Simmentales

Targeted News from
The Industry Heavyweights

Issue 23 ■ August 2014

HI EVERYONE,

Trust you are all surviving the winter months, and spring is just around the corner (we hope)! Recent happenings from Simmental NZ are….

ADL'S

ADL's are now overdue, so if yours is still outstanding please submit it to Linda Rule at PBB as soon as possible. Your ADL is what determines your cow numbers, and this in turn, determines your annual prelist fees. Council also uses this information for budget projections, so it is in everyone's interests to get this done. There are also a number of herds out there yet to send in their weaning weights for last autumn. This data, apart from letting you see the genetic progress you have made with this calf crop, also enhances the accuracy of their older siblings including the bulls you had for sale this winter. There is real value to getting those weights (and docility scores) in before the selling season.

DNA PROFILES OF BULLS USED IN SERVICE

A friendly reminder that all bulls used in service need to have a DNA profile loaded onto Internet Solutions if you wish to register any of the progeny. Council has allowed a phase in period for this rule, but want to make it clear **that all bulls used for 2014 spring joinings MUST have a DNA profile loaded onto Internet Solutions**. If this is not done, the progeny will not be able to be registered with Simmental NZ and will have no EBV's generated!

How do you know if this affects you? Check the registration page of an animal on Internet Solutions. If it has "temp" next to its status, the bull does not have a DNA profile loaded onto Internet Solutions. Some bulls, especially those whose genetics have entered New Zealand via imported semen, should have a profile already, but it needs to be sent to PBB. Also bulls who have had their sample processed by an alternative provider, eg Zoetis, will need to get their profile sent to PBB.

Council appreciates that it can be difficult (and may be impossible) to obtain a sample from a bull used a few seasons ago. However, there are no excuses for bulls/semen being used this spring. We strongly encourage you to be proactive rather than reactive – collect your sample **before** the bull goes out or semen is used.

For those of you wondering why we do this, the reasons are many. Genetic profiling of our cattle provides an effective method of tracing genetic defects that may occur in our breed in the future. Should such a situation arise, we will be well positioned to respond in a quick and effective manner, therefore minimising the damage. It allows parentage of progeny to be proven, making our record keeping even more accurate. It is going to help us respond more quickly to meeting market driven carcass qualities, keeping our breed at the forefront of industry development. The list goes on…

If you need envelopes for hair samples, or have questions relating to the status of a bull you have used, contact Sharyn Anderson at PBB.

DOCILITY EBV

The development of this trial EBV is moving along really well. Council would like to thank all studs who have come on board and submitted data last autumn. Eleven studs have submitted docility data for their 2013 born calves, up from seven last year, so that's great progress! For those of you who have yet to submit data, the ideal time for data collection is at weaning. A tip sheet, with docility descriptors is available on our website under the "performance recording protocols" section.

TAG ORDERS

PBB is effectively a co-operative structured business, and we are the shareholders. So if we as breeders all "get in behind PBB," we all stand to benefit. One way you can do this, is to purchase your ear tags through PBB. The service is knowledgeable, thorough, fast and cost competitive. To place a tag order, contact Megan or Sharyn at PBB.

FEES REBATE

Thanks to some very sound financial management and good returns on investments, we are looking at posting a financial surplus again this year. Council appreciates that when such a situation arises, we should endeavor to pass these benefits on to our membership. So this year, we are able to offer a $3/head rebate on all female registrations. Your account will be automatically adjusted to cater for this.

COMPLETENESS OF RECORDING

Congratulations to those who have received star ratings under this ABRI initiative. These ratings are automatically generated based on your performance recording data, and certainly give you an extra point of difference when promoting quality, registered Simmental cattle.

SimmentalNZ
working for your future prosperity

JOHN & HELEN ELLIS'S UK TRIP

Article written by Helen Ellis, Ashcott Park Simmentals

John and I have recently spent seven weeks in the U.K. and while the main purpose of our visit was not to look at Simmental cattle we enjoyed the hospitality of friends we made on the Congress Tour and whose company we have enjoyed when they visited New Zealand.

Phillipa and Tony Hurn's Twyford Stud in Norfolk is much more than just a herd of about fifty Simmental cows. They have a very commercial operation consisting of 2,500 acres of mainly arable land and as well as the Simmental Stud they have an Angus stud of around the same size and about 150 commercial Angus Simmental cross cows with a smattering of English Blue (Belgian Blue).

All the cows have to be housed for the winter and they calve in the sheds. Because they are housed for so long it is not illegal to trim feet in the U.K., it is essential because the feet do not have the chance to wear naturally. Having said that the Hurn's had recently had all the feet trimmed for the first time for three years and apparently most did not need it. We did not see a lame animal.

While the Hurn's still enjoy doing a little showing their main emphasis in both studs is to produce good sound cattle for the commercial market. Some of you may have met Ruby, their herd manager, when she was in New Zealand as a Youth Ambassador at the Angus World Forum.

The Simmental and Angus heifers in the photograph are both the same age - yearlings, both are Champions of their breed, both are hard fed of course but live together so have exactly the same treatment.

John and I continue to be impressed with the English cattle and are regretful that the New Zealand Simmental has moved so far away from the main attributes of the original cattle that created such an impression when they first arrived in New Zealand.

Simmental Cattle Breeders Society of New Zealand (Inc)
Email: simmentalnz@pbbnz.com ■ **www.simmental.co.nz**

Clockwise Small Photos, Top Left: John Hammond presents Jim Sanson with the Reserve Champion 2yr Simmental bull ribbon; Garry McCorkindale presents Colleen Knauf with the McDonald Trophy for the highest priced sire; Garry McCorkindale presents Tony & Glennis Thompson with the Levels Trophy; John Hammond and Lauren McWilliam with Champion Yearling Maungaraki Bison. **Bottom Large Photo:** John Hammond and Sue Wylie with Supreme Champion Glen Anthony Axel AA18.

PROGENY TESTING

Those of you who were fortunate enough to see the SFF Beef EQ presentation on our February Breed Tour, got a taste of how exciting this industry development is. If you missed it, Google it and you should find the YouTube clip. Simmental NZ is working on being a part of a progeny testing trial based around this development.

The project has the potential to identify which cattle within our breed will be highly influential in producing progeny with the desired carcass traits. With carcass traits being highly heritable, the promotion of the successful genetics will do a lot for our breed. Breeders need to be aware that a project like this is not designed to tell us "which breed is better", rather, "which genetics within our breed are producing carcass qualities that will earn financial premiums".

At this stage, in addition to analysing data from steers, the performance of heifers and their contribution as breeding stock will also be taken into account. So this is a long term project, taking many years.

So… If you are reading this, wondering what you can do as a breeder, one of the keys to selecting genetics, will be quality scanning data. So if you don't scan your cattle – please seriously consider it. If you do currently scan – please keep going, and **make sure you include IMF data at scanning**.

HEIFERS AT THE 2015 FBNZ HOOF & HOOK EVENT

fbnz INSPIRING INDUSTRY CAREERS

'HOOF & HOOK'

The executive have agreed to have heifers at our 2015 event - some details below:-

- Heifer must be born after 1st June 2014.
- Under 12's may bring a heifer only.
- Over 12's must bring a steer to be eligible to bring a heifer.
- Under 12's can use heifer in handling class but over 12's must use steer.
- Heifer judging will be after the Handling class on Sunday and the two classes will be purebred heifer and crossbred heifer.
- Pure Bred heifers can go home or may be eligible to enter in the Queen of Hearts (which must be organised prior to event).
- Cross bred heifers are accepted but will be taken home.

BREED TOUR 2015

This is all go, for a tour of the deep south in the last week of February. More information to follow, but "save the date".

Finally, good luck with your calving and the realisation of those mating decisions made last spring.

For any information regarding this issue, please contact the Simmental Office:

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HOUSE KEEPING REMINDERS

A reminder to make sure the bulls you plan to use this year have a DNA profile – if not, remember to take a hair sample and send it down to PBBNZ (contact the office if you need more envelopes).

PBB NZ performance livestock solutions

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