

new zealand simmental



summer issue 1979 number ten

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THE SIMMENTAL CATTLE BREEDERS'

SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND (INC.)

118 VICTORIA STREET, CHRISTCHURCH 1, NEW ZEALAND.

P.O. BOX 25-100, VICTORIA STREET, CHRISTCHURCH. Phone 793-166

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Advertisers

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Office Staff

Ian S. Johnstone
(Society Secretary)
Phone: Christchurch
(Bus.) 793-166
(Pvt.) 487-572

Miss Sue Johnstone

Mrs Ann Booth

PART TIME (as required)
Mrs Yvonne Kingsland
Mrs Eileen Austing
Mr Len Walker

Editorial

Who are we, what are we, and where are we going? These questions can be applied to almost any enterprise of human endeavour. If the question is not asked it is inevitably not answered, resulting in lack of purpose and objective.

In eight years we have answered the first two questions and in part the third. The demand for our weaners continues and expands, our steers are keenly sought by the local trade and our stud cattle find a ready market both here and in Australia.

From this base we must plan and take the next step. In Australia the Simmental Association has successfully established a commercial extension of the Society under the name of 'Simbeef'. Cattle of at least 25% Simmental blood and above are eartag identified for marketing with rapidly expanding success. We are fortunate in our extremely good relationship with Australia who have generously permitted us to utilize 'Simbeef' for the establishment of a similar scheme in New Zealand. 'Simbeef' will be launched during the next few months and will promote the involvement of the commercial beef breeder to market his Simmental cross cattle in a co-ordinated and identified system. If we breed bulls we must have a market for them, if we have a market we must promote its expansion and 'Simbeef' is the tool we will use.

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Phone: Timaru 82418
- Vice-President:** J. R. Sutton, Waihaorunga, R. D. 7 Waimate
Phone: Waihaorunga 878
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Phone: Halcombe 630
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Phone: Parnassus 809.
W. Gut, R. D. 29 Kaponga, Taranaki.
Phone: Kaponga 741.
G. D. Locke, Gordonton Road, R. D. 1 Taupiri.
Phone: Gordonton 877.
H. R. Lowry, Pukekohu, P. B. Havelock North.
Phone: Waimarama 832
R. G. Macdonald, 15 Selkirk Place, Christchurch 5.
Phone: Christchurch 858-080

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FINANCE: R. N. S. Cox **TECHNICAL:** J. R. Sutton
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simbeef

symbol of progress



The marketing of
commercial
beef cattle by
identification



simbeef cattle are of at
least 25% Simmental blood

simbeef is the commercial
division of the Simmental
Society.

Enquire how you too can
become a **simbeef** member.

Simmental Cattle Breeders. Box 25100
Victoria Street, Christchurch.

The Commercial Arm Of The Simmental Society

The Simmental Society has been established for eight years. Breeders' are now producing purebred bulls for sale and these are becoming available in increasing numbers.

Over the past three or four years, the success of Simmental cross cattle in the market place has been proved again and again. Top weaner prices and top commercial steers have impressed many commercial breeders of traditional stock in many areas and as a consequence an increasing number of both purebred and percentage Simmental bulls are being used in the commercial situation for cross breeding.

The pattern follows closely that of other countries into which the breed has been introduced in the last decade. Canada, The United States, Africa and Australia have all found the same situation of increasing acceptance of the Simmental breed.

In Australia the situation is buoyant, and Simmental have made great progress in the commercial sector where they are fully competitive with and in many cases ahead of the great numbers of traditional breeds in that country. Earlier this year representatives of the Society were in Australia and were sufficiently impressed with what was taking place with the "Simbeef" plan to recommend to the New Zealand Council that a similar scheme be implemented here.

"Simbeef" will be established as a commercial extension of the New Zealand Society. The word "Simbeef" was originated by the Australian Simmental Association who have generously permitted its use within New Zealand.

Basically "Simbeef" is the marketing of identified Simmental cross cattle of not less than 25% Simmental blood. Dams may be of any breed. "Simbeef" cattle may be by purebred or percentage blood Simmental bulls or alternatively from Simmental cross dams by traditional breed bulls provided the cross produces the minimum percentage of bloodline. "Simbeef" cattle may be females or steers only.

Identification of "Simbeef" cattle will be by eartag bearing the word "Simbeef" which will replace any other tag the animal may carry prior to marketing. Tags will be ordered and supplied by the Society at normal cost. Allflex maxi tags, black overprint on bright yellow will be supplied for uniformity of image.

Eligibility to market cattle bearing the "Simbeef" eartag will be by membership which will enable commercial breeders to participate in activities of the Society, on the same basis as Associate Members. Through membership they will receive the New Zealand Simmental magazine, which will keep them abreast with the activities of the Society and the breed. By becoming a "Simbeef" breeder, the commercial producer will be able to use the "Simbeef" symbol in advertising his stock for sale and will also benefit from the Society advertising and promotion which will be New Zealand wide.

MEMBERS WILL BE URGED TO IDENTIFY ONLY THEIR QUALITY ANIMALS FOR "SIM-BEEF" MARKETING THEREBY ENSURING THE SUCCESS OF THE SCHEME.

Simmental cross cattle have established a name for themselves, as rapid growth rate, high yielding cattle and the introduction of the "Simbeef" scheme presents an opportunity for the commercial breeder to capitalize on the situation and to expand and develop a co-ordinated marketing system for an identified line of cattle without the necessity of usual complication of full breed Society membership.

The Council proposes to officially launch the "Simbeef" scheme early in March when every effort will be made to obtain as much media and publicity coverage as possible. At the present time the project is being given some exposure at Shows in the South Island and at area meetings elsewhere with heartening response. In March articles for papers and magazines will be released and a suitable poster and pamphlet will be designed for issue to Stock Firms, Sale Yards, Butchers' Shops etc.

The assistance of our membership will be enlisted to promote the scheme and to ensure that cattle carrying the "Simbeef" tag are only of top standard. If "Simbeef" is to succeed it must be well promoted. Members are in a position where they will be able to do a great deal in this respect—they know people and are known in their own areas and their promotion by example and effort must surely influence potential commercial members.

Full details of how the scheme operates, membership forms and order forms will be available early in the New Year. Simbeef is potentially a very worthwhile project not only for commercial breeders but for our own members. It will provide an expanding market for our bulls and will give the breed the opportunity to show its true potential.

**TO OUR MEMBERS & FAMILIES
AND THOSE MANY
PEOPLE WITH WHOM WE
HAVE HAD CONTACT
DURING THE YEAR
THANK YOU
FOR YOUR FRIENDSHIP AND MANY
KINDNESSES, YOUR
CO-OPERATION AND SUPPORT.
TO YOU ALL,
A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS
AND A PROSPEROUS AND
SUCCESSFUL 1980.**

**IAN JOHNSTONE
SUE JOHNSTONE
ANN BOOTH
YVONNE KINGSLAND
EILEEN AUSTING
LEN WALKER**

People

Kiwis and Simmentals

It is interesting to note how the odd Kiwi pops up in the Simmental scene overseas. David Gaunt, Secretary of the British Society, although British by birth spent some years in New Zealand and has New Zealand citizenship, which he still retains.

Ian Bonifant, Manager of the Australian Association has spent many years in Australia but is still very much a Kiwi with strong New Zealand ties.

Phil Guilford, who worked for some years with Air New Zealand in Christchurch and was a part time farmer and breeder of Simmentals in the Amberley area before moving to Canada two years ago with his family. A recent edition of the Canadian 'Simmental Scene' records him as a recent addition to the Association staff as Advertising Manager, Phil will be remembered by some earlier members in New Zealand as the person who designed our New Zealand symbol.

Good to have a few ex-patriot allies around the world!

Left to Right:— David Gaunt, Ian Bonifant, Phil Guilford.



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EST. 1971 HERD N° 3



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AMERICAN SIMMENTAL ASSOCIATION SIRE SUMMARY

We are grateful to the A.S.A. for permission to print this data from their 1979 Sire Summary. Performance recording is mandatory for all registered Simmental cattle in U.S.A.

The 2 figures shown in each space are:

1. RATIO, or index—(give definition as per page 14, N.Z. Simmental, number 7).
2. ACCURACY—(define ditto).

Heritability Estimates for traits listed in American National Simmental Sire Summary.

BIRTH WT. high 35%
 CALVING EASE INDEX medium 30%
 WEANING WT. medium 25%
 YEARLING WT. high 45%
 DAUGHTER'S 1st calf calving ease medium 25%
 DAUGHTER'S 1st calf weaning wt. medium 25%
 Retail cuts per day of age high 40%

	VELI	BARON MM	BEAT	BISMARCK	EXTRA	FLORIAN	HORN	LPSR	SIEGFRIED	SOLEIL										
Birth Weight (over 100=light)	99.6	.3	104.4	.5	98.3	.2	97.2	.3	97.3	.3	101.7	.3	99.9	1.0	100.6	.6	99.0	.9	101.0	.3
	98.2	.8	103.3	1.3	97.6	.7	96.9	1.7	95.6	1.0	100.4	.8	98.5	3.8	99.6	1.6	99.4	2.4	100.5	.8
	100.9	.3	99.5	.5	101.5	.2	99.2	.3	103.2	.3	98.3	.2	99.4	1.2	101.6	.6	104.1	.9	99.9	.3
	101.0	1.0	99.6	1.7	101.2	.8	98.1	1.3	102.6	.9	98.6	1.0	102.4	4.6	101.2	1.9	103.3	2.3	101.3	.9
	111.3	2.0	94.3	4.4	105.5	1.7	99.8	1.8	107.7	2.9	81.7	1.7	102.8	12.3	102.7	4.6	114.0	11.1	91.7	2.1
Daughter's 1st Calf Weaning Wt.	100.6	.6	101.5	1.3	100.7	.5	99.0	.4	99.4	.8	100.2	.4	102.4	3.5	101.7	1.3	99.3	3.4	99.4	.6
Retail Cuts Per Day Age	102.2	2.8	—	—	101.1	1.3	—	—	103.3	1.4	101.0	1.3	103.3	2.9	101.1	2.4	102.4	3.3	101.3	1.4
	ABRICOT	HAMLET	TAQUIN B9	C. MUNTER	PREIS	QUARTIER	SALZ	SAXO	SV BAY-ARIAN	TAS SAMBO										
Birth Weight	100.5	.3	97.1	1.9	100.3	.6	101.4	.9	98.6	1.0	98.3	.7	103.3	1.0	101.5	.5	98.9	.7	100.7	1.0
	100.7	.9	93.9	6.7	99.8	1.7	101.4	2.7	95.5	2.9	99.2	3.2	103.6	2.6	99.9	1.2	99.4	2.2	101.3	2.7
	100.8	.4	99.7	1.9	100.2	.7	98.4	.8	99.4	1.1	100.0	.6	102.0	1.1	99.4	.4	102.6	.7	101.0	1.1
	101.0	1.3	99.0	3.7	100.1	2.3	98.7	2.6	95.9	4.6	100.6	3.3	103.0	3.0	99.8	1.9	101.4	2.1	103.4	3.9
	101.3	4.0	108.1	11.5	105.0	5.2	100.4	4.8	—	—	100.5	4.2	89.3	11.3	89.9	3.4	93.2	6.1	107.9	14.3
Daughter's 1st Calf Weaning Wt.	101.5	1.2	99.5	3.4	101.7	1.6	99.5	1.4	100.0	4.3	99.2	1.0	98.9	3.5	98.1	1.0	103.6	1.9	100.5	3.8
	ULAN	ULMER	URAL	USCH	VRL ACAJOU	PIRLI	WBL GALEXY	MORIS	TEXAS											
Birth Weight	99.7	1.2	98.9	1.0	97.9	2.1	102.0	.7	100.7	.6	94.3	2.4	96.7	1.7	108.9	3.2	96.4	2.9		
	100.4	4.2	97.9	3.2	97.6	8.0	101.5	1.9	100.1	1.7	96.7	7.1	96.9	6.5	107.2	5.0	98.0	4.3		
	100.5	1.2	98.8	1.0	100.9	2.2	98.8	.7	98.7	.7	102.4	2.1	102.4	2.1	97.2	3.5	97.7	3.2		
	99.3	4.9	98.7	4.0	—	—	99.7	2.5	99.0	2.1	100.8	9.4	104.2	5.2	—	—	—	—		
	94.8	9.6	98.7	7.3	93.7	15.5	94.1	6.1	91.4	5.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Daughter's 1st Calf Weaning Wt.	101.2	3.1	100.9	2.0	100.1	3.8	101.4	1.8	99.9	1.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		

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Annual Meeting of Members

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NELSON

This year's meeting was attended by about a hundred people who came from virtually every area of New Zealand. Regrettably a contingent from North of Auckland who were to fly down in a light aircraft were 'weatherbound' at the last minute and had to cancel their attendance. They were missed as they were some of our most regular attendants at our Annual Meetings. The weather prior to the meeting was anything but encouraging with near flood conditions in many areas and the organisers were apprehensive that they might have to alter plans or the format at the last moment. Fortunately, it cleared late in the morning on the day that visitors arrived and apart from a few temporarily delayed flights things ran to schedule. Members this year were domiciled under 'one roof' except for about ten 'bachelors', whom we had to accommodate in a motel close by. The DB Nelson proved to be an excellent venue.

Tuesday the 3rd dawned fine for our Field Day and two large Newmans coaches took visitors in a leisurely manner through the various small centres near Nelson out to the T.N.L. Group farm at Redwoods Valley. Points of interest were identified on the way out and a brief stop was made at a 40 acre block recently developed by T.N.L. Group for the production of berry fruits—boysenberries, blueberries, etc. An extremely intensive system involving the erecting of thousands of posts and wire supports with fully automated trickle irrigation. First stop on the Redwoods Valley farm was at a calf feeding lot where a large number of calves were compounded in a special feeding shed. Here they had continuous access to a highly sophisticated 'automatic mum', which dispensed a specially formulated milk mixture on demand. Virtually unattended this unit was an interesting example of modern animal husbandry.

Next stop was at the main building complex of the farm where large numbers of cattle of various grades had been assembled in groups for appraisal together with the herd sires that had been used. Visitors were also treated to a 'landrover' tour of the property, which cumulated on the highest ridge where Rupert Martin, Farm Manager, gave a geographical and historical history of the property and members had opportunity to ask many questions.

Back at the homestead area again, preparations were well under way for what proved to be an excellent steak lunch. Members and visitors took time off for pre-lunch refreshments while listening to a short address by Sir Jack Newman, Chairman of Directors of the T.N.L. Group. Sir Jack traced the history of the property to the present day and the future plans for its development. A large area will be re-developed into smaller and more concentrated enterprises such as the 'berry farm' seen on the way out. Deer are also being developed on the property. The developments will result in some reduction of the present Simmental Herd, which it is planned will consolidate at about 400. From the large number of cattle currently on the property the 'elite' will be selected to make an excellent and even herd.

At the conclusion of Sir Jack Newman's address the Society President Mr R. H. Kerr made a small presentation to him in the form of a small silver salver and a Society tie to mark not only the occasion of the Society's Annual Field Day but Sir Jack's birthday.

Opportunity was also taken to present the 'Levels Trophy' for Promotion of the Breed, a new animal award generously donated by Mr Rodney Cox. This year's winner was (most appropriately) Mr Rupert Martin of the Redwoods Valley farm. An extremely well kept secret, no one was more amazed than Mr Martin. A man who has consistently promoted the breed with great effect over a number of years, it was a just reward for someone who has worked so hard for us and doesn't even own a Simmental animal himself.

After a first class lunch people boarded the buses to return to Nelson via the coastal road. During the return trip an interesting commentary was given on the district, its forestry and its orchards. The conclusion of an excellent and well organised Field Day for which we are indebted to the T.N.L. Group who so generously provided our transport, our lunch and the facilities at no cost to the Society.

In the evening members and friends gathered at the Rutherford Hotel for the Society's annual cocktail party and dinner. Mr R. H. Kerr, president of the Society for seven years, was on the eve of his retirement, addressed by the Society Vice President, Mr Rodney Cox and presented with a set of gold cuff links to mark the occasion. Members present showed their appreciation by acclamation. Mr Kerr in reply thanked members for their support during his term of office and the Society Council and staff. He had enjoyed his time on the administration of the Society affairs, but thought it was time he made way for younger men. He will take up residence in Timaru city in the next year, but will still maintain his interest in the Society through the maintenance of his Simmental Stud.

Dinner was served at 8.30 p.m. and members spent the remainder of the evening socialising and dancing.

The Annual General Meeting was held the following morning at the Rutherford Hotel at 9.30 a.m. being attended by over seventy members. At its conclusion Dalstud (Dalgety N.Z. Ltd) presented an address on the non-surgical ova transfer of cattle and the freezing of fertilized eggs.

Mrs Pat Branscombe of the Dairy Board Computer Centre also spoke on the computerisation of the Society records.

After lunch about thirty people spent the afternoon on a bus trip through to Kaiteriteri. Mr Rupert Martin acted as commentator and guide which greatly added to the enjoyment of the tour.

Each year we are strong in our praise for the organisation and support we receive for our Annual Meetings. 1979 is no exception and our thanks go out to Rupert and Grace Martin and their Committee for their hospitality and their thoughtfulness in making this meeting the great success it undoubtedly was. We thank also all those other people who worked hard to present cattle for us, drove buses and looked after us generally. We also thank you our Members who support us each year.

ANNUAL NELSON



Don & Sue Gardiner, (Rai Valley)



Jerry Butler (Cambridge), Helen Lissaman (Seddon), Gay & Rod Cox (Sth. Canterbury), Rob Lissaman (Seddon),



Harley Smythe (Dannevirke), Natalie & Barry Quantock (Mid - Canterbury), Rosemary Smythe (Dannevirke)



Jerry Goulter (Wakefield), Allan Izard (Pleasant Point), Roland Dale (Sth. Canterbury), Helen & Bruce McFarlane (Sth Canterbury)



Rupert Martin, Manager TNL Group. Receiving the Trophy for promotion of the breed. Rupert Martin, Manager of the Annual Meeting.



Cam & Rosemary Greenwood who farm. Rosemary Greenwood, Chairman of Directors of the TNL.



Arrival — Dick Kerr, Jocelyn Hall, Jane & Peter Linton, Richard McCaulley.

MEETING

N 1979



m, who was awarded the Levels Challenge
t was mainly responsible for the organisation



the hills above Christchurch with Sir Jack
Group who were our hosts for the field day.



Stan Crosson, Bernie Cooper, Glen Burkitt,



All aboard the Landrovers — Jerry Goulter & Ron McDonald (foreground)



Lunch —Barry Quantock, David Stone (Hororata), Stan Crosson (Methven), Doug Gra-
ham (Tai Tapu), June Crosson, Gay Robins (Dipton), Peter Sibley (Christchurch)



Joe Plunkett & Mark Heffernan of the Lands & Survey with Ron McDonald



Property Inspection under rather chilly conditions.

Miscellaneous

Computerisation of Records

The majority of our members have sent in their returns for the computer. We thank you for your efforts which have generally been of a very good standard. The project was a bit daunting but is a 'one-off' and will not have to be repeated. If you have not already sent in your return *please do so immediately*. We must have them so that the programme can be completed and calving sheets for registration of 1979 calves produced.

There will obviously be a few overlap problems with our old and new system but these will be sorted out once the computer is underway.

Registrations for 1979 Calves

Registrations for this year's calf drop will differ greatly from our previous system. As soon as our computer 'input' is complete the information you have provided will produce a 'calving sheet' which will be sent out to each member. On this you will enter against each pre-listed cow, the sire used, the calf birth date and normal information. This will include *all* calves both male and female. From this 'calving sheet' you will receive a fully printed sheet listing all your cows, sires and calves from which you will select and mark those calves you wish to register. On return you will receive your first computer printed Registration Certificates. The registrations in the first year will show only a sire and dam pedigree. Each year following the pedigrees will expand another generation. If you want a full pedigree in the first few years, say for a sale, you will of necessity refer to the existing pedigrees you already hold. The reason the initial pedigrees will be sire and dam only is because of the astronomical cost that would be involved in putting all the full pedigrees into the computer—each generation would be an additional cost.

Once the system is established your work (and ours) in registering your cattle will be greatly reduced. Each year you will enter only a sire and details of the calf born—pedigrees will be automatic.

Please maintain your records carefully, we still require A.I. dockets or mating details. Unless you are selling animals which must be registered hold your information until you receive your computer calving sheets.

Those Horned Animals

As I travel around the country it is surprising the number of cattle that are seen that are still horned. De-horning is certainly not a pleasant task with older cattle, but provided the job is done at an early age it's not too bad and it does give uniformity to your cattle. At sales it is noticeable that horned animals do not seem to attract the same enthusiasm as the others. Simmentals unlike other cattle don't seem to grow uniform horns. We think they look better without them.

Tattooing

With your calves on the ground you will soon be thinking about doing your animal tattooing. Please make a job of it—do it carefully and always test punch each tattoo. It is surprising just how many bad tattoos are discovered. With the introduction of inspection for all 'auction' cattle there will obviously be more. The tattoo letter for this year's calves is 'K'.

Frozen Ova

The media of handling fertilized eggs recovered in ovum-transplant has been in the experimental stage for some time is now a reality. Fertilized eggs are being held in freeze storage and also exported—in much the same way as semen.

Where frozen ova are exported pedigree information will be provided by the Society, which will enable the resulting progeny to be registered in the country to which it is sent. The fee for such work is \$10 per ova.

Anyone contemplating importation of fertilized ova from overseas should contact the Society Office for details of the regulations controlling such imports. Progeny can not be registered from imported ova without Society approval and the necessary documentation from the Society in the country from which the ova has been imported.

Ovum Transplants

While the ovum transplant situation as we have known it over the past few years has virtually disappeared there is still some work going on. Two 'Centres' are working in the North Island and a considerable number of cattle are being put through the system. The nationalization of prices and change in techniques has made it a viable situation and quite a number of Simmentals are being put forward. *Members are reminded that if they propose having cattle transplanted they MUST BE INSPECTED PRIOR TO OPERATIONS.* This may be done on the farm or at the Centre, whichever is the most convenient. It is of note that the Australian Association will not register stock from transplants in New Zealand if the donor has not been inspected.

Recently a number of inspections have been carried out and a few animals rejected from further transplants. If you wish to transplant put forward only those animals that are of quality and that are sound in every way. Your reputation and the breed's depends on it.

Polled Bulls

Throughout the country there is a certain interest in polled cattle and a few herds are working to establish the genetic base on which to breed. Recently we had a visit from a Canadian veterinarian, Dr Peter Konkin, who is General Manager of a semen distribution centre in Alberta. He was here, and in Australia to explore the interest of semen from polled bulls. In Canada a purebred (or full blood as they call them) bull, Polaris has produced fully polled calves and is the first purebred known to do so. At this stage we do not have a great deal of information on the bull, but it is unlikely that semen will be available from him until next season anyway. It is an interesting possibility and we will certainly keep you briefed on what develops. Calves from the polled sire will be on the ground this (Canadian) spring, which will allow time to establish what proportion of polled calves he is leaving and what the quality of the progeny is like.

Weaner Sales Away On Right Note

Addington (Christchurch) had one of the first weaner sales of the season recently. Approximately 350 yearlings were offered. One line of 32 Simmental cross steers topped the offering at prices from \$290—\$301. The nearest other breed made a top price of \$282.

1980 Sales

Two Society sponsored sales will be held next year. The National in Hamilton on the 24th June and the South Island in Timaru on the 19th June. Entries will be called for these sales in the first quarter of the New Year. Quality will be a priority for the sales and we urge potential vendors to make an early start in their selection and the handling of these cattle.

Society Sponsored Sales

Each year we sponsor our National Sale, which alternates annually between Islands. In sponsorship we mean that the Society takes the responsibility for virtually total organisation of the sale. Entries, fees, condition of sale, venues, cataloguing and inspections are all organised by the Sales Committee and the Secretary and his staff. Transport costs have over the last two years produced a situation whereby there are few cattle moved from one Island to the other for sales and it has become necessary to create another outlet for cattle in the Island not holding the National Sale. The Sales Committee have decided with Council approval to sponsor two sales a year and these will be the National Sale and the Major Sale held in the alternate Island. Sponsorship allows a degree of control to be exercised and it is hoped with the Society assistance Sales of a high standard will be held in each Island each year. As advised in our last issue the National Sale and the Annual Meeting will in future be co-ordinated and run together, which will provide not only interest but economy in travel and accommodation. The first such combined event will be held in the Waikato in June, 1980.

Sales Entries

Looking back through our magazines we seem to have made a point in each issue of reminding people of the necessity of putting in time on their sale animals, to be able to bring them forward in the optimum of sale condition. This issue is no exception.

In our National Sale we now have un-led entries and the 'other sale' held in the alternate Island will cater for this class of entry also. In reflection we feel there is a lot that can be done to improve the standard of un-led entries without the somewhat considerable task of teaching them to lead. If un-led entries were taught to tie-up this would go a long way in educating them. A small yard, a rope and a little patience and kindness and you should be able to get a hand on the animal. Once it has learnt it cannot break away it will soon learn to accept you at close quarters, which will enable you to wash it down and probably groom it. Cattle normally respond well to attention and the more they learn that your approach is not punitive the quieter they will become. If this is done shortly prior to sale the chances of a 'strop' animal should be minimised. Better still, teach your calves to tie-up even if you never intend to lead them.

simbeef

symbol of progress

Sundry Sales

Since our last edition there have been two sales of consequence. Kereru Station who have been very strong allies in the presentation of top weaners and steers in competition have had a change of management and policy and dispersed with their Simmentals in September. A large number of the higher echelon cattle went to other members and the half-bred contingent went to commercial breeders at slightly better than schedule price. One purebred from the graded system sold for over a thousand dollars. Seven Eighth breeds ranged from \$600-\$800. The sale was commercial but realised sound prices. All cattle were pre-sale inspected.

As a result of the completion of Continental Livestock's operations in New Zealand (An Australian syndicate Company) a dispersal sale of surplus ovum-transplant donors and a few younger animals was held at Cambridge in the last week of October.

Eight cows with calves at foot sold at prices ranging from \$700 to \$1500 with one exceptional lot at \$3100. Four in-calf cows sold for \$900 to \$1250 and four others sold up to \$650.

Four 'ordinary' heifers sold at between \$500 and \$600. Two bulls sold at \$800 and one really poor fellow sold at \$250.

The main entry of cows had all been through the transplant system many times and prices realised were considered to be good. A large number of the animals were purchased by Hawkes Bay buyers.

Inspection of cattle for auction

It has been a condition of sale in all Society Sponsored Sales for a number of years that entries in such sales are pre-sale inspected. This has either been carried out 'on farm' or prior to the sale at the sales venue. The Council has recently introduced a Regulation whereby all cattle offered at auction whether it be a private sale or a public one will be inspected by Society appointed Inspectors on the owners property at a suitable date prior to the auction. Inspection will be made for general presentation, structural and obvious genetical faults, tattoos and records.

Experience has shown that in a lot of cases cattle have been offered for sale at Auction and it has been found subsequently that records have not been complete or transfers have not been organised and in isolated cases tattoos have not been all they should be. It is hoped that this new Regulation will overcome these problems and provide a protection for both the vendor and the purchaser.

Inspectors will be appointed in local areas to carry out this work and we ask members for their co-operation and assistance in this respect. As pointed out in our last magazine, if the homework is properly done prior to the sale the purchaser has confidence and the vendor has a much better opportunity of having a successful sale. In conjunction with our request for co-operation with these inspections we also urge you to put a little time in with your cattle before you put them to auction. The effort is well worthwhile as many members will have seen at this years sales—well prepared animals meet a ready demand.

Do you know why Simmentals wear bells??
—their horns don't work.

Miscellaneous

Our Junior Members

At our last Council meeting we discussed the involvement of our younger enthusiasts of whom there are an increasing number, and who at present have no official status in our Society other than that they are great enthusiasts and do a lot of hard work for their member parents and friends. We will at our next Annual Meeting formalise membership for Juniors, (Membership comes under Rules and can only be actioned at an Annual General Meeting). In the meantime we will start getting the system under way and we are investigating 'patches' for parkas and perhaps a section in our magazine for photos and reports on junior activities. If you (our members) know of some noteworthy doing by a youngster involved with cattle let us know and we will give it some publicity. Juniors after all are future farmers and it is from them our future membership will come.

To assist us in promoting our juniors, we are considering having a co-ordinator in each Island—someone who can collect information and write to these young enthusiasts. Have we any volunteers?



Wilma & Pamela Eccles, junior enthusiasts on their father's property at Te Aroha, Waikato.

Member Use of the Society Symbol

Members who wish, may apply to the Office for use of the Society symbol in their own advertising or promotion of the breed. It is the request of the Council that our symbol is only used in situations that will be of benefit to the breed and the Society. Use it with discretion and only when you are marketing cattle that are a credit to the breed.

Sire Reference Scheme

We have again had a good response to this bull evaluation scheme with about seventeen herds participating. Shortly we will be collating details on progeny from last year's scheme and will be in contact with members who participated. Please have your records in order.



Last but not least —

Last but not least—a solitary Simmental bull tails the cattle section in the grand parade at a Canterbury district show. Exactly 2 years old and 2,052 lbs it is no wonder the yearling Angus ahead of him looked apprehensive.

Multi Mum

Mrs A. B. Vyner of Otorohunga has sent us the photograph of her first cross Simmental-Friesian cow as verification of just how the breed can produce milk. As foster mother for four healthy and vigorous calves she has done a tremendous job to rear them through to sixteen weeks. Mrs Vyner has taken the opportunity to show these calves and their 'mother' to farmers in the area as an example of production plus—self promotion that cannot fail to impress.

It's a cow of a life — Mrs Vyner's quartet.



A Matter of Credit

Cashing a cheque in a strange town where you are not known can be a difficult task these days unless you have creditable identification. One member we know of found this difficulty and was getting nowhere, until the shopkeeper spotted the Simmental sticker on the customers car—"Oh," he said, "if you've got Simmentals, you must have some money in the bank!" Next time you are doubtful of your credit take along your Simmental!

Footnote — The photograph of Tony Rolley's Champion heifer was regrettably not of good enough quality for reprint. We will try to get another print for the next issue.— our apologies Tony

The New Zealand Simmental (Magazine)

To date we have produced our magazine four times a year. Its composition and production involves a great deal of work and at times we are hard pressed to get it out on due date. It has been decided that future issues will be three per annum, which will allow us considerably more time to put it together and hopefully to expand the content. The ever increasing costs of production and postage have also influenced this decision, but these to a great extent can be offset by advertising. Members are urged to support us in this respect.

Space was not sufficient to publish this letter in our last issue — we print it this time as we feel the points made are of interest.
Ed.

Letter To The Editor

Sir,

With the North Island Sale now behind us, (for some a sigh of relief after months of preparation work) I think we are justified in taking a good look at the trend of thought in the animal breeders' mind.

Having such a good selection from the large entry of bulls one might say it was in the buyers favour, but I think the vendors are to be congratulated on the way they met the market, they showed they were interested in getting their bulls out onto the hills of this country to increase beef and promote Simmentals.

A close look and a quick tot up of figures reveal two very interesting facts, the difference between led and unled, the difference between 16 month bulls and under 1 year bulls.

The following figures could be subject to correction:-

led bulls 16 months and over averaged \$1,433

unled bulls \$ 620

question—would \$810 pay us to present our bulls better?

Second thought, led bulls under 1 year averaged \$1,366, question—does it pay us to hold our bulls 12 months for \$67?

I offer my congratulations to Mr. Noel Buchanan of Kiwitahi, Morrinsville, who presented these young bulls, and very well too—he has proved a point I have always held, namely, the Simmental bull can start work from 1 year old. The buyer knows he has an extra years work for about the same money, and we as breeders must remember 'the buyer is always right'. This may be against the grain of thought in some circles, but I certainly hope to see many more good strong rising yearling bulls presented in future.

Many of us have a quantity of young heifers in our breeding up programme and this is the bull we need.

Finally, speaking of graded-up stock, with the sale average of over \$1,000 for seven-eighths females, many of us left the sale with a feeling of satisfaction that all our years of patient up-grading has not been in vain.

I take this opportunity to wish all Simmental breeders a Successful Simmental Season 1979-1980.

Yours,
Will Eccles.
Manawaru, R.D.1., Te Aroha.

Percentage Bulls Sell Well in Australia

At a September sale in N.S.W. Harry M. Miller offered 41 Percentage blood bulls for sale.

The catalogue comprised the following:

6 $\frac{7}{8}$ bred bulls—top price \$2,800—average \$1,780
16 $\frac{3}{4}$ bred bulls—top price \$1,800—average \$1,113
19 $\frac{1}{2}$ bred bulls—top price \$1,400—average \$ 777

— average overall \$1,051 per head.

Harry Miller is well known for his ability to promote and present his cattle, obviously he had done his homework, on this sale, which must have been outstanding.

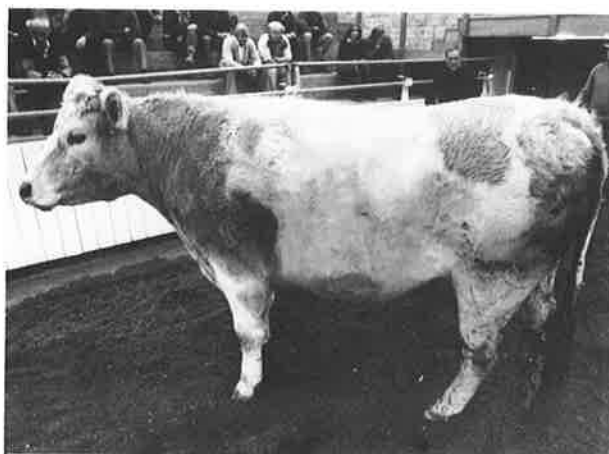
Top Steer Tops Market in Taranaki

In September an Inglewood retail butcher and fat stock buyer, Mr D. Scott put a line of steers into the Inglewood Saleyards amongst which was a Simmental cross of princely proportions. Five years of age from a Friesian dam, his weight was unfortunately not recorded but at auction he brought \$610, which was almost double the price of other steers in the same market.

Mr Scott said he had always wanted to see how such an animal would fatten and he was one of the best steers for length and fleshing he had seen. The purchase was made by a local freezing company.

Despite the fact that the steer was considerably older than normally marketed, the result illustrates the potential of the Simmental in production of beef from the dairy sector of the industry.

(Editor's note: We take this opportunity of thanking Mr Scott who is not a Society member for providing us with this information—Photograph Taranaki Newspapers.)



THE TATTOO LETTER FOR
CALVES BORN THIS YEAR, 1979
IS 'K'

Shows

Resounding Success at Waikato Show

Simmentals were shown competitively for the first time in the Waikato in October. While entries were small, quality and presentation was excellent and the breed did tremendously well in open competition with other breeds. Of particular note was the entry of Tony Rolley, who showed a yearling purebred which is the first to be shown competitively from the graded-up system.

Individual results of Simmental classes are as follows:

Cow with calf at foot:

N. J. Buchanan's 'Sundowner Edare' 1st

G. D. Locke's 'Clavering Enid' 2nd

Heifers (yearling)

A. P. Rolley's 'Blue Ridge Carly' 1st

Bulls (yearling)

G. D. Locke's 'Lochamday B.T. Jolt' 1st

In open classes results were:

Yearling Heifers (30 entries, 9 breeds)

1st. Tony Rolley's 'Blue Ridge Carly'

Yearling Bulls (17 entries, 8 breeds)

1st. G. D. Locke's 'Lochamday B.T. Jolt'

Cow with calf at foot

2nd. N. J. Buchanan's 'Sundowner Edare'

Champion Cow (all breeds)

N. J. Buchanan's 'Sundowner Edare'

Breed Team Class (One bull, three females)

2nd. Simmental Team (1st. were Hereford)

Meat and Wool Cup

2nd. Tony Rolley's 'Blue Ridge Carly'

(In this competition Tony's yearling heifer was beaten only by the Senior Hereford bull)

Entries in the beef breeds at this year's Waikato Show were a record and our competitors must be warmly congratulated for their efforts. We only hope next year will see larger numbers in the ring.

Hawkes Bay Club Compete well at Hastings Show

Club members put on a good performance at Hastings in October with the third largest entries in the beef section.

Simmental Class results were as follows:

Champion Senior Bull

—J. P. Absolom

Junior Bull

—A. H. & G. M. Thompson

Champion Cow

—H. R. Lowry

Heifer

—A. H. & G. M. Thompson

Grand Champion was A. H. & G. M. Thompson's junior yearling bull by Avon Park Extra who was himself Junior Champion bull at Christchurch last year.

In open competition the Hawkes Bay Association have two very competitive classes.

Cow and calf export competition, which allows led and unled entries and attracts a large number of entries.

A. H. & G. M. Thompson's cow and calf were third. A. Murray Grey was first and a beautiful Charolais cow with twin calves was second. Had the Simmental

calf been a couple of months older the pair would have ranked even better.

In the Junior export class, which attracted every beef breed in the Show, competition was very keen with some first class cattle. A. H. & G. M. Thompson's yearling bull was placed first and Champion, which was a magnificent boost for the breed.

The final event was the Meat and Wool Cup and again in strong competition, A. H. & G. M. Thompson's yearling bull was placed 3rd, beaten by the Murray Grey cow with a first class calf at foot who won the Cup and a large mature Hereford bull of excellent quality.

The breed has been well and strongly promoted in Hawkes Bay and it is most pleasing to see it emerging with success against the traditionals in this very traditional area. It is of note that there are a number of commercial herds in Hawkes Bay that have purchased Simmental bulls for cross breeding which proves if you do it well and long enough the break-through must come.

Christchurch Show Success

The Canterbury/Westland Club have a habit of doing things well. Their annual effort at the Canterbury Show was again highly successful with seventeen animals in competitive classes, all of which were of excellent standard and well prepared. Champion Bull and Supreme Champion went to Winfield Goliath owned by O. J. Osborne of Leeston by a narrow margin from last year's Junior Champion, Avon Park Extra—owned by the Carter family of West Melton. Goliath represented the breed in the Meat & Wool Cup and was placed third, beaten by a Hereford bull of fine structure but grossly fat and a very good Angus cow. Champion female Arwood Freda with calf at foot followed last year's success for her owner, Miss Sue Osborne of Leeston. With the Championship went the beautiful Pendeen Trophy in its first year of award. In the Junior classes our most distant competitor John Robins of Southland won the Junior Bull ribbon with an excellent entry by Balig Agent. This win was also close from a son of Goliath, who also had excellent qualities. Junior heifer went to Mrs J. C. Hall's heifer Gretel II, a daughter of the first Supreme Champion of the 1977 Royal.

In the Junior bull class the first purebred from the grading-up system was entered by George Habberjam of Southbridge. A fine young bull, and did credit to the breed, and his owner, in his first year of showing competitively. The judge Mr Tony Thompson of Waipukurau was highly impressed with the standard of entries and their presentation. In the Meat & Wool Cup he spoke strongly on what he believed was the objective of the exercise. Meat without excessive fat was his criteria and he placed his selection accordingly—Simmental, Angus cow, Maine Anjou and the Hereford, which he stated was a good animal but grossly fat. For his outspoken delivery over the public address system he received loud applause from the grandstand, the only judge to do so.

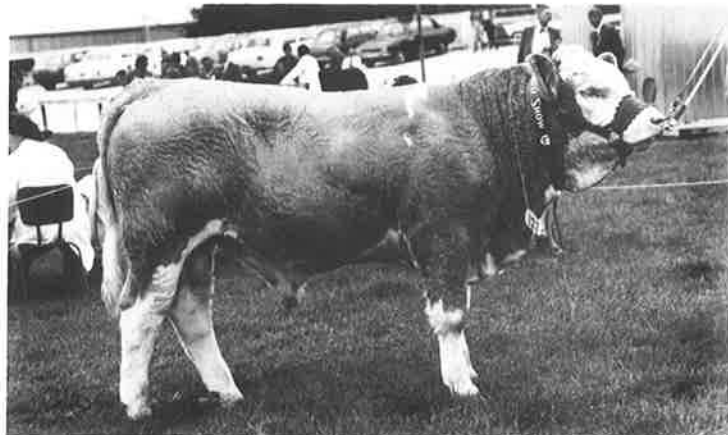
A small Club 'centre' near the cattle pavillion was very well patronised by visitors and members. Competing cattle were alternated on display and this proved a great attraction.

SHOW PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs by Glen Apfed
Livestock Publications



Champion Cow (all beef breeds) at the Waikato Show. Ken & Noel Buchanan of Morrinsville with Judge Rod Cox.



Champion Yearling Bull (all beef breeds) at Waikato, Entered by Garry Locke, Taupiri.



Champion Yearling (all beef breeds) at the Hawkes Bay show, also third in the meat and wool cup. Held by co-owner Glenis Thompson of Waipukurau.



Hawkes Bay Simmental Entries – The second largest in the show



Canterbury Champion Bull, Winfield Goliath is 'sashed' by Ian Johnstone while owner Oakleigh Osborne looks on. Goliath was third in the meat and wool cup.



A tiring day! Arwood Freda decided being a champion cow for the second year running & also being awarded the Peudeen Trophy was just too much so took a short rest in the judging ring. Owner Sue Osborne had no alternative but to join her.

Miscellaneous

Dairy Farm Field Day in the Waikato

In October the Waikato Club had a slide evening followed by a field day on Mr & Mrs Rolley Litchfield's dairy farm at Tirau.

Councillor Werner Gut was guest speaker at the evening meeting and showed a most interesting collection of slides taken on his recent trip to Europe, where he inspected a large number of Simmentals in his homeland Switzerland and Austria. This evening was attended by a very good gathering of over forty members, wives and friends. The field day was regrettably poorly supported and only about fifteen people attended, which was a pity, as Rolley Litchfield and his wife had gone to great trouble to organise their cattle and their property for the event. Those fortunate enough to attend were given a highly informative and interesting morning. Each cow was clearly marked with a reference number—numbers about twelve inches high specially painted on the side, and each was discussed for pedigree, production and type.



Rolley Litchfield talks to his visitors on his Tirau property.

The Litchfield farm is 190 acres of first class undulating Waikato country running 190 milking cows of Friesian and Friesian cross with a balance of 37 Simmentals. Starting his grading up system in 1973 he was one of the first people in the dairy industry to introduce Simmentals into his herd. Last season he had at least four Simmentals that produced 200 kg of butterfat with percentages up to 4.6%. In his opinion the Simmental has a definite place in the industry, it will milk and has the most desirable aspect of producing a good beefing animal as well. He has found the breed good to deal with as quiet cattle. He is now at the stage where his good producers are becoming proven and he can concentrate on a more selective breeding programme. With the Society's encouragement to assess and research for proven milking sires the dairy side of the breed should progress strongly.

At the conclusion of the inspection of cattle, visitors were entertained to a magnificent lunch and discussion continued into the mid-afternoon.



Some of this year's calves on the Litchfield property.

TNL GROUP DISPOSES OF ITS PROPERTY AT NELSON

We are sorry to record that TNL (Transport Nelson) have recently concluded the sale of their Redwoods Valley property which is well known to a great number of our members. With its disposal the Simmental herd will also go but on a happier note we will welcome Rupert Martin the property manager as a member in his own right—he has already arranged the purchase of a number of cattle for his own herd.

TNL have done a great deal for the breed and the Society, and we record gratitude for the work they have done on our behalf and the results they have achieved.

A considerable number of halfbred cattle have already been sold privately but the main dispersal will be by auction in February. This will present an opportunity for members to obtain proven cattle that have come through the extremely intensive and critical breeding programme set by Rupert Martin's management—only the proven producer and animal of the type required has been retained. The writer recently saw a group of cattle that have been purchased by a Blenheim buyer—they can only be described as a magnificent example of the breed.

Big Head . . .

The Secretary, who was in Australia in April was determined to bring something back that typified the Australian way of life. He settled on a very traditional and most expensive wide brimmed Stockman's hat, which he has worn with pride on a number of Simmental occasions since. He was cut to size recently by a sharp tongued member (who shall be nameless) who quipped—"look at that—a ten gallon hat and half a pint of brains!"



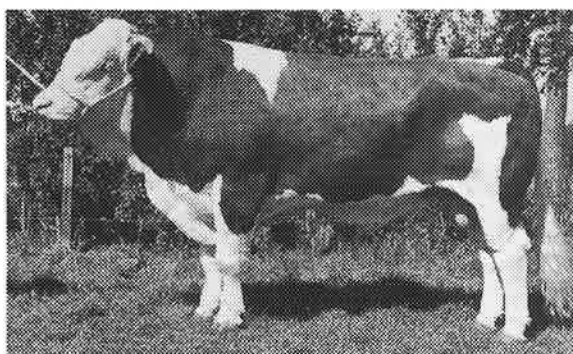
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SCOTTISH PILOT: 1132 kg, height 159 cm at 3 years 9 months. A very tall bull, breeding tall growthy progeny which, at 400 days weighed on average 367 kg in Beef Bull Progeny Test No. 3. Calving Survey: Farmer Assist 5.9%; Vet Assist 0.0%; Malpresentation 1.2%. Average calf birthweight 46.3 kg.

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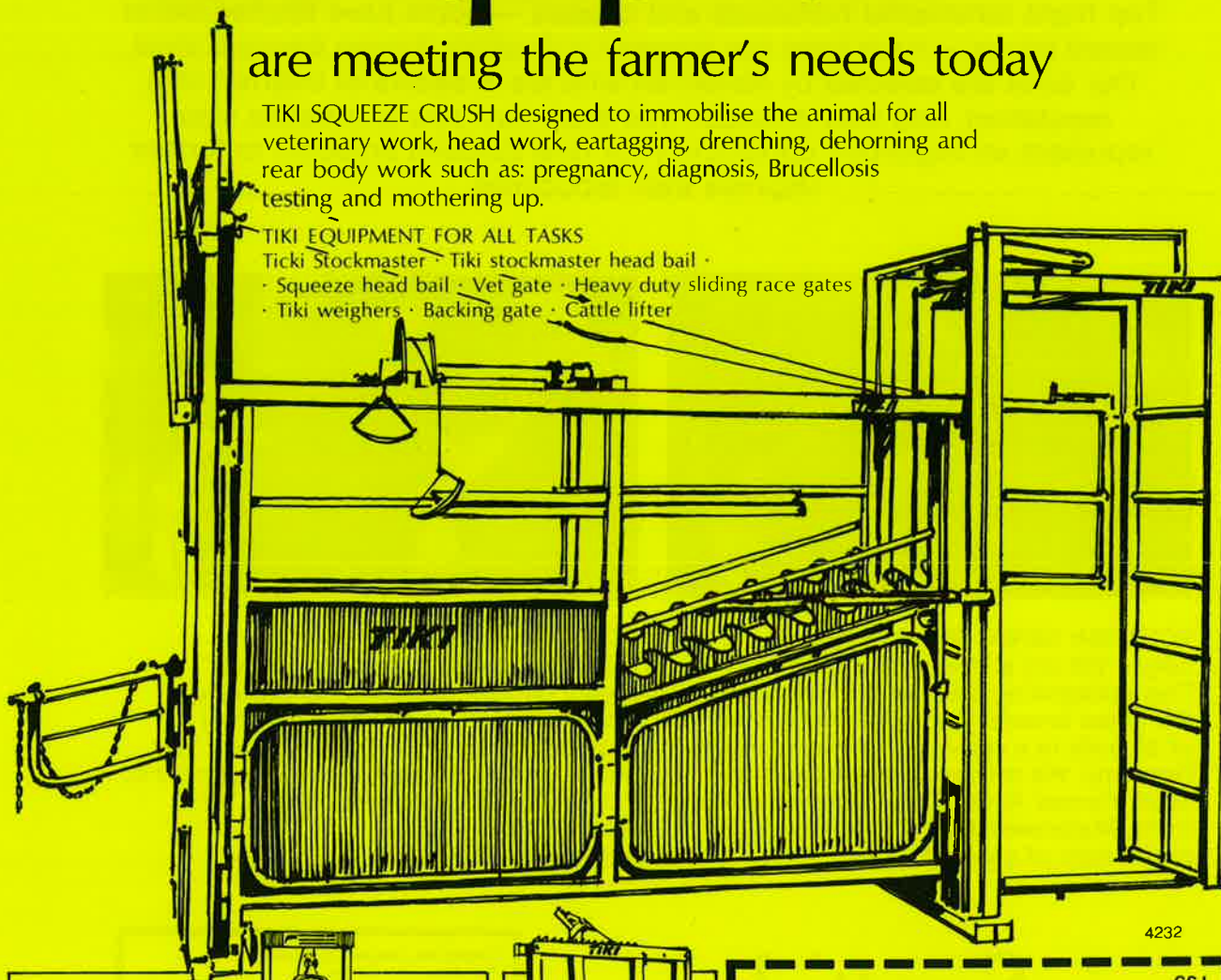
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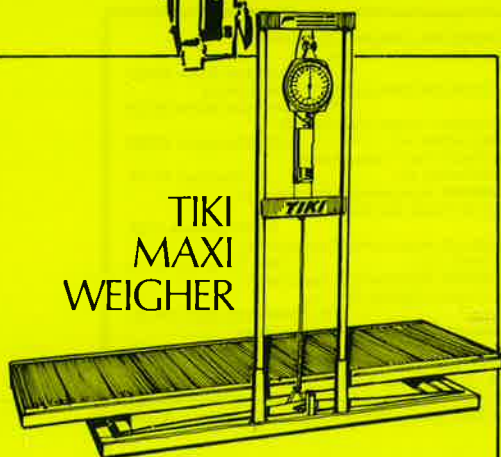
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