

# **new zealand simmental**



**spring issue**

**1978**

**number six**

# This is the Bull WINFIELD GOLIATH

Sire REBHOLZ

Born 24.3.76.

LANDMARK Dam



Owned by O.J.Osborne 'Winfield' No 3 R.D. Christchurch

## These are the Facts

**Performance Records:** Weight at 300 days - 590 kgs. (1300 lbs.)  
 .. .. 365 .. 685 kgs. (1510 lbs.)

**Production Records**  
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Management Units	Number Progeny	Birth Weight	Gestation Length + or - on 282 days
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## Editorial

The tide washes in many directions; it varies in strength and height, influenced by many factors. The same can be said for cattle breeding in countries such as New Zealand that are strongly influenced by overseas trends.

In the last few years, the cattle herds of the world have been depredated by overfull freezers and constantly escalating stock feed prices which have made the production of beef in many countries a doubtful and uneconomic return. Calves in many of the main beef breeding areas of the world have been disposed of at birth as to raise them to maturity has not been economically viable.

In this country, the economics of beef farming have been under scrutiny and as a result many cow herds have been dispensed with in favour of more lucrative pursuits. In the past season, on any one day, at any of the country's major meat works, the proportion of female stock put forward for slaughter has been alarmingly high.

The tide, however, unfailingly turns as do the farming patterns of the world. Already, here and overseas the demand for beef is regenerating and reflecting increasing prices and a renewed demand for cattle. With a heavily decreased cow population in the beef breeding system of this country, it is logical that a great deal of our future meat production must come from the dairy sector of our cattle population as it does overseas.

The Simmental breed has attributes ahead of other breeds which makes it a strongly viable proposition in production of beef from the dairy industry. With a proven background of both milk and meat production, it has great potential for crossbreeding in this area.

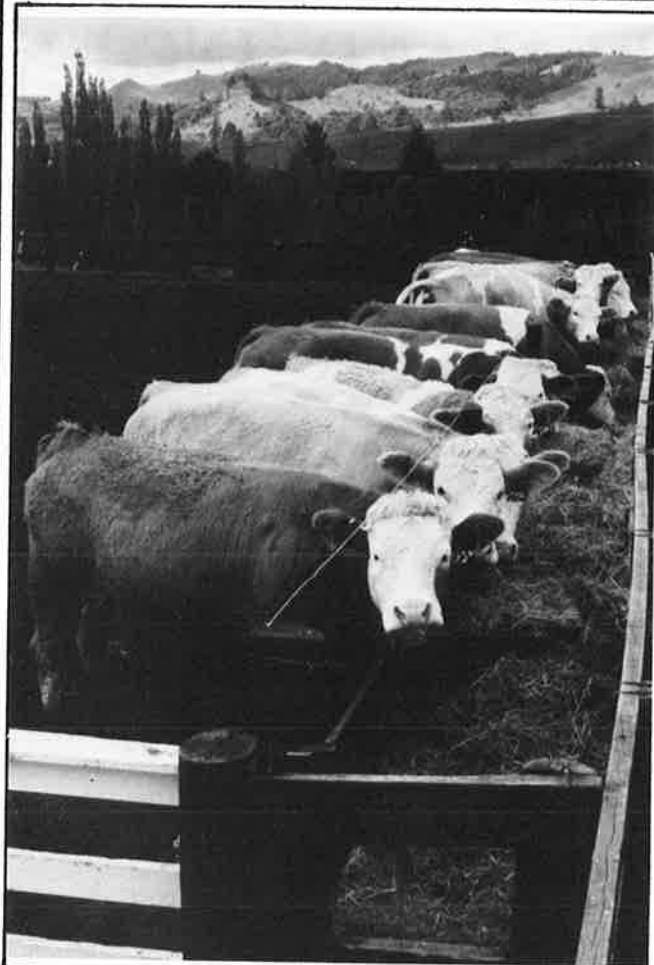
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## "LOG MAN TURNS TO SIMMENTALS"

We are grateful to the Agricultural Editor of the Otago Daily Times for permission to reprint this article which appeared with the photograph in the O.D.T. on the 2.9.78.



*Ron Sycamore with his imported Simmental bull affectionately known as 'Flynn'.*

The fall-off in the logging trade has meant Ron Sycamore has more time to spend on his farm and more importantly, more time to develop his Simmental Stud.

Mr Sycamore was originally the biggest single private logging contractor in the country with his main operation based at Tokoroa and four years ago he bought more than 200 acres at Halfway Bush overlooking Dunedin City.

The farm was initially meant to be a sideline but the loss of logging exports to Japan and other factors causing the downturn in the trade has meant the stud has assumed more importance.

The basis for his purebred stud comes from animals he has imported from Britain, but he has also used artificial insemination successfully to help build up his herd.

His brother Grant, who helps him run the farm and the studs is a qualified AI technician and this has made the process much simpler and cheaper.

### CROSSING

In all he has nine purebred animals and a herd of 80 breeding cows which are made up of half, three-quarter and seven-eighth crossbreds. In the main the crossing has been with Hereford cattle, though there have been experimental crossings with Angus and Friesian cows. The Angus experiment did not show much promise, but Mr Sycamore said the Friesian cross was quite successful though he intends to stick with Herefords in the meantime.

He said the first cross Hereford-Simmental is a marvellous beef grower and local butchers who have steers from then are "rapt" over the amount of lean beef they have taken off the animals.

According to Mr Sycamore the consumer market calls for high yielding lean meat and there is plenty of evidence around to suggest Simmental crossbreds can produce this while maturing early.

As well the breed has a strong maternal influence in that it produces milk as well as meat.

### MILKING

He believes that it is this milking ability which gives the calves such a good start and helps the early maturing of the animals.

When he first started breeding there were some problems with calving. The calves were often too big for the breeds the Simmentals were crossed with, but Ron has purchased a bull which was chosen for many reasons, but most importantly because of his small shoulders. This has meant sacrificing some size, but the benefits in calving have more than justified the purchase.

So far the progeny of this bull have managed 10 out of 10 for unassisted calving and Mr Sycamore says he doesn't anticipate any trouble in this area in the future.

The temperament of the Simmental is second to none he says though from time to time he has had to cull out the odd animal, which has upset the rest of the herd. Like many breeders he feels the short term loss is more than made up for by the gain in the rest of the herd's temperament.

In the winter he runs most of his herd in the DCC forest plantation for two months. The plantation is almost next door to his property.

His property at Halfway Bush was an old one but only ragwort has caused him any trouble. He has done some spraying but says he is reluctant to do too much while there are animals around. The only other work he has done on the land has been to apply some lime and a bit of super.

He plans to build up a herd of 50 or so crossbreds to produce for the local market and at the same time he will continue his breeding programme to attempt to build up his herd quality. Already he has sold one seven-eighths heifer to Australia though it will be a while yet before his stud animals are sold in any quantity.

Mr Sycamore says he has no plans to show any of his stud animals. He has no time for hard feeding and says an animal's ability to grow in natural conditions and to produce offspring of a consistent quality are what count most for breeding and it is in these areas that he will devote most of his effort on the farm.

FOOTNOTE: Ron Sycamore's success with his Simmentals is re-inforced by the publication of a letter from a Dunedin Butcher elsewhere in this issue.

# Overseas News

## SECOND WORLD SIMMENTAL CONGRESS

In early July this year, some 680 delegates representing 20 different countries assembled at Calgary in Canada for the Second Meeting of the World Federation. The Congress was started with a World Federation Council Meeting at which observers were allowed to sit in but for the majority things got underway with a spectacular parade of bands and banners which led people to the official opening by the State Federal Minister, The Hon. J. Horner.

In the formal part of the Congress, four speakers presented papers, America, Canada (two) and Australia. (We would like to reprint extracts from these but cannot do so without the permission of the publishers as copyright prevails. We will request permission and hope to include something in the next issue.) The magnitude of the breeding schemes in the Americas was highlighted in these papers—one speaker from Oregon operates a commercial feed lot on which he has 15,000 cattle!! This man was strong in his support for the Simmental which he is using in increasing volume in his cross breeding programme. Generally, the breed continues to gather strength and acceptance and the use of percentage blood bulls in cross breeding is becoming commonplace.

In the Congress programme, a show, exhibition and sale of cattle was held involving over 500 head of stock some of which had come from as far as England and Europe. Judging must have been a marathon effort and all cattle were judged in a green carpeted ring in an enclosed stadium. The Judge made his selection on horseback! The Sale the following day involved 81 Lots and was described as spectacular and vocal, and by some as lengthy. Compared to our New Zealand Sales progress was slow. It took nearly four hours to sell half the Catalogue. However, prices were good and the sale averaged US\$5,555 with a top price of US\$26,000 for a bull and US\$14,000 for the top female. Percentage cattle also bought high prices with what they term 'domestic purebreds' sold as 'cow and calf' units making up to US\$6,000 with three-quarter breds at up to US\$4,000.

A cross bred steer competition was also held with over 100 entries. Again the whole concept is so different from our own. Each steer was beautifully prepared (just as well as the Purebreds) and was haltered and led—their stockmanship, backed by years of experience, is outstanding. In conjunction with the steer competition, a display and judging of beef carcasses was held, surprisingly only involving ten entries. The top dressed weight was 762 lbs.

Interlaced with the more formal things at such a Meeting, there were many diversions—chuck-wagon breakfasts, yodelling (genuine Swiss), ranch visits, barbecues and barn dances. The reported success of this Congress speaks highly of the great organisation by the Canadian Association.

The next World Federation Congress will be held in Italy in 1980. Perhaps we might be able to gather a group of New Zealand Delegates to this Meeting??

## WELL KNOWN BULL, HAMLET DIES

Hamlet, an Austrian Bull imported to Ireland in 1971, has died—reportedly of a heart attack. Reputed to have sired 75,000 progeny, he has been widely used in both New Zealand and Australia.

## SIMMENTAL TO KOREA

Recently a large shipment of cattle left Lyttelton by ship for Korea. Over 800 cattle were selected from properties throughout the South Island and included Angus, Beef Shorthorn, a few Murray Greys and Simmentals. Of the Simmentals there were twenty-nine three-quarter breds and two Purebred bulls. The three-quarter breds were exported as commercial cattle only and were of average quality. The two bulls carried pedigrees and will be used for breeding with the heifers and other breeds in Korea. The Simmental shipment was destined for a private breeder in South Korea.

## AMERICAN EXECUTIVE SECRETARY RESIGNS

Mr Don Vaniman, who has held the position of Executive Secretary for the American Simmental Association since 1969, has resigned his position. The founder of most of the systems on which this very large organisation (9,000 Members) is based, has decided he will look for something with a little less pressure. While we do not have a great deal of contact with the American Association, a few New Zealanders have travelled through America for whom I have organised introductions and through the great courtesy and organisation of Don Vaniman they have been extremely well looked after. We take this opportunity of thanking him for his assistance and wishing him well in whatever he chooses to do.

## NEWS MEDIA REPORTS

We have been criticised at times on the matter of 'news media' publicity on Society matters of what we consider national importance. It always seems to be that the 'other fellow' gets all the publicity.

As a matter of interest at the conclusion of this year's National Sale in Palmerston North we immediately prepared a report on the Sale which was mailed to thirty-four newspapers throughout New Zealand. We have received a few reports that this information was published in various areas—also one or two advising us that it was not. It should be stated fairly that what we consider news is not always considered in the same way by the 'news media' and it is their decision that results in the publication or non-publication of material we supply to them. The same situations are applied to all items of news. We never, however, stop trying.

## THE COUNCIL

Since our last issue of the N.Z. Simmental the Council has met once following the National Sale in Palmerston North. The main items covered in this meeting have been reported in various other sections of this issue. Topics discussed were: The Sire Reference Scheme, Levies on Sales, The National Sale, Computer Recording and various office procedures.

Prior to the Council Meeting the Finance Committee met independently in Christchurch on the 25th July. Mr Kerr, Chairman of the Committee prepared an analysis of expected income and expenditure and it was estimated that the Society's income would be down by some \$13,000 in the coming year due to predictable fall off in exports of recipient cows and purebreds to Australia. The Committee sanctioned various moves to stabilise the income of the Society and main items were to introduce a Sale Levy and to dispose of some of the Shares held by the Society and re-invest the money in trustee debenture stock to produce a higher rate of income. This latter move followed a recommendation from the Annual General Meeting 1978.

Since that meeting Shares totalling over \$13,000 in value have been relinquished and two debentures purchased. One for \$10,000 in Canterbury Frozen Meat, which will return 12½% over 7 years and another for \$10,000 in The Development Finance Corporation of New Zealand returning 12% over five years. Both these investments are rated highly. The additional money required to finance the purchases over and above the money received for Shares was obtained from a build up of funds held on term deposit with our bank. Of interest to those who follow the Share Market the Shares disposed of were Odlins, U.E.B., Lion Breweries, Ballins and N.Z. News representing those shares which have shown us the lowest return on our investments.

In administering the finances of the Society in this and the forthcoming years careful control will be exercised on expenditure, but it is hoped and planned to continue the promotion of the breed and membership in the normal manner.

At the time of the Council Meeting a brief meeting was held by the Sales Committee and opportunity was taken to appraise the National Sale, which had been held the day before. It was considered that this event was probably one of the highest standard held and with few exceptions stock were very well presented. The facility at Palmerston North is first class and allowed thorough and smooth organisation for those involved. In discussing Sales for 1979 it was decided two would be held. One at Palmerston North at about the same time and one in the South Island, probably at Christchurch which could be designated the National Sale if this was considered desirable. Freight rates between Islands had now reached the stage where it was becoming prohibitive for breeders to send animals to other Islands. The dates for 1979 Sales will be established in the next month or so.

Following the Sales Meeting the Promotion Committee met under the Chairmanship of Mr H. R. Lowry. On National Advertising it was decided to continue selected advertising in the N.Z. Farmer and Straight Furrow and also to expand the coverage into the N.Z. Dairy Exporter emphasising the milk factor of the Simmental. The first of these advertisements will appear in the October issue.

As in previous years the Royal Show will be sponsored by the Society and additionally money will be set aside for promotion of the N.Z. Fieldays at Hamilton, which have now become a major event in the N.Z. Farming scene.

Promotion for Clubs will continue as before but Clubs are asked to give special attention to planning of expenditure. So that some surveillance can be kept on what is going on in Club areas, future accounting will be done by the Society Office, which will ease the burden of Club Secretaries. Committees will be advised of the desired procedures by separate circular.

## COMPUTERISATION OF RECORDS

Present indications are that we will at last get the pedigree and performance recording we have so long strived for. Initial meetings have been already held and we are working closely with the National Beef Cattle Improvement Committee to finalise what we, and they, require to get a system implemented. The recording scheme is under the directions of the Meat Producers Board and will enable pedigree and performance to be measured. The whole system will be based on the Dairy Board Computer and linked with Beefplan. Dairy cattle will have a similar link up so all will be catered for.

## ACCOUNT RECEIPTS

In the past when Members have paid their accounts, we have automatically issued official receipts. Postage is now at such a premium that we have discontinued this practice. Receipts will only be issued where specifically requested. To emphasise the costs involved, in one day recently we mailed nearly \$10.00 worth of letters that only contained receipts. Receipts will be written as in the past in our Receipt Book which is always on hand for back checking if required.

Members frequently return their statements with payment and we realise that these could well be required for their own accounting systems and to overcome the necessity for sending them in with payment, we will in future send out with our quarterly accounts a return slip which you should send back with your cheque. This will enable you to retain your statement and we suggest you write the cheque number and the date of payment on it before filing.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1979

We are pleased to advise that the Annual General Meeting for next year will be held in Nelson. The Secretary recently visited Nelson and looked at suitable accommodation which has been selected at the D.B. Rutherford. This Hotel is almost new and is ideal for our Conference and it is hoped that this year we will have virtually everyone under one roof. The A.G.M. will be held the evening of June 25th 1979 to the morning of the 28th. We look forward to seeing as many Members as possible at this event which has proved to be the highlight of the Society's annual activities.

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## 1978 NATIONAL SALE

A full report on the National Sale held at Palmerston North on the 3rd August was circulated to all Members immediately after the Sale. Those of our readers who did not receive this report will no doubt be interested in the main results of this Sale.

Fifty-seven Lots were offered comprising twenty bulls, seventeen heifers, eleven cows and seven seven-eighths heifers and two seven-eighths bulls.

1. The line up of bulls was impressive and the standard high with almost all entries of working age. Top price was \$2,500 for an Extra bull bred by A.H. & G.M. Thompson of Waipukurau. Average for the bull section was \$1,595.
2. The Pure heifers of which a considerable proportion were young animals, met a good market with top price of \$3,000 for a very well presented fifteen month heifer bred by P. Weenink of Hawkes Bay. Average price realised for heifers was \$1,288.
3. Mature cows of which there were eleven, had mostly been used in ovum transplant but well presented animals met a steady demand and a top price of \$1,400 was obtained for a beautiful cow by Herman, entered by Continental Livestock Ltd. of Cambridge. The average for cows was \$938.
4. Seven-eighths heifers were in two age groups and the older in-calf heifers sold to \$800 while the younger unmated animals realised a top of \$575.

Two seven-eighths bulls failed to find a market.

This year for the first time, judging of entries was introduced and this proved an interesting and worthwhile event. Mr Ivan Grieve of Hastings, a fat stock buyer and well respected appraiser of cattle, carried out the duties of Judge with efficiency and expediency dividing the entries into three classes — Bulls, Heifers and Cows. Top award for the Sale went to Sundowner Ranches Edmund a rising four year old bull by Scottish Herod and entered by Mr Roy Smith of Sherwood Simmentals near Cambridge. This well prepared entry was also awarded the R.G. Macdonald Challenge Trophy in the first year of its presentation. A handsome Cup, this is an imperipuity trophy generously donated by Mr R. G. Macdonald, Chairman of the Sales Committee, long time Councillor and Simmental breeder. First in the heifer class was South Pacific Candy 2nd, entered by Messrs. M. E. Cowam and I. W. Smith of Otorohanga. In the cow class Stockley Park Emblem, an imported cow, won the event for Continental Livestock Ltd. of Cambridge.

The Sale, held at a very good venue with excellent facilities for both led and unled entries, was considered a sound one.

## PRESENTATION OF CATTLE FOR SALE

The presentation of cattle at our recent National Sale in Palmerston North was of generally high standard. A few animals were not up to the mark and were rejected at inspection, a blow for the vendor but an object lesson that we have been trying to get across to all Members.

The National Sale is our 'shop window' and we must make every endeavour to present animals accordingly.

## LEVY ON SALES

All Members have been advised by circular of the introduction of a levy on Sales which became effective from the 1st September 1978.

The levy is struck at 1% of value at auction and 2% of value for sales other than auction.

For those who may wonder why there are two rates, the Council, in considering this matter felt that cattle prepared and sent to auction incurred additional costs in transportation, and in major sales, entrance fees, that are not applicable to private or paddock sales. The latter however, obtain the benefits of the Society's promotion of the breed as a whole, whether it be through sponsored sales or national advertising.

Similar levies are applied in some other countries and have proved most successful in generating additional funds for promotional purposes. The funds produced from our levies will be used for promotion also.

Levies are only applicable to cattle that are transferred and payable by the vendor. Existing stocks of transfer forms will be over stamped to provide a 'value' column which should be filled in by the vendor when he makes out the transfer. If members sell cattle that are transferable please ensure you obtain the overprinted transfer forms from the office.

## AVON PARK INVITATION SALE (Kaiapoi 28.9.78)

Of thirty-two lots offered, twenty-nine sold before a gallery of about a hundred people. The animals were variable in condition and presentation but good entries sold well and at comparable rates to our National Sale. Top price was for a Hamlet Bull at \$1,800 and other leading prices for Bulls were \$1,600, \$1,500 and \$1,300. The remainder of the seventeen Bulls offered were basically commercial and sold at prices from \$355 to \$700 which was considered realistic. A number of these Bulls were purchased by commercial breeders which will help to boost the number of Simmental infused animals on the market.

Heifers sold from \$400 to \$1,100 and again quality was variable with lower echelon animals being priced accordingly. Three older cows sold well at \$1,000, \$1,150 and \$1,500. The gross for the Sale was \$21,025 with an average of \$725. In retrospect the Sale was sound in consideration of the stock offered.



### BEEF COMPETITIONS . . .

Have YOU selected YOUR  
animals yet???

Sort out your animals early so that you have a few  
to choose from on the day.  
Simmentals can win as has been proved this season.

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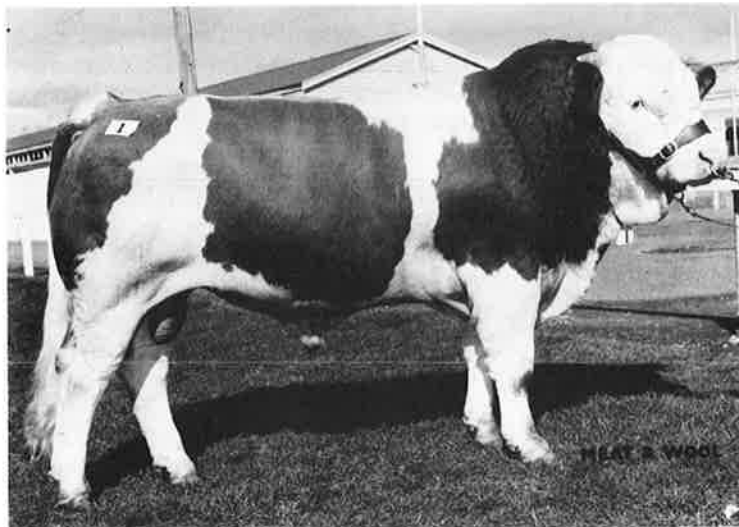
# 1978 NAT



Roy Smith of Cambridge holds his Champion Sale entry Sundowner Ranches Edmund assisted by John Allen of Wellington. With them is: Margaret Macdonald, wife of the Chairman of the Sales Committee, who presented the awards including her husband's Challenge Cup.



The Auctioneer's Call in the rostrum. With him



A bull of quality at the National Sale. Entered on behalf of A.H. and G.M. Thompson, this entry sold for \$2,000.



South Pacific Dan by Avoncroft Aster, youngest entry in the bull section (twelve months) sold for \$1,500. He is held by co-owner Murray Cowan of Otorohanga.



Ivan Grieve of Hastings, who judged entries at the National Sale, addresses breeders and visitors at the conclusion of his judging.

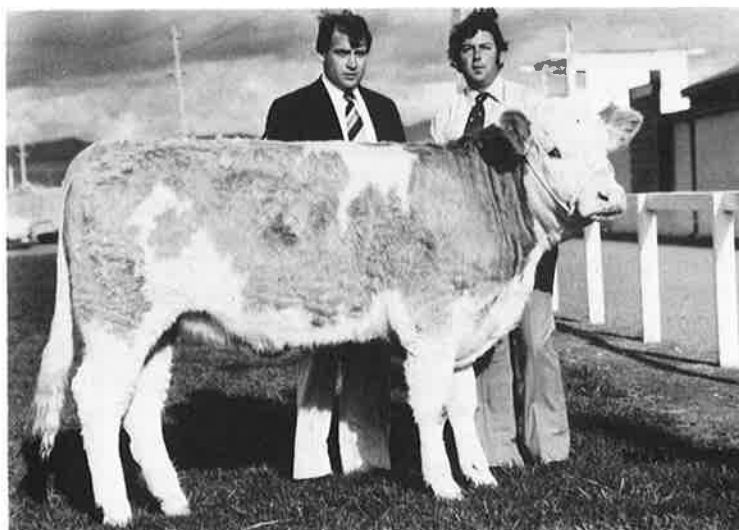
# NATIONAL SALE



l'. Bill Stewart of Farmers Stud Stock  
Sim is Jim Robertson, Manager for Farm-  
ers Stud Stock.



The final of bull judging in the Sale Ring.



Top priced heifer by Ueli held by owner Peter Weenink of Hawkes Bay. With him is John Sinclair, Stud Stock Manager of Dalgetys Melbourne, who purchased the heifer on behalf of an Australian client.



Sale,  
lging.

'Junior Cowhand' Kimberly Thompson, daughter of Mr and Mrs Tony Thompson of Waipukurau, keeps an eye on one of her parents' entries at the National Sale.



'Mostly stock talk'. Peter Burney of Wrightsons, Palmerston North, gives Peter Sibley of Wrightsons, Christchurch, a few pointers while David Carter of West Melton looks on.

# Technical

This article is reprinted from the 'Simmental Scene', official publication of the Canadian Simmental Association. We are grateful for permission to utilise this material in our magazine. Ed.

## THE COMPLEXITIES OF GENETIC DEHORNING

Dr. R. B. Church,  
University of Calgary

The polled condition being introduced into various breeds of cattle is basically the dominant mutation which was originally developed in the British Breeds. Over the years considerable interest in genetic dehorning has been evident in most of the 'exotic' breeds. The introduction of a polled gene into a horned breed is not a simple matter nor one which can be done in a very short time. A Breeder can breed a horned bull to horned cows and expect all calves to have horns, similarly a purebred Angus bull bred to a purebred Angus cow results in polled calves. However, if a horned bull is bred to polled cows one can expect up to half of the calves to be horned and the remainder to be either polled or scurred. Also if a horned-Simmental bull is used on scurred percentage Simmental cows the calves will end up approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  smooth polled,  $\frac{1}{4}$  scurred and  $\frac{1}{2}$  horned.

The pattern for breeding polled cattle involves three combinations of genes which can be identified genotypically as: "pp" a homozygous recessive horned animal; "Pp" a heterozygous polled animal which can produce both polled and horned offspring; and "PP" a homozygous dominant polled animal. In this genetic nomenclature the large "P" polled gene is dominant and the small "p" represents the recessive gene which causes horns to be produced. Since all animals receive one gene on a homologous chromosome from the male parent and a complementary gene on a homologous chromosome from the female parent each gene always occurs in pairs in an offspring. The mating patterns which are possible in breeding heterozygous "Pp" polled animals is presented in Figure 1. An animal's genotype is defined as the real genetic makeup of an animal including the 'hidden' recessive or modifier genes which are not expressed in that animal but which may be 'exposed' in certain genetic combinations in the offspring. The expression of the genotype in an individual's features which are visible is called the animal's phenotype or apparent genetic makeup. Since each individual receives one gene from each parent, for the horned/polled trait an animal genotypically can have two polled genes "PP", one gene for polled and one gene for horned "Pp", or two horned genes "pp". Phenotypically both "PP" homozygous animals and "Pp" heterozygous animals will be polled because the polled "P" gene is dominant or 'hides' the "p" horned gene in the heterozygous "Pp" animal.

The offspring from such a mating of heterozygous polled animals on the average are expected to be 75% polled and 25% horned. However, only 25% "PP" can be expected to breed true for polled if mated to "PP" individuals. The 25% "pp" horned individuals will be breed true for horns if mated to horned "pp" cattle. Fully one half of the polled offspring from such a heterozygous "Pp" polled mating will be themselves polled heterozygotes "Pp" which carry a 'hidden' horned gene "p".

Figure 1  
EXPECTED OFFSPRING FROM A MATING OF  
HETEROZYGOUS "Pp" POLLED INDIVIDUALS.

<div>♂</div> <div>♀</div>	Gamete types of sperm cells possible	
	'P'	'p'
Gamete types of egg cells possible	'P'	'Pp'
	'p'	'pp'
	'PP' homozygous polled animals 25%	'Pp' heterozygous polled animals 25%
	'Pp' heterozygous polled animals 25%	'pp' homozygous horned animals 25%

\* Genotypic and phenotypic combinations expected for offspring of a heterogenous mating.

Similarly it is possible to see that, if we disregard the scurred condition, a horned animal "pp" mated with a true polled homozygote "PP" produces all heterozygous "Pp" polled. All offspring are heterozygous "Pp" polled regardless of the sex and all will produce a mixture of horned and polled calves depending upon the chances of segregation in the next generation of matings. If a horned homozygous animal "pp" is mated with a heterozygous polled animal "Pp" two genotypic classes of animal can be expected, heterozygous polled "Pp" and homozygous horned "pp". If a true polled homozygous "PP" animal is mated to a homozygous horned animal "pp" all the offspring will be heterozygous "Pp" and carriers of the horned gene.

If the same homozygous polled animal "PP" is mated with a heterozygous polled animal "Pp" the resulting offspring will be in two genotypic classes, homozygous polled "PP" and heterozygous polled "Pp", which carry a hidden horned gene. Lastly and most importantly to the polled breeder, a homozygous polled animal "PP" mated to a homozygous polled animal "PP" will breed true and all calves will be homozygous "PP" if we disregard the scurr genes.

Therefore a Breeder should aim at securing both cows and bulls which are 100% dehorners or homozygous "PP", since these animals will always breed true. The problem a Breeder faces is that he cannot identify polled homozygotes "PP" in his cow herd and, since the generation time is so long in the bovine, improvement is slow. It is important therefore to place great emphasis on finding a homozygous "PP" bull in order to make the quickest possible progress towards a polled herd.

When selecting a polled sire one indicator of polled genotype is the conformation of his poll and that of his polled sire and dam. The conformation of the Parents' heads is an indication of a Son's dehorning ability since the more "pointed" the poll the better the chances that the animal is homozygous "PP" polled without being a



carrier of any scurr genes. The complication in selecting polled animals is due to the presence of scurr genes which cause variation in the polled condition. In the Simmental where the polled condition has been introduced by a domestic upgrading programme the Breeder cannot be sure of the potency of the polled condition in a young sire until he has been progeny tested.

Scurrs are a topic of considerable controversy in the new breeds. A scurr can be considered as any horny growth that is attached to the skin of the head as opposed to a true horn which is an outgrowth from the skull.

The scurred condition is genetically complicated and probably involves at least three sets of genes of which at least one is sex linked. Only polled cattle can show the scurred trait and the sex influenced genes will cause polled bulls with either one or two genes for scurrs to be scurred whereas females must carry two scurr genes for the scurrs to grow.

In the typical horned animal the horn is attached to the animal's skull whereas in a typical scurred animal the bony core forms a deposit at the junction of the skull and the scurr. The size of the bony deposit at the base of the scurr gives the impression of firmness or looseness to the scurr. Calves will likely prove to be horned if the horny protrusion is tightly attached to the skull and the skull has a flat shaped crown. Most calves will have developed horns by the time they are nine months old if they are going to have horns.

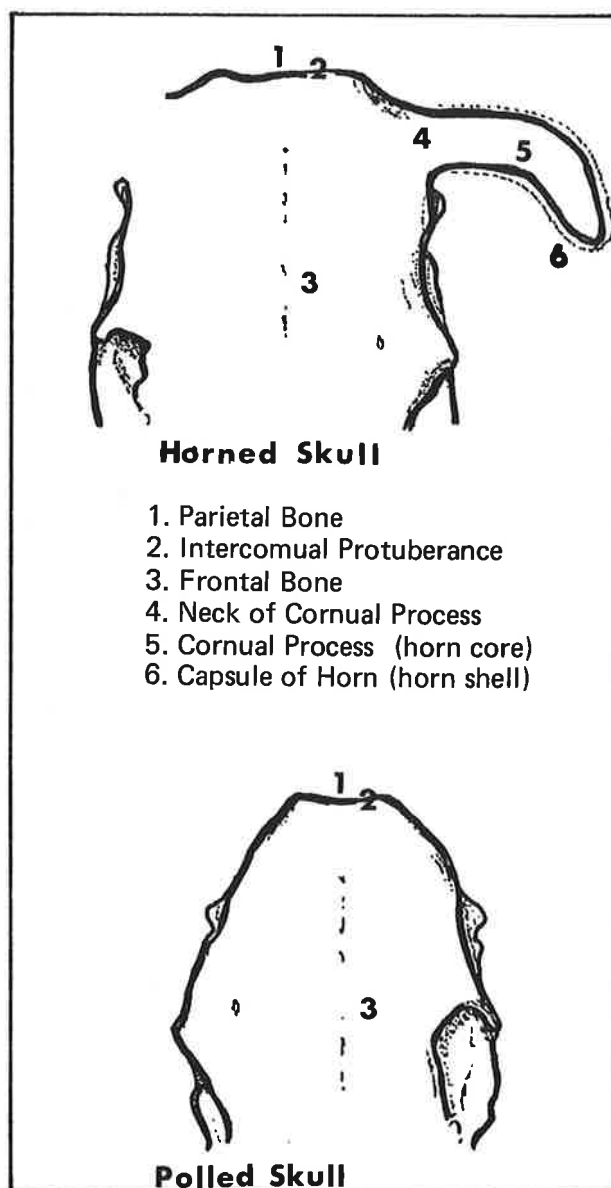
Light scurrs in a young calf may suddenly grow and become more firmly attached to the skull. For this reason it is advisable not to register polled calves until they are at least nine months of age. One of the best means of identification of true polls is through the x-ray technology developed by Francie Borgal of Priddis, Alberta in her Charolais herd. The x-ray technique can aid in distinguishing polled and scurred cattle from dehorned animals.

Most horned animals carry at least one of the three scurr genes hidden by the horned condition. When the polled gene is introduced scurrs appear as a semirecessive to the polled gene in the females but as semidominant in males. Thus at least two scurr genes are required in heifers before a scurr is formed whereas in bulls only one scurr gene will cause scurrs. A completely clean headed bull cannot normally be a carrier of scurr genes since they would be expressed. Nevertheless, some of his bull calves may be scurred if they received a scurred gene from their smooth headed dams who are 'scurr carriers'. A scurred bull used in a clean polled cow herd will produce clean polled heifers, some of which carry the scurr gene which may come to light in the next generation of bull calves. In some of the new breeds the term "polled influence" has been used. Not only is this misleading but it is inaccurate reflection of the genetic potential of an animal. The presence of heterozygous "Pp" polled animals which are scurr carriers means that due to chance the numbers of offspring a clean polled cow can throw a scurred or horned calf depending on chance.

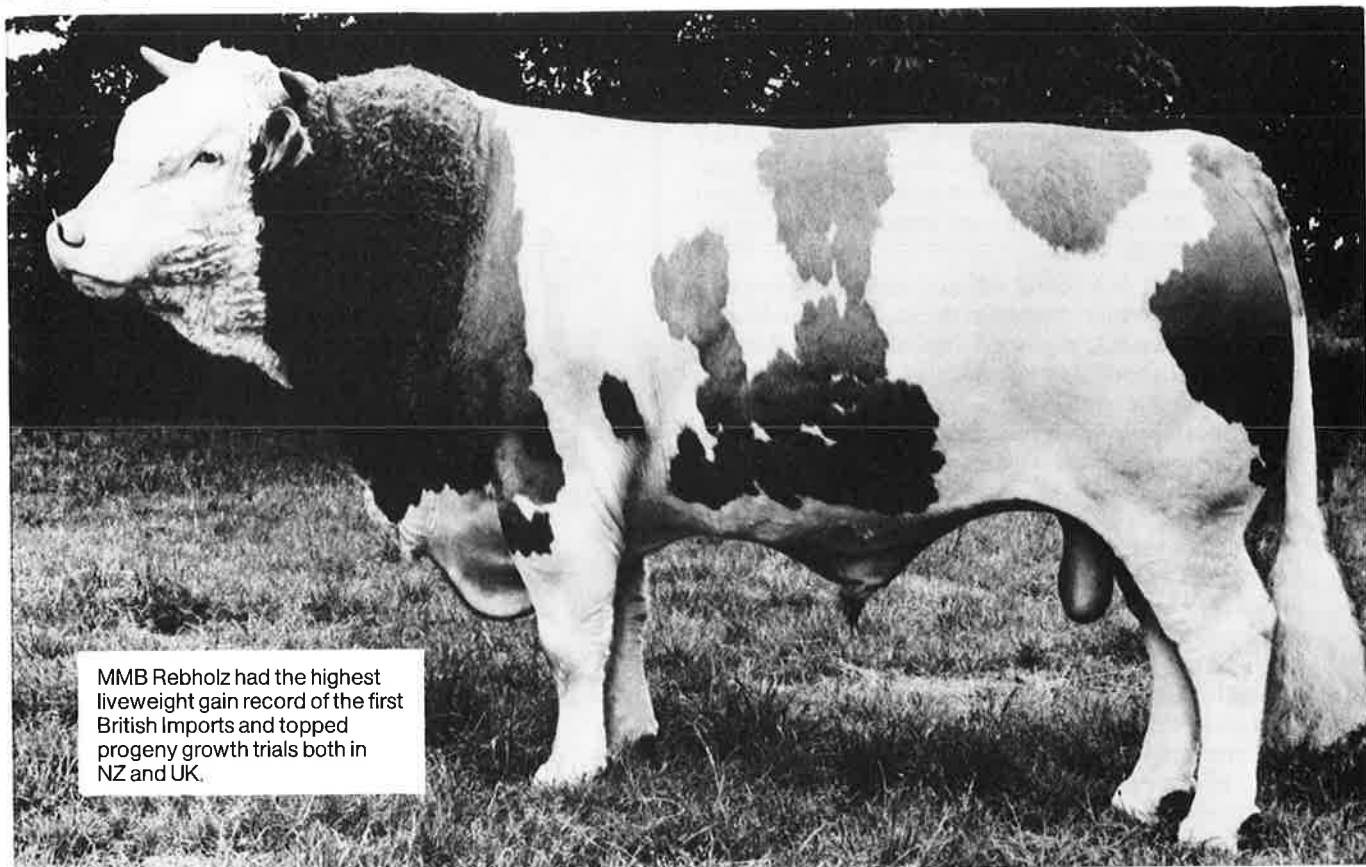
For a new breeder to embark upon the development of a polled programme in a horned breed requires over 500 head of polled foundation cows to produce one 15/16 clean polled bull! Since this is not a practical approach to the average breeder who is contemplating raising polls it

is important for him to obtain as clean a polled bull as possible. Before purchase investigate the dam and the sire for the presence of scurrs and possibly ask for x-ray data. The first polled bull in a horned cow herd will produce only heterozygous polls. Therefore the fastest progress to a clean polled herd is made by mating a polled bull with clean polled foundation cows such as Angus or polled Hereford or to polled percentage cows. To progeny test for scurrs embryo transfer or mating to a bull's own daughters is probably the best route to go.

A Breeder must always remember that for genetic dehorning to be of value to his herd the potential herd sire must be of acceptable herd sire calibre FIRST then consider as a poll. The prepotency of clean polled offspring is uncertain in any animal until the animal and its offspring have been progeny tested so a Breeder must be prepared to invest in a long term breeding programme if he is committed to a polled herd.



# BULLPOWER FOR SUPER SIMMENTALS!



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The art of the breeder is in blending blood lines. There are no final guarantees when dealing with animals, but Bullpower bulls have the background that offers the greatest possible protection to the user. Your local L.I.A. or usual semen supplier has illustrated information sheets on all Bullpower bulls. If you breed Simmentals you should have them handy.

**The best for the next generation.**

**■ BULLPOWER**

## 1978 ROYAL SHOW

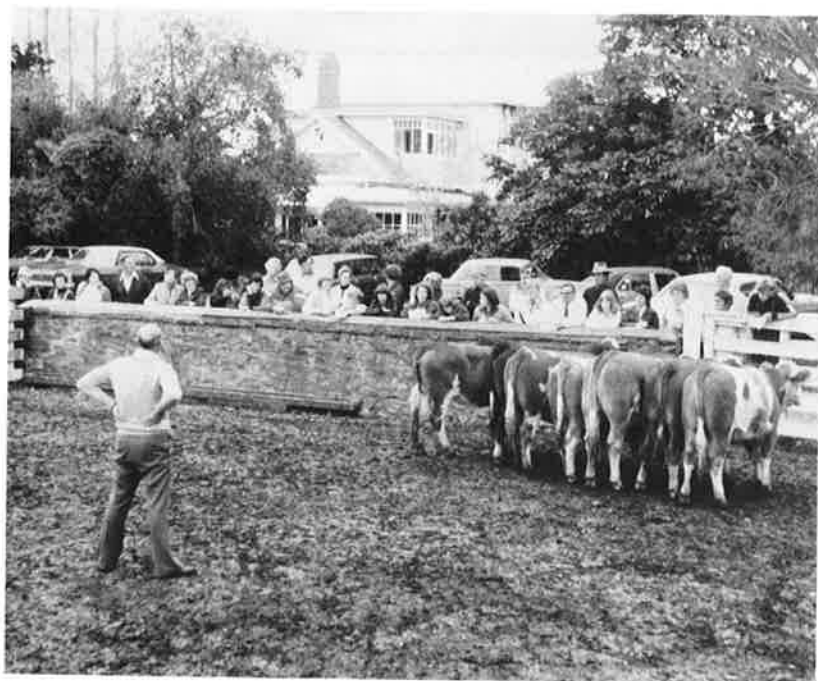
This year the Royal Show will be held in Hastings over the 17th, 18th and 19th October. Already the Hawkes Bay Club are planning their site which will incorporate a display together with competing cattle. We trust this event will receive the same support as last year's Royal in Christchurch.

Regrettably the cost of taking cattle up from the South Island is such that it is prohibitive which is a great disappointment to some of our South Island Breeders. We feel sure, however, that there will be sufficient cattle of quality within the North Island Membership to provide a worthwhile showing of animals.

If our National Sale was any indication we are certain there are a number of animals of Show quality that could go forward to this event.

## HERD RETURN

We have received a great number of Herd Returns and thank those who have completed this requirement. We will shortly be checking returns against registered breeders and will be chasing up the delinquents. HAVE YOU COMPLETED YOURS? If not, please send it in promptly.



## SIRE REFERENCE PROJECT

The response to our Sire Reference Scheme has been excellent. We have been offered in excess of 1500 females for mating which is well above target and will make the whole thing most worthwhile. Semen has been ordered and will be distributed in the next few weeks. There is an almost equal balance of request for both New Zealand born bulls and overseas bulls. Those members who are participating will be written to shortly setting out the procedure for randomised matings.

## SONGS OF PRAISE

Quote—

"Dear Sir,

I bought your Simmental cattle at Burnside on the 4th July and have been told that the ages varied from 20 to 22 months. The weights were 319, 318, 317, 316, 301.

As quality butchers, we stock only top quality bullocks and therefore our staff are used to quality. Their praise about the lean conformation of Simmental beef was loud, long and clear. They hang up very well and although the bone structure was heavy, there was almost no fat waste. Simmental would do well in any cutting test.

I would strongly recommend Simmental cattle to the butchery trade because of their quick growth and excellence of meat conformation."

(Unquote)

This letter was received from a Dunedin Retail Butcher by Mr R. Sycamore, an Otago breeder, who was good enough to pass a copy on to us. We congratulate him in producing stock of top quality. If each breeder could produce but a few such steers our market will be an ever increasing one.

### 'You be the Judge'

A group of crossbred cattle under the discerning eye of seventy-odd judges at the Canterbury Club Field Day at O.J. Osborne's property at 'Winfield' near Christchurch. A popular and useful exercise, this type of appraisal brings an awareness of what to look for in our cattle. At the conclusion of judging a panel of 'experts' gave their views and placings.

## DEHORNING

While it is not mandatory to dehorn from a Society point of view, the procedure is recommended. Simmentals grow a variety of horn structures and some configurations do little to enhance the appearance of the animal. Handling is also made easier in yards with less likelihood of injury.

A very good article on the techniques of dehorning appeared in an earlier issue of the Australian Magazine and the Editor will endeavour to obtain it for reproduction in our next issue.

# A top young Simmental sire from Ambreed

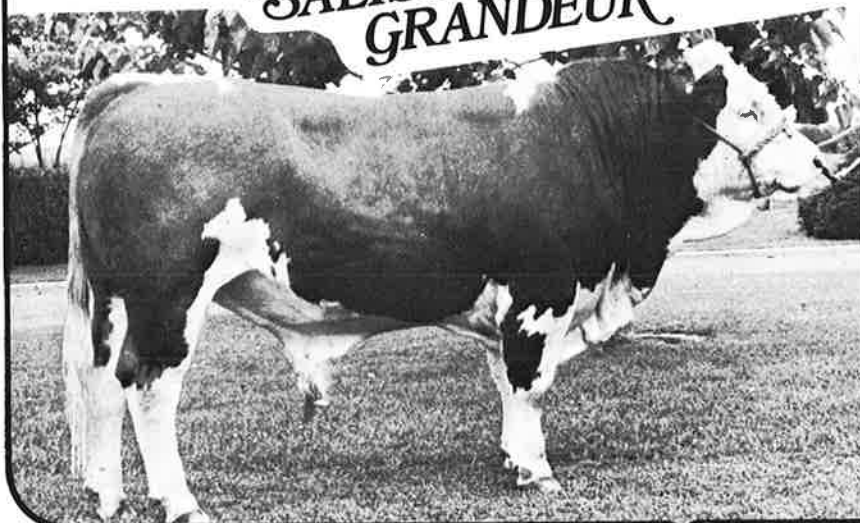
Salisbury Grandeur. Chosen to be included in the Simmental Society Reference Scheme this young sire, standing at Ambreed AI Centre, has good markings and pigmentations, is of quiet disposition, has good growth rate and general correctness.

**His Dam**  
"Salisbury Princess Jutta" - (imported) She has milk production records to 5266 litres milk, 3.6% fat, 188 kgm fat, 294 days P I 144. (Owned by K.J. Schumacher & Co. Stratford).

## His Sire

The Elite Canadian Reference Sire "Bavarian". A top ranked bull for weaning, yearling, weight and growth - (A.S.A. National Summary). This bull can be used with confidence to improve growth, style and carcass quality.

**SALISBURY  
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New Zealand Fieldays, Hamilton 1978. Waikato and Districts Club Members at the Simmental Display. L-R: Betty Ashworth (Matamata), Noel and Ailsa Buchanan (Morrinsville), Geoff Mathis (Putaruru), Barry Anderson (Te Awamutu), Gary Locke (Taupiri).

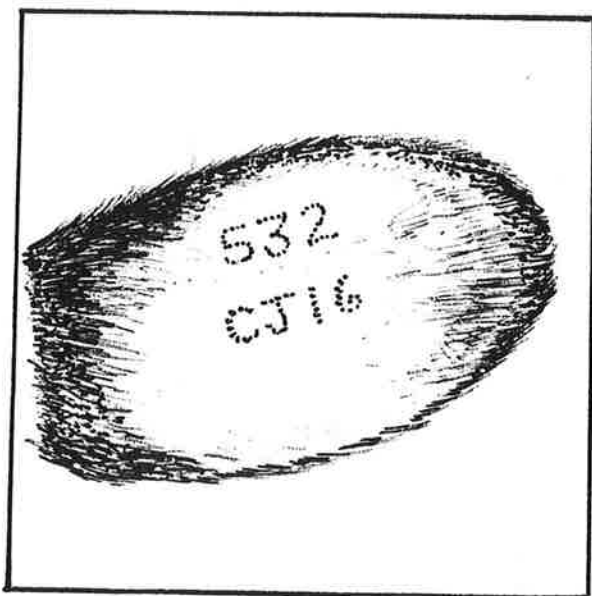


## ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION—TATTOOING

Just how good are your tattoos? Each time we inspect animals for export or for sale we make a point of carefully examining their tattoos. In most cases they are satisfactory but occasionally we turn up one that is not. Members are reminded of the importance of carrying out tattooing in a proper and workmanlike manner. It is a regulation of the Society that all animals intended for registration are permanently tattooed before weaning. They should, of course, be tag identified long before then.

Recently we had what became a serious issue with animals offered for sale that were incompletely tattooed. The animals in question were withdrawn from sale and de-registered in the interim while herd records and the remainder of the herd was inspected. Fortunately on this occasion, records and documentation were such that the authenticity of the animals and their breeding could be upheld. It could easily have been otherwise.

If you are selling animals or putting them up for auction, **make sure** their tattoos are correct and readable. The time taken to do just that is cheap compared to a cancelled sale and perhaps a de-registered animal.



An example of what a tattoo should look like. A 1978-born  $\frac{3}{4}$  bred from Herd 532

If the basics of tattooing are closely followed, you should have no problem.

1. Clean the ear well first; remove wax and dirt with methylated spirits or industrial alcohol.
2. Load your tattoo pliers with great care and **always** test punch the pattern on a bit of paper or cardboard. It is amazing how easy it is to misplace or load an incorrect letter or numeral.
3. Coat the ear with tattoo paste evenly, punch the tattoo positively on the cleanest portion of the ear avoiding the main blood vessels. Do not go too close to the hairline either inwards or outwards. Rub in the tattoo paste thoroughly with your thumb.

It is a help if the paste is thick to dilute it with a little alcohol which provides better penetration. A few drops of dettol will also minimise the chance of infection. **DO IT ONCE AND DO IT PROPERLY.**

The tattoo letter for calves born in 1978 is 'J' (the letter 'I' has been dropped because of its similarity to the numeral 'one').

When completing your registration application, please also ensure you enter the tattoo in the same format as it is actually in the ear. This simplifies our job in the Office. We know for sure that you have recorded properly.

## REGISTRATIONS

The office is working steadily on with the very large number of registrations we have received for processing. It will be some time before they are completed but we assure you that 'yours' have not been mislaid.

As advised earlier if you require Certificates in a hurry we will give them priority which we have done for a number of breeders. We are, in fact, trying to complete a year's registrations within a few months, which in the past have been spread over most of the year.

## LATE REGISTRATIONS

If you have not registered your 1977 born cattle you now are up for a penalty fee.

We gave an amnesty until the end of July 1978 for registration applications to arrive at the office—a month longer than required. We regret we cannot make exceptions.



*In a previous issue, we reported that one of our Members, Mrs Pam Wards, had but two three-quarter heifers and one calf, a seven-eighths heifer. We were lucky enough to catch Pam (and husband Roddy) with the heifer at a recent Field Day in Canterbury — the calf was also present but decided she did not like the photographer. (Stop Press: Pam Wards has another calf — a heifer!)*

# Miscellaneous

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

A matter that has concerned me for some time is the undue haste of many breeders to reach full Purebred status in their herds.

In many instances, as soon as enough three-quarter bred are on the ground all half bred cows have been discarded and I fear the same will happen with three-quarter bred cows in favour of seven-eighths bred. To me this is a very serious waste of valuable genetic material. By the time cows of any status have bred 3 or 4 calves it should be possible to identify 10-20 per cent of the superior performance animals. These are very valuable animals and should be used for several years to infuse their superior qualities into the next status. Granted their progeny will be several years later in reaching Purebred status but the end result is likely to be well worthwhile.

Conversely, by discarding all lower status cows in favour of all or most animals of a higher status, a great deal of inferior material will be brought to Purebred status where the chill winds of competition, both from within the breed and from other breeds, will force them to be culled.

Yours etc.

E. J. Parr,  
Middle Valley, Fairlie.

**Editor's Note:**—We remind Members that we will accept letters for the Magazine. If you wish to write, please keep your literary efforts short and to the point. Letters should be of Breeder/Member interest. As with any publication we do reserve the right to decline publication.

## AN APOLOGY

The Editor furnishes an apology to Mr H. R. Lowry for the omission of his name from the list of Councillors on the Editorial page. We assure you Mr Lowry is still very much with us as a Councillor and Chairman of the Promotion Committee. Had it not been an error on the part of the printer the omission could have almost been classified as 'biting the hand that feeds you'.

### FOR SALE

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A contribution by F. E. Jansen of Wanganui.

### NEW ZEALAND SIMMENTALS

1. Wonderful worthy Simmental Breed,  
Greatest reward for consumed feed.  
Colour mainly red and white,  
Varies a little to please the sight.  
Docile, healthy, charming she,  
Proud and peaceful, the male is he.
2. Of all the breeds, all lands present,  
Or the mind of man could thus invent,  
The Simmental does head the list,  
Very little has it missed.  
The best of breeds yet ever be  
To come to us from oversea.
3. From Europe South to the north terrain,  
Where ere you go the name is fame,  
From Switzerland heights where mists do shroud,  
To our own land, the Long White Cloud.  
North to south, east to west,  
All do know we have the best.
4. Gain of weight, pleased to relate,  
A joy record from date to date.  
And weight for age, with weight gain,  
That's the theme of our refrain.  
One of few breeds, this I know,  
With beef records, plus milk flow.
5. The stock in youth does do so well,  
See day to day for that to tell.  
Behold the meat they do pack  
Before, behind, along the back:  
Here lies one secret of the breed,  
In infant life, how well they feed.
6. In grading-up the eye doth look  
At the goal in sight, 'tis in the book.  
Then of the cross they nothing lack,  
Head to tail, foot to back.  
And be they A B C or D,  
Oh the purebred, a prize is she.
7. On our land so rich and green,  
Be the finest breed yet ever seen.  
Oh breeders all I know it shall  
Our adopted breed the Simmental.  
Love of land, love of stock,  
A pride all farmers what ere one's got,  
The Simmental will do you proud,  
Breeders all of the Long White Cloud.

Frank Jansen

### TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

As in all membership organisations there will always be some fluctuation in numbers. Members are reminded that should they wish to discontinue their membership they must first advise the office in writing. For a resignation to be effective all fees and levies outstanding, inclusive of the current year's subscription, must be met as set out in Rule 8(a).



# 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

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