

Simmentales

**Targeted News from
The Industry Heavyweights**

Issue 30 ■ August 2016

HI EVERYONE,

Hopefully by the time you read this, the light at the end of the winter tunnel is visible somewhere in the distance! For most, bull selling season is past, and it was great to see and hear of so many solid sales around the country. Undoubtedly, you are all eagerly awaiting the arrival of your new season's calves so you can get the first glimpse of some new blood lines or genetic crosses.

INTRODUCING TRACEY NEAL NEW COUNCIL MEMBER

My name is Tracey Neal and as the new kid (councillor) on the block, I've been asked to do something I hope will become a tradition rather than a one minute wonder. It has nothing to do with obscure initiation rituals (which I know some of you were hoping for) but rather more about recognising that the Simmental Society, as with all groups big and small, has an ever changing membership. That means although some of us may know each other very well (and some better than others - hands up who knows all the words to 'The Gambler'?) there are always new group members who struggle to put names to faces and vice versa - especially when we are all so geographically diverse. So in the best interests of starting a new tradition and because our esteemed President asked me to so nicely, here is my brief bio as the newest councillor for NZ Simmental Society.



My husband Andrew and I began our stud 'Potawa' at Piopio in the North Island in 2002, having bought the majority of the 'Misty Moor' herd from the Woolston family at Mokauiti (near Piopio). At the time our son Hamish was 3 years old. We had a Hereford Friesian cross cow

herd and had trialled many beef breeds over them and came back to Simmental as the unmatched terminal cross for growth and yield in a cross bred finishing operation.

We have sourced more female genetics from throughout the country, as well as having bought bulls from many different studs, as with all other breeders constantly trying to improve our cow herd and produce bulls that our clients want to buy. Our primary focus in our area has been temperament first, farmers have long memories and this area was tainted by poor temperament Simmentals for a long time. We are constantly trying to improve our carcass figures but lately have found ourselves having to look very hard at the structure of our cattle, as although we haven't had any major breakdowns, we are concerned about the wastage percentage of the bulls (those who don't measure up for sale). Our motto has always been, if we wouldn't use it, we won't sell it.

This spring we will be calving 70 M/A cows and 41 R2 heifers, along with lambing 2000 ewes on our 630 ha property. As I write this, we are thinking of issuing snorkels to all expectant Mums, the big concern is this may be the rainfall for this year and summer will dry up... but OMG we are wet. No sympathy I know from those who are dry but yes we all have our challenges to face.

That is what makes NZ a fascinatingly diverse place to farm and breed Simmental in!

These are exciting times for the breed and I am looking forward to being a part of the Council going forward. Cohesive breed promotion is an area we have been lacking in and new developments are giving us a potential focus to make major changes in that area. Right now, all I can say is, if there is a Beef + Lamb Genetics Field day in your area, go along and see what the results are. Also, if you are a newer breeder, try to get to some of the few Simmental gatherings when they are held. We have all made friends within the Society, because we all share a very big thing in common - a passion for Simmental.

Lastly, please read all of your news from Simmental, they don't send out much, you don't get inundated every week, so most of what you do get is important and pertinent to you and your stud business.

Look forward to seeing old friends and making new, next time we meet

Cheers,
Tracey Neal

TRU-TEST BEEF EXPO ROUND UP

Once again Simmental was well represented in all aspects of this year's Beef Expo. While numbers were not huge – the cattle presented for sale were of a very high quality, and all exhibitors need to be congratulated for producing such quality stock.



HEAVY WEIGHT CROSS BRED STEER (OVERALL)

SPONSORED BY SIMMENTAL NZ

1st 27 Kerrah Simmental

CHAMPION HEAVY WEIGHT STEER (OVERALL)

SPONSORED BY LAKE STATION HEREFORDS

Champion 27 Kerrah Simmental

CHAMPION STEER (OVERALL)

SPONSORED BY NA PUTEPUTI HEREFORDS

Champion 27 Kerrah Simmental

FUTURE BEEF

Our younger participants had a very busy weekend involved in Future Beef activities. This is a fantastic event to promote and encourage youth into the beef industry, and once again SNZ was a class sponsor. The Simmental and Simmental x cattle on display were a real showcase for our breed and the time and effort the participants put into this event is really appreciated. Here is a precis of the results:



NZ HEREFORD ASSOCIATION HEIFER SHOW PURE BRED HEIFER

SPONSORED BY THE LANGTRY FAMILY

1st 1 Glen Anthony Simmental

3rd 3 Glen Anthony Simmental

4th 2 Glen Anthony Simmental

GRAND CHAMPION HEIFER

SPONSORED BY PBBNZ

Champion 1 Glen Anthony Simmental

2016 HOOF & HOOK COMPETITION RESULTS

HOOF RESULTS

HEAVY WEIGHT PURE BRED STEER (HOOF)

SPONSORED BY NZ SHORTHORN ASSOCIATION

3rd 24 Kerrah Simmental

HEAVY WEIGHT CROSS BRED STEER (HOOF)

SPONSORED BY RAVENSDOWN

1st 27 Kerrah Simmental

CHAMPION HEAVY WEIGHT STEER (HOOF)

SPONSORED BY KENHARDT ANGUS

Champion 27 Kerrah Simmental

GRAND CHAMPION STEER (HOOF)

SPONSORED BY GENERATION ANGUS NZ

Res Champ 27 Kerrah Simmental

HOOK RESULTS

HEAVY WEIGHT PURE BRED STEER (HOOK)

Sponsored by NZ Charolais Cattle Society

3rd 24 Kerrah Simmental

4th 28 Kerrah Simmental

HEAVY WEIGHT CROSS BRED STEER (HOOK)

SPONSORED BY NZX AGRI

3rd = 27 Kerrah Simmental

OVERALL RESULTS

HEAVY WEIGHT PURE BRED STEER (OVERALL)

SPONSORED BY

LAKE STATION HEREFORDS

2nd 24 Kerrah Simmental

HANDLER COMPETITION INTERMEDIATE OPEN

SPONSORED BY NZ HEREFORD ASSOCIATION

1st 32 Lauren Knauf

2nd 31 Tessa Knauf

SENIOR NOVICE

1st 73 Isabelle Hobbs

2nd 63 Pietro Aloisi

3rd 77 Holly Sandoe

SENIOR OPEN

1st 67 Georgia Davies

2nd 66 Lucy Collin

3rd 69 Hannah Gibb

GRAND CHAMPION HANDLER

Champion 67 Georgia Davies

Res Champ 66 Lucy Collin

FBNZ MODULES

SPONSORED BY PBBNZ

JUNIOR

1st 5 Thomas Hayward

2nd 2 Sam Cranstone

3rd 11 Ella McWilliam

INTERMEDIATE

1st 26 Cara Doggett

2nd 49 Georgia Whitworth

3rd 47 Meg Simpson

SENIOR

1st 76 Emma Pollitt

2nd 67 Georgia Davies

3rd 69 Hannah Gibb



JUDGING COMPETITION

SPONSORED BY BEEF + LAMB NZ

JUNIOR

- 1st 7 Jessica Hayward
- 2nd 4 Tayla Hansen
- 3rd 17 Libby Stewart

INTERMEDIATE

- 1st 31 Tessa Knauf
- 2nd 35 Michaela McCracken
- 3rd 20 Niamh Barnett

SENIOR

- 1st = 66 Lucy Collin
- 1st = Emma Pollitt
- 3rd 71 Anthony Herries



Future Beef NZ Champion Overall Steer –
Kerrah Simmental crossbred steer exhibited by Tessa Knauf
(from left: Amy Hoogenboom, Marty Crafar, Tessa Knauf)



Future Beef NZ Grand Champion Heifer –
Glen Anthony AD0003 exhibited by Tayla Hansen

ALLFLEX NZ CHAMPION HEIFER

There was a lovely line up of heifers in the Queen of Hearts sale. A slight change of format this year meant there were two categories to be judged – a visual category and a performance category based on the animals EBV's. Then an overall champion was selected from the place getters of two classes. Placings were as follows...

Visual Class

- 1st Glen Anthony Darline
- 2nd Kerrah Design
- 5th Gold Creek Hilda
- 6th Glen Anthony Dazzle

Performance Class

- 1st Kerrah Design
- 5th Kerrah Diamond

Overall Champion – Kerrah Design Reserve Champion – Glen Anthony

An exciting win for Kerrah Simmentals, the first time they have won the Champion in this event and continuing with what I think we could now say is Simmentals' domination of this title.

Kerrah Design went on to top the heifer sale, selling to Hampton Downs Stud for \$4200.



Allflex Heifer Championship Winner (from left):
Sam Knauf, Kerrah Design, Charlotte Berrett (handler),
Lauren Knauf, Tessa Knauf, Ben Knauf, Jon Knauf.

BULLS

Jon Knauf had a busy time judging the Simmental bulls at Beef Expo- as always it was a challenging job. We would like to thank Jon for stepping in at the last minute as Alastair Miln had a funeral to attend. Supreme Champion bull for the second year in a row was won by John and Helen Hammond. This year's entry, Ruaview Pinetree, was well presented in the ring by Georgia Davies. Reserve Champion went to Glen Anthony Ceaser. Ruaview Pinetree went on to be the highest priced Simmental bull sold at expo for \$14,000 to Glenside Simmentals.

On behalf of the vendors, SNZ would like to thank the many people who supported the sales at Beef Expo, both by purchasing and underbidding. Your support is always appreciated, and we wish you well with your purchases.



Ruaview Pinetree with
handler Georgia Davies

FEES REBATE

Looking at our latest budget projections, it is likely we will make another surplus this year. So like the past two years we have decided to offer a \$3 per female rebate based on your ADL return.

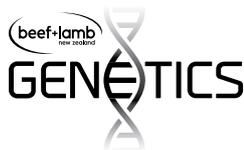
These were due on the 31st July, so hopefully you got yours in.



BREED TOUR

After discussions at the AGM in May, our members were feeling enthusiastic for a Breed Tour. So... if anyone is interested in hosting some sort of get together or tour, the opportunity is available. Feel free to contact a member of council with your ideas.

BLG BEEF PROGENY TEST UPDATE



An excellent update was given about this project by Graham Alder during the Beef Expo seminars. This is now viewable online by going to the Beef and Lamb Genetics website: www.blnggenetics.com/news/video-clips. Scroll down to find the one titled **2016 Update from B+LNZ Genetics – Graham Alder** (May 2016).

Lots of other interesting talks on here too!

- **COHORT ONE PROGENY ARE ON TRACK FOR PROCESSING THIS AUTUMN.**
- **COHORT TWO PROGENY ARE DUE TO BE BORN BETWEEN NOW AND CHRISTMAS.**
- **COHORT THREE PROGENY... NOMINATIONS FOR SIRES ARE NEEDED NOW.**

We invite our breeders to nominate potential sires for consideration for Cohort 3.

ADVANTAGES TO THE BREEDER IF YOUR BULL IS SELECTED FOR INCLUSION IN THE PROGENY TEST

1. **All progeny data will be incorporated into Breedplan**
2. **Actual carcass data on progeny. Currently carcass EBVs are driven by ultrasound and correlated traits so the inclusion of actual carcass data will enhance accuracy of these EBV's**
3. **Across breed comparison with Angus, Hereford and Charolais.**

So if you believe you have a sire worthy for consideration in Cohort 3 this spring we encourage you to nominate him. If ultimately selected, 26 units of frozen semen are required from the bull. Please either email: simmentalnz@pbbnz.com or ring Lindy with your nominated sire/s by Wednesday 7th September.

ULTRASOUND SCANNING REMINDER

Currently the main source of information Breedplan uses to produce carcass EBVs is ultrasound scanning. Breedplan currently produces EBVs for :

- Carcass Weight
- Eye Muscle Area
- Fat Depth
- Intramuscular Fat
- Retail Beef Yield

We encourage breeders to ultrasound scan all yearlings as we believe this is a real point of difference in terms of our breeds attributes versus the alternatives for commercial farmers.

To generate meaningful carcass data, it is a necessity to ultrasound scan.

To book your ultrasound scanning call Bill Austin (027) 410 0377.

MARKETING AND ADVERTISING

SNZ want to capitalize on the positive results our breed has demonstrated so far in the BLG Progeny Test. We are working with Tracta – a highly regarded marketing and advertising agency, to generate a strategy using these results to gain maximum benefit for our breed.

MERIAL ANCARE SPONSORSHIP

As part of the annual sponsorship we receive from Merial Ancare, we have the following product available for sale at a discounted rate.

- 3 x 2.5 litre Eclipse Pour On
- 1 x 5 litre Matrix 3 Way Combination Drench
- 1 x 1 litre Matrix 3 Way Combination Drench

Please contact John Hammond on 06 385 8040 or 0274 314 992 for more details. This is a mutually beneficial way to support our breed. We would also encourage you to support Merial Ancare when you are choosing your animal health products.

A&P JUDGES

Simmental NZ is always looking for people willing to judge cattle at A&P Show's right through to Royal level. John Hammond has kindly taken on the role of coordinating judges for Simmental NZ. The RAS does have a list of "approved judges" and we would like to increase Simmental's representation on this list. So if you are interested in upskilling in this area, please contact John on 06 385 8040 or 0274 314 992 to register your interest. He will then be able to inform you of any upcoming RAS workshops. Many of these events are across all breeds, so apart from the personal benefits; they are a great opportunity to network within the beef industry.

GENOMICS UPDATE

We spent time at our last meeting discussing the role of genomics for our breed. The rate of development of this technology is very rapid and genomics will play an important part as we seek to improve the genetic performance of our Simmental herd. The exact nature of how this will work has yet to be decided, but council wants the membership to know that we are working on this. We want to time it right so we don't "miss the boat" but are also aware that genomics testing is becoming more and more affordable over time. We have all the hair samples ever submitted to SNZ stored, so our previous diligence will put us in good stead when we decide to implement this technology.

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