

new zealand simmental



winter issue

1977

number one

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EDITORIAL

As with the farmer awaiting the first calving of his heifer, so with the Editor awaiting the first edition of his publication, anxiety prevails.

Since the Society's formation in 1971, it has been through many facets of development — peak membership and prices, downturn and retrenchment, but throughout there has always been a stable and solid base of Membership who have continued steadily with their breeding programmes and it is these people who have set the Society on the very firm footing it now stands.

In the last year, one of the main objectives has been to foster communication between Members and through them exchange ideas with the administration of the Society. The formation of ten provincial Clubs throughout New Zealand has gone a long way to achieving this objective.

The production of this, our first magazine, is we hope, yet another way of keeping people informed of what the Society and its Members are doing and bringing before a wide spectrum of people information on the breed and its contribution to the cattle industry in this and other countries.

The format of this publication is the result of considerable discussion and planning and while some sophistication has been given to its design, we have tried not to lose the objective of its purpose — to communicate.

Editor

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

President — R. H. Kerr, Harlau, Salisburys, R.D.2, Timaru.
Councillors — R. N. S. Cox, The Levels, R.D.4, Timaru.
W. Gut, R.D.29, Kaponga, Taranaki.
F. C. Graham, P.O. Box 40, Carterton.
R. G. Macdonald, P.O. Box 20, Kaiapoi.
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Recent visitors to New Zealand.
L-R A. R. Campbell and Sir William Young of the Scottish Milk Marketing Board visit the Society Office while in Christchurch.

Honorary Life Membership

Anyone who has served on the administration of an organisation will be aware that in every group there are people who give time and effort beyond that of their peers and it is fitting that such people should be recognised for their services.

Such a person is Robert A. Barton, Reader in Sheep Husbandry at Massey University, Palmerston North.

Mr Barton, a former student of the old Massey Agricultural College, has spent his working life at Massey University and through his experience and knowledge has contributed greatly to the livestock industry of this country and has been internationally recognised by many of the primary producing countries of the western world.

The Simmental Society was fortunate indeed, on its formation, to obtain the interest and services of such a person. Serving firstly on the Steering Committee and subsequently on the Council, his diligence and dedication contributed significantly to the formation of structuring of the Society in its first five important years. His great involvement in Society affairs has been all the more outstanding in consideration that he has had no personal involvement in the Simmental breed.

His election as the first Honorary Life Member of the Simmental Society reflects the esteem in which he is held.



R. A. Barton.

Council Elections

This year five people stood for two vacancies on the Society Council and successful candidates were R. G. Macdonald of Kaiapoi, North Canterbury and H. R. Lowry of Havelock North. We congratulate these two Members, Mr Macdonald for his continuing service to the Society (he has been a Councillor since the formation of the Society) and Mr Lowry as an incoming Councillor.

In welcoming a new Councillor we also farewell an old one and this year we lose the services of Mr Graham who did not seek re-election. During his time on the Council, also since its formation, he has contributed strongly to the establishment of the breed and in all Society matters. His free and objective contributions around the Council table will be missed.

To the unsuccessful candidates, we thank you for participating in this election and your interest in the Society and its affairs.



F. C. Graham.

The Royal Sydney Show

Again this year, Simmentals were shown competitively at the Royal Show in Sydney with classes considerably enlarged. Premier award went to a bull bred in New Zealand by L. & J. Veint of Glenorchy, Southland, and sold last year to H. M. Miller of Sydney. It was fitting that this bull and indeed its owner should receive in the first year of its establishment the New Zealand Simmental Society Challenge Trophy.

Mr Miller, an ex-patriot, has done a great deal for the breed both in Australia and New Zealand. The Trophy and miniature presented to the Australian Association by the New Zealand Council reflects the considerable contribution made by Australian Breeders to the New Zealand Society through exports to Australia. An in perpetuity trophy which cannot be won outright, it will serve as a reminder of New Zealand's role in establishing the breed in Australia.



The New Zealand SIMMENTAL Society Challenge Trophy awarded to the Grand Champion Bull.

BEEF CARCASE COMPETITIONS

An outline of changes and what they mean to beef farmers by R. A. Barton of Massey University

Changes to beef competitions have heavily favoured cattle of exotic crosses such as Simmental.

Beef carcase competitions have long been a feature of the main cattle-raising districts of New Zealand. These competitions have been organised by agricultural and pastoral associations, conducted under the sponsorship of the Meat Board and judged by standards laid down by the board. Supervising graders, employed by the board, are usually the senior judges but they often have the assistance of the head grader of the company at which the competition is being staged.

Steers entered in each competition are judged on the hoof usually by an experienced livestock drafter.

The carcasses of these cattle are judged the following day and the winners are announced at the field day, which may include an inspection of the entries in the chiller, comments by the onhoof and carcase judges, and an address by a guest speaker.

These occasions present a good opportunity for producers to learn what is required in their beef cattle if they are to more closely meet the needs of markets.

Early days

In the early days of beef competitions—before and just after the Second World War—the emphasis in judging was on shapeliness or compactness of conformation, thickness of fat covering (to a level which is unacceptable today) and on well-marbled meat as seen when the sides were quartered normally between the 12th and 13th ribs.

The requirement at that time was for carcasses having those attributes which were thought to be desirable in the chilled beef trade to the United Kingdom.

The top few entries, as bone-in quarters, were shipped to London where they were rejudged by Smithfield meat personnel. This exercise ended about 1964 when it was obvious that chilled beef exports to the United Kingdom were ending.

The spectacular rise of the United States market for boneless beef from New Zealand changed the thinking of the Meat Board and others in the meat business toward these competitions.

Emphasis was now to be placed on the yield of boneless, fat trimmed cuts that could be obtained from the carcase. The amount of trimmed-off fat and bone in the carcase determined its yield.

Excess fat that had to be trimmed off the meat greatly influenced the yield of meat in the carcase but the proportion of bone in a carcase had only a small influence on its yield.

The bugbear

Fat became the bugbear of the beef processor and exporter so a carcase judging standard was developed to reward those entries which gave high yields of trimmed, boneless meat together with a large rib-eye as measured at the 12th rib.

Modifications have been made to the earlier beef cuts judging standard this year to place more emphasis on the really important features of a carcase. These changes include:

1.—Only carcasses which grade P are eligible for appraisal in the competition.

2.—A carcase with a fat depth over the rib-eye at the 12th rib which lies between 4mm and 9mm is awarded 60 points, the maximum number of points for this trait. Carcasses with less than 4mm or more than 9mm of fat lose points.

3.—The cross-sectional area of the rib-eye muscle at the 12th rib is measured. The larger the area the higher the number of points which are awarded. A maximum of 30 points may be awarded.

4.—A maximum of 10 points are awarded for evenness of fat distribution over the carcase.

5.—For every dollar of monetary value of the carcase (based on carcase weight and grade and the current schedule price), one point is added to the total points. Thus a carcase worth \$185 would receive 185 points.

6.—The percentage yield of trimmed, boneless cuts is doubled so that a carcase yielding 67.15 per cent gets 134.30 points. Only those carcasses which score well in points are boned-out to determine their percentage yield of meat. In practice not more than 10 of the top entries in the competition will be boned-out.

This new judging standard has met with the entire approval and support of people in the meat industry as it certainly identifies high-yielding carcasses with optimum amounts of fat and having large rib-eye areas indicating thickness of muscling in the carcase. The inclusion of a monetary value in the judging standard is also a major and logical improvement.

Meaningful

Beef producers now have a carcase competition which is meaningful as it emphasises those attributes which are important to processors and to the meat trade.

One outcome of the change in the judging standards is that only entries having the qualities of heavy weight, large rib-eyes and optimum fat covering are likely to be among the prize winners.

Such cattle are mainly those whose sires are of European breeding thereby having more depth of muscling and less fat cover than the general run of cattle of the traditional British breeds.

They are also often heavier in carcase weight at any given age and this ensures that they will score well for monetary value points.

This does not mean to say that the traditional British breeds and crosses cannot do well at these new competitions. Such cattle must continue to be entered so that their breeders can see how they perform relative to those of other breeds and crosses.

Very essence

Competition is the very essence of breed improvement and not to participate in a beef carcase contest, because of changed judging standards would merely be an admission of defeat.

Another aspect of the new competition is that it is based on the P grade — those entries that fail to grade P are not considered by the judge. Carcasses allocated to the P grade must be well muscled and, as a guide, they should not have less than 4mm or more than 12mm of fat at the 12th rib.

In competitions this season at least 20 per cent of the entries have failed to grade P.

Most of these were graded G and some graded T and even E in one or two instances. These three grades are far too fatty by modern standards and the cattle which graded G, T and E should have been obviously too gross when they were inspected on the hoof prior to their entry in the competition.

Must learn

How to recognise cattle that will grade P with an optimum fat cover and thick muscling is the lesson that all interested in beef cattle must learn not only if they wish to be successful in beef competitions, but also if they want to receive the maximum price for their animals at slaughter.

Cattle most likely to perform best in this regard are those by bulls of the large European breeds such as the Simmental and Charolais out of Angus, Hereford or Shorthorn cows or crosses among them.

Such crossbred cattle will contain exotic European blood, grow rapidly, grade P even at heavy carcase weights and consequently they will be profitable.

Market wish

The simple fact of the matter is that our major market, the United States, requires little fat covering and large meaty cuts which can be obtained only from heavy carcasses.

The schedule price structure, the present grade standards, and the new beef competition are each designed to encourage the production of beef of this preferred kind.

Club News

Clubs

In ten provincial areas covering the whole of New Zealand, regional Simmental Clubs have been formed in the past year. Each Club has already held at least two Meetings for area Members' involvement and the Secretary and at least one Councillor have made visits to all areas. As the main objective for the year, the establishment of Clubs may be deemed highly successful. It has brought Members together and has enabled those in the Society's administration to meet Members and see at 'grass roots' level the very real progress that is being made in the establishment of the breed throughout the country. Rodney Cox, Chairman of the Promotion Committee, has worked hard to formulate plans that will foster Club spirit and continued expansion.

Two Meetings have been held recently which have been attended by delegates from each Club to enable them to meet each other and various Members of the Promotion Committee. Such Meetings allow for a free exchange of ideas, comments and criticism and are considered sufficiently worthwhile to become a regular annual event.

Each Club has done 'its own thing' and the following individual reports give some outline of the main activities. Members who have attended Club functions have been enthusiastic and it is hoped their enthusiasm will motivate others to come to future gatherings. The Society is as strong as its Members and the Club system gives you the facility for unity.

Northland

Until the formation of the Club, few people knew each other and many were unsure that the animals they were breeding were what they were supposed to be as they had no basis of comparison. Since its formation the Club has held two field days, the first near Whangarei prior to Christmas and the second only a few weeks ago in the southern part of the area. The Secretary was fortunate to be in the area at the time and a good representation of Members enjoyed a visit to two Members' properties to view cattle and then proceeded to Matakana where they watched an 'ovum transplant' operation and had a picnic lunch. Few people knew more than the basics of egg transfer and it was an avid, if in some cases apprehensive, audience who watched John Hicks and his veterinary team carry out the removal of eleven eggs from a purebred donor and implant them into recipient or host cows. The operation was conducted in such a manner that everyone had an opportunity to have a close look at what was going on and the Club is most grateful to the owner of the donor animal and the team for the trouble they went to in demonstration and explanation of this highly skilled technique.

Northland is an area roughly two hundred miles long by forty miles wide and has one of the highest densities of cattle in the country. There are many top traditional beef herds on excellent properties and such newcomers as the Simmental are often suspect until proved otherwise. One breeder marketing his first draft of Simmental cross steers was advised to aim for weight to compensate for lack of grading — 'these new breeds don't grade' said



The Northland Committee
L-R Geoff Palmer, Stan Timperly, Terry Sloan, Jim Houlbrooke

the agent. His animals were duly slaughtered and all fourteen graded P1 to the breeder's delight and the agent's profound amazement.

Simmentals in Northland are establishing well and as the grading-up programme progresses so does the quality and next year should see some first class stock in the markets. Recently two purebred bulls have gone to Northland and it is understood several purebred calves will be born in the area next spring. The Club plans to hold further activities in various areas to enable as many Members as possible to participate without extensive travel.



Waikato Personalities.
L-R Rodney Cox (Council), Betty Ashworth, Roy Smith, Geoff Mathis.

Waikato and Districts

An active and enthusiastic Club, they have held several worthwhile and effective functions — a Field Day at Putaruru, a cattle inspection and barbecue at Te Awamutu, a Show display at Papatoetoe and are currently in the throws of organising a large display at the New Zealand Agricultural Field Days near Hamilton.

The Secretary and Rodney Cox recently spent two days in the area and visited a number of breeders on their properties where some excellent cattle were seen. The Waikato being predominantly dairying does not perhaps have the outlet for commercial bulls available to some areas but the Club has already planned a top graded bull sale in the southern area for 1978. Plans are also underway for participation in a local beef and cuts competition. Club Membership is vigorous in this area and real progress is being made.

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Redwoods Valley Nelson

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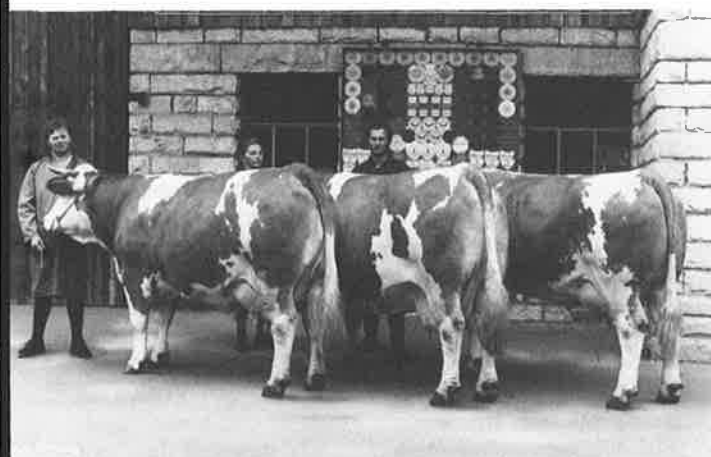
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Taranaki

One of the first Clubs formed in the country, Taranaki has a strong if small Membership and has held regular gatherings on farms and other cattle orientated situations. Mainly a dairying area, there are quite a number of herds in which Simmentals are being milked and it is in this area that probably the most research into suitable dairy type bulls has been made. While current information is not wide enough in scope to be truly indicative, this year with more people milk testing, some meaningful results could be available. It is of interest that one herd has through its shed a Purebred German heifer in its second lactation which was recording as top animal in the herd!

In March the Club held a Field Day near Patea which gave members an opportunity of inspecting a beef only cattle property where a number of excellent Simmental cross steers were seen as well as a grading-up herd. The Club also involved itself in a recent large Swiss Festival at Kaponga on the eastern side of Mount Egmont. They built a float complete with chalet which drew a trailer carrying a top quality purebred bull calf. This Festival would have been screened on National television but the film crew were diverted to a shooting affair on the way up from Wellington and failed to arrive in time.



Taranaki members on a Field Day at Patea.

Hawkes Bay

This Club is noted for its enthusiasm and promotion of the breed within the area and recently promoted the first ever commercial sale of Simmental cross cattle in New Zealand. Stortford Lodge, the major saleyards in the Hawkes Bay area, received over five hundred Simmental cross entries from Hawkes Bay, Wairarapa and Manawatu which were sold as a special Simmental section of the Sale. Prices averaged over \$90 for weaner steers and two lots made \$100. Twenty month old steers made to \$185 and overall Simmental-cross were \$5 to \$15 ahead of other breeds. This project reflects good foresight and must have effect on the acceptance of the breed in all areas.

Hawkes Bay is very traditional and the Club is to be congratulated on its approach and publicity for this Sale which involved extensive breeder advertising and new-

spaper articles as well as local meat promotion through several butchers' shops. The Club again put Simmental before the people in the Hawkes Bay Beef and Beef Cuts Competition. With only 10 per cent of the entries (total 138) they took 25 per cent of the prizes.

The essence of their success in all they have undertaken is planning and involvement.



*Keruru, Hawkes Bay.
L-R Peter McNeil, Stuart Griffiths, Robin Lowry, Les Dun, Dair Clarke.*

Wanganui/Rangitikei/Manawatu

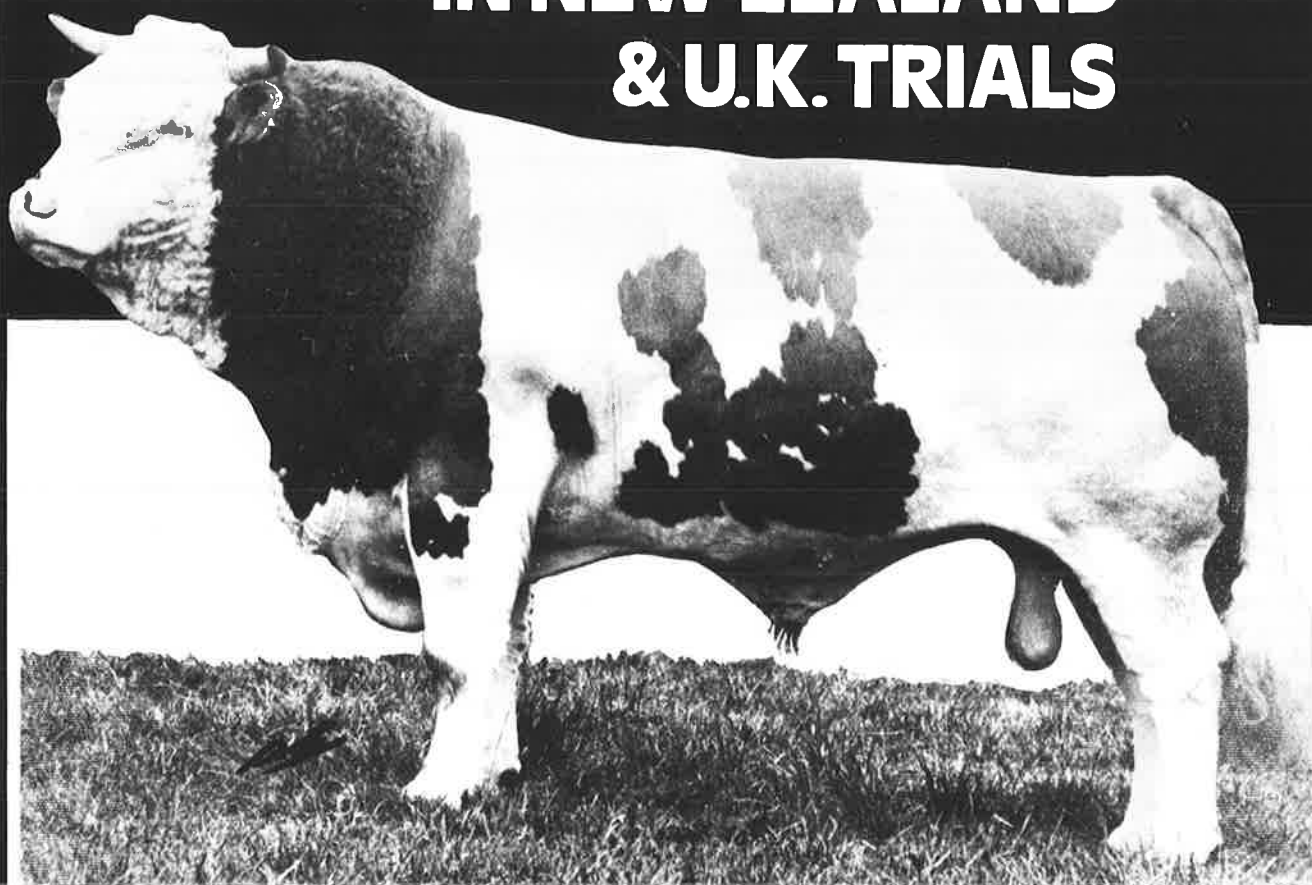
To date the Club has produced a very good display at the Royal Show 1976 and has held a Field Day in conjunction with the North Island Club delegates Meeting in Palmerston North where a large cross section of cattle were inspected on A. R. Marshall's property at Marton.



*Field Day at Marton.
Roger Marshall's property.*

Members have participated in the local beef cuts competition with creditable results and a Field Day is planned on a hill country property as next project.

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Wairarapa

A district with only a small number of breeders but those who are involved are actively so. Recently Members had a Field Day at Eketahuna and plan another farm visit to a Carterton property in the next week or so.

Wairarapa Members are active in the promotion of Simmental beef and recently sent weaners to assist in the large promotion held at Stortford Lodge near Hastings. Regrettably the Club has recently lost its Secretary, David Smith, who has transferred further North. A keen breeder, and one of the group of organisers for the 1976 A.G.M., he will be missed.



*Cattle on Transport Nelson's Farm
Insert: Rupert Martin, Farm Manager.*

Nelson/Marlborough

The last area in which a Club has been formed, Membership is not large but enthusiasm is, and it is only 'a matter of time'. The Club got off to an excellent start with a well attended Field Day held on the Redwoods Valley property at Transport Nelson Holdings. Previously 2,800 acres of gorse, this property has been developed over 20 years by Transport Nelson and now runs over 2,000 head of cattle and 3,000 ewes. The largest herd of Simmentals in the country (over 1,000) is run under natural commercial conditions and is producing tremendous results. A steady and total demand for cross bred steers for the local markets gives one of the biggest outlets for Simmental meat in the country. One of the largest Supermarkets in the area retails only Simmental meat.

At the Field Day Members met each other for the first time from widely scattered areas, Nelson, Wairau Valley, Murchison, Takaka and Seddon and since then a Committee has been formed and has met to plan future activities.

As a footnote, any Member who is in the Nelson area is most welcome to visit the Transport Nelson farm. They should ring Redwoods Valley 744 for Rupert Martin the Project Manager. There are few areas in the country where more Simmentals can be seen.

Canterbury/Westland

After a good initial project with the Canterbury A. & P. Show Display, the Club has continued its active enthusiasm with a very well organised Field Day in the Hororata area of Canterbury attended by over seventy Members and friends. Visits were made to a cross section of properties including dairying and again excellent results were seen. The Field Day concluded at a Transplant Centre just out of Christchurch where Members were able to see Purebred cattle of many breeds and inspect and hear about the techniques of transplant. Members gathered for a beer and discussion after the Field Day and this proved a most worthwhile exercise. A little self analysis and criticism is a 'thinking thing'.

The Canterbury/Westland Club will be our host this year for the Annual General Meeting and already plans are well underway.

South Canterbury/North Otago

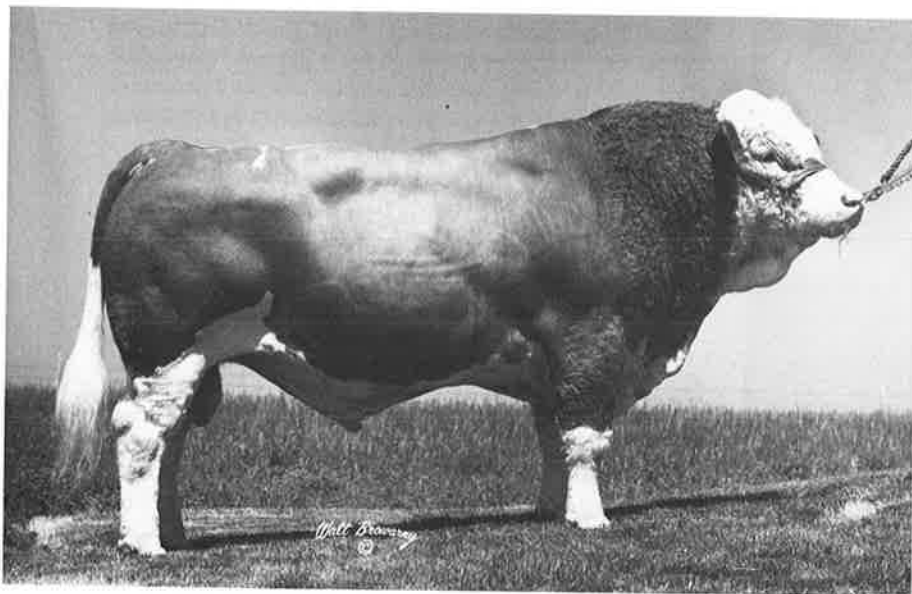
The Club has held two projects both highly successful and well patronised. Their first, a Field Day, involved visits to three properties in the Waimate area. Their last one, a display at the McKenzie Highland Show held at Fairlie, was most successful despite a wet, cold day. Held on Easter Monday, this Show is traditionally a family day and draws a very large attendance from as far afield as North Canterbury and Otago. A well set display of excellent cattle drew considerable interest as it was the first time the breed had been exposed publicly in the area. As well as displaying cattle, the Club entered several animals in the commercial cattle competition with most rewarding results. A Simmental Friesian cross steer won the Championship in the open class, a Simmental Hereford cross was placed second in the younger steers and two heifers won the best breeding animal awards, all in competition against traditional breeds. Club Members have also had great success in local weaner sales and local markets and Simmental cross stock have frequently topped the markets.



Simmental cattle on Display at the McKenzie Show.

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CBS PROGENY TEST PROGRAMME (1972 - 1975 Section)				
Traits	No of Herds	No of Prog	Diff from average	Trait Ratio
Birth Weight Index	8	35	+5%	105
Calving Ease	8	35	+7%	107
Weaning Weight	8	34	+10 lb	102
ADG on Feed (Males)	1 Feedlot	16	+0.12 lb	104
Yearling weight	8	33	+16 lb	102
Carcass - Lean Growth Index	1 Feedlot	16	+0.009 lb	101
ASA SIRE SUMMARY (July 1976)				
Traits	Mgt Units	Total Prog	EPD Units	Trait Ratio
Index Calving Ease	14	35	2.42	102.4
Weaning Weight -205	21	45	9.31 lb	101.9
CANADIAN ROP SIRE MONITORING PROGRAMME (Spring 1976)				
Traits	Herds	Prog	Pre diff	Ratio
Weaning Weight - 200	20	154	+11 lbs	102
Post Weaning Gain - Males	8	50	0	100
Post Weaning Gain - Females	12	62	0	100
Yearling Weight - Males	8	50	-8 lbs	99
Yearling Weight - Females	12	62	-2 lbs	100

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Southland/South Otago

The Club's first project was to display cattle at the Dunedin Centennial Show, an area where few Simmentals have been seen. The display of high standard with top cattle, was placed adjacent to the competitive judging rings for cattle and received steady interest from cattle breeders and the public throughout the Show. Local Members assisted by people who had travelled from Southland, put in a lot of hard work to mount this most successful display. Recently the Club held a Field Day on Wairaki Station in Western Southland where a wide cross section of Simmental cattle were assembled for appraisal and discussion. Members also took the opportunity of looking at Purebreds of several other breeds and were able to watch an ovum transplant operation which was specially arranged for them. Their day concluded with a barbecue:

Editor's Note:

Clubs are asked to advise the Secretary of their activities. Reports can only be written up as they are known. Photographs of people and their livestock would also be appreciated and will be published where suitable and as space allows.



*Dunedin Centennial Show.
L-R Geoff Taylor, Ron Miller, Woody Rouse, Jill Taylor and son
Guy.*

Coming Events

ANNUAL MEETING 1977

Response from Members for this event has been excellent and 1977 will probably see the largest assembly of Members at any AGM yet held. Members from all areas of the country are scheduled to arrive in Christchurch on 24th and 25th June and most will stay through for the National Sale on 27th June. A varied programme has been drawn up and will include attendance for many at the Lions/Canterbury Rugby Match held on the Saturday. Host for the 1977 AGM will be the Canterbury/Westland Simmental Club who have worked hard to make this year's Meeting a worthwhile and enjoyable few days.

In addition to the more formal part of the weekend's functions, the 'Annual General Meeting of Members', a Special General Meeting will be held immediately following to consider the revised rules of the Society. It was decided that the Rules should be treated as a separate exercise to allow the Annual Meeting to proceed without involvement in minor points which could limit the time available for more important matters.

The Rules (and accompanying Regulations) have been revised over a considerable period and in close consultation with the Society's Solicitor and others with expertise in this field. As soon as approval is reached on this revised edition printing will be put in hand.

Private Sales

The introduction of the National Sale may be deemed as catering for a chosen few but does not preclude private sales, two of which have already been held and another is known to be planned. The introduction of Clubs throughout the country puts breeders in a good position to organise invitation sales within their own areas selecting animals of quality for select offering. A recent Sale in the Hamilton area put forward a good offering of half bred, three-quarter bred and seven-eighths bred heifers and resulted in a total clearance of cattle offered, to breeders in the area at what were considered realistic prices.

As has so often been stated before, if you offer cattle in a Sale, make sure they are of high standard.

National Simmental Sales

This month the first National Simmental Sale will be held in Christchurch and has attracted entries from both Islands. A Catalogue of close on seventy animals will be offered comprising purebred heifers, cows and bulls complemented by the first major offering of seven-eighths bred heifers, one of which is in-calf. Several top line in-calf three-quarter bred heifers will also be offered.

The presentation of one National Sale was decided upon by the Council to enable emphasis to be given to one premier event each year at which a top echelon of animals will be presented giving breeders and buyers an opportunity to concentrate on one major sale. This year's sale was scheduled in June due to lack of numbers of animals of saleable age for an earlier fixture. National Sales are planned to be held in both Islands on an alternating basis.

\$500,000 Trans Tasman business per year

Since June 1976 we've travelled over 288,000kms, run 43 stud stock auctions in four States and transacted over \$500,000 worth of Trans Tasman business. As well, we gained the No 1 Simmental agent spot with a 100 per cent clearance at this years Sydney Royal Easter Show Sales.

If you are considering Australia as a possible outlet for sale stock, then we invite you to contact our office either direct or through your agent or see Tony Fountain during his visit to NZ for the National Sales.

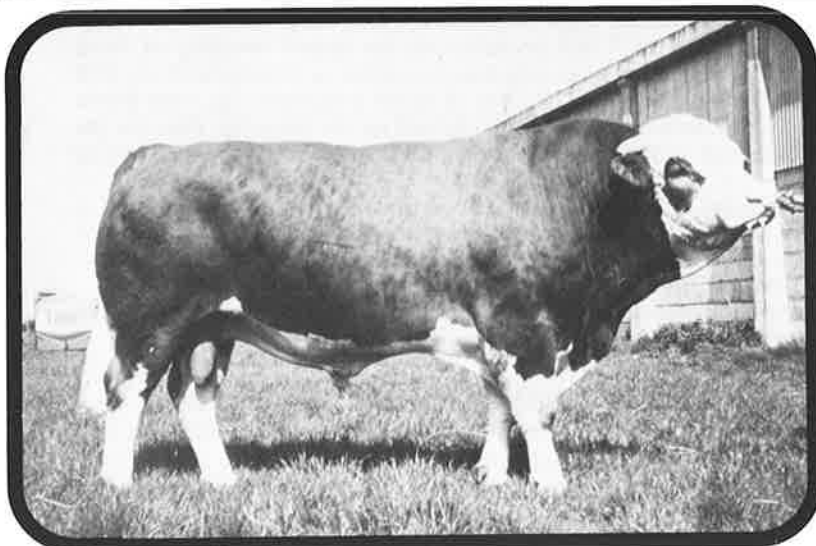


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- STYLE
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HAMLET

BAVARIAN SIMMENTAL
FROM IRELAND

Noted for imposing his characteristics on his progeny, Hamlet is breeding consistantly even lines of progeny.
Deep red in colour with good eye pigmentation.

Send now for a Brochure

Name

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*South Island
Breeding Centre Ltd*

PROCESSORS AND DISTRIBUTORS OF CATTLE SEMEN

A member of the Guthreys Group



Main Rd, Kaiapoi
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Technical Topics

Animal Identification

Over the past few months the Council have received severe and justified criticism from the Australian Association on the standard of identification of animals exported to that country. In several quoted instances, animals have arrived with incorrect tattoos or tattoos that are so poor as to be unreadable. In three cases animals arrived without tattoos at all. This state of affairs is serious to the extent that if the standard does not improve a complete embargo on the registration of New Zealand born animals in Australia could be enforced.

At a recent Meeting of Council, it was moved and passed that all animals of seven-eighths and Purebred status will, at the time of tattooing have a 'TT' type metal tag bearing the same inscription as the tattoo placed in the opposite ear.

Investigation of the most suitable type of tag and its availability is currently being pursued and Members will be advised on the outcome in due course.

All animals for export will be examined for tattoo identification before despatch.

Tattooing, if correctly done, is not complicated but requires extreme care to ensure accuracy. Test punch every tattoo on a piece of cardboard before you attempt to tattoo the animals.

Identification of animals has been clearly spelt out in the revised draft of Regulations that have been sent out to all Members. If you do make an error advise the Office as soon as possible and it will be noted on the animal's Certificate of Registration. CHECK EVERY TATTOO.

Competitive Showing

Members have been advised that approval has been given to show Simmentals competitively in Agricultural and Pastoral Shows. This approval was passed by Council only after careful and lengthy consideration over several Meetings. It was the initial objective of the Council to permit competitive showing only with performance backing but in practical application this proved prohibitively restrictive.

The few breeders who are in a position to compete are unlikely to have more than one or two animals of show class and the best ranking animal may not be the best animal to put before the public. In essence, showing is promotion of one's wares and in this early stage of the breed's establishment in the country the introduction of animals to competitive showing is an opportunity to display them on equal terms with traditional cattle. As numbers increase and performance data becomes available the matter will be re-appraised.

A small boy seeing his first Simmental bull at an A. & P. Show was heard to comment to the public at large — 'Gee look at the buffalo'.

A breeder deep in thought, commented 'Which of these bulls gives the most milk?'

Sire Evaluation

The Technical Committee have carried out considerable research on the question of identification and selection of Sires that are giving better than average performance. In depth, this is a task of some magnitude made difficult by lack of comparative information and sufficient numbers of progeny from the same Sire to establish meaningful answers. Only when we establish a full recording system will we be able to fully evaluate those bulls on our Sire List and this will become more sophisticated as time and the breed progresses.

In the interim the Committee would like to obtain as much information as possible from breeders on the experience they have had with the Sires used and a survey form is being drawn up which will be sent out to Members for completion and return in the near future. Please complete this to the best of your ability and let us have it back with any relevant comments. It may not give all the answers we require but at least some pattern should emerge. The information when analysed will be summarised to Members.

Computer Systems/ Performance Recording

For over four years, the Council has at each of its Meetings placed on the Agenda the topic of computerisation of Members' records. Probably more time and effort has gone into this subject than any other single project and Members must wonder if it will ever reach fruition. In previous Newsletters reference has been made each time to progress or non-progress as applicable and this Issue is no exception.

From consideration of simple computerisation to the writing of a highly sophisticated programme the matter has swung full circle back to a National Recording Scheme common to all Breed Societies established through a centralised Government operated computer.

It is of interest that while the Council has been unable to settle on a suitable scheme of its own, so too have the Committee appointed for the Government Scheme had great difficulty in reaching a conclusive decision. Over the past few months some definite moves have been made which will at least crystallise the whole matter. The Minister of Agriculture has appointed Sir Malcolm Burns, one time Rector of Lincoln College and highly experienced administrator, as conciliator to investigate and report on the requirements of overall problems of the Scheme and its implementation. Sir Malcolm has personally contacted all interested parties for their views and opinions and his report to the Minister should give direction and weight to the future progress of this Scheme.

Under present costing and today's economic situation, for a Breed Society to 'go it alone' would be financially unviable, but there is every indication that this Government Scheme will eventuate and this will prove a great asset to us as a Society and to the cattle industry as a whole. The Council and the Technical Committee are strongly behind its implementation.

We're the greatest.

**Not to mention the biggest,
the meatiest and the tenderest
We don't like to boast **but...****

Simmentals Speak For Themselves



**Simmental Cattle Breeders' Society of New Zealand (Inc.) 118 Victoria St. Christchurch 1.
P.O. Box 25-100 Victoria Street Christchurch.**

The Council & Committees

The Council, as Members are aware, is composed of eight elected Members who serve a three year term. The Council meets on an average of four or five times a year depending on the amount and urgency of work to be considered.

Council Meetings are generally of two day duration and to give emphasis and expertise to various facets of the Society's administration, Committees are appointed each year from within the Council and with 'specialists' being seconded from outside as considered appropriate.

Committees are appointed for Finance, Promotion, Sales and Technical and it has become an established pattern that Committees meet independently on the first day of the Meeting, discuss and decide matters of relevance and draw up a report and recommendation which is presented to the full Council the next day for ratification or discussion. This system enables a great deal of ground work to be done and means that the Council is presented with the full facts in concise form. Where any Committee has a matter of contention on which it is unable to agree the matter is put before the Council for decision.

The added advantage of Committees is that they are able to meet and research matters of relevance without

involving the considerable expense of the assembly of full Council.

While Committees are appointed annually after the Annual Meeting when the new Council takes Office, it may be of interest to Members to know who has served on these Committees of the last Society year.

Finance: R. H. Kerr (President), E. W. Turrell, W. Gut (Councillors) and A. R. Guthrey a well known Christchurch businessman and Director of several large Companies, who is himself a large Simmental breeder.

Promotion: R. N. S. Cox (Chairman), J. R. Sutton, R. G. Macdonald and A. R. Marshall.

Technical: F. C. Graham (Chairman), J. R. Sutton, W. Gut and R. N. S. Cox.

Sales: R. G. Macdonald (Chairman), E. W. Turrell, A. R. Marshall, and D. S. Crosson a breeder who has done much for the promotion of the breed in presentation of stock for sale.

In future editions of Journal, we hope to bring you individual reports from each Committee.

Office Do's & Don'ts

Tattooing

The necessity of clear and accurate tattooing is covered in some length in the Technical section of this edition. ALWAYS TEST PUNCH THE PATTERN BEFORE TATTOOING.

Your tattoo is made up as follows:-

D = half bred	E = 1974 born
C = three-quarter bred	F = 1975 born
B = seven-eighths bred	G = 1976 born
A = Purebred	H = 1977 born

A typical tattoo for your eighth three-quarter bred calf born in 1976 is as shown:

390
CG8

If you have a purebred calf from an ovum transplant in 1976 it would be tattooed thus:

Note All transplant calves 390
have the letter 'E' after AG2E
the animal number.

Blood Typing

Those of you who have calves from transplant operations are reminded that they must be blood sampled and the samples sent to Brisbane for blood typing and parentage verification. If you have not already received notification of what is required, details may be obtained from the Office. Blood type and Parentage Verification must be lodged with your application to register the relevant calf.

Sales/Transfers

If you make a sale, please immediately make out a transfer and send it to the new owner for signature. Return the Certificate of Registration plus any other relevant documents (A. I. Dockets, etc.) back to the Office. It is frustrating in the extreme to purchase an animal and spend the next six months trying to locate the relevant documents.

Details of animals sold for export must be sent to the Office immediately plus the relevant papers and transfer.

Mating Details/A.I. Or Natural

When lodging your Application for Registration of your calves, include your A.I. Dockets if you are using artificial insemination and cross reference the docket with the calf number. If you are your own Technician give signature to this effect.

Those who have their own herd bulls should clearly state on their Application for Registration this fact.

Remember we dislike needless correspondence as much as you do!

Purebred Registrations

Those making Application for Registration of Purebreds are reminded to state clearly whether they are 'boys' or 'girls' on the margin alongside each animal. Twice recently we have registered boys as girls — unisex is all very well.

Advertising

You will see in this Publication there is space for mini advertising. You may advertise stock for sale, or just the whereabouts of your herd. Cost \$15 per entry. Either send finished artwork or details of what you require and we will do it for you at minimal cost.

If you want to go in for bigger stuff, we will do that for you as well.

Success Stories

If you top a market, make an outstanding sale, win a section of a meat competition or do something spectacular with a Simmental, let us know. We can only promote backed by facts. With your permission we will publish success under your name. When sending in 'success stories', please give as much background information as you can, that is, number sold, competitive prices, general tone of market, etc.

At a recent A. & P. Show display, a very large and impressive Simmental bull was on exhibition. A visitor and breeder of traditional cattle spent some time appraising the animal and a keen Simmental breeder endeavoured to engage him in conversation. The response was minimal but the visitor conceded 'Yes he's a big bull'. Not to be outdone, our Simmentalian commented — 'We had a bigger one but he wouldn't fit on the truck!' The visitor's response was unprintable!

A breeder who had landed more than his fair share of bull calves from a transplant operation was bemoaning the fact to someone at the Transplant Centre.

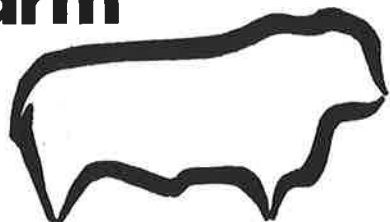
'How is it,' he asked, 'that your ratio of heifer calves is higher than mine? I think you must be able to identify the heifer eggs from the bull eggs when you do the operation.'

'Oh yes' was the reply, 'we always sex them'.

'But how do you identify them?' asked the breeder.

'We write the sex on the shell' was the quick answer.

landscape farm



Landscape Simmentals Herd 18
Graded from 90% Shorthorn Base

J.A. Middleton, Pokeno,
R.D.2, Phone 38 Pokeno.

THIS COULD BE YOUR MINI ADVERTISEMENT

Just tell the Society's Secretary what you want.
The mini-advertisement here is an example of the kind mentioned in 'Advertising' above.

SSS Simmentals -for endless breeding

Ours is still the biggest stud of German Simmental in Britain. Our top 14 sires include the very best bloodlines and "families" from the area which produces the very best in the breed — Southern Bavaria. The stud is the product of no fewer than five separate importations and a selection

procedure based on the collective practical experience and expertise of top Scottish stockmen.

For the breeder who knows how to make the best use of the best, Scottish Simmentals offer endless breeding scope.



SCOTTISH GERALD 7318651. At 4 yrs. 4 mths. this bull weighed 1100 kgs. (2425 lbs) and was 147 cms. in height. This bull is currently being progeny tested and the interim calving survey on 174 observations is (1) Farmer Assist 1.1 % (2) Veterinary Assist 0.0 % (3) Malpresentation 0.0 %.

Scottish Semen Services

Southbar Cattle Breeding Centre, Inchinnan, Renfrew, Scotland
Newlands Cattle Breeding Centre, Scone, Perthshire, Scotland

Division of the S.M.M.B. Underwood Road, Paisley

Breed Scottish~Breed Best

Selected by Stockmen for Stockmen



Dalgety New Zealand Ltd. Central
Stud Stock Department
Ph. Palmerston North 68039
International Semen Distributors Ltd.
Ph. Palmerston North 69129
Northland Herd Improvement
Association Inc. Ph. Whangarei 84059
Auckland Herd Improvement
Association Inc. Ph. Hamilton 81129
Bay of Plenty and East Coast Herd
Improvement Association Inc.
Ph. Whakatane 7269
Livestock Improvement Association
Taranaki Inc. Ph. New Plymouth 80479
Livestock Improvement Association
Wellington-Hawke's Bay Inc.
Ph. Palmerston North 80102
Livestock Improvement Association
South Island Inc. . . Ph. Christchurch 892079
South Island Breeding Centre Ltd.
Ph. Kaipoi 6175
D. P. Graham and Sons . . . Ph. Tai Tapu 824
NZ Sire Services Ltd. . . Ph. Hamilton 437995
NZ Dairy Board Semen Sales
Ph. Hamilton 65044

A RECORD BREAKER



WINFIELD GOLIATH

BORN 24.3.76

Sire: MMB REBHOLZ

He has the highest live-weight gain of first British Imports and ranks top in progeny growth trials in U.K. and N.Z. He has easy calving records coupled with short gestation.

Dam: CLOFORD CHRISTINE

She is by LANDMARK (Swiss) and is one of the longest cows in New Zealand. Cloford Christine is 57 inches (142 cms.) from wither to base of tail.

Weight at 300 days: 590 kgs / 1300 lbs

Weight at 365 days: 685 kgs / 1510 lbs

**Semen available from: South Island Breeding Centre, Kaiapoi, Christchurch
or from the owner and breeder : O.J. Osborne No. 3 R.D. Christchurch**