outdoors and you tend your land with just as much care as you do your animals. You are a key component to providing healthy and nutritious protein to consumers. There is much to be grateful for in this way of life.

If the noisy wave of negativity ever encroaches in your mind, please remember this: I am grateful for you and you likely have much to be grateful for yourself.

**ST**

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# Weaning Management of Beef Calves

by former Oregon State University faculty, Reinaldo Cooke, PhD, and Barbi Riggs, and current Senior Instructor, Chad Mueller, PhD

**Editor's Note:** This article was originally published by Oregon State University (OSU) Extension, reprinted with permission. To find out more from OSU Extension visit [extension.oregonstate.edu](http://extension.oregonstate.edu).

**W**eaning is considered one of the most stressful periods in the productive life of a beef calf. During the weaning process, calves are exposed to various stressors that include removal from their dam, physiological changes (actively developing lean tissue or muscle), castration, vaccination, dehorning, exposure to novel pen or pasture environments, possible changes in feed and water sources, and, for many spring-born calves, exposure to season climate changes.

These various stressors (individually or in various combinations) can result in tremendous challenges to the calf's short-term and long-term health, gain performance, and economic viability. Calves that are sick or become sick during the first 30 days at the feedlot typically have lower daily gains, increased costs of gain, and reduced carcass quality and tenderness (Fulton et al., 2002; Gardner et al., 1999; McNeill, 1999).

**From an industry perspective, how we manage our calf crop — pre-weaning, at weaning, and post-weaning — can have dramatic effects on economic viability, consumer acceptance, and end-product quality**

Depending on how cow-calf producers market their calves, the aforementioned challenges can vary in their impact on the producer. Producers that retain ownership of their calves through the feedlot until slaughter are directly affected by all health and gain variables, whereas producers that market

calves at weaning may not see the post-weaning impacts, but their reputation as a source of feeder calves may diminish, resulting in reduced future weaning prices. From an industry perspective, how we manage our calf crop — pre-weaning, at weaning, and post-weaning — can have dramatic effects on economic viability, consumer acceptance, and end-product quality.

## Pre-Weaning Management

Pre-weaning management is important to ensure that calves have the ability to perform and function when exposed to the stressors associated with weaning. The nutritional status of the calf determines how well the calf will mount an immune response to vaccination and the challenges associated with stress of weaning. Pre-weaning diets should be balanced in protein, energy, minerals, and vitamins to ensure calves' health, welfare, and performance.

Further, immune responses to vaccination are not immediate; therefore, it is suggested that ranchers vaccinate calves 2–3 weeks prior to weaning in order for the calf to be immunologically prepared for the stress of the weaning process. Accordingly, the Superior Livestock Vaccination Program, with the objective of promoting value addition to the calf crop, recommends two pre-weaning protocols (VAC 24 and VAC 34). All calves should also be castrated, dehorned, and branded prior to weaning to alleviate as much as possible the stress associated with the weaning process.

## Weaning Strategies

Calf stress can also be minimized by implementing strategies that modulate the degree of separation from the dam, incorporate slow changes in diet, and capitalize on the familiarity of the environment. There are several different weaning strategies or combinations of strategies that can be used, and examples are described in **Table 1**.

**Table 1: Different weaning strategies for beef calves**

Strategy	Description	Pros	Cons
<b>Total Separation</b>	<p>Abrupt separation of cow and calf without physical contact.</p> <p>1. Removal of calf to a new environment (i.e., sold, pasture, or drylot).</p> <p>OR</p> <p>2. Removal of cow to a new area, thus leaving the calf in the pasture or rangeland.</p>	<p>Will allow a ranch the option to sell the calf right off the cow.</p> <p>Decreases the need to reserve forage or purchase feed for calves. Can also eliminate the need to have special facilities to handle bawling calves.</p>	<p>High stress.</p> <p>Calves are typically transported, exposed to a new environment, new diet, and not allowed adaptation period to separation from dam.</p>
<b>Fenceline Weaning</b>	<p>Cow and calf have nose-to-nose contact through a fenceline for a period of time. Preferred method allows both cow and calf access to forage. A drylot can be incorporated.</p>	<p>Decreased stress.</p> <p>Calf remains in a familiar environment and diet, and allows adaptation to separation.</p>	<p>Unique fenceline may need to be constructed to adequately contain calves and/or cows.</p> <p>Grazing management will need to be carefully thought out to accommodate cows and calves.</p>
<b>Two-Stage Weaning</b>	<p>A device is used to prevent a calf from suckling the cow, such as a specially designed nose ring.</p> <p>Stage 1: Calf is fitted with nose ring for 4-14 days. Calf remains with the cow.</p> <p>Stage 2: Nose ring is removed, and cow and calf are physically separated.</p>	<p>Less stress than abrupt separation.</p> <p>Calf is allowed a period of adaptation to restricted suckling prior to total separation. During this time they remain in a familiar environment and diet.</p>	<p>Cost and labor.</p> <p>Low risk of lesions or abscess from nose ring.</p> <p>Calves must be run through a chute twice during the weaning phase; 1) Insertion of ring 2) Removal of ring. However, calves can be processed during one of these times.</p> <p>Devices cost \$2.00 (reusable). Retention rate reported 64–98%. May not be suitable for calves less than 425 pounds</p>

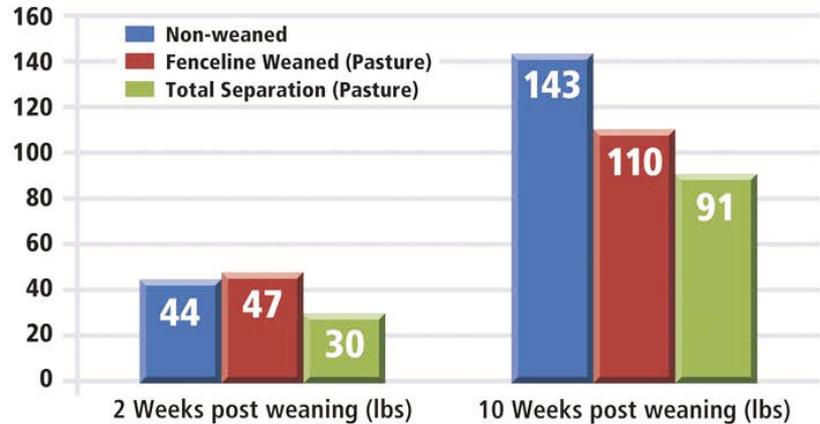
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## Fenceline Weaning

Studies demonstrated that fenceline weaning alleviates calf stress while improving weight gain over other strategies. As an example, Pierce, et al. (2003) reported that fenceline-weaned calves have decreased signs of stress, spent less time bawling and walking, and more time eating and lying down than calves assigned to traditional weaning (Table 2). Total weight gain was greater for fenceline-weaned calves as early as two weeks following weaning, compared to traditionally weaned calves. Furthermore, fenceline-weaned calves were heavier ten weeks post-weaning (up to 30 pounds) compared to calves that underwent total separation (Figure 1).

**Figure 1**  
Effect of weaning strategy on total weight gain of calves 2 weeks and 10 weeks after weaning.

*Adapted from Price et al. 2003.*



**Table 2. Relationship among weaning strategies and observed calf behavior.**  
Adapted from Price et al. 2003.

Strategy:	Non-weaned	Fenceline Weaned (Pasture)	Total Separation (Pasture)	Total Separation (Drylot with hay adaptation)	Total Separation (Drylot without hay adaptation)
Eating	41.1	37.3	23.7	28.9	21.5
Walking	8.6	10.1	28.1	9.6	14.8
Lying Down	22.9	23.3	16	21.9	20.6
Vocalization (s/hr/10-calf group)	0.1	216.7	434.6	371.2	518.2

## Two-Stage Weaning

The two-stage weaning method uses a device to prevent the calf from suckling the cow, such as rings attached to the calf's nose. This method has been shown to reduce behavioral signs of calf stress after weaning compared to traditional weaning methods; however, subsequent beneficial effects on calf performance are still questionable. As an example, Haley et al. (2005) reported that calves assigned to the two-stage weaning strategy:

- 96.6% vocalized less
- 78.9% spent less time walking
- 23.0% spent more time eating, and
- 24.1% spent more time resting

This is after complete separation from the dams, and compared to calves assigned to traditional weaning.

While wearing the nose ring, two-stage calves walked 15% more than the calves that were allowed to nurse. However, after separation, the traditionally weaned calves walked twice as much and bawled 20 times more often than two-stage calves.

In terms of performance, Haley et al. (2005) also reported that pre-weaning average daily gain (ADG) was often reduced in calves wearing nose rings compared to calves allowed to nurse. After weaning and subsequent nose ring removal and total separation from the dam, ADG was either greater or similar for two-stage weaned calves compared to traditionally weaned calves.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



# 2021 ILLINI Elite

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2021 - 2:00 PM CENTRAL - SHELBYVILLE, IL



Lot 1 | ASA 3895448 | 2/3/2021  
Purebred by Profit



Lot 2 | ASA 3915412 | 1/20/2021  
PB by BCR Perfect Vision



Lot 3 | ASA 3915412 | 12/18/2020  
PB by HILB Orade



Lot 4 | ASA 3918886 | 2/10/2021  
PB by W/C Relentless



Lot 13B | ASA 3918898 | 2/4/2021  
PB by W/C Relentless



Lot 15 | ASA 3895428 | 2/6/2021  
PB by W/C Rolex



Lot 16 | ASA 3918887 | 2/7/2021  
3/4 blood by W/C Relentless



Lot 26A | ASA 3918893 | 3/2/2021  
Purebred by Profit



Lot 45 | ASA 3822202 | 1/20/2020  
3/4 Simmy by HPF Quantum Leap  
Bred to KCC1 Exclusive



Lot 46 | ASA 3672057 | 1/15/2020  
5/8 Simmy by W/C Executive 187D  
Bred to W/C Pinnacle



Lot 47 | ASA 3843099 | 3/14/2020  
PB Simmy by SC Pay the Price  
Bred to THSF Lover Boy



Lot 48 | ASA 3721952 | 3/3/2020  
5/8 Simmy by CDI Mainline  
Bred to Hill Big Order



Lot 49 | ASA 3759344 | 1/11/2020  
PB by W/C Relentless  
Bred to MR SR 71 Right Now



Lot 50 | ASA 3832676 | 4/2/2020  
PB by HPF Quantum Leap  
Bred to HILB Orade



Lot 51 | ASA 3915442 | 11/20/2019  
PB by TLLC One Eyed Jack  
Bred to Ruby Battle Cry



Lot 57 | ASA 3791901 | 5/13/2020  
3/4 Simmy by DAMAR Duration  
Bred to MR SR 71 Right Now

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# Weaning Management of Beef Calves

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

However, overall calf ADG (pre- and post-weaning) was not improved by the two-stage weaning method. These inconsistent benefits of the two-stage weaning method on calf performance were attributed by the authors to the poor quality of the forages available for calf consumption, which greatly affected the calves that were not allowed to nurse. Therefore, the nutritional value of diets offered during the period in which calves receive the nose clips should be taken into consideration before implementing the two-stage weaning method.

**This method has been shown to reduce behavioral signs of calf stress after weaning compared to traditional weaning methods; however, subsequent beneficial effects on calf performance are still questionable.**

the forages available for calf consumption, which greatly affected the calves that were not allowed to nurse. Therefore, the nutritional value of diets offered during the period in which calves receive the nose clips should be taken into consideration before implementing the two-stage weaning method.

## Timing of Weaning

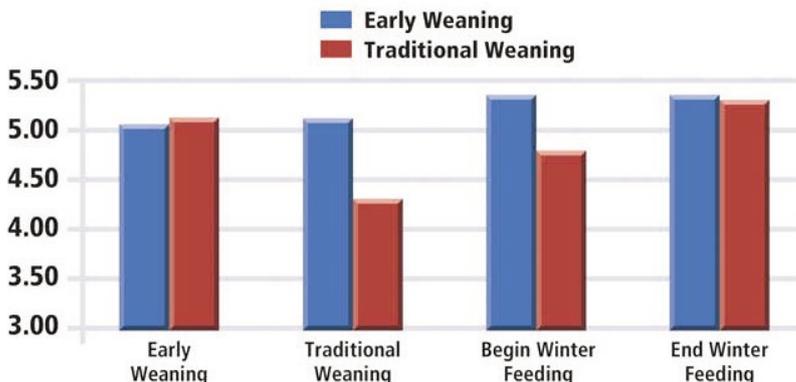
Weaning calves reduces the nutrient requirements of the cow. It will allow the cow to transfer nutrients previously going to milk production to her own body function, improving her own condition and preparing for the next calving.

Cows that calve in moderate body condition score (BCS) (5 or 6) are able to recover, cycle, and become pregnant sooner than cows that come through the winter in poor condition (less than 4). This is particularly important in young cows that have additional requirements of growth.

**Figure 2**

**Effect of weaning strategy on cow BCS during different phases; at early weaning, traditional weaning, and winter feeding.**

*Adapted from Merrill et al. (2008).*



Weaning calves also reduce the amount of forage the herd will consume. For example:

- A nursing calf that is four months old or older normally consumes 1.4%–2% of his body weight (BW) in forage
- The lactating cow can consume 2.5% of her BW or more
- A dry cow often will consume only 1.8%–2.0% of her BW of forage

Considering a 1,200-pound cow and a 350-pound calf, forage consumed prior to weaning is around 37 pounds of total forage per cow-calf pair, compared to 24 pounds of total forage consumed by the weaned cow (assuming calves are sold or managed in a drylot). Consequently, profit generated by the ranch system as it relates to the weaning strategy adopted must include breeding efficiency, feed utilization (including grazed pasture/rangeland and winter harvested forage), calf performance, and marketability.

## Early Weaning

Beef calves are traditionally weaned between six and eight months of age. However, cattle can be reared on forages and concentrates as early as 90 days of age. In fact, weaning at 90–120 days of age can be accomplished with proper nutritional management of the calf.

Early weaning (EW) calves can be a tool to increase breeding efficiency of the cow herd by improving BCS, particularly during a time of forage shortage and/or poor condition of the cow herd. Research conducted at the Eastern Oregon Agriculture Research Center in Burns demonstrated that:

- Cows assigned to EW (calves were 130 days old) maintained BCS from time of EW until traditional weaning (TW; calves were 207 days old)
- Cows assigned to TW lost almost a full BCS (Merrill et al., 2008; Figure 2).
- Cows assigned to EW gained 18 pounds
- Cows assigned to TW lost 88 pounds during this period

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

# 2021 Roundup In The Fall

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# Weaning Management of Beef Calves

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

This weight difference resulted in a subsequent reduction in winter feeding costs of roughly \$29.00/head in EW cows compared to that of TW cows. Early weaned calves fed concentrate diets beginning at time of weaning have comparable weight gains to those of nursing cohorts.

**Early weaned calves fed concentrate diets beginning at time of weaning have comparable weight gains to those of nursing cohorts.**

Feedlot performance of EW calves, however, has been variable and highly dependent on the age at weaning, as well as nutritional and management background of the calf prior to and after EW.

Nevertheless, profit of a cow-calf operation is highly influenced by management and marketing of the calf crop. The EW calves must be fed a nutrient-dense diet that almost always includes some sort of concentrate, and requires increased labor. Typically, if EW calves are not retained for a period of time, EW reduces the gross income of the ranch. However, in situations where reproductive performance of the cow herd is enhanced, and/or feed utilization and costs are improved, the cost of EW may be justified.

## Post-Weaning Management

Management of the post-weaned calf will vary depending on the marketing program adopted by the cow-calf producer. Regardless of marketing option, there are a couple of management aspects that must be evaluated to ensure maximal return on investment.

The Superior Livestock Vaccination Program also recommends specific vaccination protocols for calves that are weaned and then maintained at the cow-calf ranch for a preconditioning period before shipping to the feedlot (VAC 45 and VAC Precon). Basic nutritional management should be followed to ensure that calves receive adequate nutrition and will respond efficiently if a preconditioning approach is adopted.

Depending on the weaning strategy incorporated, the level of stress should dictate the type of nutritional management. Typically, a higher level of stress increases the need for energy, protein, and minerals. Unfortunately, stress causes a depression in intake; therefore, a highly palatable and digestible feed source is preferred.

1. Use of high-starch feedstuffs (corn, barley, etc.) provide highly digestible energy, but can also result in rumen disorders (bloat, acidosis) if calves are not properly acclimated to these feedstuffs.

2. Forages (grass hays, alfalfa, etc.) can provide adequate levels of protein, but can be marginal in quantity of digestible energy (especially in highly stressed calves). Calves typically prefer digestible forages over grains, so palatability and intake are usually not a major issue with these feedstuffs. Also, high levels of dietary roughages will typically help maintain stable rumen fermentation, thus reducing the chances for digestive disorders.
3. The third feedstuff source would be non-forage fiber sources, such as soybean hulls, distillers grains, or beet pulp. These sources are typically rich in digestible energy and contain decent quantities of digestible protein.

**Recently weaned calves also need to have unrestricted access to a clean, abundant water source at all times.**

Most non-forage fiber sources are highly palatable, and complement forage and grain sources that may also be fed. Recently weaned calves also need to have unrestricted access to a clean, abundant water source at all times. From a mineral standpoint, calves that are highly stressed (and may show signs of dehydration or scours) may require specific macro- and micromineral nutrition to ensure water retention and proper immune function, depending on the mineral content of forages and feedstuffs being offered.

## Conclusions

Weaning is one of the most stressful periods in the productive life of a beef calf, and directly impacts the calf's short-term and long-term health, gain performance, and economic viability.

Management alternatives to alleviate stress — and ensure that the calf's immune system is prepared to cope with the challenges associated with weaning — benefit welfare and productivity of the calf crop.

Currently, there are several options for pre-weaning, weaning, and post-weaning management of calves, each one with its specific advantages and disadvantages. Therefore, cow-calf producers should examine carefully the available options, and determine which one to use, if any, based on the needs and particularities of their production systems.

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# Simmental Provides Open-breed Registration Promotion

## Knowledge is a powerful tool for success.

The American Simmental Association (ASA) recognizes that informed, data-driven decisions improve the bottom line for both seedstock and commercial producers. Making access to complete herd data easier, the ASA Board of Trustees recently passed an open-breed promotion to dual-register cows that are registered with another breed association at the nominal rate of \$5.00 per head for fiscal year 2022. As the ASA runs an open herdbook to any breed and believes strongly in the benefits of crossbreeding, many members of the ASA raise a variety of breeds of seedstock. Dual registry enables breeders to garner EPD from the largest multi-breed beef cattle genetic evaluation with the International Genetics Solutions (IGS), opens opportunities with other programs available from the ASA, and paints a more complete picture of the herd when all cows are in the database.

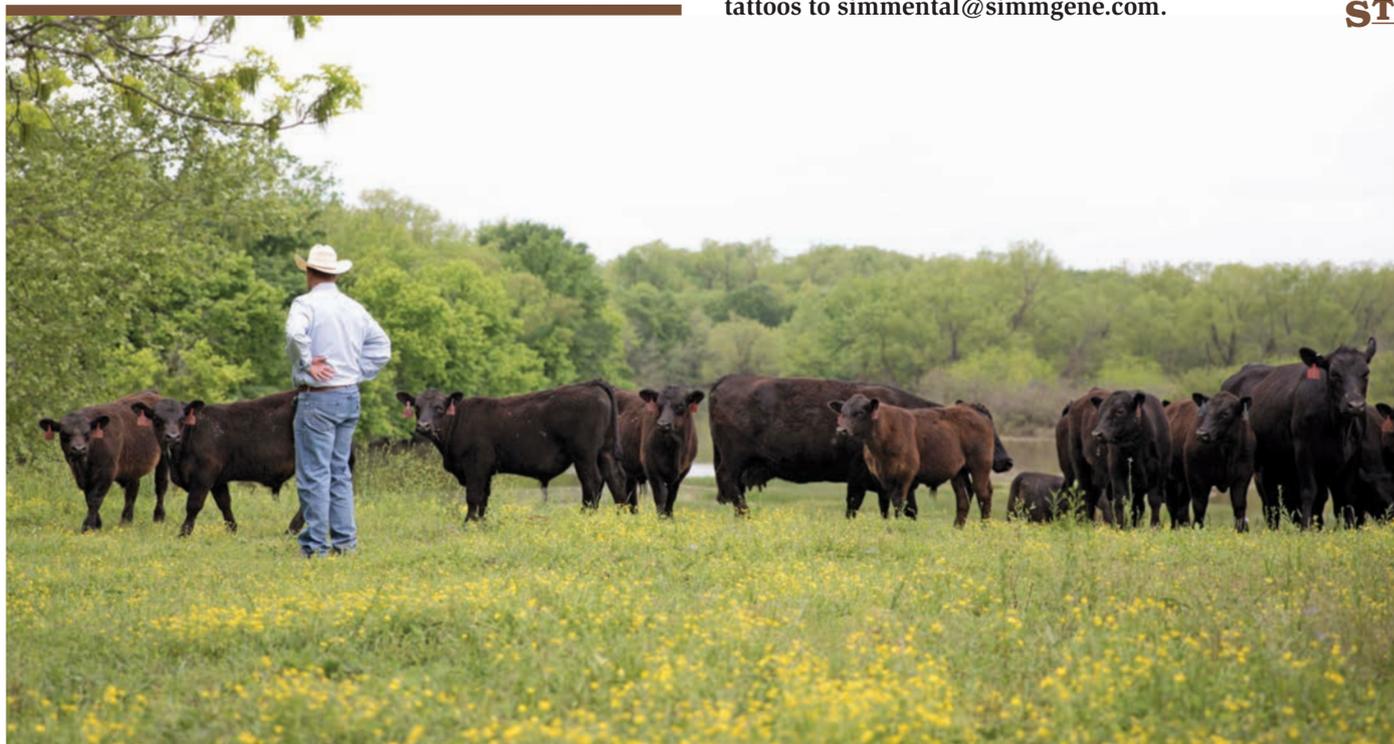
**“We are taking away that cost-based hurdle for any person who wants access to the IGS Multi-breed Genetic Evaluation to receive a multi-breed, directly comparable EPD,”** shares Chip Kemp, ASA director of Commercial and Industry Operations. **“If someone has been intrigued by our database but was holding out, this is the opportunity to invest, and bring a large group of females into the IGS database for a credible multi-breed EPD.”**

The ASA has reduced the rate to register a cow already registered in another recognized breed association from **\$17.00 to \$5.00 for the 2022 fiscal year** (July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022).

**ASA’s director of Performance Data Programs, Jannine Story, shares that by dual-registering females, cattle producers take advantage of more meaningful data by creating ties to other offspring and animals in the genetic evaluation. “Not only is this a clear advantage for current members to receive a more complete picture of their herd’s performance through fuller pedigrees,” she says, “but also, this open-breed registration promotion, coupled with our various Total Herd Enrollment options, provides any producer, who may have not had access to a multi-breed evaluation before, timely access to weekly updated, low-cost, cross-breed directly comparable EPD on cows and calves.”**

Any person can apply for registration on an animal registered with another breed association. To take advantage of ASA’s open-breed registration promotion, all dual-registration requests must be received or postmarked during the 2022 fiscal year. To get started, email a list of the other breed association numbers with tattoos to [simmental@simmgene.com](mailto:simmental@simmgene.com).

**ST**



# WS Proclamation E202



**Homozygous Black  
Homozygous Polled**

Triple C Singletary S3H  
Sire: CCR Cowboy Cut 5048Z  
CCR MS 4045 Time 7322T

CLRS Grade-A 875 A  
Dam: WS Miss Sugar C4  
WS Anise A71

ASA# 3254156  
PB SM

Trait	Direct					Maternal				Carcass							\$ Index	
	CE	BW	WW	YW	ADG	MCE	Milk	MWW	Stay	DOC	CW	YG	Marb	Fat	REA	Shr	API	TI
EPD	12.7	0.4	101.0	147.0	.29	10.0	29.4	79.8	16.9	20.3	55.7	-.26	.57	-.061	.93	-.41	167.7	104.2
ACC	.74	.91	.89	.88	.88	.47	.38	.49	.039	.57	.65	.52	.61	.59	.65	.20		
%	25	25	2	4	20	3	15	1		1	2		2		35	15	2	1

EPDs as of 8.9.2021

- "Proclamation has taken the Simmental world by storm for siring added performance and frame with a clean look, sound hoof and excellent carcass value." ... as noted on Hook Farm's January 22, 2021 Facebook post.
- Arguably, Cowboy Cut's finest son, with an extremely successful career of producing sale topping progeny. The strong demand for his impressive sons during the 2020-21 bull sale seasons is unprecedented!
- Acclaimed as 'Sugar's greatest and most pepotent plus most proven son!
- His first daughters calving this spring are beautiful uddered, broody, gentle and extra valuable!
- Structure, softness and eye appeal is consistent for every calf he sires.
- With substantial data now included, Proclamation has reached a level of genetic prowess that few can match.
- For better dispositions, extra body mass, super sound structure, program impacting multi-trait EPD values and added performance, Proclamation is the sire of choice for 2021 and beyond!

## Semen: \$40/unit - Limited Availability!

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# JC King of the Road 468H



**Homozygous Black  
Homozygous Polled**

Hook's Beacon 56B  
Sire: KBHR High Road E283  
WS Miss Sugar C4

MCM Top Grade 018X  
Dam: JC Ms Top Grade 468B  
Hooks Zola 102Z

ASA# 3701283  
PB SM

Trait	Direct					Maternal				Carcass							\$ Index	
	CE	BW	WW	YW	ADG	MCE	Milk	MWW	Stay	DOC	CW	YG	Marb	Fat	REA	Shr	API	TI
EPD	16.2	-3.2	82.3	124.8	.27	11.8	30.7	71.8	20.2	13.9	25.5	-.37	.57	-.062	.89	-.36	179.4	98.7
ACC	.47	.52	.49	.50	.50	.27	.19	.29	.31	.31	.50	.39	.45	.040	.47	.03		
%	3	2	30	25	25	1	10	10	15	20			2		45	40	1	1

EPDs as of 8.9.2021

- Regarded by many as the premier High Road son to sell with stunning genetic values, mass, bone and impeccable structure.
- His astounding \$API puts him in the very highest profit predictability echelon among all Simmental sires.
- Few purebreds offer this kind of calving ease and birth weight mitigation with big, nearly perfect feet and the kind of bone and substance that so many are looking for.
- Dam already has 4 @107 for Weaning Weight and has produced two, sale featured breeder bulls in a row.
- His predictable calving ease service on bred females will add value, his daughters will make superb cows and his low BW, high MARB and big-numbered \$API sons are destined sale pacesetters!

## Semen: \$30/unit

Semen available from Allied Genetic Resources, Cattle Visions, and APEX Cattle.



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Hook's Beacon x Hart Four Lane  
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HSF Conquest 29Z x WS Beef Maker  
Due late August to KBHR All American



**HSF G110** - 3/4 SM 1/4 AR - ET  
WS All Aboard B80 x HSF Ms Redeem 21B D291  
Due early October to 29Z



**HSF 105G** - 1/2 SM 1/4 AN 1/4 HP  
Xpection x Victor 719T x Net Present Value  
Due mid August to 29Z



**HSF 9H** - 1/2 SM 1/2 AR  
HSF Conquest 29Z x Brown JYJ Redemption  
Due early March to Hook's Flame



**HSF 69H** - 3/4 SM 1/4 AR  
HSF Redemption D14 x Revenue  
Due early March to IR Imperial



**HSF 51H** - Purebred  
WS All Aboard x WS High Stakes  
Due mid March to Leland Marksman (Red Angus)



**KR G34** - Purebred  
IR Imperial x CDI Perspective 238A  
Due mid February to GW Hilger One



**KR H078** - Purebred  
WS The Boss x HSF Conquest 29Z  
Due early February to KCC Excellence



**HSF G1D** - 3/4 SM 1/4 AR  
WS All Aboard x Brown JYJ Redemption  
Due late February to IR Imperial



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# Finding Consistency in Simmental

by Lilly Platts



**Cooper Ranches, located on the productive rangeland of Throckmorton County, Texas,** has found success using Simmental genetics to increase efficiency and add consistency to their cow herd. Cooper Ranch females are expected to perform without coaxing and wean a calf that not only makes a profit for the ranch, but also goes on to excel for the feeder. Glenn Cooper, the third generation on the operation, and his son, Wes, fourth generation, manage the business. Rick Ward came on as ranch manager in 2004, bringing with him the Simmental breed, and has since worked with the family to improve the commercial cow herd through genetic selection, and to create females that work with their environment. Ward's cow sense combined with the Cooper Ranch management philosophy has made for a successful combination.



*Rick Ward has served as ranch manager for Cooper Ranches for 17 years.*

**Cooper Ranches has been in operation for generations in north-central Texas, and has found success adding Simmental genetics to their commercial cow herd.**



### **A Long History in the Cattle Business**

Cooper Ranches began generations ago, running cattle and farming throughout the years. The cow herd and business changed with each generation. Glenn grew up on the family ranch, taking over management at 32 when his father passed. He quickly focused on expanding the ranch and cow herd. The core ground was expanded by purchasing adjoining places from relatives and anything else that was feasible. Taking over from his father made sense for Glenn, and the combination of land stewardship and building a cow herd was appealing to him. “I always enjoyed ranching,” Glenn explains.

Wes, Glenn’s son, grew up on the ranch and developed the same love for the cattle business and ranching. He attended Texas A&M before completing law school, settling in Fort Worth in part so he could be within driving distance of Throckmorton and the ranch. Today, they make decisions jointly and work together to continue improving the land and cow herd.

Rick Ward began working for Cooper Ranches in 2004. Ward grew up in Central Texas, attending school at Tarleton State. During that time, he worked for a veterinarian and got his start in reproduction work. In the 1980s, he set out on his own selling semen. When the company he worked under was bought out, he began working for Jim Newsom of Tex-Ann Cattle Company, Grandbury, Texas. During that time, he was able to lease a

place and start his own cow herd. “Jim taught me a lot,” Ward remembers. “He’s a mentor to me, and a really sharp guy.”

During this time, Ward also became acquainted with breeders like John Collier, furthering his experience with the Simmental breed. After his lease fell through, Ward found himself with a new baby and family to take care of, so he looked to Throckmorton county, taking a job with RA Brown Ranch in 1988. For 11 years he worked for the historic ranch, handling Simbrah and Angus cattle. Ward explains, “The time came when I could stay or go, and I decided to go to work for myself. I had the opportunity to lease ground and buy some cows, and I also day worked and shod some horses.”

Day work led Ward to Cooper Ranches, and after helping them he was offered the opportunity to work there full-time. Today, Ward is responsible for everything from feeding to genetic selection.

### **Focusing on Commercial Success**

Ward not only brought a lifetime of experience in the cattle business, but also the Simmental breed to Cooper Ranches. In the past when he was able to run his own females, he ran SimAngus bulls and through this past experience knew that some Simmental genetics could vastly improve the cow herd at Cooper Ranches. Glenn’s father had tried using some black Simmental bulls in the 1980s, but the cow size and other common issues of the time weren’t a good fit for the commercial operation. They moved away from the breed and continued on with Brahman and Hereford cows. When Ward started, the cows — like many commercial herds of the time — lacked uniformity. “When I got here, there were quite a few Brangus F1 cows on one particular place, and there were some purchased cattle from here and there, mostly black, black baldy type cows, but not necessarily an Angus cow by any means,” Ward recalls.

Since that time, the cow herd has been transformed to a primarily Angus base, with Simmental influence brought in through SimAngus bulls. “We’ve evolved into more of a straight black herd, nearly a completely closed herd, and raise all of our replacement heifers,” Ward explains.

For Ward, bringing Simmental genetics into the herd simply made sense in order to meet their production goals. “I’ve always used SimAngus — my personal herd is basically first-generation SimAngus halfbloods — and it’s always worked well for me, and I just filtered that into the cattle they have,” he says. “Simmental has made great strides to fit the commercial cattleman. They are easy-fleshing and maternal.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

# Timing matters: It pays to get more cows bred in the first 21 days

By Todd Bilby, PhD,  
Cattle Technical Services



Reproduction in beef cattle is 10 times more economically important than growth traits. It's 20 times more important than carcass traits. An extra calf, or more calves per cow herd, is the single largest factor in increasing pounds of beef.

Getting cows and heifers pregnant in a timely manner is critical to reaping economic advantages. For every 21 days cows are open, we lose somewhere between 20 and 60 pounds of weaning weight. There's a lot of profit potential if we can have more calves in the first 21 days of calving season.

A decade of records were analyzed to determine the effect of the calving period on heifer and steer progeny at Gudmundsen Sandhills Laboratory in Whitman, Nebraska.<sup>1</sup> Progeny were classified as being born in the first, second or third 21-day period of the spring calving season.

The research showed that heifer calves born during the first 21 days of the spring calving season had greater weaning, prebreeding and precalfing body weight; greater percent cycling before breeding; and greater pregnancy rates. Similarly, steer calves born earlier in the calving season had greater weaning body weight, carcass weight and marbling scores.

## Synchronization benefits bull breeding programs

Another study aimed to determine the effect of estrus synchronization on calving distribution and the impact of time of calving on carcass characteristics.<sup>2</sup> The study compared calves from nonsynchronized 60-day breeding seasons with calves from estrous-synchronized 45-day breeding seasons. Estrus was synchronized using a single injection of prostaglandin administered 108 hours after mixed-age bulls were turned in with the cow herd.

Data showed that more synchronized cows calved during the first 21 days, and calves born to synchronized dams were 20 pounds heavier at weaning. Calves born in the first 21 days of the calving season had greater carcass weights, marbling scores and yield grades than later-born calves. In addition, the percentage of steers grading premium choice or greater, and the total carcass value declined as time of calving increased.

The data showed that one shot of prostaglandin at 4-5 days after turning out the bulls resulted in cows coming into estrus sooner, which in turn gave a better opportunity to get pregnant earlier, and therefore, more of these cows calved in the first 21 days of the calving season. Their calves were heavier at weaning and produced a heavier, more valuable carcass that was worth an additional \$77 at the feedlot. If that protocol won't fit your management system, one shot of prostaglandin at turnout will still induce more cows to show heat sooner.

Estrumate® (cloprostenol injection) is a leading prostaglandin that is approved for estrus synchronization of cows and replacement heifers.

## Fixed-time AI solutions

Fertagyl® (gonadorelin) and Estrumate help deliver optimal reproductive results in a fixed-time artificial insemination (FTAI) program. Fertagyl is now approved for use with cloprostenol sodium to synchronize estrous cycles to allow for FTAI in beef cows.

Pregnancy rate to FTAI was significantly higher in cows treated with Fertagyl than in cows treated with control. Estrumate has a long half-life of three hours<sup>3</sup>. Consult your veterinarian for recommendations on heat synchronization protocols.

<sup>1</sup>Funston RN, Musgrave JA, Meyer TL, Larson DM. "Effect of calving distribution on beef cattle progeny performance." *Journal of Animal Science*. 2012;90:5118-5121.

<sup>2</sup>Larson DM, Musgrave JA, Funston RN. "Estrous synchronization increases early calving frequency, which enhances steer progeny value." *Nebraska Beef Report*. 2010;14-16.

<sup>3</sup>European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products, Committee for Veterinary Medicinal Products, Cloprostenol and R-Cloprostenol Summary Report, 1997.

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION FOR ESTRUMATE

Women of childbearing age, asthmatics, and persons with respiratory problems should exercise extreme caution when handling ESTRUMATE. ESTRUMATE is readily absorbed through the skin and may cause abortion and/or bronchospasms; direct contact with the skin should be avoided and accidental spillage on the skin should be washed off immediately with soap and water. Do not administer ESTRUMATE to a pregnant cow if abortion is not desired. Severe localized post-injection clostridial infections have been reported; in rare instances infection has led to death. At 50 and 100 times the recommended dose, mild side effects may be detected. For complete information on ESTRUMATE, see package insert.

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION FOR FERTAGYL

Not for use in humans.  
Keep out of reach of children.

To learn  
more, visit  
[MAHcattle.com](http://MAHcattle.com).

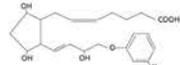


# Estrumate® (cloprostenol injection)

250 mcg cloprostenol/mL (equivalent to 263 mcg cloprostenol/mL)  
A sterile solution of a prostaglandin F<sub>2α</sub> analogue for intramuscular injection in beef cows, lactating dairy cows, and replacement beef and dairy heifers  
Caution: Federal (USA) law restricts this drug to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian.

## DESCRIPTION:

Estrumate® (cloprostenol injection) is a synthetic prostaglandin analogue structurally related to prostaglandin F<sub>2α</sub> (PGF<sub>2α</sub>). Each mL of the sterile colorless aqueous solution contains 250 mcg cloprostenol (equivalent to 263 mcg prostaglandin sodium), 6.1 mg sodium citrate, 0.86 mg anhydrous citric acid, 6.7 mg sodium chloride, 20 mg benzyl alcohol, and water for injection, q.s.



## INDICATIONS FOR USE:

1. For unobserved or non-detected estrus in beef cows, lactating dairy cows, and replacement beef and dairy heifers
2. For treatment of pyometra or chronic endometritis in beef cows, lactating dairy cows, and replacement beef and dairy heifers
3. For treatment of mummified fetuses in beef cows, lactating dairy cows, and replacement beef and dairy heifers
4. For treatment of luteal cysts in beef cows, lactating dairy cows, and replacement beef and dairy heifers
5. For abortion of beef cows, lactating dairy cows, and replacement beef and dairy heifers
6. For estrus synchronization in beef cows, lactating dairy cows, and replacement beef and dairy heifers
7. For use with Fertagyl® (gonadorelin) to synchronize estrous cycles to allow for fixed time artificial insemination (FTAI) in lactating dairy cows.

Estrumate causes functional and morphological regression of the *corpus luteum* (luteolysis) in cattle. In normal, non-pregnant cycling animals, this effect on the life span of the *corpus luteum* usually results in estrus 2 to 5 days after treatment. In animals with prolonged luteal function (pyometra, mummified fetuses, and luteal cysts), the induced luteolysis usually results in resolution of the condition and return to cyclicity. Pregnant animals may abort depending on the stage of gestation.

## DOSE AND ADMINISTRATION:

Two mL of Estrumate (500 mcg cloprostenol) should be administered by **INTRAMUSCULAR INJECTION** using the specific dosage regimen for the indication. 20 mL bottle size. Use within 28 days of first puncture. 100 mL bottle size. Use within 28 days of first puncture and puncture a maximum of 12 times. Use only with automatic injection equipment or repeater syringe. Discard bottle after one stopper puncture with draw-off spike.

1. For unobserved or non-detected estrus in beef cows, lactating dairy cows, and replacement beef and dairy heifers  
Cows and heifers which are not detected in estrus, although ovarian cyclicity continues, can be treated with Estrumate if a mature *corpus luteum* is present. Estrus is expected to occur 2 to 5 days following injection, at which time animals may be inseminated. Treated cattle should be inseminated at the usual time following detection of estrus. If estrus detection is not desirable or possible, treated animals may be inseminated twice at about 72 and 96 hours post-injection.

2. For treatment of pyometra or chronic endometritis in beef cows, lactating dairy cows, and replacement beef and dairy heifers  
Damage to the reproductive tract at calving or postpartum retention of the placenta often leads to infection and inflammation of the uterus (endometritis). Under certain circumstances, this may progress into chronic endometritis with the uterus becoming distended with purulent matter. This condition, commonly referred to as pyometra, is characterized by a lack of cyclical estrous behavior and the presence of a persistent *corpus luteum*. Induction of luteolysis with Estrumate usually results in evacuation of the uterus and a return to normal cyclical activity within 14 days after treatment. After 14 days post-treatment, recovery rate of treated animals will not be different than that of untreated cattle.

3. For treatment of mummified fetuses in beef cows, lactating dairy cows, and replacement beef and dairy heifers  
Death of the conceptus during gestation may be followed by its degeneration and dehydration. Induction of luteolysis with Estrumate usually results in expulsion of the mummified fetus from the uterus. (Manual assistance may be necessary to remove the fetus from the vagina). Normal cyclical activity usually follows.

4. For treatment of luteal cysts in beef cows, lactating dairy cows, and replacement beef and dairy heifers  
A cow or heifer may be noncyclic due to the presence of a luteal cyst (a single, anovulatory follicle with a thickened wall which is accompanied by no external signs and by no changes in palpable consistency of the uterus). Treatment with Estrumate can restore normal ovarian activity by causing regression of the luteal cyst.

5. For abortion of beef cows, lactating dairy cows, and replacement beef and dairy heifers  
Unwanted pregnancies can be safely and efficiently terminated from 1 week after mating until about 5 months of gestation. The induced abortion is normally uncomplicated and the fetus and placenta are usually expelled about 4 to 5 days after the injection with the reproductive tract returning to normal soon after the abortion. The ability of Estrumate to induce abortion decreases beyond the fifth month of gestation while the risk of dystocia and its consequences increases. Estrumate has not been sufficiently tested under feedlot conditions; therefore, recommendations cannot be made for its use in heifers placed in feedlots.

6. For estrus synchronization in beef cows, lactating dairy cows, and replacement beef and dairy heifers  
The luteolytic action of Estrumate can be utilized to schedule estrus and ovulation for an individual cycling animal or a group of animals. This allows control of the time at which cycling cows or heifers can be bred. Estrumate can be used in a breeding program with the following methods:

- Single Estrumate injection: Only animals with a mature *corpus luteum* should be treated to obtain maximum response to the single injection. However, not all cycling cattle should be treated since a mature *corpus luteum* is present for only 11 to 12 days of the 21-day cycle. Prior to treatment, cattle should be examined rectally and found to be anatomically normal, be non-pregnant, and have a mature *corpus luteum*. If these criteria are met, estrus is expected to occur 2 to 5 days following injection, at which time animals may be inseminated. Treated cattle should be inseminated at the usual time following detection of estrus. If estrus detection is not desirable or possible, treated animals may be inseminated either once at about 72 hours or twice at about 72 and 96 hours post-injection. With a single injection program, it may be desirable to assess the cyclicity status of the herd before Estrumate treatment. This can be accomplished by heat detecting and breeding at the usual time following detection of estrus for a 6-day period, all prior to injection. If by the sixth day the cyclicity status appears normal (approximately 25%-30% detected in estrus), all cattle not already inseminated should be palpated for normality, non-pregnancy, and cyclicity, then injected with Estrumate. Breeding should then be continued at the usual time following signs of estrus on the seventh and eighth days. On the ninth and tenth days, breeding may continue at the usual time following detection of estrus, or all cattle not already inseminated may be bred either once on the ninth day (at about 72 hours post-injection) or on both the ninth and tenth days (at about 72 and 96 hours post-injection).

- Double Estrumate injections: prior to treatment, cattle should be examined rectally and found to be anatomically normal, non-pregnant, and cycling (the presence of a mature *corpus luteum* is not necessary when the first injection of a double injection regimen is given). A second injection should be given 11 days after the first injection. In normal, cycling cattle, estrus is expected 2 to 5 days following the second injection. Treated cattle should be inseminated at the usual time following detection of estrus. If estrus detection is not desirable or possible, treated animals may be inseminated either once at about 72 hours or twice at about 72 and 96 hours following the second Estrumate injection. Many animals will come into estrus following the first injection; these animals can be inseminated at the usual time following detected estrus. Animals not inseminated should receive a second injection 11 days after the first injection. Animals receiving both injections may be inseminated at the usual time following detection of estrus or may be inseminated either once at about 72 hours or twice at about 72 and 96 hours post second injection.

Any breeding program recommended should be completed by either:

- observing animals (especially during the third week after injection) and inseminating or hand mating any animals returning to estrus, or
- turning in clean-up bulls(s) 5 to 7 days after the last injection of Estrumate to cover any animals returning to estrus.

## Management considerations for use of Estrumate for estrus synchronization:

A variety of programs can be designed to best meet the needs of individual management systems. A breeding program should be selected which is appropriate for the existing circumstances and management practices. Before a breeding program is planned, the producer's objectives must be examined and the producer must be made aware of the projected results and limitations. The producer and the consulting veterinarian should review the operation's breeding history, herd health, and nutritional status and agree that a breeding program is practical in the producer's specific situation. For any successful breeding program:

- cows and heifers must be normal, non-pregnant, and cycling (rectal palpation should be performed);
- cows and heifers must be in sound breeding condition and on an adequate or increasing plane of nutrition;
- proper program planning and record keeping are essential;
- if artificial insemination is used, it must be performed by competent inseminators using high-quality semen.

It is important to understand that Estrumate is effective only in animals with a mature *corpus luteum* (ovulation must have occurred at least 5 days prior to treatment). This must be considered when breeding is intended following a single Estrumate injection.

There is no difference in the fertility achieved following the single or double dosage regimen when breeding occurs at induced estrus, or at 72 and 96 hours post-treatment. Conception rates may be lower than expected in those fixed time breeding programs employing Estrumate alone which omit the second insemination (i.e., the insemination at or near 96 hours). This is especially true if a fixed time insemination is used following a single Estrumate injection.

## 7. For use with Fertagyl® (gonadorelin) to synchronize estrous cycles to allow for fixed time artificial insemination (FTAI) in lactating dairy cows

Use in reproductive synchrony programs similar to the following:

- Administer the first Fertagyl® injection (2 mL, 86 mcg gonadorelin, as gonadorelin acetate) by intramuscular injection on Day 0.
- Administer 2 mL of Estrumate by intramuscular injection 6 to 8 days after the first Fertagyl® injection.
- Administer the second Fertagyl® injection (2 mL, 86 mcg gonadorelin, as gonadorelin acetate) 30 to 72 hours after the Estrumate injection.
- Perform FTAI 8 to 24 hours after the second Fertagyl® injection, or inseminate cows on detected estrus using standard herd practices.

## CONTRAINDICATIONS:

Do not use this drug in pregnant cattle, unless abortion is desired.

## WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS:

### WITHDRAWAL PERIODS AND RESIDUE WARNINGS:

No milk discard or pre-slaughter drug withdrawal period is required when used according to labeling. Use of this product in excess of the approved dose may result in drug residues.

### USER SAFETY WARNINGS:

Not for use in humans. Keep this and all drugs out of the reach of children. **Women of childbearing age, asthmatics, and persons with bronchial and other respiratory problems should exercise extreme caution when handling this product.** Estrumate is readily absorbed through the skin and can cause abortion and/or bronchospasms. Direct contact with the skin should therefore be avoided. Accidental spillage on the skin should be washed off immediately with soap and water. To obtain a copy of the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) or for technical assistance, contact Merck Animal Health at 1-800-211-3573 or <http://www.merck.com>

### ANIMAL SAFETY WARNINGS:

As with all parental products, careful aseptic techniques should be employed to decrease the possibility of post-injection bacterial infection. Severe localized clostridial infections associated with injection of Estrumate have been reported. In rare instances, such infections have resulted in death. Aggressive antibiotic therapy should be employed at the first sign of infection at the injection site, whether localized or diffuse. At 50 and 100 times the recommended dose, mild side effects may be detected in some cattle. These include increased uneasiness, slight frothing, and milk let-down.

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

To report suspected adverse drug experiences, call Merck Animal Health at 1-800-211-3573. For additional information about adverse drug experience reporting for animal drugs, contact FDA at 1-888-FDA-VETS or at <http://www.fda.gov/reportanimalae>

### HOW SUPPLIED:

20 mL and 100 mL multidose vials

### STORAGE, HANDLING, AND DISPOSAL:

1. Protect from light.
  2. Store in carton.
  3. Store at 2-30°C (36-86°F).
- See FDA's website <http://www.fda.gov/safeteharpsdisposal> for information on safe disposal of needles and other sharps.  
Approved by FDA under NADA # 113-645  
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Made in Germany  
Rev. 12/2018

# FERTAGYL® (gonadorelin)

189979 R9

43 mcg/mL gonadorelin Injectable Solution

For treatment of cystic ovaries in dairy cattle

For use with Estrumate (cloprostenol injection) to synchronize estrous cycles to allow for fixed time artificial insemination (FTAI) in lactating dairy cows  
For use with cloprostenol sodium to synchronize estrous cycles to allow for FTAI in beef cows

## CAUTION:

Federal law restricts this drug to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian.

## DESCRIPTION:

Fertagyl is a sterile solution containing 43 mcg/mL of gonadorelin (GnRH; as gonadorelin acetate) suitable for intramuscular or intravenous administration according to the indication. Gonadorelin is a decapeptide composed of the sequence of amino acids – 5-oxo-Pro-His-Trp-Ser-Tyr-Gly-Leu-Arg-Pro-Gly-NH<sub>2</sub>, a molecular weight of 1182.32 and empirical formula C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>28</sub>N<sub>6</sub>O<sub>7</sub>.

Each mL of Fertagyl contains:

Gonadorelin (as gonadorelin acetate)	43 mcg
Benzyl Alcohol	9 mg
Sodium Chloride	7.47 mg

Water for Injection, USP  
pH adjusted with sodium phosphate (monobasic and dibasic).  
Gonadorelin is the hypothalamic releasing factor responsible for the release of gonadotropins (e.g., luteinizing hormone [LH], follicle stimulating hormone [FSH]) from the anterior pituitary.  
Synthetic gonadorelin is physiologically and chemically identical to the endogenous bovine hypothalamic releasing factor.

## INDICATIONS FOR USE:

### Cystic Ovaries

Fertagyl is indicated for the treatment of ovarian follicular cysts in dairy cattle. Ovarian cysts are non-ovulated follicles with incomplete luteinization which result in nymphomania or irregular estrus. Historically, cystic ovaries have responded to an exogenous source of LH such as human chorionic gonadotropin.

Fertagyl initiates release of endogenous LH to cause ovulation and luteinization.

### Reproductive Synchrony

Fertagyl is indicated for use with Estrumate (cloprostenol injection) to synchronize estrous cycles to allow for fixed time artificial insemination (FTAI) in lactating dairy cows.  
Fertagyl is indicated for use with cloprostenol sodium to synchronize estrous cycles to allow for FTAI in beef cows.

## DOSE AND ADMINISTRATION:

### Cystic Ovaries

The intravenous or intramuscular dosage of Fertagyl is 86 mcg gonadorelin (2 mL) per cow.

### Reproductive Synchrony

For lactating dairy cows, the intramuscular dosage of Fertagyl is 86 mcg gonadorelin (2 mL) per cow, used in reproductive synchrony programs similar to the following:

- Administer the first Fertagyl injection (2 mL) on Day 0.

- Administer 2 mL of Estrumate (500 mcg cloprostenol, as cloprostenol sodium) by intramuscular injection 6 to 8 days after the first Fertagyl injection.
  - Administer the second Fertagyl injection (2 mL) 30 to 72 hours after the Estrumate injection.
  - Perform FTAI 8 to 24 hours after the second Fertagyl injection, or inseminate cows on detected estrus using standard herd practices.
- For beef cows, the intramuscular dosage of Fertagyl is 86 mcg gonadorelin (2 mL) per cow, used in reproductive synchrony programs similar to the following:
- Administer the first Fertagyl injection (2 mL) on Day 0.
  - Administer 500 mcg cloprostenol (as cloprostenol sodium) by intramuscular injection 6 to 8 days after the first Fertagyl injection.
  - Administer the second Fertagyl injection (2 mL) 30 to 72 hours after the cloprostenol sodium injection.
  - Perform FTAI 0 to 24 hours after the second Fertagyl injection, or inseminate cows on detected estrus using standard herd practices.

## WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS:

Not for use in humans. Keep out of reach of children.

### WITHDRAWAL PERIODS:

No withdrawal period or milk discard time is required when used according to the labeling.

To report suspected adverse drug events, for technical assistance or to obtain a copy of the Safety Data Sheet (SDS), contact Intervet at 1-800-211-3573. For additional information about adverse drug experience reporting for animal drugs, contact FDA at 1-888-FDA-VETS, or <http://www.fda.gov/reportanimalae>.

## PHARMACOLOGY AND TOXICOLOGY:

Endogenous gonadorelin is synthesized and/or released from the hypothalamus during various stages of the bovine estrous cycle following appropriate neurogenic stimuli. It passes via the hypophyseal portal vessels, to the anterior pituitary to effect the release of gonadotropins (e.g., LH, FSH).

Synthetic gonadorelin administered intravenously or intramuscularly also causes the release of endogenous LH or FSH from the anterior pituitary. Gonadorelin acetate has been shown to be safe. The LD<sub>50</sub> for mice and rats is greater than 60 mg/kg, and for dogs, greater than 600 mcg/kg, respectively. No adverse effects were noted among rats or dogs administered 120 mcg/kg/day or 72 mcg/kg/day intravenously for 15 days.

It had no adverse effects on heart rate, blood pressure, or EKG to unanesthetized dogs at 60 mcg/kg. In anesthetized dogs it did not produce depression of myocardial or system hemodynamics or adversely affect coronary oxygen supply or myocardial oxygen requirements.

The intravenous administration of 60 mcg/kg/day gonadorelin acetate to pregnant rats and rabbits during organogenesis did not cause embryotoxic or teratogenic effects. Further, gonadorelin acetate did not cause irritation at the site of intramuscular administration in dogs with a dose of 72 mcg/kg/day administered for seven (7) days.

### TARGET ANIMAL SAFETY:

In addition to the animal safety information presented in the PHARMACOLOGY AND TOXICOLOGY section, the safety of gonadorelin was established through the review and evaluation of the extensive published literature available for the use of gonadorelin-containing products.

The intramuscular administration of 860 mcg gonadorelin (as gonadorelin acetate) on five (5) consecutive days to normally cycling dairy cattle had no effect on hematology or clinical chemistries.

In field studies evaluating the effectiveness of gonadorelin for the treatment of ovarian follicular cysts, the incidence of health abnormalities was not significantly greater in cows administered gonadorelin than cows administered a placebo injection. The target animal safety of, and injection site reactions to, Fertagyl when used with Estrumate (cloprostenol injection) were evaluated during the conduct of effectiveness field studies in lactating dairy cows. The incidence of health abnormalities was not significantly greater in cows administered Fertagyl than cows administered a placebo injection.

The target animal safety of, and injection site reactions to, gonadorelin when used with cloprostenol sodium were evaluated during the conduct of effectiveness field studies in beef cows. The incidence of health abnormalities was not significantly greater in cows administered gonadorelin than cows administered a placebo injection.

### EFFECTIVENESS:

The use of gonadorelin for treatment of ovarian follicular cysts in dairy cattle was demonstrated to be effective with a treatment dose of 86 mcg gonadorelin (as gonadorelin acetate).

The effectiveness of Fertagyl for use with Estrumate (cloprostenol injection) to synchronize estrous cycles to allow for FTAI in lactating dairy cows was demonstrated in a field study at six different locations in the U.S. A total of 758 healthy, non-pregnant, primiparous or multiparous lactating dairy cows within 50-120 days postpartum were enrolled in the study. A total of 377 cows were administered Fertagyl (2 mL, 86 mcg gonadorelin as the acetate salt) and 381 cows were administered an equivalent volume of saline as an intramuscular injection twice in the following regimen:

Day 0: 2 mL Fertagyl or saline  
Day 7: 2 mL Estrumate (cloprostenol injection)  
Day 9: 2 mL Fertagyl or saline  
Fixed time AI was performed on Day 10, 16 ± 8 hours after the Day 9 injection. Cows were evaluated for pregnancy on Day 45 ± 5 days by trans-rectal ultrasound or rectal palpation. Pregnancy rate to FTAI was significantly higher (P=0.0051) in cows treated with Fertagyl (33.4%) than the pregnancy rate to FTAI to cows treated with saline (17.8%).

The effectiveness of gonadorelin for use with cloprostenol sodium to synchronize estrous cycles to allow for FTAI in beef cows was demonstrated in a field study at 10 different locations in the U.S. A total of 706 healthy, non-pregnant, primiparous or multiparous beef cows within 40-150 days postpartum were enrolled in the study. A total of 364 cows were administered gonadorelin (1 mL, 100 mcg gonadorelin as the acetate salt) and 342 cows were administered an equivalent volume of water for injection as an intramuscular injection twice in the following regimen:

Day 0: 100 mcg gonadorelin (as the acetate salt) or sterile water for injection  
Day 7: 500 mcg cloprostenol (as cloprostenol sodium)  
Day 9: 100 mcg gonadorelin (as the acetate salt) or sterile water for injection  
Fixed time AI was performed immediately after the Day 9 injection. Cows were evaluated for pregnancy on Day 55 ± 5 days by trans-rectal ultrasound. Pregnancy rate to FTAI was significantly higher (P=0.0006) in cows treated with gonadorelin (21.7%) than the pregnancy rate to FTAI in cows treated with water (7.4%).

The effectiveness of a 2-mL dose of gonadorelin delivering 86 mcg gonadorelin (as gonadorelin acetate) for use with cloprostenol sodium to synchronize estrous cycles to allow for FTAI in lactating dairy cows and beef cows was also demonstrated through references to scientific literature.

### HOW SUPPLIED:

Fertagyl is available in a concentration of 43 mcg/mL gonadorelin (as gonadorelin acetate) pH adjusted with sodium phosphate (monobasic and dibasic).  
Fertagyl is supplied in multi-dose vials containing 20 mL and 100 mL of sterile solution.

### STORAGE, HANDLING, AND DISPOSAL:

Keep refrigerated: 2°-8°C (36°-46°F).  
20 mL vial: Use within 28 days of first puncture.  
100 mL vial: Use within 28 days of first puncture and puncture a maximum of 10 times when using an 18 gauge needle. When using a draw-off spike or needle with bore diameter larger than 18 gauge, discard any product remaining in the vial immediately after use.

Approved by FDA under ANADA # 200-134  
Manufactured for:  
Intervet Inc. (d/b/a Merck Animal Health)  
Madison, NJ 07940  
Gonadorelin (active ingredient) made in the Netherlands.  
Formulated in Germany.  
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Rev. 02/2020



# Finding Consistency in Simmental

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21



*Family is an important part of the Cooper Ranch operation.*

## Prioritizing Management

The cow herd is managed to fit the environment of north-central Texas. Ward has the full-time help of one hired hand, and with the various places that make up Cooper Ranches spanning a wide area, the cows are expected to hold their own with little day-to-day hands-on management. During calving, Ward is comfortable letting the females calve without constant checking. “I feel comfortable about that choice, and it doesn’t pay to spend the gas, time, and effort to be in those cows three times a day.”

Calving is split between fall and spring to balance out any differences that may occur in the market over the course of a year.

The Coopers have seen the benefits of focusing on genetic improvement, as well as the advantages Simmental bring to the program. Wes explains, “The overall handling of the animals is easier. The marketing is better. It’s worked out well for us. We’re turning out a product that there’s a strong market for.”

Glenn adds that Simmental has helped them hone in on the cow frame size. “Through genetics, we’re weighing just as big a calf off that 1,100-pound cow as we were off a 1,500-pound cow, and she doesn’t take up as much room or use as many resources. It’s all about being efficient.”

Any female that doesn’t raise a quality calf or breed back is culled. In recent years, Ward explains that the conception rate has been around 92%. Glenn adds that their AI program with first-calf heifers has allowed for a lot of genetic improvement. He says, “We have a very strong AI program on our replacement program, and in our semen selection. I know that when I started it was common for us to wean a first-calf heifer really early. Now, with the genetics in our cow herd, we wean 55% to 60% of that heifer’s weight on her first calf. That was unheard of years ago. That’s all due to genetics through the AI program, and improving our herd every year through those genetics.”

The number of heifers kept back each year is very dependent upon the generational turnover of the cow herd. Typically, a cow will be around 11 when she has run her course as a productive female, and Ward explains that the culling of these females will come in waves. Consequently, the number of replacements kept back will ebb and flow with this cycle. When choosing replacement females, Ward focuses on balance. “I try to take the top third for condition and fleshing. They need to be deep with a lot of rib and fleshing, and also be feminine structurally, with depth, heart girth, spring of rib, and I also look at how they compare to all of the other calves at that particular time,” he says.

For herd bulls — which will come from several sources, including the Cattlemen Kind Sale, RA Brown, and 44 Farms — Ward focuses on a similar principle of balance. Structural soundness, depth, moderate frame, homozygous black and polled genetics, and average numbers across the board are all priorities.

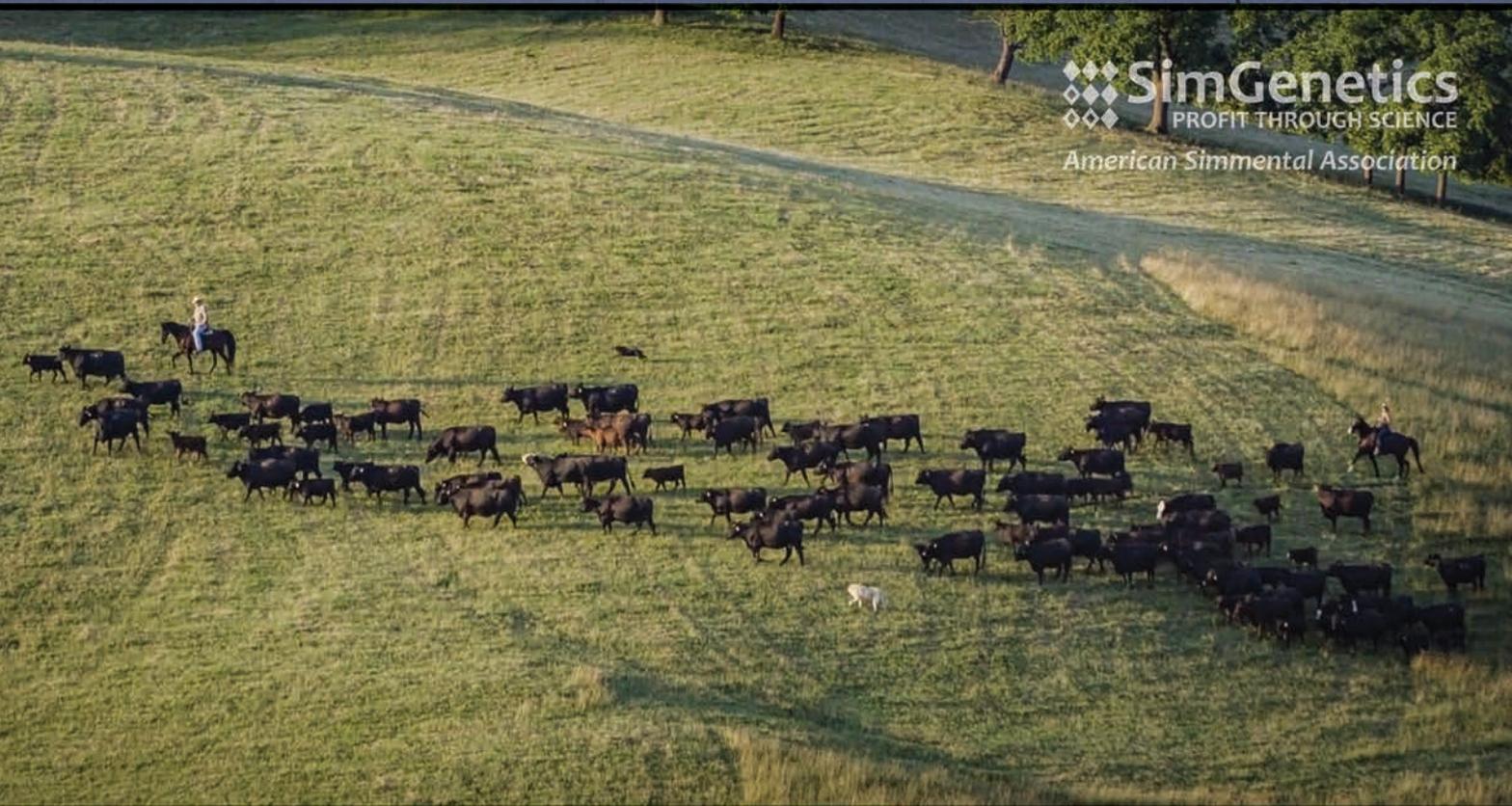
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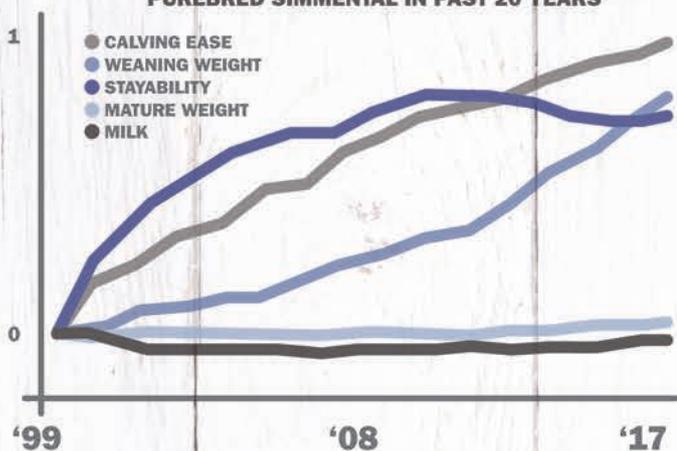
*Adding Simmental genetics has improved the efficiency of the cow herd. Each female is expected to wean a large calf while maintaining a moderate frame score*

# STAY ABILITY

 **SimGenetics**  
PROFIT THROUGH SCIENCE  
American Simmental Association



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# Finding Consistency in Simmental

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24



**The Throckmorton area is productive rangeland. Cooper Ranches utilizes native and introduced grasses**



*Cooper Ranch replacement females*

The Texas grassland and open winters allow for Cooper Ranches to feed very little, only supplementing the cow herd with cake for around 100 days each year. Prickly pear and mesquite brush on parts of the ranch hinder some of its productivity, and improving these areas is a constant project. The average annual rainfall of 29 inches, native and introduced grasses make for good cow country.

Cooper Ranches has been following a natural protocol for some time, focused on eliminating the use of antibiotics and growth hormones in order to receive a premium for weaned calves. With a sizable farming operation, which is overseen by Glenn's father-in-law, wheat pasture is

utilized to background weaned spring calves. Glenn explains that as the ranch has expanded, they have made it a goal to have enough cattle to stock their wheat pasture each year. Wes explains that the wheat pasture allows for them to prepare calves to be successful for the feeder and that it aids in keeping the weaned calves healthy.

Management combined with genetics has paid off for Cooper Ranches. Wes explains that they received carcass data on a group of around 300 calves this past year, and that a good portion graded prime, with 78% being at least upper choice. The natural feeder that has purchased their calves over the past years continues to return, which signifies to the Coopers that they are creating a quality product.

As Wes explains, these decisions add up to an endeavor that is sustainable and viable for the future. "You can manage genetics, people, and input costs, but you can't manage the weather or the markets. You can produce a product that you are proud of, and do it in a way that you're taking care of the animals and the land. If you're doing everything you should be, it's sustainable." Glenn adds, "It's about being good stewards of the land and taking care of the animals. For me, it's pride in ownership. It's being proud we are producing a product that keeps getting better as the years go by."

**ST**

*Winters in Throckmorton County are typically mild, but on occasion they will receive snow.*



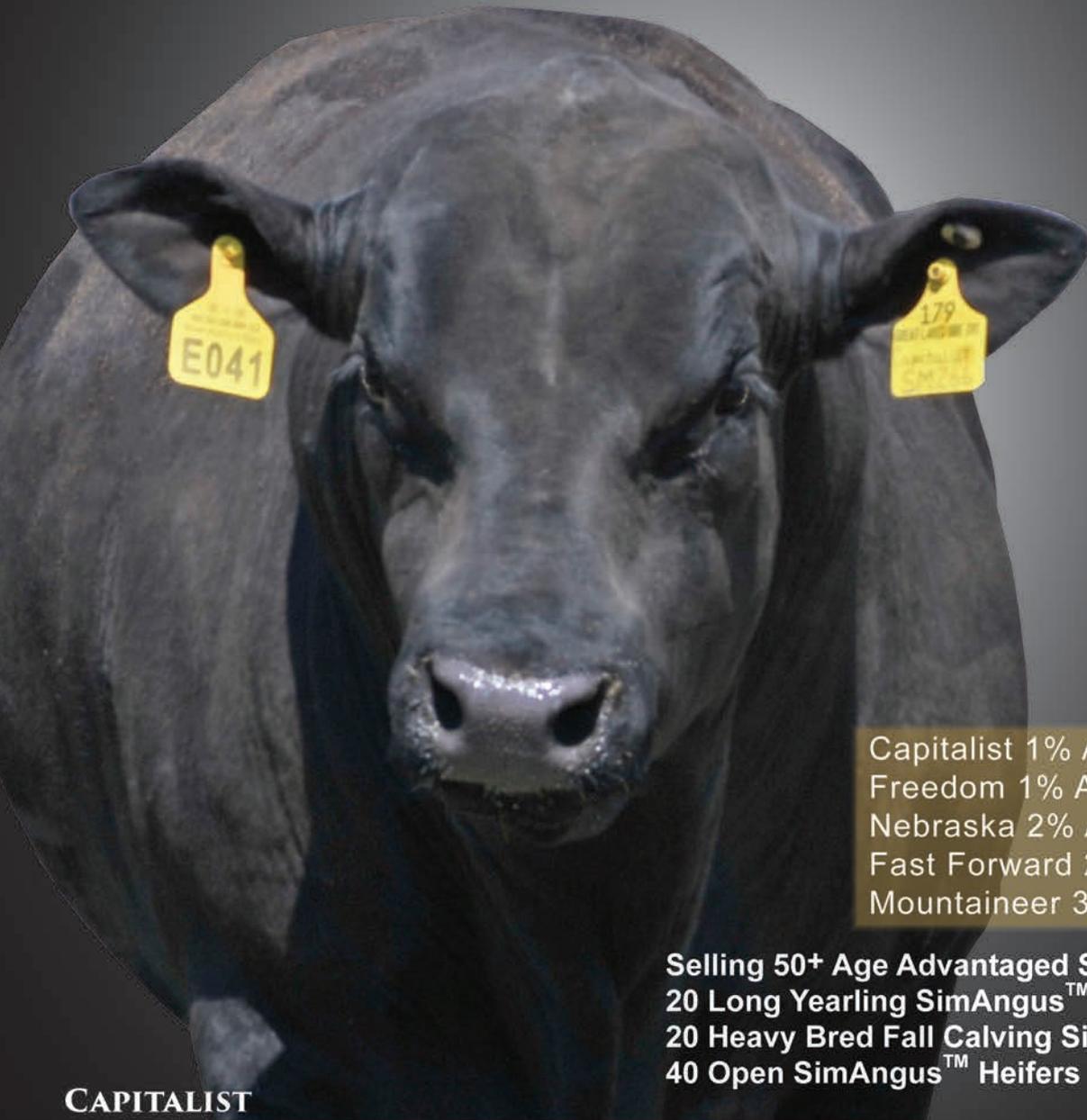


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# Building Blocks of Commercial Genetic Awareness



by Lane Giess, Director of Commercial and Nontraditional Data Programs

The commercial programs offered by the American Simmental Association (ASA) are an effort to provide genetic tools to the largest sector of the beef industry—the cattle operations. These efforts are supported through multiple ASA programs and the world’s most comprehensive beef genetic database. The three pillars to ASA Commercial Programs are the: **Total Herd Enrollment — Commercial option (THE-CM)**, **Cow Herd DNA Roundup (CHR)**, and the **IGS Feeder Profit Calculator™ (FPC)**. These programs allow commercial producers to maximize the genetic awareness surrounding their program and to make better management and selection decisions.

Each of these programs are designed to offer assistance at three key management moments in commercial operations; **Breeding, Heifer Selection, and Weaning**. This article will briefly dive into how each program functions.

## Total Herd Enrollment — Commercial

The THE-CM is the foundation to these programs and allows participants to fully capitalize on the true genetic awareness of their cow herd. This is a whole-herd reporting program that helps isolate the known genetic potential of every female owned. The industry’s best metric for understanding genetic merit on individual animals is through an expected progeny difference (EPD). Simply put, an EPD describes the difference in production value for a given trait compared to other cattle. These are all calculated through pedigree relationships and performance records — and genomics if desired. Selection indexes take that one step further by combining multiple economically relevant EPDs along with industry costs and thresholds into a prediction model. Seedstock breeders undoubtedly use EPDs and selection indexes to make mating decisions. Why shouldn’t commercial producers have the same technology?

Follow this link to learn more about THE-CM: [www.simmental.org/commercial](http://www.simmental.org/commercial)

## Cow Herd DNA Roundup

The CHR is an opportunity to push the accelerator on female genetic awareness. Every cattleman knows which cow is his best producer, but do they know right away which replacement heifer will fill that role? The field of genomics allows us to gain a better understanding of a young heifer's genetic potential even before she starts producing. This technology uses known regions on the bovine genome that impact specific economically relevant traits. For example, longevity in cattle is known once they've been in production for almost a generation, but producers would hope to know that information before they invested time and money in replacements. Through genomics, we can use known genetic markers to give an indication of whether a female may last in the herd longer (or shorter) than others. The CHR will provide years of information before you have to invest years of time.

Follow this link to learn more about CHR:  
[www.simmental.org/chr](http://www.simmental.org/chr)

## IGS Feeder Profit Calculator™

While the other two programs are focused around the cow herd, the FPC is centered around where commercial producers make ends meet. They've invested a lot of time and money into not only their cow herd, but also their bull battery because they know the role genetics play in the end product. They've also invested in their management protocols to ensure the feeder calves they raise will stay healthy and perform in the feedlot. These investments help producers stay profitable and build a more valuable feeder calf, but are their buyers aware of their commitment? The FPC is a third-party view of the profit potential on a calf crop through the understanding of genetics, health, and management. Buyers want low-risk, high-potential calves with earning potential. Producers want to highlight that their calves fit potential buyer's needs. As opposed to traditional marketing slogans and empty statements let's provide true awareness. **We can Know or Guess. Choose Know.**

Follow this link to learn more about the FPC:  
[www.internationalgeneticsolutions.com](http://www.internationalgeneticsolutions.com)

**ST**



Clint Berry

"The FPC is a simple and easy tool that commercial cattlemen can utilize to differentiate their cattle in the marketplace. Works in breeding programs using various breeds and has no cost to the producer."

[beef@internationalgeneticsolutions.com](mailto:beef@internationalgeneticsolutions.com)



# 2021 Beef Improvement Federation Symposium

## Hybrid model proved successful in Iowa

by Jackie Atkins, PhD

**The 2021 Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) symposium met for the summer conference in Iowa at the end of June.** Iowa State University host group put together a thought-provoking symposium with meaty talks covering beef on dairy implications, understanding consumer trends, gene editing and other precision technologies; and breakout sessions highlighting genomics and genetic predictions, producer applications, efficiency and adaptability, emerging technology, end-product improvement, and selection indexes. The 2021 BIF Symposium was the first hybrid model, with nearly 400 people present in person and an additional 100 tuning in virtually. The BIF communication group did a great job juggling the complications of their first hybrid meeting.

Joe Mushrush, BIF retiring president, gave a powerful talk on the meaning behind BIF and what we all have in common. Mushrush explained the interesting connection in BIF with competitors coming together and collaborating for the advancement of the beef cattle industry. BIF stakeholders predominantly fit one of three profiles: 1) beef cattle producers (seed-stock and commercial), 2) industry organizations (state associations, breed associations, and businesses in the beef industry), and 3) researchers (universities and research agency personnel). People from each of these sectors come to BIF and find ways to help each other and the greater beef community continue to improve. Mushrush highlighted the business term “cooperation,” which means a collaboration between business competitors for mutually beneficial results.

*BIF Symposium welcomed 400 in-person attendees and nearly 100 virtual attendees in the first hybrid event.*



*Simmental and SimAngus producers John Irvine (left), Kent Brunner, and Willie Altenberg catching up in the hall.*

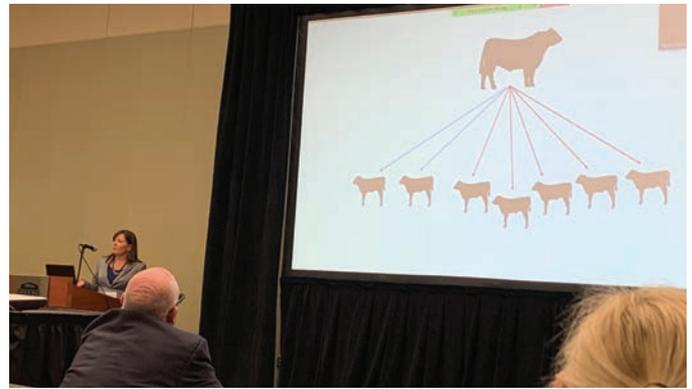


*ASA staff member and BIF Board Member, Jackie Atkins, visits with Sarah Jones of Red Hill Farms, and ASA staffer, Lane Giess*



A particular highlight for ASA was the presentation of this year's Seedstock Producer of the Year. There were many high-level seedstock producers nominated, including Loving Farms, a shorthorn breeder in Pawnee, KS; Nextgen Cattle Company, a Charolais and Beefmaster herd in Paxico, KS; and Woodhill Farms, an Angus breeder in Viroqua, WI. The Seedstock Producer of the Year went to Cow Camp Ranch and the Brunner family based in the Flint Hills of western Kansas. Kent and Jane Brunner were there to receive the award. Cow Camp have been exemplary Simmental and SimAngus breeders focused on data collection from birth through harvest, and adding thorough genotyping in more recent years. This is a well-deserved award. Congratulations, Brunner family!

International Genetic Solutions (IGS) was showcased throughout the week as well, with a successful IGS social Tuesday evening, several staff and breeders from breed organizations in IGS mingling in the halls, and Dr. Randie Culbertson, IGS's Lead Geneticist spoke in the Emerging Technology breakout session Thursday afternoon. Culbertson's talk addressed how the IGS Multi-breed Genetic Evaluation is capable of doing genetic evaluation with multiple breeds at one time, accounting for breed effects and adjusting for heterosis to allow all to be on one directly comparable base.



Dr. Randie Culbertson explains the connectivity among the IGS breed databases.

Culbertson explained how the single genetic evaluation for all the breeds was beneficial in adding more data (and thus more accurate predictions) to one evaluation than any single breed organization would have on their own. For example, the Red Angus Association of America tripled the progeny records on their sires who had calves in other breed association databases.

Matt Perrier will serve as the 2021–22 BIF president and lead the board through a strategic planning session and symposium held in Las Cruces, New Mexico, next June. BIF in New Mexico should be an interesting location with very different production challenges than those in Iowa. Hope you can join us next year in New Mexico!

**ST**

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**BARRY SALSMAN, KY** - "Excellent protection from mothers...great for doctoring young calves or banding."

**BAR 4 RANCH, TX** - "We love our Calf Catcher! The cows are more calm because they can see & smell the calves. It is really a one-man job now!"

**JEFF HALL, MO** - "Has turned tagging and working calves into a one man operation, and made it safer to do it. Pairing out is a breeze as cows follow great."

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# Come one, come all!

All Breeds Welcome!

*"I love this program and appreciate that it is flexible for other activities. I like it more when Cowan can be on the live webinar but that's life. The data is awesome, and it a great learning experience. Many of the assignments were high level. I think that is great but can be daunting when even the parents aren't awesome at it."*

**– Natasha Mortenson, participant**

*"She really enjoyed it all, and the varied content was awesome! The hands on things she enjoyed more than the papers, but that is her being young."*

**– Chelsea Faulhaber, parent**

*"I enjoyed participating in the SPC Contest this year a ton. My favorite part was honestly probably making my steers ration! It was so different than any of the other assignments and it honestly took things to a whole different perspective for me. As always, every year I seem to learn more and more. I love the topics that the webinars go over and they have awesome speakers/presenters this year so it made it really fun to listen to. There was nothing that I disliked this year, you guys all made it really fun for me anyways and I really enjoyed it."*

**– Audrey Redalen, participant**

*"I greatly appreciate how this program has continued to be open to feedback and evolve! An example that especially resonates with me as a parent is how the assignments have developed into truly educational experiences. The first year of the SPC program primarily focused on the assignments summarizing the content of the webinars. This year the participants have had the opportunity to showcase through a number of different avenues what they've learned. These learning activities accommodate diverse types of learning styles and help to solidify the information in a meaningful way! As a parent and a Simmental breeder, this program is so valuable in my eyes. Please continue to communicate what we can do to support this program!"*

**– Abbie Redalen, parent**

*"I liked to learn about everything and I think it will all help me moving forward."*

**– Cowan Mortenson, participant**

*"I enjoy the data! Grace and I enjoy working together, particularly using good data for making decisions and then evaluating our results. This is one of the reasons we continue to participate in the SPC, to learn more about our own operation from the terminal side. I am encouraged that she gets excited about topics that she is learning from."*

**– Chuck Ewing, parent**



**SimGenetics**  
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# 2022 AJSA STEER PROFITABILITY COMPETITION

The AJSA Steer Profitability Competition (SPC) is designed to provide junior members meaningful exposure to the opportunities and challenges associated with cattle feeding. The SPC will not only allow participants to measure and compare the profitability of their own animal(s), but of greater importance, it will introduce young beef enthusiasts to peers, mentors, industry advocates, and experiences that are exceedingly difficult to acquire for any beef producer. Participants in the SPC program will be powerful voices as they transition from junior membership to adult participation within the beef industry.

## REQUIREMENTS

1. Steers only
2. Entrant must be an AJSA member
3. Animals must be entered in the ASA database
4. Either sire or dam on file in the ASA database
5. Birth date range: 1/15/21 to 4/15/21
6. Weaning date range: 8/15/21 to 10/15/21
7. Castration must occur prior to weaning
8. Steers must weigh 500-750 lbs at delivery
9. Steers must be polled or dehorned
10. Any breed composition welcome provided they meet rules 1-9

## CONTEST GUIDELINES

1. Entry fee of \$65/ head
2. Feedlot placement approximately November 1
3. All decisions at the discretion of feedlot
4. Harvest will occur approximately May 2022
5. Participation in monthly e-meetings
6. Entrant will receive reports on
  - a. Monthly feed and health bill
  - b. Final feedyard data
  - c. Final carcass performance data

Winners will be announced at the 2022 National Classic Awards Banquet. Awards will be granted for the top three animals overall, top three pen of three overall, and top monthly write-up participant.

## DETAILS:

1. All steers on GrowSafe feed intake system throughout the entire project.
2. Individual intake and gain information on all steers.
3. Monthly weights on all steers.
4. Steers will be fed at University of Missouri Beef Research & Teaching Farm in Columbia, MO.
5. A monthly newsletter highlighting SPC details, industry news and steer performance.
6. Monthly bill detailing specific expenses on each steer.

## CONTINUED THIS YEAR

Different monthly feedback formats

- Short essay questions with prompts
- Infographic or social media post
- Half- to one-page page summary
- Short online quiz tailored to participant age

Go to [juniorsimmental.org](http://juniorsimmental.org) to register or find more information.

# Innovation Meets Application



by Jackie Atkins, PhD

A lot has changed at the American Simmental Association in the last five years. Five years ago, we moved into our new headquarters. We were gearing up for our 50th anniversary and preparing to write the history book. We were launching the International Genetic Solutions (IGS) Feeder Profit Calculator, and

anticipating this new way to encompass management and genetics to estimate the relative value of a set of feeder calves. The genetic evaluation used the previous Cornell software and older models, including a two-step blending process for genomic information, and three times a year a fresh evaluation was released. Now we are settled in the headquarters, the IGS FPC has years of growth and success under its belt, and we are cranking out weekly genetic evaluations using improved methods: single-step genomics and the BOLT software system.

The demographics of genotyped cattle looked really different five years ago. The vast majority of genotypes were on top-end bulls creating: 1) genomic knowledge that had some bias with mainly high performance animals represented; 2) a very limited number of females genotyped, making maternal traits harder to predict with genomics; and 3) a void of terminal cattle with genotypes.

At the end of 2017, the ASA Board of Trustees passed a program that was the first of its kind. That program was the Cow Herd DNA Roundup (CHR). Enticing members to genotype their entire cow herd for a greatly reduced rate, this program skyrocketed the number of females genotyped in the genetic evaluation. Further,

genotyping the entire cow herd reduced the bias caused by only testing the elite genetics. Additionally, members who sent in complete records for mature weight with either a body condition score or a hip height were given another \$5.00 back per animal.

The CHR was and still is wildly successful for the genetic evaluation. Looking at male to female rates of genotyping alone, we now have over 57,000 females genotyped, compared to 49,000 males entering the evaluation for the ASA. The additional mature weights have spear-headed development of an improved mature weight EPD given the increase in records. This has also paved the way to investigate maternal genomic effects from direct genomic components for traits, such as calving ease and weaning weight, that wouldn't have been possible without a large set of female genotypes.

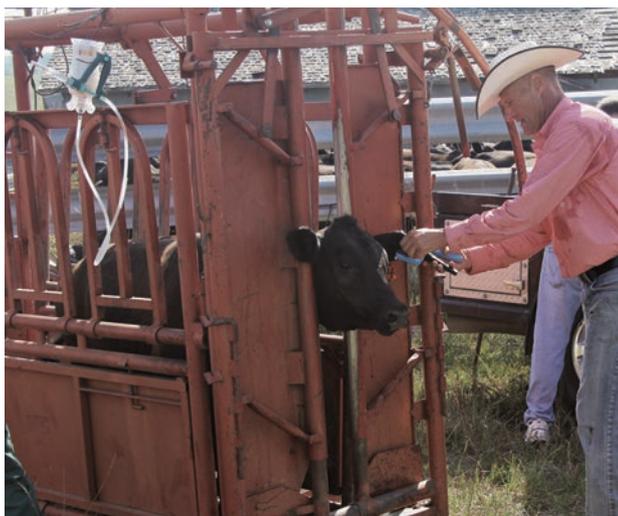
The CHR also brings great benefit to members by simply reducing the price for genomically enhanced EPD. Having parentage markers on the entire cow herd and parent confirmation of all those animals is a tremendous benefit alone. Plus, adding genomic information to the cow herd EPD is like adding a lifetime of calves to each cow's evaluation, making future selection and mating decisions much more precise.

By the fall of 2018, the board and staff launched another program to target more carcass records and genomic tests on terminal calves. This program, eventually named the Carcass Expansion Project, has increased our annual carcass records by fivefold, and added thousands of carcass records on genotyped cattle — which was close to zero previously. Having this data in the evaluation has already increased our ability to predict carcass traits with a DNA test for all of our members.

**ASA's genomic research projects deliver more accurate information to members at greatly reduced costs, while adding highly sought-after information for future advancements in the genetic evaluation.**



Last summer, the board passed another innovative program called Calf Crop Genomics to offer research price points for members who test their entire calf crop. This program was built to reward members who submit genomics on the entire calf crop to reduce selection bias even further and provide more accurate EPD to members prior to their selection decisions. Again, rebates are offered for phenotypes on the entire calf crop at birth, weaning, and yearling, with additional incentives for carcass records. While this program is just turning one year old, the membership has already bolstered the genomics in the evaluation by over 13,000 samples in a year.



*All research projects require tissue sampling unit (TSU) for the DNA sample.*

I am amazed by the cumulative results of these three programs. Through these programs we added over 70,000 genotypes to the evaluation in the last four years. We now have over 90,000 mature weight records on 60,000 unique cows and 6,000 genotyped terminal calves.

We have been so fortunate to partner with Neogen Genomics on these research projects. It would not be possible to offer the research price points without their generous reduction on the DNA research costs. Since Neogen became an IGS partner, they have extended genomic research price points to all the IGS partner breed organizations. The IGS evaluation now has multiple breed organizations launching their own genomic research programs.

Already these programs have brought more knowledge to our members on their cattle. We have already seen improvements to the amount and quality of information going into the genetic predictions. The promise of what this data can do to further improve our ability to make future genetic predictions is thrilling. This took significant commitment from our members, our staff, our partner Neogen Genomics, and our board. We don't take that commitment for granted. We are excited to see what comes in the next five years.

**ST**

## 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. Genotyping 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 ramping up both phenotypic and genotypic data collection on terminal calves — a vital part of our vision.



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(Continued on page 38)

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(Continued from page 37)

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# The Benefit of Sound Decisions

**Editor's note:** ASA Director Lane Giess spent significant time researching the genetic control of feet and legs in beef cattle during his master's thesis and time at ASA. Giess has individually scored over 6,000 cattle for numerous feet and leg observations.



by Lane Giess, Director of Commercial and Nontraditional Data Programs

You care about soundness in your cow herd, right? Of course you do; it is a trait many in the beef industry today care deeply about. Whether it is in the form of bull returns and guarantees, early culling of replacement heifers and developing bulls, or using an AI sire sight unseen, soundness plays a critical role in your reputation and the success of your enterprise.

Soundness by itself is a complex trait controlled by many skeletal and environmental factors. Fortunately, we know soundness traits such as the curvature of claws, the angle of the hoof, or even the angularity of the hock and skeleton can be improved through genetic selection and appropriate culling practices. The heritability of these traits range from 0.10 to 0.40, meaning approximately 10% to 40% of the variation for soundness traits in our cattle populations can be directly associated with genetics.

Seedstock producers have the responsibility of not only improving the functionality and performance of beef production on a global scale, but also improving the profitability of our commercial customers. Given feet and leg soundness issues can present themselves early in an animal's lifetime, commercial cattlemen can experience major financial losses if whole sire groups of replacement females go lame, or the new bull they bought this spring breaks down while breeding cows. The duty of seedstock producers is to not only remove bad-footed animals from their annual offerings, but to also select for genetic improvement in this area.

The best and most effective way to accomplish selecting for genetic improvement is through the use of genetic tools such as Expected Progeny Difference (EPD) predictions and economic selection indexes. However, as many know, these tools are only available if an appropriate amount of data on the trait of interest is supplied to the genetic evaluation.

As with any new or novel trait development, production of these genetic predictions is entirely dependent upon a steady stream of data coming in from you, the membership. Much like docility EPD, feet and leg data collection relies on members to submit their own subjective observations on three traits: hoof angle, claw shape, and rear leg side view (hock angle). These three traits have shown to be lowly genetically correlated with each other, have moderate heritability, and appear to have the strongest relationship of feet and leg indicator traits with longevity.

## Current feet and leg data counts in herdbook

- 53 member accounts
- 3,182 distinct animals
- 3,215 claw set
- 3,214 hoof angle
- 2,089 rear leg side view.

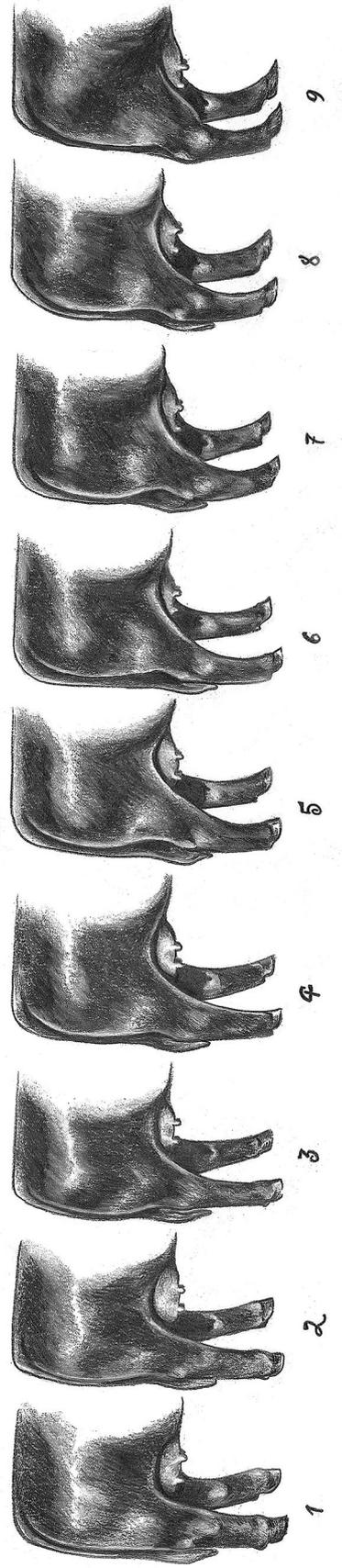
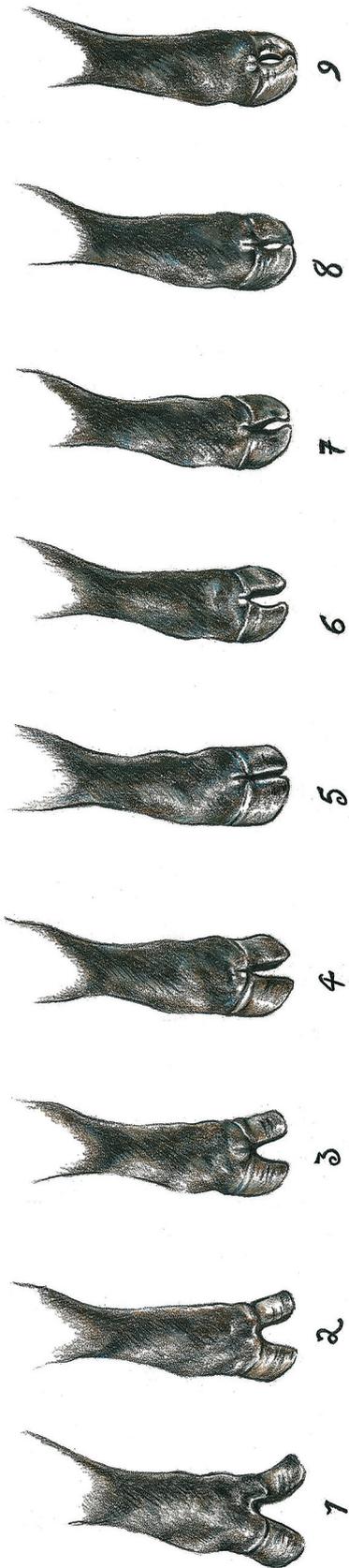
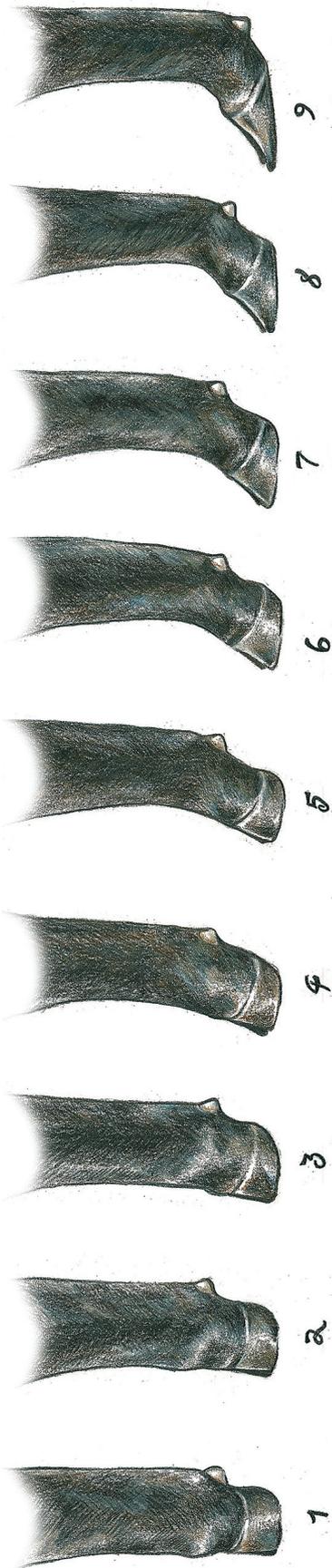
- 1. Hoof Angle** a description of the angularity that exists between the base of the hoof to the pastern. Can describe steepness, shallowness, and length of toe.
- 2. Claw Shape** a description of the digital conformation with regard to shape, size, and symmetry. Can describe divergence and openness, or curling/crossing of claws.
- 3. Rear Leg Side View** a description of the angularity that exists in the hock joint in relation to movement. Can describe straightness and rigidity, or overflexion of the hock joint.

The American Simmental Association has invested in new and more comprehensive visual rubrics to aid producers in their efforts to classify feet and leg traits in their cow herds. These new rubrics are available in print, as well as on the web, and can be implemented during semi-annual processing to gather data on whole contemporary groups.

A useful way to gather large amounts of feet and leg data is to develop a web-based survey (Google survey works great), and attach the visual rubrics to each question so data can be gathered electronically and with quick access to visual aids.

The most effective and fair assessment should be done when cattle do not have their heads caught in a head-catch, as this leads to uneven weight distribution across all four limbs. Rather, score animals in small groups as they leave the chute, in alleys with an entry gate and separate exit gate to ensure whole contemporary group reporting and accuracy of data collection.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 42



Artwork by Amanda Raithel Art

*Amanda Raithel*  
2021

# The Benefit of Sound Decisions

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 41

## Guidelines recommended for feet and leg data collection:

- Score the three traits (Hoof Angle, Claw Shape, and Rear Leg Side View) on a 1 to 9 scale using the above rubrics.
- If there is variation in conformation of hoof traits between front/rear or left/right, score the worst hoof.
- Scores should be collected on all yearling bulls and heifers up to 18 months of age to capture whole contemporary groups. Reminder: animals that contemporary by themselves will not have their scores included in the evaluation.
- Scores may be evaluated annually on mature cows (taken in conjunction with mature weights and body condition scores).
- Score all animals prior to any hoof trimming.
- Score animals on a level and hard surface, devoid of mud or grass to ensure an accurate appraisal.
- Score all animals on the same day, from the same evaluator.

Ultimately, feet and leg appraisal and data collection has a range of benefits, including training membership to become more aware of conformational differences and characteristics in the soundness of their cow herd and annual seedstock offering, building a more robust understanding of feet and leg traits as direct indicators of soundness and longevity, and building a data set for EPD development so all can benefit from more precise genetic selection.

**ST**

Annual Meeting and Banquet — December 10, 2021

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# Expected Progeny Difference:

by Randie Culbertson, PhD, IGS Lead Geneticist



Randie Culbertson, PhD

**Expected progeny difference, or EPD, is defined as the expected difference between the average performance of an individual's progeny and the average performance of ALL progeny. In the context of genetic improvement, EPD are very powerful tools for cattle breeders to make genetic improvement in their herds.**



## EPD vs. EPDs

Historically in editorial content, the ASA has used EPDs for the plural form of EPD. However, expected progeny differences are abbreviated EPD for both singular and plural forms. From now on, the ASA Publication will adopt the scientific approach of using EPD for both singular and plural abbreviations.

EPD account for environmental differences and influences as well as genetics. EPD therefore help you to select for the heritable portion of a trait that can be passed to offspring. Using EPD to select for traits of interest will dramatically increase the rate of improvement, especially when compared to using phenotypic selection.

## What

In the most basic sense, an EPD is a solution resulting from the genetic evaluation. The evaluation is a series of statistical and mathematical models where performance, DNA, and pedigree information are included. These statistical and mathematical models are developed based on our knowledge of biology and genetic inheritance. Utilizing the information provided, these models are able to differentiate environmental influence from genetic influence to create a prediction of genetic potential for an animal as a parent.

When we consider an animal's performance, there are two major influential components: genetics and environment. Environmental factors are any effect that is non-genetic and can range from management, to the physical environment, to the maternal influence of the dam on a calf. The environmental influences are important to an animal's own performance, but they cannot be passed on to the next generation of calves. Appropriately accounting for environmental factors is crucial for reliable EPD. When developing the models for a genetic evaluation, tremendous focus is placed on how to account for all non-genetic influences on a trait. The assignment of contemporary groups (animals raised in the same environment with the same opportunities to grow, conceive, marble, etc.) is crucial in accounting for the non-genetic components that would influence an animal's performance.

With environmental effects properly accounted for, the evaluation solves for the genetic effects using animal relationships from the pedigree. The pedigree maps out all known relationships to an individual animal and the relatives of that individual. These relationships are assigned numerical values to represent the amount of genetics shared.

## Why

Why use EPD? Simple: genetic improvement! Underlying the performance of every animal is both environment and genetics. Every calf on an operation has a genetic propensity for performance of a trait. When genetic potential is lacking, even when an ideal environment is provided, the calf will have limited performance. To maximize performance, both environment and genetics need to be maximized.

Phenotypic selection for improvement can be utilized, but by selecting on phenotype the rate of improvement is significantly slower. When selecting on phenotype, you are selecting for the underlying genetics, but you are also selecting the environmental influences that cannot be passed onto offspring. Phenotypic selection gives no indication of how much of the performance is influenced by the environment.

# Why, What, How, and When

For example, calf A shares 50% of his genes from his sire and 25% of his genes from a half-sib. If the half-siblings were inbred, the percentage of genes shared would be higher. The evaluation uses these relationship ties within the pedigree in conjunction with performance records and environmental effects, to solve for the genetic potential of animals for a given trait.

It is important to point out a biological law of genetic inheritance referred to as the law of independent assortment. The law of independent assortment states that the segregation of genes is independent during the formation of reproductive cells. In other words, each parent possesses two versions of a gene, but only one version is passed onto progeny. Which of the two genes that is passed onto each individual progeny is completely random. This randomness leads to genetic diversity and allows for the ability to make genetic improvement on traits. If we consider full sibs, these calves will share 100% of their genes according to their pedigree, but there will be differences in their performance. These differences in performance are in part attributed to the difference in gene versions inherited. In the absence of performance data, these two animals would have the same EPD, but once performance or DNA information is included in the evaluation, their EPD will begin to deviate from each other as the evaluation begins to account for the difference in the genes inherited from their parents.



Submitting DNA does NOT replace the value of submitting phenotypes. Although DNA markers improve the accuracy of an EPD by reducing the uncertainty of the genes an individual has, these markers only explain a small percentage of the genetic variation of a trait. Traits included in genetic evaluations are controlled by thousands and thousands of genes, where genomics may only identify a small portion of the genes contributing to the phenotype. Reporting the phenotype as well as DNA will increase the overall reliability of the EPD.



How does DNA and genomic testing fit into all this? When an animal has genomic information included in the evaluation, it allows us to identify the actual genes, or markers, the animal has inherited. If we know that an animal has specific markers for a trait and how those markers contribute to a trait, this increases the reliability and predictive power of the EPD. If we consider the genomic results for a pair of full sibs, calf A has markers that contribute to additional pounds at weaning, while calf B has markers that do not contribute additional weight at weaning. As a result, there will be a deviation in their EPD since the genomics give a clear indication of which genes were inherited by each calf. Genomics will also increase the accuracy as it reduces the uncertainty of which genes a specific animal has available to pass on to progeny.

## How

It is important to remember that EPD are a tool for comparison. An EPD is a reflection of how we expect an animal's progeny to perform on average in comparison to the average performance of progeny from other animals. Let's consider two bulls: Bull A has a weaning weight EPD of 95 pounds and bull B has a weaning weight EPD of 102. This means that if we look at 100 calves from each bull, on average, bull B's calves will weigh roughly seven pounds heavier than bull A's. This does not mean that all of bull B's calves will be heavier than bull A's calves. Some calves will perform better than others. This difference in performance among calves can be due to differences in environment, the dam's genetics (she contributes 50% of the genes to her offspring), and the rule of independent assortment. But when we look at all the progeny from each bull across different contemporary groups, we will see that bull B's calves on average are heavier.

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# Expected Progeny Difference: Why, What, How, and When

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 45



When considering younger animals, there is a risk of their EPD changing as more information enters the genetic evaluation. This is compared to older animals with progeny information already incorporated in the calculation of their EPD, resulting in less EPD movement. The level of information included in the estimation of EPD is indicated by the accuracy. Alongside each EPD that is published, an accuracy is also published. An accuracy is defined as the relationship between estimation of an animal's EPD and the "true" EPD for that animal. More simply put, an accuracy is reflective of the amount of information provided on that animal, and is the level of risk associated with each EPD. The lower the accuracy, the less information provided for the EPD estimation, and the higher the accuracy, the more information used for EPD estimation. As an accuracy begins to approach 1, this would mean that these animals have a significant amount of information included in the evaluation, and that their EPD are close to the true genetics for that trait. In addition, as accuracy increases, the amount of potential change for an EPD decreases.

Possible change is an easier way to interpret the amount of change likely in an EPD. When considering a young bull with low accuracy, it is important to consider the amount of change that could potentially occur as data for this specific animal enters into the genetic evaluation. Younger bulls will have a larger possible change range than older bulls with higher accuracy. As an EPD approaches an animal's true genetic value, of the time this value would be within the possible change range, but of the time the true EPD will fall outside of this window. This doesn't mean that each animal's EPD

will change by this amount, but it is the potential change that could occur to an EPD. It gives an indication of the level of risk for each trait and accuracy level.

Along with EPD, accuracies, and possible change, a percentile rank for each animal is also published. The percentile rank is the ranking of an animal based on their EPD in comparison to all animals within the breed population of ASA's registry. Percentile ranks range from 1 to 99, and the lower the number, the higher the ranking of the animal. For example, a bull whose weaning weight EPD is in the 5% percentile rank means that this bull is in the top 5% for weaning weight based on his EPD. Percentile rank does not take into account accuracy; therefore, if this bull has a low accuracy, there is a potential for this bull's percentile rank to change (either up or down) as more information enters the evaluation.



## When

When is it appropriate to use an EPD? When genetic improvement is your goal! EPD are a tool for genetic improvement and should be used when an animal is being considered as a parent for the next generation. Looking at a bull or heifer's EPD is an evaluation of that animal's merit on a genetic level, and is the expectation in the performance of their calves on average. When selecting animals as replacements or looking at purchasing a bull for your herd, the value of those animals is their genetic potential for producing future generations of calves with high performance.

When is it appropriate to use phenotypes? Phenotypes are important when the performance of the individual animal itself is being considered. When terminal steers enter a feedlot, their phenotype for feedlot and carcass performance become crucial for profitability, but these steers themselves will not be producing the next generation of calves. The genetics of these steers will not be passed on to the next generation. However, the phenotypes on these particular calves are extremely valuable. Not only for operational profitability, but in the context of genetic improvement, these phenotypes are extremely valuable information to the genetic evaluation, as well as improving the genetic prediction of the bull and dam of the calves.

**ST**



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## Global Meat Production to Rise

Meat production on the global level is expected to expand by 2.2% to 346 million tonnes during 2021. The increase is attributed to higher output from China, Brazil, Vietnam, the European Union, and the United States. The forecast is listed in a new report from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Partially offsetting the growth are anticipated contractions in production in Australia, the Philippines, and Argentina, the FAO said. Recovering from two years of decline, world pork output is forecast to grow by 4.2% to 114 million tonnes. The expected level is still down 5.4% from 2018, when African swine fever began rapidly spreading in East Asia, especially China. Most expansion this year is expected in China, with moderate increases in Vietnam, the EU, Russia, Brazil, and Mexico.

World beef production is forecast to rise by 1.2% to 72 million tonnes, with significantly higher growth anticipated in the United States, Brazil, and China. In the US, demand for meat products is expected to be stronger than last year as the economy rebounds from the pandemic's impact. Global poultry is forecast to expand by 1.3% to 135 million tonnes, mainly driven by increases in China, Brazil, and the EU.

International meat prices climbed 9.4% between January and May, mostly due to import demand from China and Vietnam to offset supply deficits despite expanding domestic production, along with demand from the Middle East, driven by increasing petroleum prices, the hospitality industry, and high interest in halal-certified meat. Global pork prices strengthened 11.3%, poultry prices by 9.3%, and beef prices gained 8.6%. In China, meat production growth is expected across all meat types, especially pork, driven by large investments to improve meat value chains and biosafety. Swift recovery from African swine-fever-induced output contraction is also anticipated in Vietnam. By contrast, meat production is likely to fall in Australia due to herd building, and in Argentina due to lower cattle supplies. In parts of Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean, meat value chains remain under strain due to continued COVID-19 market restrictions, rising feed costs, limited cattle supplies, or drought.

## Congress Addressing Checkoff Problems

Members of Congress have introduced the "Opportunities for Fairness in Farming" (OFF) Act, designed to reform and bring more accountability and transparency to USDA's commodity checkoff programs. Under current federal law, farmers of certain commodities, including pork, eggs, beef, and corn, are required to pay a portion of their sales into various checkoff programs. These mandatory fees are intended to be used by the US government to research and market those commodities. Well-known examples of previous checkoff-funded advertising campaigns are: "Got Milk," "Pork. The Other White Meat," "The Incredible, Edible Egg," and "Beef. It's What's for Dinner." Checkoff programs, in total, collect more than \$850 million from America's farmers and ranchers on an annual basis. However, the checkoffs have been accused of misappropriation of funds, lack of transparency, and misusing farmer and rancher tax dollars.

The bill's sponsor, Representative Dina Titus (D-NV), said, "This legislation will bring much-needed accountability and transparency to USDA's checkoff programs, which have operated without sufficient oversight for far too long. Family farmers should not be forced to pay into organizations that sometimes lobby against their interests and threaten animal welfare." The OFF Act would amend the authorizing checkoff laws to ensure the programs cannot contract with organizations that engage in lobbying, conflicts of interest, or anti-competitive activities that harm other commodities. It would also require that they publish all budgets and disbursements of funds for the purposes of public inspection and submit to periodic audits by the USDA Inspector General. The measure is supported by more than 250,000 farmers and ranchers from across America in an unlikely coalition of allies that include Organization for Competitive Markets, Animal Wellness Federation, National Dairy Producers Organization, the American Grassfed Association, the National Taxpayers Union and the National Farmers Union.

In addition to Titus, other congressional supporters of the bipartisan legislation include Representatives Nancy Mace (R-SC) and Dave Brat (former R-VT), plus Senators Mike Lee (R-UT), Rand Paul (R-KY), Cory Booker (D-NJ), and Elizabeth Warren (D-MA).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 50



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## Gene Editing Regulations

A “remodeling of the federal regulatory landscape” is needed to unlock the potential benefits of gene editing in agricultural animals is the conclusion of a blue-ribbon panel that spent the past 18 months studying the issue. Findings of the panel, which was convened by the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) arrive as the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) struggle for regulatory authority over gene editing.

The *Task Force Report* suggests that current regulatory protocols are well behind technological advancements and must be modernized to optimize gene editing’s many benefits — including limiting of disease and increasing productivity. Regulatory reform should also help address the food security and sustainability needs of a global population expected to reach 10 billion people by 2050. Under current protocols, FDA regulates genetic work on food animals as an “animal drug.” The USDA regulates these technologies as crops.

The report contains several specific recommendations for regulatory officials and lawmakers:

- Update the existing FDA regulatory framework (currently based upon processes established for transgenic technologies that are out of step with state-of-the-art gene editing technologies) and develop a coordinated, streamlined, fact-based, and cost-effective assessment and approval process between USDA and FDA to ensure safe food.

- Develop an evidence- and logic-based decision-making protocol for gene editing applications that is regulated separately from transgenic-based GMOs, which result from the integration of recombinant DNA.
- Develop streamlined assessment and approval processes that categorize gene editing applications based on: a) the type of genomic change being created, b) the method used for creating the genomic change, c) the impact of the welfare of the animal, and d) the potential for negative impact on the environment.
- Develop a regulatory channel for approval of gene-edited agricultural animals with genomic structures that could have risen in nature as safe for human consumption.

The panel also outlined a series of steps to help reap the potential benefits of gene editing technology:

- Establish a national coalition of scientific experts, bioethicists, and engagement specialists from APLU and AAVMC member institutions to serve as a sounding board and think-tank related to the modernization of the existing federal regulatory framework.

- Engage with federal legislators, staff, and White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, and inform them on key issues related to regulatory approval and monitoring processes for gene editing applications in livestock.

- Distribute the task force report to stakeholder organizations and agencies like US land-grant universities, the FDA, the USDA, the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the UN, the Gates Foundation, and others.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 52

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- Establish a University Research Consortium of scientific experts developing gene editing applications in livestock that will facilitate collaborative research and educational initiatives.

The APLU and the AAVMC took action in these areas following inquiries from members of Congress concerning current regulatory processes around gene editing.

## Lawmakers Address Shortage of Veterinarians in Rural Areas

by Jennifer Shike, Bovine Veterinarian

Senators Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Mike Crapo (R-ID) introduced bipartisan legislation on June 24 to address the shortage of veterinarians in rural areas. The Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) Enhancement Act is designed to meet the growing demand for veterinarians nationwide by eliminating taxes on programs that encourage veterinarians to practice in underserved areas.

“Veterinarians provide essential support for the agricultural economy in so many rural areas and small towns in Michigan and nationwide,” Stabenow said in a release. “But too many places lack the veterinary services they need. This bipartisan bill will provide incentives for veterinarians to practice in underserved areas, where quality veterinary care is needed to ensure healthy livestock and a safe food supply.”

Finding qualified veterinarians in agricultural communities is key to maintaining animal health and welfare, Crapo said in a release.

“Overly burdensome federal taxes on the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program limit the reach of the program’s benefits, and addressing those limitations would allow more veterinarians to have the opportunity to practice in small, rural communities where their services are in critical need,” Crapo said.

Douglas Kratt, president of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), believes expanding the VMLRP will result in more access to veterinary care in rural areas across the country.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 54

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## INDUSTRY UPDATE

CONTINUED

In 2003, Congress established the VMLRP to help address the shortage in essential veterinary services in rural areas across the country.

This program assists selected food animal and public health veterinarians with student loan repayment for a three-year commitment to practice in areas of the country facing a veterinarian shortage. This program helps veterinarians pay down their student loan debt so that they can afford to start a practice in locations where it's most needed, the lawmakers explained.

The VMLRP is currently subject to a significant federal withholding tax on the assistance provided to qualifying veterinarians. Because of this, resources available for the program are limited, as well as the reach of its benefits.

### **Culling Open Cows, Adding Replacement Females Are Strategies for Maximizing Herd Reproductive Efficiency**

*Kansas State  
University Extension*

In any successful business, decision-makers are always adjusting to outside influences.

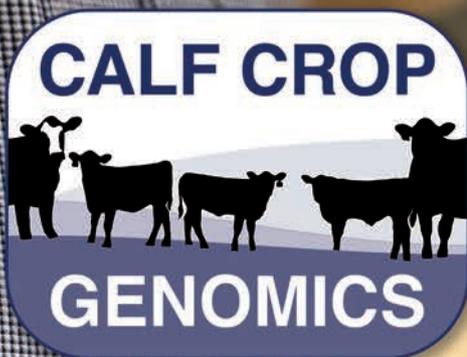
In the cattle business, culling decisions sometimes are made on reproductive status and feed availability. Culling and biosecurity were two topics of discussion on a recent Kansas State University Beef Cattle Institute Cattle Chat podcast.

### **Culling Time**

"Oftentimes producers cull cows in the fall, but mid- to late summer can be a good time of year to early preg-check (pregnancy) those females and cull the open or short-bred ones," said K-State

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



**Make it a  
good one.**

veterinarian Bob Larson. Short-bred females are those that conceived late in the breeding season, according to Larson.

He said veterinarians are able to check for pregnancy status 40–50 days past conception, and if they are using ultrasound technology, pregnancies can be dated at 30–35 days post-conception.

“One reason to do that now is to identify the cattle that are going to leave the herd and get them off the pasture ahead of when lots of cattle will be entering the marketplace,” Larson said.

Cattle are sold by the pound, so another consideration might be to hold on to those culled cows longer and give them additional feed resources to help garner a higher selling price, said the experts.

“Producers really need to look at the economics of that decision, because in a drought situation where the cows are thin and feed costs are high, it may not make sense to hold on to those cows longer and give them additional feed,” nutritionist Phillip Lancaster said.

## Herd Biosecurity

Conversely, if cattle are leaving the herd, producers may also be looking to add replacement heifers and cows to the ranch, and the experts say applying biosecurity measures will be key to maintaining herd health.

“Any time there are new additions to the herd, we recommend a 15–30-day quarantine,” said K-State veterinarian Brian Lubbers. “This quarantine is especially important if you are bringing in outside cattle to a reproductive herd.”

The quarantine means the cattle have no nose-to-nose contact or opportunity for oral/fecal contact, Lubbers said. While this quarantine will allow some diseases to appear if the cattle are contagious, it won’t show them all, according to Larson.

“There are some diseases that have persistent carrier states in which the animal doesn’t appear sick, but for a lot of those diseases we have good tests that we can use to identify the carriers,” Larson said.

Two of the more common diseases for persistent carriers are bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVD) and trichomoniasis, Larson said. “Work with your veterinarian to figure out if you need to test your herd,” he said.

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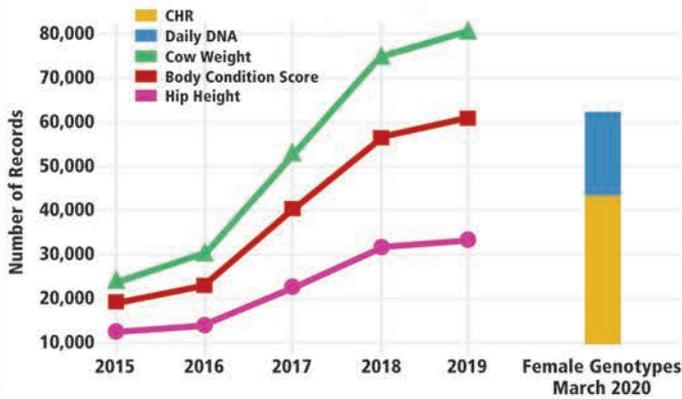
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Lancaster also added that knowing the health status of the source herd will help the producer and veterinarian make a herd health plan for those new animals.

To get started, Larson recommended producers refer to the BVD and trichomoniasis consult apps found on the Beef Cattle Institute website.

## Early Weaning: A Drought Management Strategy

by Greg Henderson, Bovine Veterinarian

Rainfall is one of the most important factors that influence management decisions on the ranch, according to North Dakota State University Extension livestock specialists.

This year is no different because most of North Dakota is experiencing severe dry weather. Drought conditions drive management of native pasture, crop residue, and cover crop acres. Typically, even with good moisture during mid- to late summer, the nutritional value of native pasture is in decline. This decline is accelerated under dry conditions.

“Early weaning is one of the management decisions that can help reduce pressure on

native pastures and extend forage supplies for adult beef cows,” says Janna Block, Extension livestock systems specialist at NDSU’s Hettinger Research Extension Center. “Early weaning simply means weaning calves at an earlier age to reduce forage usage while not compromising calf health and performance.”

Dairy calves often are weaned as early as eight weeks of age. This is achieved through proper nutrition with feeds that promote rumen development. This enhances the development of the rumen so the calf can survive very well without the nursing milk diet. From the standpoint of feed efficiency, feeding calves directly is more efficient than feeding cows to sustain milk production.

Beef calves can be early weaned successfully from 60–150 days of age.

Most producers notice that nursing calves also will consume forage, whether through grazing or being fed harvested forages. Research shows that early-weaned cows will consume as much as 35% to 45% less forage than normally weaned cow-calf pairs.

Early weaning typically results in improved body condition of dams due to decreased nutrient requirements. A cow weighing 1,400 pounds would require about 16 pounds of energy (total digestible nutrients, or TDN) and 2.5 pounds of crude protein (CP) on a daily basis in late lactation. This same cow’s requirements would decrease to 12 pounds of TDN and 1.7 pounds of protein after weaning. In addition, water requirements would decrease by about 55%–60%.

“It is important to distinguish between early weaning and creep feeding based on the goals of each strategy,” says Zac Carlson, Extension beef cattle specialist.

“Creep feeding is the act of providing supplemental feed to nursing calves,” he notes. “The primary goal of creep feeding is to increase weaning weight of calves. While creep feeding may result in some substitution of forage for creep feed, it does not reduce nursing pressure on cows. Therefore, this practice will not provide the same forage savings and increases in cow condition that can be gained from early weaning.”

Early weaning should not compromise calf health and it should enhance performance. The key to successful early weaning is to treat groups of calves as unique. Weaning by pasture group is preferred, with no commingling of other groups after weaning for at least 45 days. Even though all calves have been born and raised on the same ranch, the pasture group is the stable unit as it relates to shared organisms and social pecking order.

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“If weaning includes commingling all pasture groups at the same time into a common weaning pen or pasture, be prepared to begin treating calves for respiratory disease 10–14 days postweaning,” says Gerald Stokka, Extension veterinarian and livestock stewardship specialist. “Alternatively, make provisions to bring all cows and calves together such that the social order and shared organisms of calves can be re-established prior to the stress of weaning. The more space that is provided (i.e., pasture weaning), the less the pressure on re-establishing social structure and the less transmission of organisms during this stressful time.”

Other potential risk factors may influence health at this time as well. Lack of passive immunity, temperature fluctuations, heat stress, nutritional stress prior to weaning, dusty pens, and handling stress may impact the healthy transition to weaning negatively. The lack of adequate passive transfer of immunity from the birth mother to the calf increases the risk of postweaning death.

Temperature fluctuations may compromise the normal respiratory defense mechanisms of calves, as do heat stress and dusty pen conditions. Dry conditions may result in nutritional stress prior to weaning, so make sure that appropriate protein, energy, and mineral supplements are provided prior to and after weaning.

If calves need processing, such as for vaccinations or deworming, do it early in the morning or delay processing until temperatures moderate. Processing can be done at the time of weaning; however, only products that benefit the animal at weaning and do not compromise the immune response should be used. Processing done at least three weeks prior to early weaning is preferred and provides the opportunity to administer booster doses postweaning if necessary.

Facilities may need some remodeling if you are weaning calves that are significantly smaller than normal. Calves become adept at finding ways to return to their dams or at least escaping the weaning facility. Because smaller and younger calves may have difficulty competing for feed and water, sorting them into several pen groups based on size and age may be necessary.

“Early weaning is a management tool that can significantly reduce forage and water demand,” Block says. “In addition, with proper preparation, calf health and performance are not compromised.”

## Does Breeding to Beef Sires Alter Dam Productivity?

by Maureen Hanson,  
Bovine Veterinarian

Beef-on-dairy breeding is a growing phenomenon, not just in the US, but worldwide.

In Ireland, more than half of dairy matings now are made using beef sires, according to Dr. Donagh Berry, director of VistaMilk SFI Centre and Teagasc geneticist, County Cork, Ireland. The practice continues to grow at a rate of about 2% per year there. Berry recently took advantage of Ireland’s massive dairy database — which, among other factors, tracks mating data — to explore a compelling question: Does carrying a beef-sired calf have any impact on the subsequent performance of the dam?

“In science, we like to start with a hypothesis to predict the outcome of a study,” Berry told Dr. Barry Bradford, host of the Virtual Coffee Break podcast from the Michigan State University Extension Dairy Team. “In this case, I truly had no preconceived opinion.”

He imagined the cow’s anatomy “saying” one of two things: 1: “I’m carrying this big, chunky, beef calf, so I need to channel more of my metabolic resources to growing it, and I might produce less milk as a result,” or 2: “I have this big calf to raise, so I’m going to produce more milk to feed it.”

To test both schools of thought, Berry evaluated more than 350,000 Irish matings and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 62

ANNUAL PRODUCTION SALE  
**SEPTEMBER 18, 2021 1:00 PM**  
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subsequent dam performance. About two-thirds were dairy-on-dairy (Holstein-Friesian) pregnancies, and one-third beef-on-dairy. In addition to milk and component production, Berry looked at milk quality and reproductive performance in terms of the speed at which dams returned to their next pregnancy. A key edit imposed on the data was that no cows in the study required assistance when calving.

The results: Berry found very little difference between the performance of dams that carried dairy calves and those that delivered crossbred calves. Milk production was slightly lower in the beef-on-dairy group at an average 50 kilograms (110 pounds) — or about one day's production — less for the entire lactation.

While this was considered a statistically significant difference, both researchers noted it was negligible in terms of the overall value proposition of producing a dairy-beef crossbred. Bradford calculated the milk loss to amount to less than \$20 US in lost revenue, which would be dramatically offset by the fact that male dairy-beef calves generally fetch double the sale price or more compared to purebred dairy calves. In the US, that difference currently is at least \$100 per head in most markets.

Both milk components and post-calving reproductive efficiency were unaffected by sire type. There was a significant but minor increase in somatic cell count (SCC) in cows that carried crossbreds.

Berry evaluated the data not just on dairy versus beef sires, but also looked at beef breeds, sire carcass weights and conformation (muscling). While breed differences did exist, they were very minor. "The most important comparison was beef breeds in general versus Holstein-Friesian, and even then, the differences were minimal," he said.

One element of caution regarding beef genetics is that some bulls can contribute to greater calving difficulty. The impact of such was removed from the analysis so that the testing of the study hypothesis was not clouded by calving difficulty. Berry advised dairy producers to strategically utilize calving ease data when selecting beef sires.

Another advantage of using beef sires: no inbreeding concerns. "In the Holstein breed, we have to be so careful with our matings to avoid inbreeding; this is not an issue at all when breeding to beef sires," said Berry. "As long as demand is there for beef animals, crossbreeding with beef sires is an area of huge potential for dairy producers."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 64

## Prickly Pear Simmental Ranch

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Gibbs 3009A Element

CE	BW	WW	YW	ADG	MCE
9	2.1	88	140	.32	6
Milk	MWW	DOC	CW	YG	
28	72	11	48	-.48	
MB	BF	REA	\$API	\$TI	
.40	-.103	1.03	148	92	

His Sons Sell!



Hook's Eagle 6E

CE	BW	WW	YW	ADG	MCE
14	-1.7	101	163	.39	8.5
Milk	MWW	DOC	CW	YG	
20	71	20	49	-.30	
MB	BF	REA	\$API	\$TI	
.59	-.039	1.13	172	104	

His Sons Sell!



Ellingson Blazer X37

CE	BW	WW	YW	ADG	MCE
3	5.9	80	120	.27	16
Milk	MWW	DOC	CW	YG	
29	69	11	30.7	-.54	
MB	BF	REA	\$API	\$TI	
0	-.09	1.27	110	71	

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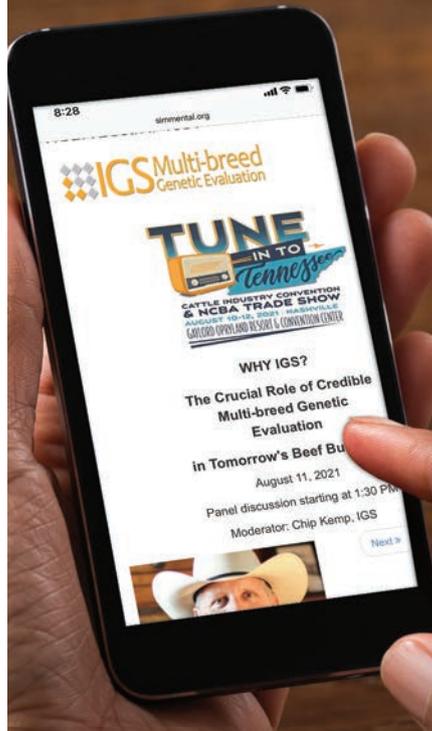
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# INDUSTRY UPDATE

CONTINUED

## Less Bacteria in Organic Meats

Meat that has been certified organic by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) is less likely to be contaminated with drug-resistant bacteria than conventionally produced animal protein, a new study indicates. Organic-certified meats were 56% less likely to be tainted with multidrug-resistant organisms, according to the findings by researchers at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. The results come from nationwide testing of meats from 2012–2017 as part of the US National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System (NARMS), developed in 1996 to track antibiotic resistance in bacteria from retail meats, farm animals, and those sickened with foodborne illness. The study involved 39,348 meat samples, 1,422 of which were found to contain at least one multidrug resistant organism. The rate of contamination was 4% in the conventionally produced meat samples and just under 1% in the organic meat samples.

The researchers analyzed US Food and Drug Administration–NARMS data from randomly sampled chicken breast, ground beef, ground turkey, and pork for any contamination and for contamination by multidrug-resistant organisms. The analysis covered four types of bacteria: *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter*, *Enterococcus*, and *Escherichia coli*. Conventional meats processed at plants that only produce conventional animal protein were contaminated with bacteria one-third of the time, while those handled at facilities that process conventional and organic meats were contaminated one-quarter of the time. “The required disinfection of equipment between processing batches of organic and conventional meats may explain our

findings of reduced bacterial contamination on products from facilities that process both types of meats,” Meghan Davis, associate professor in the Department of Environmental Health and Engineering at Johns Hopkins, said in a news release.

## Beef Checkoff Finds Most Consumers View Beef as Nutritious

Americans are currently more open to the nutritional benefits of beef than at any other time since Beef Checkoff began 35 years ago, according to the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association.

Started at a time when US dietary guidelines encouraged consumers to limit beef consumption, Beef Checkoff has funded research “to demonstrate the importance of beef in a balanced diet,” Becky Walth, South Dakota producer and member of the Nutrition & Health Committee said Wednesday in a news release.

Seventy-five percent of consumers agree that beef is nutritious, while scientists, physicians, and dietitians consistently recommend beef, the trade group stated.

Studies illustrate beef’s role in good nutrition, with one finding eating as much as five-and-a-half ounces of lean beef daily as part of a heart healthy diet, Beef Checkoff said. Other research found a Mediterranean diet that included 7–18 ounces of lean red meat per week can improve cardio metabolic disease risk factor profiles.

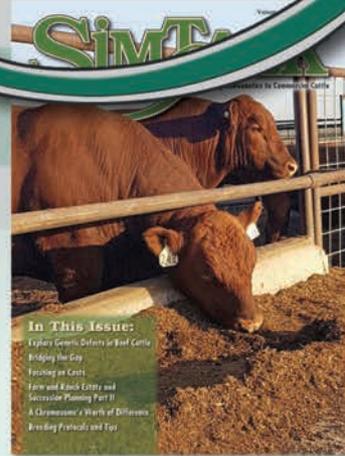
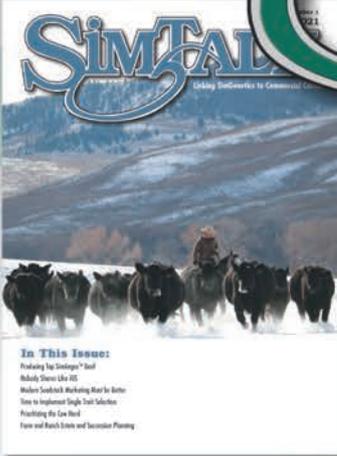
Beef Checkoff’s efforts come amid more headlines casting negative light on red meat.

Eating beef, lamb, pork, and processed meats raises the risk of coronary heart disease later in life, according to a new University of Oxford meta-analysis of studies on over 1.4 million people followed for 30 years.

**ST**

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Linking SimGenetics to Commercial Cattle



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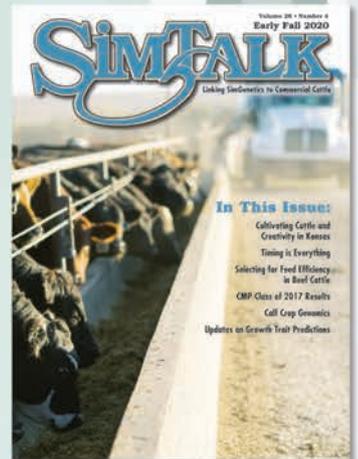
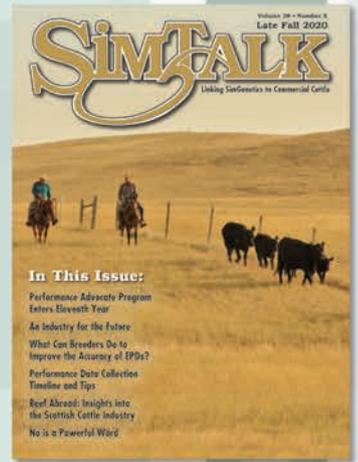
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	Sales Close	Ad Materials	Camera Ready	Mail Date
Late Fall 2021	Sept 21	Sept 24	Oct 8	Oct 25
January 2022	Dec 3	Dec 10	Dec 17	Jan 12
March 2022	Jan 20	Jan 28	Feb 10	Mar 2
Breeder Directory 2022	May 3	May 10	May 25	June 15
Early Fall 2022	July 22	July 29	Aug 12	Aug 30



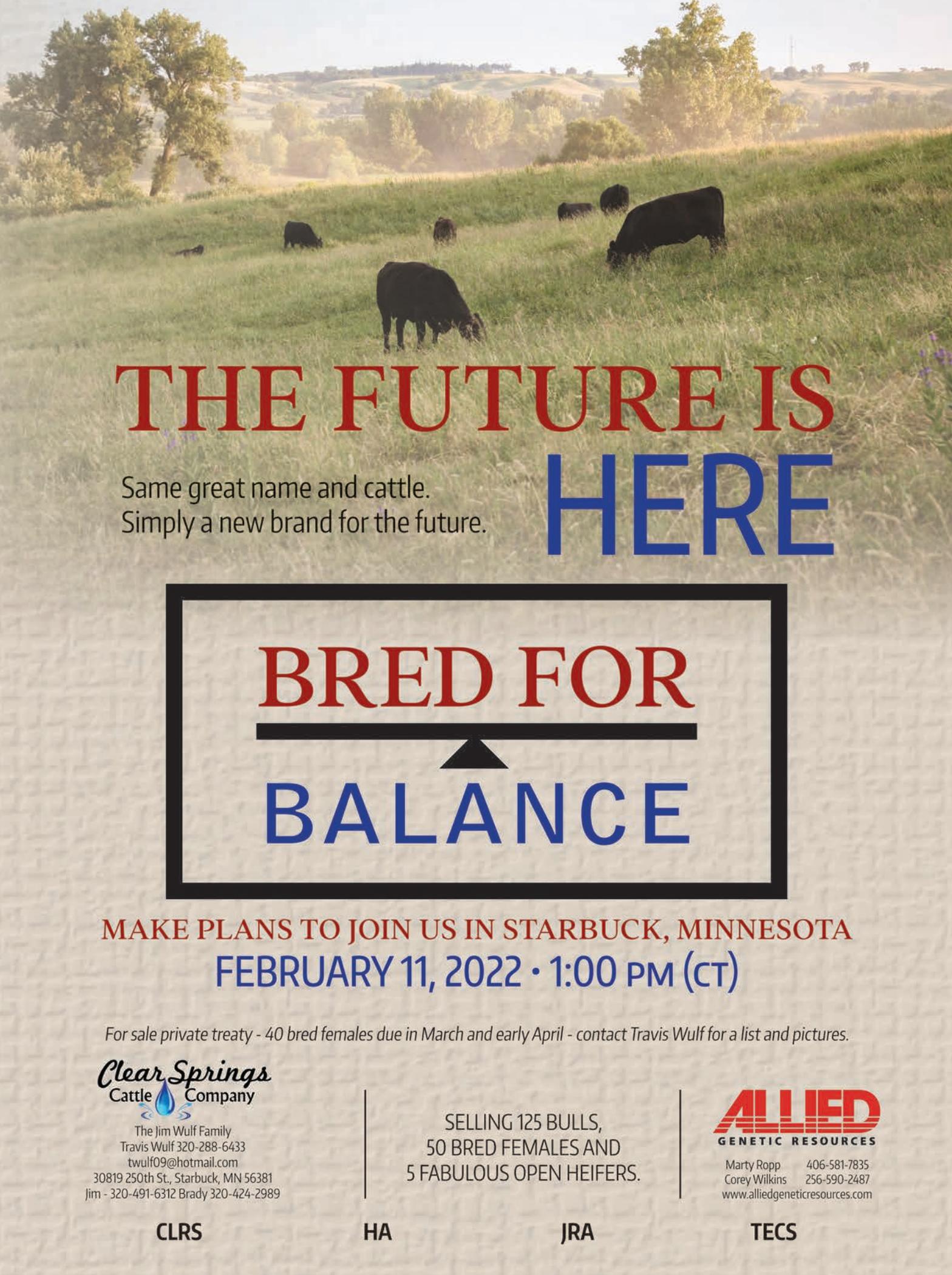
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# Simmental and Bison Genomes Released



*Plains bison bull like that used in the interspecies cross.  
Photo courtesy of USDA, ARS.*

The first reference-quality genome assemblies for the iconic North American Yellowstone bison and the Simmental cattle breed have been published in the *Journal of Heredity*. Animal genome assemblies provide genetic “blueprints” for how they develop and pass on information to their offspring.

The bison assembly will be used in conservation efforts to maintain genetic diversity, and to study bison evolution by comparing DNA obtained from fossil specimens sampled from permafrost in the Arctic Circle. The Simmental cattle assembly will contribute to an international effort to survey existing cattle breeds around the world to preserve their genetic diversity and identify variation useful for improving beef and dairy traits in different environments. The two genomes are released together because of the unusual way they were created: a single individual hybrid animal from a bison bull and a Simmental cow. Each cell of the hybrid animal contained one copy of the bison and one copy of the Simmental cattle genome.

Researchers used a process called trio-binning, wherein the genome of a single individual and its purebred parents are fully sequenced. With interspecies crosses, this results in a complete, highly accurate genome assembly from each species. These extraordinary high-quality reference genomes meet or exceed the most accurate and complete mammalian genome assemblies to date.

These resources were created by researchers from the USDA’s Agricultural Research Service at the US Meat Animal Research Center (USMARC), the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC), the National Animal Germplasm Program (NAGP), and the US Dairy Forage Research Center (USDFRC). This effort was in partnership with the American Simmental Association (ASA), together with university partners at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln (UNL),



*Simmental donor cow (BHR LADY SIEG C235E) and her calf from the previous year. Photo courtesy of Michael Heaton.*

Colorado State University (CSU), and the University of California — Santa Cruz (UCSC).

According to the authors, “The best genome assemblies to date come from interspecies hybrids. They are more contiguous and accurate than those from individuals of the same species.” This was previously shown with the yak–Scottish Highland cattle cross.

“This high-quality bison genome provides a snapshot of the current state of buffalo in North America,” says professor Beth Shapiro, whose group led the bison assembly and uses ancient DNA to study evolutionary biology at UCSC. “It will be useful for comparing to ancient bison genomes, which are too fragmented to assemble on their own. From this we can infer the natural history of the species and identify when and where cattle may have introgressed into bison.” The data also shed light on how much the near-extinction and intentional crossbreeding of bison and cattle have affected existing herds.

The reproductive effort to produce the hybrid animal was accomplished with Simmental producer Fred Schuetze, president of the World Simmental-Fleckvieh Federation, and managing partner of SOT (formerly with Buzzard Hollow Ranch in Granbury, Texas), and the assistance of Drs. Brad and Todd Stroud of Hoof-Stock Genetics. The donor cow was a fullblood Fleckvieh Simmental, a breed recognized for its fast growth and beef yield.

“From its founding in 1968 to this day, ASA has been committed to leveraging cutting-edge science and collaboration to accelerate genetic improvement for its members and the beef industry. That unwavering commitment has gained ASA the reputation as ‘the science breed’ and this project illustrates that notion,” says ASA executive vice president, Dr. Wade Shafer.

“The completion of this project sets the new standards for genetic improvement,” Schuetze adds.

The Simmental assembly will be compared to previous genomes of Angus, Hereford, Brahman, Highland, Holstein, and Jersey breeds, along with others emerging from a USDA-led effort to sample the 600 or so breeds existing around the world, to identify genetic components that lead some breeds to excel at dairy or beef production, or to thrive in tropical, subtropical, temperate, or subpolar environments. The authors conclude, "These assemblies represent the application of the latest technologies for genome assembly and they provide unprecedented insights into the nature of how evolution and domestication have shaped the genomes." An improved understanding of how selection has affected the genome will help to speed genetic progress for precision agriculture and to avoid counterproductive breeding before it happens, providing another tool for increasing beef and dairy production important for food security, while maximizing sustainability.



*Simmental donor cow (BHR LADY SIEG C235E).  
Photo courtesy of Fred Schuetze.*

Read more about this project on the Oxford Academic GigaScience site  
GigaScience: <https://academic.oup.com/gigascience>  
Search "Genome Assembly yak-Scottish Highland" or go to the article's URL:  
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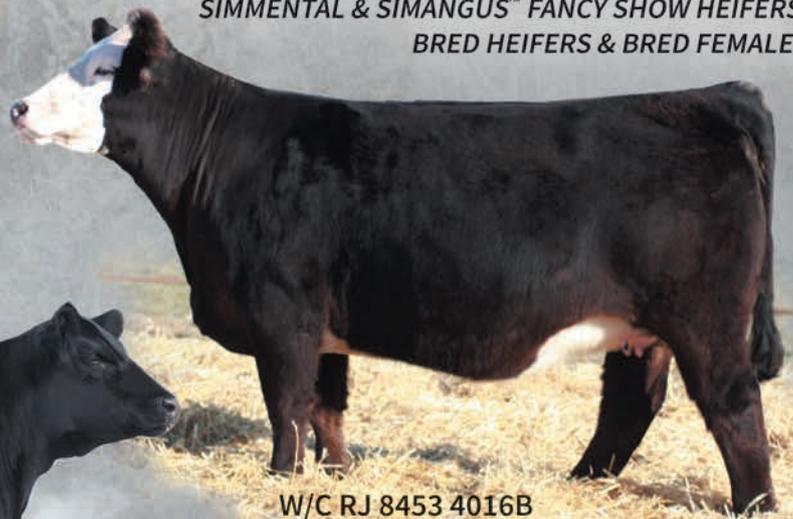


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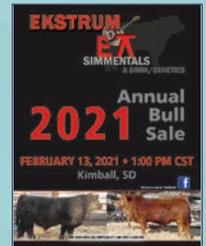
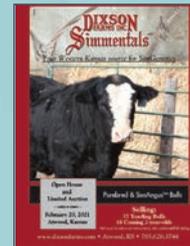
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# CALENDAR

## SEPTEMBER

- 4 Four Starr Genetics' 3rd Annual Production Sale — Eugene, MO
- 4 North Carolina Fall Harvest Sale — Union Grove, NC
- 5 Midwest Fleck Event — Osawatomie, KS
- 8 Trauernicht Simmental's Customer Appreciation Event — Wymore, NE
- 11 ETSSA and HOTSSA Fall Fest 2021 — Henderson, TX,
- 11 Kentucky Fall Sale — Lexington, KY
- 15 Gonsalves Ranch's Bulls Eye Breeders Angus and SimAngus™ Bull Sale — Modesto, CA
- 18 Family Matters Sale — Auburn, KY (pg. 60)
- 18 Fleckvieh Heritage Sale — Roland, OK
- 19 Illini Elite Simmental Sale — Shelbyville, IL (pg. 11)
- 23 2021 Beef Solutions Bull sale — Ione, CA (pg. 7)
- 23 Werning Cattle Company's Pasture Sale — [www.sconlinesales.com](http://www.sconlinesales.com)
- 25 Ferguson Show Cattle's 4th Annual Rare Vintage Production Sale — Jefferson, OH (pgs. 70, 71)
- 25 Head of the Class Sale — Louisburg, KS
- 25-26 Synergy XIV Sale — Giddings, TX
- 25 The Seedstock Connection Sale — Lyles, TN (pg. 83)
- 26-27 Fall Fiesta Simmental Sale — [www.dponlinesales.com](http://www.dponlinesales.com)
- 29 Trennepohl Farms' The Early Opportunity Sale — Middletown, IN

## OCTOBER

- 1 Buckeye's Finest Sale — Zanesville, OH (pgs. 39, 47)
- 2 Factory Direct Sale — West Lafayette, IN
- 3 "Our Vision, Your Future" Sale — Chalmers, IN
- 3 Traynham Ranches' Bull and Female Sale — Fort Klamath, OR
- 3 WSA Midwest Fall Round-Up Sale — Lancaster, WI
- 8 Ladies of the Lone Star Sale — Grand Saline, TX (pg. 81)
- 9 Blackjack and Guests Female Production Sale — Seminole, OK
- 9 New Direction Sale — Seward, NE (pg. 38)
- 9 Trinity Farms' 4th Annual "Generations of Excellence" Female Sale — Ellensburg, WA
- 11 Burlap and Barbed Wire Vol. VI Female Sale — Clay Center, KS (pgs. 18-19)
- 12-13 R.A. Brown Ranch's 47th Annual Sale — Throckmorton, TX (pg. 13)
- 15 Buckles and Banners Sale — West Point, IA
- 16 Fred Smith Company Ranch's Extra Effort Sale — Clayton, NC (pg. 27)
- 16 Gerloff Farms' Bull Fest Sale — Bland, MO (pg. 54)
- 16 Indiana Performance Bull Test Sale — Springville, IN
- 16 MN Beef Expo - White Satin On Ice and All Breeds Sale — Minneapolis, MN
- 23 Clear Choice Female Sale — Milan, IN (pg. 36)
- 23 Magnolia Classic — Starkville, MS (pg. 15)
- 23 New Day Genetics' Fall Bull Sale — Salem, MO (pg. 77)
- 23 Pennsylvania Fall Classic Sale — Waynesburg, PA
- 29 27th Annual Hokie Harvest Sale — Blacksburg, VA
- 30 7P Ranch's 46th Annual Production Sale — Tyler, TX (pg. 5)
- 30 Bred for Profit Sale — Marion, MI
- 30 H2O's Cattle Laser Focused Production Sale — Walkerton, IN
- 30 High Ridge Farms' Genetic Opportunity Sale — Albemarle, NC
- 30 Red Hill Farms' "Bulls of Fall VII" Sale — Lafayette, TN (pg. 84)
- 30 Yon Family Farms Fall Sale — Ridge Spring, SC

## NOVEMBER

- 1 Hanel's Black Simmentals' "The Female Sale" — Courtland, KS
- 6 25th Annual Southern Showcase Sale — Rome, GA
- 6 Cason's Pride and Joy Simmentals' Maternally Inspired Female Sale — Russell, IA
- 6 Dakota Ladies Sale — Worthing, SD
- 6 Irvine Ranch Annual Production Sale — Manhattan, KS (pg. 86)
- 7 Triangle J Ranch's Female Sale — Miller, NE (pgs. 38, 43)
- 13 Deer Creek Farm's Annual Bull Sale and Open House — Lowesville, VA
- 13 Gibbs Farms' 16th Annual Bull and Replacement Female Sale — Ranburne, AL (pg. 85)
- 15 Bichler Production Sale — Linton, ND
- 15 Houck Rock Creek Ranch's Fall Private Treaty Sale — Allen, KS
- 19 Heartland Simmental's Performance with Class Sale — Waverly, IA
- 20 Callaway Cattle Company's AffordaBULL Sale, — Hogansville, GA
- 20 Driggers Simmental Farm 10th Annual Bull Sale — Glennville, GA (pg. 50)
- 20-23 LMC and Friends "Giving THANKS" Online Donation Sale VII — [www.lamuecattle.com](http://www.lamuecattle.com)
- 20 Next Step Cattle Co., 9th Annual "Boot Brand Genetics" Bull Sale — Livingston, AL



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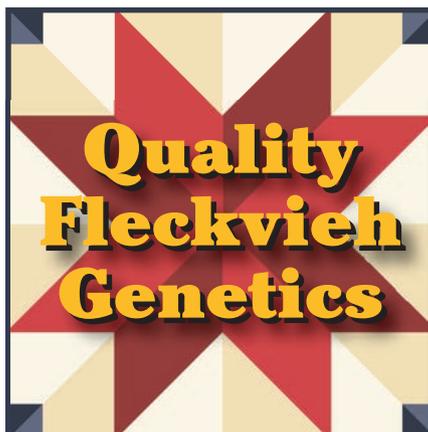


**ACCREDITED CALVING EASE** - Simply find bulls with the ACE logo for third party Accredited, secure Calving Ease bulls. The reduced risk that comes with this genomic certification will simply make your decisions easier and your

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R&R SUDDEN IMPACT F813 son SAPI 134.2 | \$TI 85.2



New Day H55 ASA 3724282  
R&R SUDDEN IMPACT F813 son SAPI 167.7 | \$TI 90.6



New Day 0239H ASA 3723800  
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New Day G104 ASA 3865909  
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TJ FRANCHISE 451D son SAPI 142.6 | \$TI 84.1

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For All Your Advertising Needs



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**S**imTalk is an 8 1/8 x 10 7/8 inch publication produced by *the Register*, the official publication of the American Simmental Association. Published four times annually, *SimTalk* is a glossy, full-color publication with a circulation that targets commercial users of SimGenetics. Advertising in *SimTalk* provides a unique opportunity to brand and trademark your program to thousands of potential customers. If you are serious about communicating with the commercial beef business, consider an advertising presence in every one of our four annual issues.

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## Selling Elite Full Fleckvieh Bulls and Females March 2022

### Brink Bulls Improve Pay Weight and Profitability



**Brink D600 ET – Herdsire**  
Brink Focus W952 x Brink Lady Rite Z204

## BRINK GENETICS

23098 Gunder Road • Elkader, Iowa 52043  
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### Progeny Data on Brink Fleckvieh

Eight semi loads of steers and heifers

Average weight 1,393 lbs

62.43 – Yield

25.3% – Prime

70% – Choice

75% – Yield Grade 2

23% – Yield Grade 3

2% – Yield Grade 4

Owner White Heart Ranch, ND, has  
been purchasing Brink Fleckvieh  
bulls since 2007.



### RRF JOY 605J

February | 3/4 Simmental | ASA: 3921849  
JBSF Berwick 41F x CMFM Joy 02ZB  
*Maternal sister to WLE Copacetic E02!*



### RRF SAZERAC 612J

February | 3/4 Simmental | ASA: 3921848  
WLE Copacetic E02 x HPF Sazerac A332  
*Elite cow families line her pedigree!*



### RRF GOLDEN 011J

March | Purebred Simmental | ASA: 3921820  
WLE Copacetic E02 x CMFT Golden 5E  
*Standout March show heifer/donor prospect!*



### RRF LOLA 205H

Purebred Simmental | ASA: 3752944  
SC Pay the Price C11 x OBCC Lola 137Z  
*Safe in calf to THSF Lover Boy B33!*



### MMM-RRF TIARA 408G

1/2 Simmental | ASA: 3752895  
KR Casino 6243 x KCC1 Tiara 130Z  
*Safe in calf to THSF Lover Boy B33!*



### ROCKING P BUILT TO LOVE H046

Purebred Simmental | ASA: 3768112  
CDI Innovator 325D x RP/CMFM Built to Love  
*Safe in calf to HPF Quantum Leap 7952!*



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# Ladies of the Lone Star Sale

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6:00 PM IN GRAND SALINE, TEXAS



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AK Phillips, General Manager - 606-584-1046  
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Tim Anderson - 605-682-9343  
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ASA 3337211

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REFERENCE

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Coleman Charlo x Blackcap May 2397  
Offering two SimAngus progeny plus exciting genetic opportunities from this crowd favorite.



ASA 3030013

W/C United x MF Vanilla Bean  
Due January with heifer calf by Proclamation  
Selling the direct daughter of Martin's \$18K record-high-seller plus Vanilla Bean embryos!



REFERENCE

Introducing MF/Circle M Bluebell  
Blue Roan Purebred Simmental  
Bluebell's pedigree stacks two of the oldest and most proven cow families in the Martin Farms 50-year program.  
Selling a heifer calf pregnancy & embryos by the champion, CDI Innovator!



ASA 3809754

Gibbs Tux & Tails x SAV Blackcap May 6605  
Selling a full sister and this baldy maker SimAngus bull out of the \$60K maternal sister to Blackcap May 4136!



ASA 3670616

S A V Raindance x MF Unanimous  
Due October to CLRS Guardian!

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MartinFarmsBeef.com  
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B J Pruitt, Farm Manager  
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Matt & Terri Van Slyke  
7509 Nolensville Rd | Nolensville, TN  
615-417-6035

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 Total Herd Enrollment (THE) . IFC, 6, 28, 36, 37, 38, 39

## Fertility ... Longevity ... Profitability.



At Red Hill Farms, we are proud to offer consistent genetics that rank at the top of the breeds for economic indices. Maternal traits, such as calving ease, low maintenance energy requirements and high conception rates reinforce what we already know – profitability starts with the cow. Additionally, profitability is intensified when cattle grow and grade. Profitability truly is pasture to plate!

CE	BW	WW	YW	ADG	MCE	Milk	MWW	ST	DOC	CW	YG	MARB	BF	REA	API	TI
19.7	-4.8	67.6	104.8	0.23	10.7	31.4	65.2	22.7	11.9	23.9	-0.35	0.62	-0.057	0.85	188.8	93.4
1%	1%	85%	75%	55%	2%	5%	30%	2%	40%	75%	85%	1%	95%	55%	1%	4%

\*EPDs as of 8-9-21

**BULLS & FEMALES OF FALL**  
**VII**  
 Saturday, October 30, 2021  
 11 a.m. CDT • At the Farm

**Selling:**

50 Red Angus, SimAngus™ & Cross-Ty Bulls  
 70 Commercial & Registered Bred Heifers

**DVAuction** Broadcasting Real-time Auctions



Visit [www.RedHillFarms.net](http://www.RedHillFarms.net) for information about our sale and breeding program.

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**ST**

# GF

# Genetics That Matter

16<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL Bull & Replacement Female Sale

RANBURNE, AL **November 13, 2021** 11:00 AM CST

175 Fall Yearling Bulls - 200 Bred & Open Replacement Females



**0098H** ASA# 3882816  
SIMANGUS - BALDRIDGE BEAST MODE SON

CE	BW	WW	YW	MARB	RE	SAPI	STI
14.4	-0.5	84.5	141.8	0.82	0.55	177.1	97.4



**0152H** ASA# 3882870  
SIMANGUS - RC XCEED 063D SON

CE	BW	WW	YW	MARB	RE	SAPI	STI
10.6	0.3	85.3	143.4	0.84	0.44	159.9	96.7



**0499H** ASA# 3883210  
SIMANGUS - GIBBS STONEWALL SON

CE	BW	WW	YW	MARB	RE	SAPI	STI
17.8	-3.7	75.3	120.3	0.56	0.66	165.8	90.1



**0201H** ASA# 3882918  
PB SM - HOOK'S EAGLE SON

CE	BW	WW	YW	MARB	RE	SAPI	STI
14.1	-1.1	94.6	153.0	0.41	1.04	169.0	99.6



**0226H** ASA# 3882943  
SIMANGUS - REDHILL 231A SON

CE	BW	WW	YW	MARB	RE	SAPI	STI
13.7	-1.2	85.0	137.1	0.68	0.95	173.7	95.0



**0193H** ASA# 3882910  
SIMANGUS - BRIDLE BIT ECLIPSE SON

CE	BW	WW	YW	MARB	RE	SAPI	STI
22.9	-5.8	80.6	126.2	0.70	0.37	188.9	99.3

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Doug Gibbs 404-717-2264  
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*Join Irvine Ranch and our forward thinking customers in the quest for...*

## Improving Cow Productivity...

Cows that last longer and have greater lifetime productivity on the same set of resources.



## Improving Feedlot Cost of Gain...

By 2026, we envision pens of IR sired cattle regularly converting 4.0 lbs of dry matter/lb gain, while gaining 4.5+ lbs/day.



## Improving End Product Value...

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**November 6, 2021**

For a catalog or more info please visit our website or call John @ (785) 313-7473

[www.IrvineRanchGenetics.com](http://www.IrvineRanchGenetics.com)

## 70 Stout Bulls



PB SM

API \$194, TI \$97



1/2 SM 1/2 AN

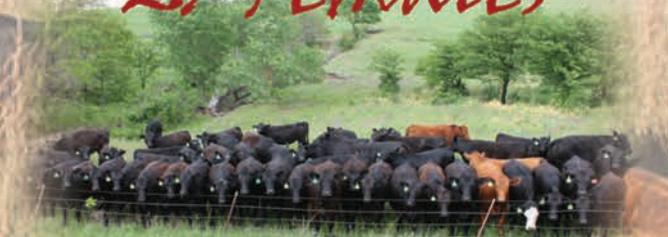
API \$192, TI \$104



1/2 SM 1/2 AN

API \$175, TI \$107

## 25 Females



*Including feed efficiency tested SimAngus heifers, AI bred to an IR high efficiency sire!*

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## 42<sup>ND</sup> Annual Gateway Bull Sale

Monday, February 7, 2022 at Noon

Offering 250 Bulls at the Ranch near Lewistown, MT



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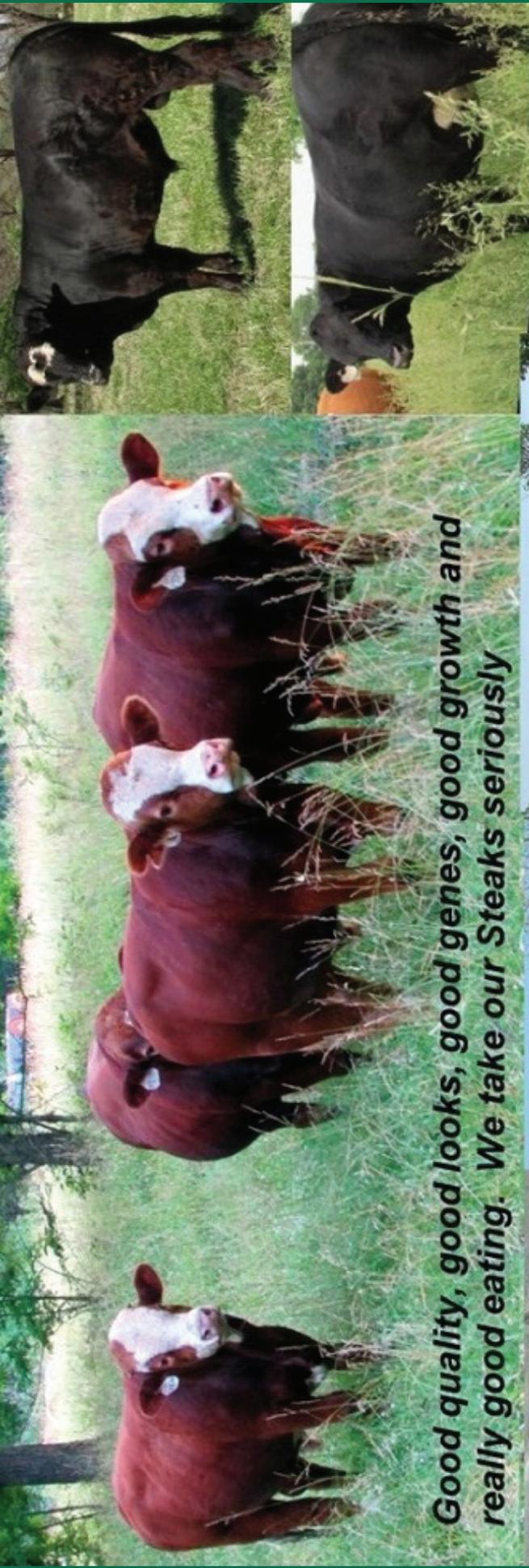
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