New Zealand

SIMMENTAL

Vol. 39 • 1995

Meanwhile, back

Look right purty, don't they?

GLENSIDE COWPOKE

Champion Simmental, Canterbury Show
Grand Champion Male, Southland Royal
Champion All-breeds Yrl Bull, Southland Royal

But under all that soap 'n satin they aint nuthin'
but a coupla rootin' tootin' cow molesters!
(an' on account o' that, we can't let either of them go!)

GLENSIDE
WAITAHUNA RD 3

at the ranch...

Down on the ranch at Glenside they's fixin' tuh
quit anuther whole bunch of cow molesters,
'bout 25 or more, I hear. Right handy they all are too,
settle all yer cows, quick smart!

They's big, meaty and quiet, an' sound as ol' Cookies
dinner bell! They guarantee 'em don't you know.
Got real impressive EBV's too.

ANNUAL BULL SALE

'down on the ranch'

Thursday 18th May 1.30pm

SOUTHERN SIMMENTAL SALES WEEK
15TH-19TH MAY

An' two more of the boys are off to the big
National sale up north in June. Look out for Codpiece
and Cannonball, two mighty fine young bulls.
Could be just what yer lookin' for!

Catalogues out soon.

Contact:	Trevor & Lilian McCorkindale	(03) 485 9726
	Garry & Julene McCorkindale	(03) 485 9727
	Ritchie McCorkindale	(03) 485 9202

Have you seen the size of Ritchie's Codpiece?

SIMMENTALS

LAWRENCE OTAGO NZ

Buyers' Remember Quality

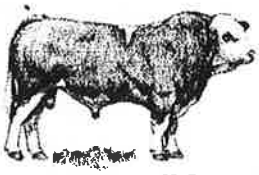
Brocade Simmentals For:

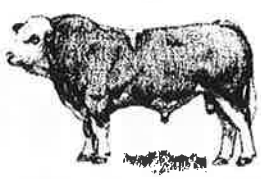
- ***P**erformance*
- ***G**rading & Yield*
- ***P**rofit*
- ***M**aternal*
- ***M**arket Place*
- ***A**daptibility*
- ***T**erminal Cross Breeding*
- ***TB** & Brucellosis Accredited*

8th ANNUAL BULL SALE
JUNE 1 1995 - 25 Rising 2yr bulls

Brocade Simmentals

HERD No.228





H.D. & J.S. MCINTYRE Apiti, 1 R.D. Feilding Tel. 06 328 4845

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Advertisers Index

Hampton Downs Simmental

Proprietors Malcolm and Ngaire Entwisle

We offer for sale at the National Bull Sales in Palmerston North this year three bulls to meet the needs of the New Zealand beef producer

Challenger Reg Nr 1496 AC 18
dob 27 July 1993
Sire PPSR 8-Ball
Dams Sire SBW Mickey Mantle

		EBV's		
bw	milk	200d	400d	600d
+3.5	+3	+28	+45	+47
72%	31%	66%	56%	57%

A unique and exciting high performance scurred black bull that has really grown on. Challenger has ebv's that will influence any beef breeders programme. His sire is both homozygous black and polled and is a trait leader for growth in America.

Commander Ole Reg Nr 1496 AC 19E
dob 01 August 1993
Sire Ole Sir Nick 35Y
Dams Sire Tokaweka Pluto

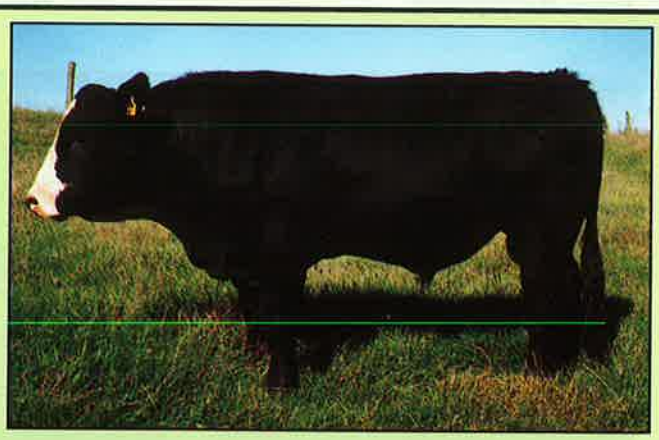
		EBV's		
bw	milk	200d	400d	600d
-0.1	+1	+12	+18	+20
51%	29%	47%	41%	41%

A smooth polled solid patterned red bull out of the dam of a bull we sold at last years National Bull Sale to Bill Parkes of Hunterville. Ole epitomises our breeding programme of balanced traits with low birth weight, positive milk and good growth performance.

Dakota Reg Nr 1496 AD 01E
dob 03 January 1994
Sire Black Polled Dakota
Dams Sire Rissington 49/AY852

		EBV's		
bw	milk	200d	400d	600d
....	.....	+9	+16	+16
....	.....	37%	35%	33%

The first of an embryo programme we undertook at home using one of Americas leading homozygous black and homozygous polled bulls that we imported. Smooth polled and stacked with top black genetics. Dakota should pass on his fathers excellent performance.



Other bulls will be available from the July '95 Waikato Simmental Society Bull Sale and by private treaty on the farm.

Enquiries and inspections are welcome at any time by contacting our Stud Master
Mr Barry Pope, Hampton Downs Road, R D 2, Te Kauwhata Phone-Fax (07) 826 3195

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Editorial

This years magazine includes many topics all designed to make you think about your own cattle production. The selection of sound bulls, selecting the right type of bull, the management of cows all year round, the comparison of beef breeds, the recording of birth weights, the use of the Simmental breed in crossbreeding programs - will all influence the profitability or potential profitability of your cattle operation.

We have reviewed the Simmental World Congress held in Austria last year and preview the South African World Congress planned for August 1996. Once again the adaptability of the Simmental has been demonstrated widely in the African environment and it is of interest learning of the selection criteria and pressure that they put themselves through and the Breed progress that has resulted.

As we now see a drop in beef returns - why not look at the efficiency of our individual cattle operations and identify improvements that will lift production and returns.

- Do you have the best breeding cow for your environment
- Is fertility a problem in your herd
- Do you check the soundness of your bulls prior to mating each year
- Do you buy bulls from a registered stud breeder
- Do you buy the best "type" of bull for your situation
- Are you ruthless enough when culling in your cattle operation
- Do you breed your heifers as two year olds
- Do you performance record your cattle

All these questions remind us that as well as improving cattle production and performance we can develop faults and weaknesses in our breeding programs if we are not prepared to see them.

We compete in all market places directly against the production and efficiency of the white meat industry - we must continue through better genetics, feed conversion and efficiency, sound management and clear objectives to improve our cattle operations and retain profitability to ensure our future.

As we go to print this year the Simmental Society is in the first phase of introducing the Certified Simmental Eartags to Commercial farmers throughout the country. The focus is on measuring beef quality of Simmental cross and Simmental influenced animals. While we have always been aware of the weight and yield advantages of the Simmental breed, through this program we will also have definite information on other meat quality aspects such as pH, fat colour etc. The initial response to the program has been great and you will hear and see more information as it becomes available.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people that have contributed to this years magazine and for the advertising support we have received. Without either we would not have a magazine to publish.

Paula Forde
General Manager

Huge Simmental Herd Gets Results on Rangitikei Sand Country

There wouldn't be a much bigger commercial Simmental herds in the country than the Sim brothers operation at Santoft, Rangitikei.

With 800 cows and 1,338 ha in total theirs would be hard to beat, especially on that side of the island.

Not only are they producing the numbers but the quality too with Sim Brothers weaners well known in the Feilding Saleyards, often selling among the top priced pens.

Over the years two-thirds of the cow herd has bred up to purebred status but the Sims' say with such a big number of cows it would be impractical to register them all.

While doubters say the purebred Simmental cow is too soft to be run under commercial conditions the Sim brothers would disagree. While they are looked after well there is never an abundance of feed on the sand country farm and careful culling has reduced calving problems to a minimum.

While theirs is a big operation it is run simply.

Three brothers Colin, Tony and Lindsay with Uncle David have a partnership running three blocks of land - 963 ha at Santoft plus a 28 ha lease block, run by Colin and Tony, 202ha at Kai Iwi run by David and Lindsay, 145 ha at Foxton Beach, half of which is in pine threes with 32 ha being developed for subdivision.

While sheep are run on the farm at Kai Iwi the only sheep you will find at Santoft are the replacement ewe hoggets sent down to the low country for grazing.

Up until now the farming policy has been to produce weaners for the weaner market but the recent addition of 154 ha to the Santoft farm is opening the door to finishing a number of steers for slaughter as rising two-year olds.

The Sim brothers annual lines of Simmental weaner steers and heifers are well known at the annual Feilding fairs. This year the first steers sold made to $435. This was well down on the top of $675 and average $525 they made last season but is in line with the overall drop in weaner prices this season.

This year about 600 weaners will be sold.

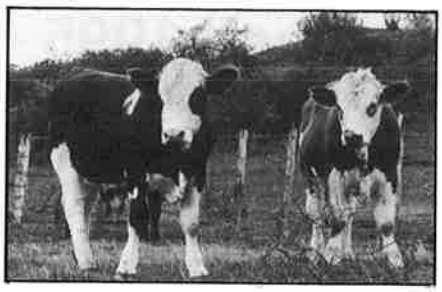
Some 125 weaner heifers are retained for breeding with about 100 eventually making it into the herd. As the older cows are culled out of the mob they are taken down to the Foxton property, drenched and finished for slaughter.

About 70 steers are finished for slaughter at two-years to give cash flow at different times of the year.

While some might think there is a connection between Simmentals and Sim Brothers the name had nothing to do with the decision to farm the breed.

Mr Sim says it was his father who originally used Simmental bulls over the traditional Angus cow herd to improve the milking ability of the cows and lift beef production from the calves.

"You couldn't buy Simmental cows at the time so we decided to use Angus and Hereford cows and breed our way in. Originally it was going to be a stud but we realised there was a market for commercially bred Simmental calves."



Simmental weaners ready for the Feilding weaner fairs

Mr Sim says they are now deep into the Simmental breed and are finding every year the calves are doing a little better. He says with the Simmentals they have cows with big frames which will be able to support any breed of bull in the future but by having purebreds they will still have the Simmental features.

Every year they buy in two purebred bulls, paying between $5,000 and $8,000, for use alongside their purebred bulls.

Mr Sim says although they aren't a stud they are still in the breeding business.

Temperament is an important factor and both heifers and bulls are culled for bad attitudes. They have also opted to breed polled cattle, basically to reduce the work load.

Mr Sim says with the cattle coming into the yards only twice a year, at marking and weaning, dehorning is an extra job they would rather not have to do.

They also breed for pigmentation around the eyes to ward against eye cancer and good feet, especially important on sand country.

Temperament is the big thing. It is in every breed but it can be controlled by selecting quiet bulls."

The bull goes out to the cows from September to December and the cows split into mobs of 80 to 100 after weaning to calve.

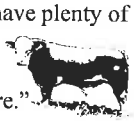
Calving percentages range from 90 to 95% with losses 12 to 15% of that. They are mated at two-years to calve at three and all cows are pregnancy tested. Last year 6% tested empty. Theoretically these are culled but Mr Sim says he is a bit of a softie, refusing to cull the top heifers in their second year if they are not in calf.

"You have to look after Simmentals to get them back in calf so I'm a bit lenient on the second calvers but the policy is to cull them."

Mr Sim says that may sound a lot but when you work it out per head it isn't much.

The cows are fed a few days before they calve then up to 30 bales a day are fed out for 100 days.

"We make sure the calves have plenty of hay. If they are still standing at the gate after I've fed out I go back and give them some more."



Over two-thirds of the Sim Brothers 800 cows are pure Simmentals

Early Weaning Beef Calves

By Dr A Nicol, Lincoln University

Early weaning of beef calves is only an option under special conditions says Dr. Alastair Nichol, Lincoln University's beef cattle specialist.

This is the first year for a few years, that drier summer conditions means there is less pasture than usual for hill country beef cows and their suckling calves at this time of year. So the question of early weaning calves (February) instead of the conventional March/ April arises.

Whether early weaning of beef cows is an appropriate option depends on three things:

- body conditions of the cows
- feed available for weaned calves
- fate of the calves

Leaving calves on cows for the next two months where feed is in short supply will mean the cows will be lighter by about 20 kg going into the winter. If cows are in heavy condition now this loss in weight will not be critical. These cows do not need weaning. Cows that are thinner than usual already will not have a good a liveweight buffer for winter if they lose further weight. For the sake of these cows, they should be weaned.

Unless the feed available for early weaned calves is of exceptional quality (leafy and legumes) and 6-8 cm long, calves will generally gain more weight over the next two months still on their mothers. The small contribution that milk makes to their total intake has a big effect on supplying the right combination of nutrients.

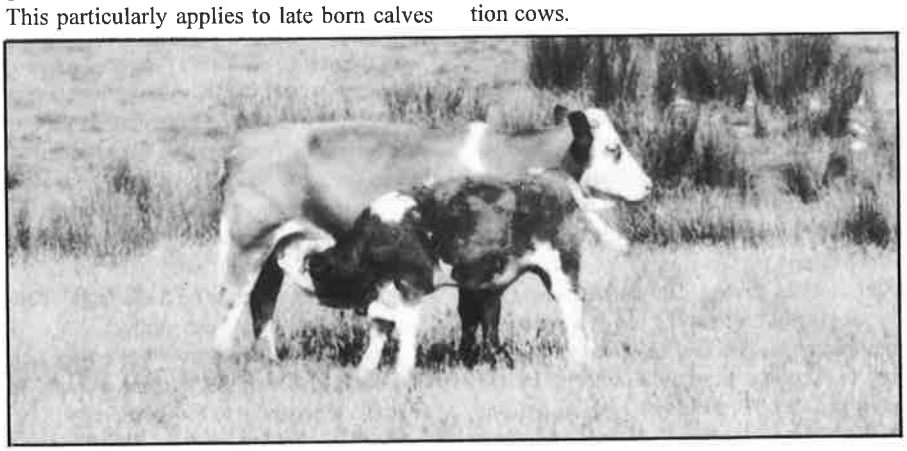
Calves weaned onto inadequate quantity or quality pasture, or which risk facial eczema or ryegrass staggers after weaning will not grow as well as if they are left on the cows. This particularly applies to late born calves less than 150 kg liveweight.

Early weaning is more of an option if calves are to be retained after weaning. Any drop in liveweight gain over the next two months can be made up later on. Calves sell best straight off their mothers. They have no weaning check and look good. Calves for sale should generally not be weaned before sale, but sale date can be advanced if the cows should be weaned early.

If good feed is available for calves consider early weaning of:

- cull cows - before they lose carcass weight
- heifers and poorer condition cows
- calves which are to be retained in the herd

Leave calves for sale on cows in good condition cows.



From the President

Records! Records! Records!

History was certainly made during the 1994 season.

Commercial breeders received record prices throughout the country for large numbers of weaners.

A record number of commercial herd sires were sold at auction and privately.

The breed recorded its highest average at the National Bull Sale and to cap it all off the sire Moneymore Earthquake set a record price for New Zealand Simmental at $36,000 and then went on to be judged the Champion of Champions.

History is history it is the future that counts now. Todays astute and motivated farmers are demanding quantified information. If he is buying seed he requires to know the potential of the crop, when buying rams he now demands to know wool microns historic lambing performances rib eye measurement and fat cover. The commercial beef breeder is no different, he too is demanding information. The industry has gone some way to meeting these requirements, by the introduction of Breedplan which recognises the Estimated Breeding Values of important field tracts such as milking, calving ease, birth weight, weight gains etc all traits that are related only to breeding in the paddock. There has been very little quantitative information on the final product THE CARCASE.

The New Zealand Simmental Society has taken the initiative to introduce a unique system into the industry that will individually identify Simmental progeny from marketing or weaning right through to carcase evaluation and grading.

The Society has approached exporters who not only support the system but recognise the advantages and consider it the most effective breeder, finisher exporter relationship ever introduced into the Beef Industry.

Using the numbered Certified Simmental tag will enable you to be part of this scheme.

In the past farmers have produced the raw product be it beef, lamb, mutton, wool, and expected the exporter to find markets for the huge variation of product that he presented to the marketer.

Today it is the consumer who dictates exactly what he or she requires. The pork and poultry industries have been quick to recognise and capitalize on these facts. Red Meat producers have been slow.

Beef Exporters acknowledge that per head buying will almost become a thing of the past and payment to the producer will be in accordance to the product. Quality payment for Quality Product!!

The Simmental breed has the largest genetic base in the World. By using the Certified Simmental individual identification scheme breeders will be able to identify the superior carcase traits. Finishers will be able to identify superior grading lines of cattle and exporters will have a greater percentage of quality beef to market.

Your future demands that you become a Certified Simmental Tag User.

Don Graham, Christchurch Show 1995

Simmental Identification Tags Helpful Management Tool


"Because there is a premium for Simmental-type cattle, anything that looks a bit exotic is often said to be Simmental-cross. These tags will verify the true Simmentals," said Colin Simm, pictured here with tagged weaners at the Feilding weaner fair.

Santoft commercial Simmental breeder, Colin Sim says the new official Simmental identification tags will be a useful management tool for stud breeders, weaning producers and finishers.

Mr Sim says as producers of over 600 weaner steers and heifers a year Sim Brothers are keen to know how their stock go on and perform for finishing farmers.

Sim Brothers sold their first lot of tagged cattle at the Feilding weaner fair in March with the top line of 18 steers fetching $435.

Mr Sim says it would be impractical to tag all of their weaners with the yellow tags because of the number, but they will be tagging all their top lines for future fairs.

He says it is a good move from the breed society. "We will listen to the information we receive but the system will only be as good as the information given. Everyone in the production chain has to be prepared to act on the feedback they receive".

Mr Sim says he hopes the meat companies will come clean and provide accurate feedback to the clients. The tags will also provide a means to identify true Simmental and Simmental-cross cattle in the saleyards.

Eartag Scheme to Profile Simmentals

by Paula Forde

In March this year the Simmental Cattle Breeders' Society launched the commercial use of Certified Simmental Eartags. The eartags are designed to bring together a number areas that will assist efficient beef production in New Zealand.

The Simmental Seed Stock industry use Breedplan to collect and analyse many aspects of cattle performance, the meat processing industry collect individual carcase data that may influence meat quality and beef finishers around the country note that lines of cattle they fatten perform differently, but they cannot identify if this is environmental or genetic. These three areas of production can all gain valuable information that will assist their operations if feedback and source of stock can be tracked.

We see the beef industry no differently from other sectors of the agricultural industry in New Zealand. While we all produce products that are very variable within themselves and influenced dramatically by the environment we choose to operate our production systems in, that does not mean we cannot provide a consistent and superior product to our markets. One of the keys to supplying the market, is the measurement and on going monitoring of our product. Our beef must meet specification, the interpretation of whether the specification is quality or inferior depends entirely on the purchasers use of the product, if they know what their raw product is, then the products end requirement can be gained with the appropriate management and inputs.

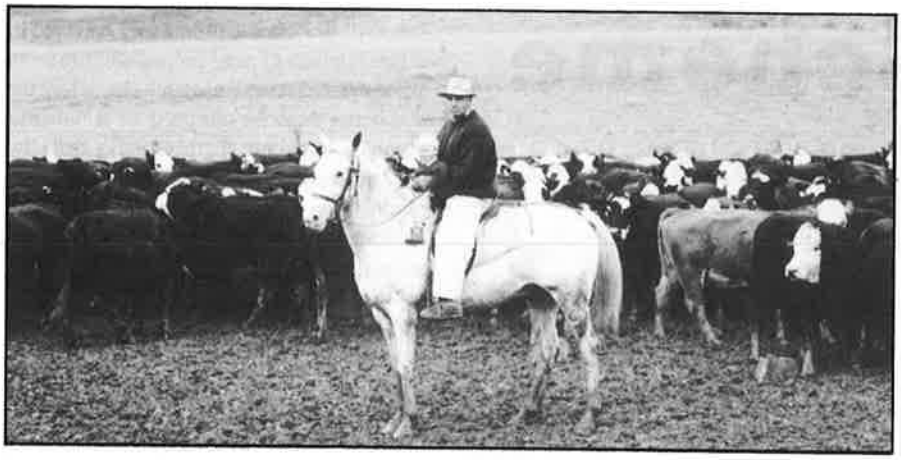
While dairy farmers get product feed back each time the milk vat is emptied and wool producers have the ability to store their product for a long period without their product perishing, the beef producer spends 18 to 30 months producing one perishable carcase. This carcase is the one and only product that can provide producers any feedback. If bought on the hoof or the schedule movement occurs because of over supply, movements in the dollar or processing driven incentives, the monetary return does not provide adequate feedback about the so called 'market' or 'acceptability' of the product. What the producer needs is feedback about the product eg. animal health problems, meat pH, meat colour, fat depth - any measurements that help quantify the product. With this kind of feedback genetic changes can be monitored, different farm management practices can be evaluated and the true influence of the environment further understood and managed.

The more information known and provided to the end marketeers and producers of our beef products the better. Whether the product is quality or inferior does not matter, provided it is a known quantity. Consistent feedback on specification to beef producers regardless of returns will still have an effect, particularly if this information can be further related to New Zealand Simmental Seed Stock breeders that can make genetic improvements that are permanent and cumulative from year to year.

In summary beef is no different to any other agricultural product, in that it is difficult to quantify, but not impossible to quantify. If we do not lead the way to supply specification of our own product our markets will be better supplied and serviced by other suppliers of meat (or protein) products. We must measure all possible characteristics that better describe our product to potential purchasers and all characteristics that give beef producers a focus to improve the beef product they create. The focus should be on the end beef product, not the breed, not the season, not the price, we have to supply product to a specification under all conditions and all sectors of the industry have a role to play to this end.

This scheme allows you to identify and market your weaners into saleyards, it ensure the correct breed identification of animals at slaughter and gives you the opportunity to be part of linking our finished beef product back to the Seed Stock Breeders - be part of it now.

For a brochure on the Certified Simmental program contact:
Paula Forde
Simmental Cattle Breeders' Society
P O Box 13-142
Christchurch
Tel. (03) 379 3166
Fax. (03) 366 9494



Innes Burgess and Grandson working cows on horseback

Simmental Role in Three Way Crossbreeding Programme

INNES Burgess epitomises the NZ cattle farmer. The burly Owaka farmer comes with few frills and it is an attribute he expects from his stock. They must perform.

Mr Burgess farms two properties near Owaka, a 2000ha hill block, Haysrun, now farmed by sons Gerald and Jeffery and a 200ha finishing farm near the Owaka township. Cattle have been kind to the Burgess family and for the last few years returns from cattle sales have made up two thirds of the family's income.

One reason for this is Mr Burgess's canny eye and managing ability. The other is the use of Simmentals as a terminal sire since 1975. The Simmental has been put over his Hereford Angus cross cows and the progeny initially sold as calves but later finished as two and a half year old steers.

At the time he bought his first bull Mr Burgess says he felt the Simmental breed had caught up on the other breeds, with breeders developing the right type of bull for the time.

This is still true, he says.

Today the Burgess family run between 600 and 620 cows, 4000 ewes and 800 hoggets. Steers have been finished to two and a half year old, since 1984 targeted at weights 345kg and over. "In the past the best money has been for cattle at 345kg and over so we try to get most to that weight," says Mr Burgess.

Between 240 and 265 Simmental cross heifers are sold as yearlings each year and Mr Burgess says some buyers are now using those for breeding.

Owaka is true cattle country but in 1954 when the Burgess family bought Haysrun it carried just 1500 sheep, three cows and three steers. The following year the teenage Innes Burgess went to North Canterbury and bought 25 Hereford cows. Initially Mr Burgess says they sold calves privately to a Canterbury buyer and then as yearlings at the Owaka sale topping the sale one year at 33 pounds.

But the size of the Simmental drew his attention in 1975 when he bought his first bull off Bill Leslie.

Put across the Angus Hereford cross cow Mr Burgess says he gets the attributes of hardiness and hybrid vigour. "It follows overseas trends of the halfbred cow with a Simmental bull across being a top performer," says Mr Burgess.

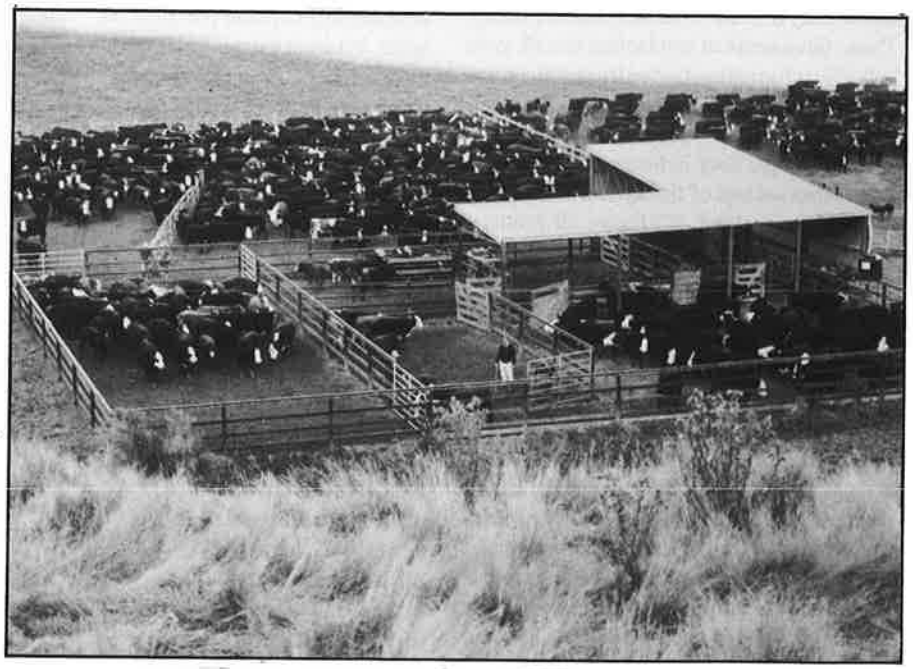
Replacement heifers for breeding are bought in. Heifers calve as two year olds, mated to an Angus or Santa Gertrudis for the first year and from then on to a Simmental. "We very seldom lose a cow during calving after two years of age," he says.

The cows are run on tussock hill country at Haysrun, a property that ranges from 100m asl to 540m asl and only come onto improved paddock country for mating. During mating Mr Burgess drafts the cows on horseback, culling any cows he does not like, that have poor calves, bad udders or other poor attributes. The use of a horse has both nostalgic and practical reasons, practical because horses quieten cattle and nostalgic because Mr Burgess enjoys riding.

Cull cows are sold in the autumn. The calves are weaned in mid April and tested for Tb later that month. He says swedes play a key role in wintering the 1400 to 1500 cattle. The crops and some hay are fed to the steers for eight to ten weeks from late June or early July with cows wintered on hill country. The two and a half year old steers are wintered on swedes on the 200ha Owaka property and the younger steers swedes at Haysrun.

After winter the steers are rotated on pasture at the Owaka farm until slaughtered at the Mataura works in early March. "I feel they have grown to their potential by then," says Mr Burgess. The next batch are then taken to the Owaka farm for a winter and slaughtered the following autumn.

March 1994, 254 adult steers netted the Burgess family $999.44 a head of which just three graded G.



Weaning is a large operation but completed smoothly with adequate yarding to handle all animals

In 1993 the cattle averaged 325.6kg and netted $957.

1992 344.6kg at $987,
1991 $850,
1990 350.2kg at $968,
1989 $774,
1988 $659,
1987 $608,

Owaka is top cattle country and a Simmental strong hold. Mr Burgess jokes that he stopped selling his calves at the annual autumn weaner fair because the competition was getting too tough. Each autumn the sale attracts what some commentators claim are some of the best calves in the country, figures showing half them are Simmental and Simmental cross with the same calf buyers returning each year to fill their orders.

At the first 1994 sale, 500 steer calves averaged $560 and 500 heifers $440 with top price of $710 paid for 15 Simmental cross steers sold by Bruce Murray. The same vendor sold the top priced pen of Simmental cross heifers for $565.

Nine of the top 10 steer pens were Simmental cross.

Mr Burgess attributes much of the success of the breed to the effort put in by breeders. It was this fact that attracted him all those years ago and he says the breeders continue to keep pace with bull buyer demands. "There's some clued up people amongst the Simmental breeders," he says.

The Burgess Hereford, Angus Cross cows after weaning

For example Mr Burgess says there has been a huge improvement in the feet of bulls, the breed's temperament and an evening up in bull quality without compromising standards. "You can go to the (Simmental) bull sale at Gore and any bull would do," he says. "The standard of bulls has improved to no end."

Innes Burgess was always going to be a cattle man. He was born at Tarara in the Owaka district, his father a farmer, cattle dealer, drover and bush feller. Innes Burgess says he was working with cattle before he went to school and will continue to.

Maungaraki Cattle Company

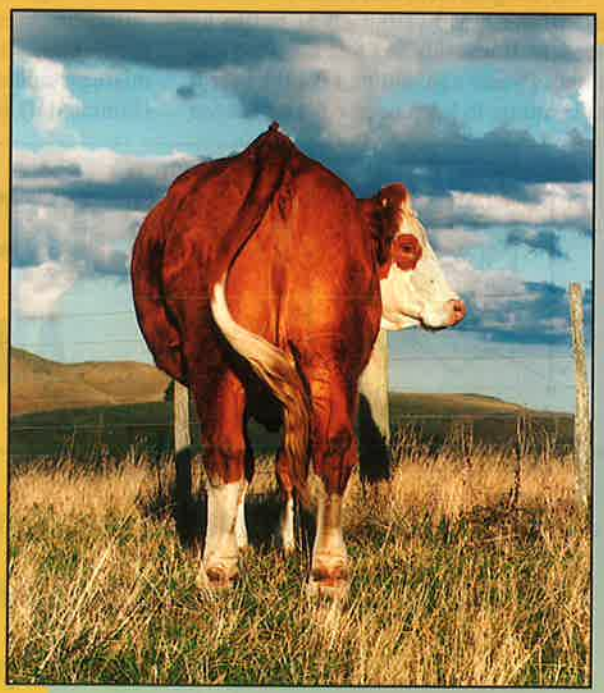
Sergeant Pepper

(Great Guns Ferdinand x Kilbride Farm Nevada)
Photo at 18 months 902 Kgs

New Junior herd sire for Wai-iti Simmentals purchased as a calf from GlenAnthony

Semen Available in Australia

Sergeant Pepper



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40 Simmental and Gelbvieh Bulls

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Southern Simm-Mania

The 3rd week of May is going to be a most significant time for progressive Southern beef cattle breeders. May 15 - 19th will see 130 top class Simmental bulls go under the hammer at five venues throughout Otago and Southland.

For the first time ever, all of the Simmental bull auctions south of Timaru have drawn together for a week of total Simmmania!

Twenty stud breeders will be offering the pick of their 1993 drop to commercial cattlemen and women who have recognized the financial benefits of cross-breeding to this most versatile European.

Pens of Simmental cross calves passing through sale rings throughout the country have been noticeable, not only for their bright yellow Certified Simmental eartags, but also for the consistent premiums they attract over traditional breeds. Premiums that are there no matter at what stage of life the animals are traded, making them the most popular and populous European cross-breed cattle for the last few years.

The Certified Simmental eartag, so enthusiastically accepted by calf producers, is an individually numbered ID that tracks the animal from the breeder, to the fattener (s), to the processor. Carcase data, analysed by the Simmental Cattle Breeders' Society, can then be used to further improve the type and quality of the purebred seedstock of the future.

Proud to be a part of

SOUTHERN SIMMENTAL SALES WEEK

Southern Simmental Sales Week kicks off on Monday 15th when vendors Ken Hinton, 'KGM Simmentals', Earnscleugh, and Helen & John Paterson, 'Ida Valley' will offer 20 bulls at their annual Central Otago Simmental Bull Sale, Omakau Saleyards starting 11 am.

On Tuesday 16th the spotlight shifts to Northern Southland and where three breeders have banded together to host the 'Triple S' Simmental Bull Sale at Castlerock Saleyards, Lumsden. Ross Cockburn 'Prospect' Te Anau, Woody Rouse 'East Dome' Five Rivers and David Dickie 'Windy Ridge' Ferndale will have forty bulls on offer at their 2nd Annual Sale.

Wednesday 17th sees Warren Burgess's 'Beresford' and Lloyd McLay's 'Westview' studs selling together at the Combined Owaka Bull Sale, at the Owaka Saleyards, starting at 2 pm. They will be offering fifteen Simmental bulls at the multi-breed sale.

Waitahuna, in South Otago, is the venue for the 4th sale of the week. The McCorkindale family's 'Glenside Simmentals' will be putting up 25 young bulls at their 4th Annual On-farm Sale. They are situated on State Highway 8, 3 kms south of Waitahuna.

The last sale of this very busy week belongs to the Southern Districts Simmental Club. Charlton Saleyards, Gore, is the venue where twelve breeders will off the pick of their crops to a total of 33 purebred bulls. This sale starts at 1 pm.

Now You Can COMPARE

This across-breed EPD table can help you put breed differences into perspective.

Editors Note: The following article is reprinted from the American "Beef Today" magazine, January 1993 and was written by Nita Effertz

They say the right information in the wrong hands can be dangerous. But this country has always considered that risk better than the alternative of censorship. Such is the case with the information presented here.

Within the confines of a group called the Beef Improvement Federation (BIF), the breeds have recently fought long and hard over one issue: Whether to release information that would let you compare one breed with another based on their Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs) - and if so, how to present the information.

When Montana cattle breeder Jim Leachman took the helm at BIF, the clamour for across-breed EPDs reached a crescendo, Leachman, an ardent advocate of standardised EPDs, forced the issue by making comments such as this: "There's more truth in advertising on the back of a beer can than there is in many bull sale catalogues."

Harsh as it is, that remark reflects the frustration many producers have with EPDs. They're tedious to use within a breed, and until now, they've been impossible to use for comparing one breed with another. If a mail-in survey of Beef Today readers is any indication, more than 75% of producers want across-breed comparable EPDs. This, even though almost a third of respondents found EPDs difficult to use.

"Standardisation helps, it doesn't hurt, marketing," Leachman told a crowd at BIF's last annual meeting. It's our role to facilitate the transfer of this information, not impede it."

On the surface, the argument against across-breed EPDs has to do with the source of the information. Only the U.S. Meat Animal Research Centre (MARC) in Clay Centre, Neb., has done the genetic evaluations needed to compare EPDs across breeds. There are some shortcomings in using just MARC's data to adjust the information in breed-association evaluations.

But most breeders concede that the comparisons are valid. "There's no doubt this information will be improved on, but it is still the best objective comparison we have," says Virginia Polytech specialist Dave Notter, Leachman adds: "In MARC we have one of the best genetic testing programs every. Yet people who have used its information for years - without utmost confidence - now find every reason to discredit it."

There's a deeper basis for the opposition to across-breed EPD's. Leachman equates it with the dilemma that someone faces when he has an asset that is not valued correctly. Some of the older breeds now have "bases" or breed average EPDs that have changed considerably from their breed averages when they began making genetic evaluations several decades ago. This makes their EPDs - especially for the growth traits - very large relative to those early cattle within the breed.

It's a different story when you compare that growth to some of the newer breeds, introduced in the late 1960s and early '70s. These also have bases or averages that have changed, but to a much lesser degree. Just the opposite case if often true for traits such as birth weight. "When I say its time we standardise our data, I'm saying it's time to value that asset correctly, take the hit, take

ACROSS-BREED EPD's - 1990 CALVES

Sire brood EPD	Birth Weight	Weaning Weight	Yearling Weight	Milk	Maternal Weaning Weight
Angus	0	0	0	0	0
Limousin	+5.9	+14.5	+8.3	+9.9	+17.7*
Hereford	+4.8	-6.0	-7.0	+8.0	-5.0
P. Hereford	+2.9	+2.0	-6.0	-10.6	-9.0
Shorthorn	+4.1	+16.5	+10.0	+26.2	+34.4*
Salers	+4.2	+22.2	+17.0	+34.0	+44.9
Charolais	+9.9	+26.0	+38.0	+25.2	+37.9
Chianina	----	+33.0	----	+37.4	----
Simmental	+8.7	+27.0	+56.0	+42.1	+57.4
Gelvieh	+8.9	+32.0	+36.0	+46.6	+63.0

Add the above numbers to EPD's for each breed to compare directly to Angus EPD's. Angus average for 1990 calves are:

+3.2, +20, +36, +7.0, +17

** Estimated by assuming total maternal weight is equal to one half of direct weaning weight EPD plus the milk EPD.*

THE BREEDS

the write-down, do it all at once and move on," says Leachman.

Some worry that across-breed comparisons will cause the breeds to become more alike, eroding their differences. But maternal breeds have been shooting for the moon in growth, and growth breeds have been emphasising maternal traits, without any prodding from across-breed EPD's.

"If anything, across-breed comparisons should make breeds remember and try to preserve their strengths, rather than try to be everything to everyone, " says Leachman. More important, he says "Cattlemen are going to cross-breed, and they've been making the comparisons anyway, but without the information to do it correctly."

In the end, the opponents and advocates of across-breed EPDs struck a compromise. The BIF proceedings released last month did not contain across-breeds EPDs. But they did contain the information that we needed to calculate them for you. We followed the advice of MARC's Larry Cundiff for both the calculations and for how the resulting data are presented.

From the BIF proceedings, we used the breed-average EPDs for calves born in 1990 and evaluated in the 1991 genetic evaluations. The data will always be about one year behind producers because of the lag between when the calves are born and when their yearling data are available. "But the trend from one year to the next doesn't change that dramatically, so its still valid to use these data to compare calves born in '91 or '92, says Cundiff.

We then used the MARC data on sire breed averages adjusted to the 1990 mean EPD for each breed. If a breed is missing from the table, either the EPDs for the bulls used at MARC were not available or the breed has not been evaluated there.

For the breeds to be compared, you need a base to start from. Rather than average the EPDs for all breeds and use that for comparison, we chose Angus bulls with zero EPDs as the standard. That lets you compare every other breed on the Angus EPD scale.

"Angus is a breed that a lot of people are familiar with - so they'll be able to visualize a comparison between the production of other breeds and Angus, says Cundiff. "For example, a Limousin with a -14.5 weaning weight EPD has the same genetic potential as an Angus with zero weaning-weight EPD".

We also chose to express the across breed EPDs as a figure you can add to those "within-breed" EPDs you see in a sale catalogue or a sire summary. So a Simmental bull with within-breed birth weight, weaning-weight, yearling weight, milk and maternal-weaning weight EPDs of -20, +16, +30, +17, +25 becomes +6.7, +43, +86, +59, +82 when compared across breeds. (See "Real-World Comparisons.")

Keep in mind that these figures are guidelines, not absolutes. "They're based on breed evaluations at MARC," says Cundiff. "With the possible exception of subtropical areas, we wouldn't expect breed interactions to be that much different in other environments. But we don't know for sure."

We also hope this information will help you put EPDs in better perspective. In reality, there are no "good" or "bad" EPDs - just EPDs that represent production levels that fit or don't fit your environment. Do you have the feed to take advantage of the growth potential in a sire that is +60 lb. for milk when compared with zero Angus EPDs? Should you automatically by-pass a bull with EPDs of +.6, -2.6, -2.1, -3.7, -4.8 when those figures become +4.8, +19.6, +114.9, +30.3, +40.1 when compared with zero Angus EPDs?

Note: In New Zealand, Breedplan EBV's are not comparable between breeds and cattle producers here have similair problems to American Farmers in ranking breeds performance

REAL-WORLD COMPARISONS

	Birth Weight	Weaning Weight	Yearling Weight	Maternal Milk	Maternal Weaning Weight
Simmental Bull					
Printed EPD	-2.0	+16	+30	+17	+25
Across-breed EPD	+6.7	+43	+86	+59.1	+82.4
Polled Hereford Bull					
Printed EPD	+3.1	+27.1	+51.2	+8.2	+21.8
Across-breed EPD	+6.0	+29.1	+45.2	-2.4	+12.8
Salers Bull					
Printed EPD	+0.6	-2.6	-2.1	-3.7	-4.8
Across-breed EPD	+4.8	+19.6	+14.9	+30.3	+40.1
Charolais Bull					
Printed EPD	-0.4	+26.1	+25.8	+7.8	+20.9
Across-breed EPD	+9.5	+52.1	+63.8	+33.0	+58.8
Angus Bull					
Printed EPD	+5.6	+26	+48	+21	+34
Across-breed EPD	+5.6	+26	+48	+21	+34

A View To The Future

By John W. Comerford, Lowell L. Wilson & Erskine H. Cash

Editor's Note: The following article was written by three members of the animal science department of Penn State University - reprinted from SimTalk, January 1995

In any beef cattle enterprise with a given set of management and other feed resources, the ceiling on the level of production will be imposed by genetics. This holds for not only growth, but also for reproduction, milking ability and carcass traits.

In some ways, it is fortunate that the beef cattle industry historically has had a broad genetic base with which to work. This allows for faster and more lasting progress through selective breeding. However, the negative aspect of this broad genetic base is that it contributes to a lack of uniformity in consumer beef products, both within breeds and across breeds. This lack of uniformity often has been identified by consumers as an important reason why they prefer to buy and eat other meats, particularly poultry.

Must Meet Consumer Needs

The vision statement recently adopted by the Beef Industry Long Range Task Force says, in part, that the beef industry should "consistently meet consumer needs and increase market share". If cattle breeders, particularly seedstock breeders, are to remain competitive in the future - both in the beef business and as producers of protein food - they must adopt a breeding programme that meets these requirements.

Recent efforts in the generation of information related to the beef industry - Strategic Alliance, Integrated Resource Management, and Quality Assurance programmes - have been useful in charting directions and defining goals for the industry. However, genetic information from Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs) will be the most important tool available to breeders.

EPDs Vital to Increasing Production

We already know the power of EPDs in raising the production ceiling on a farm. In a bull selection programme for the 1993 calf crop on a Pennsylvania farm, a bull of known genetic value was compared to two other bulls in the herd with unknown genetic information.

What a difference a bull makes! Using the weaning percent and average weaning weights, calves from a selected bull returned 67 pounds more weight per calf than those from the other two bulls.

What value is there in using the tools available for genetic improvement in the beef business? In this case (using an average price of $82 per hundred weight for feeder calves), it was about $55 per calf - that was $1,320 for 24 calves.

Recent research in Georgia, Florida and Nebraska has shown that cattle can be simultaneously selected using EPDs for growth of the animal and higher marbling score and lower rib fat in the carcass. This means that many of the well-known genetic antagonisms, such as fat and marbling score, can be overcome by using EPDs.

The first step in any breeding programme is to focus on the important things - those with real economic value. The first of these is to produce and wean a calf from every cow in the herd every year. This can be accomplished by using EPDs for birth weight and calving ease (to reduce calving difficulty); EPDs for yearling weight, milk production, and mature size (to be sure feed resources match the feed needs of the herd); and EPDs for scrotal size (to ensure heifers reach puberty earlier in their lives). From this point, the plan can address other important traits, such as pre-weaning growth, frame size, fat thickness, ribeye area, and marbling.

Incorporate New Technology and Information

Watch for the application of new technology as it becomes available. The best example of new technology that could be applied to the industry is the identification of the tenderness gene (or genes) in cattle. If this technology becomes available on a commercial scale, then a new set of rules will need to be written for how carcasses are valued. Producers must be able to adapt to these changes and take advantage of them.

Use all of the information that applies to your programme. The road to profitability in the cattle enterprise is paved with accurate and complete records. Producers will remain competitive by knowing not only their level of production, but the cost of that production. This information will allow for informed decisions on feeding, health and genetic programmes that will optimize the use of resources.

Know which cattle are in the most demand in the market place. A recent survey by a breed association indicated the cattle in greatest demand by feedlot operators were older (short yearlings); heavier (650-750 pounds); black; frame size 5 to 6; and preconditioned. If most commercial herds are to produce these cattle, they will need bulls that are no larger than frame size 7 and genetically superior for a host of traits, ranging from low birth weights to high marbling scores.

Apply Seedstock Production to Commercial Setting

Test your own seedstock production in a commercial environment. Most breeds have a progeny-testing programme in place that will allow you to evaluate what you are selling to your customers. Also, feedlot test programmes are available for producers in most States. Look at what is beneath the hide of the cattle you are producing. Use these tools to improve your programme.

Find lower-cost, sustainable resources that are compatible to both economics and the environment. One good example is rotationally grazing pastures to make more effective use of the grass resource, reduce fertilizer applications, and produce beef at lower cost. A selection programme must be adopted that will produce cattle that will work under these conditions. It is a foregone conclusion that, if beef producers don't voluntarily make necessary changes in the industry to support the environment, then somebody will eventually force them to.

The manager of a leading meat packing company recently said, "There are no premiums in this business, only discounts." Beef Cattle can be genetically designed to fit a specific environment and marketed with few of no discounts. Most of the information to accomplish this goal is already available. It is just waiting to be used.

Using EPDs to Design Beef Cattle

Traits	*EPDs to Use*
Calving Difficulty	Calving ease, birth weight, pelvic area, maternal calving ease.
Growth/Live Value	Weaning weight, yearling weight, maternal milk
Puberty Reproduction	Scrotal circumference, birth weight, calving ease, mature weight.
Feed Requirements	Yearling weight, maternal milk, mature size, frame size.
Carcass Value	Ribeye, marbling, fat thickness, carcass weight, yearling weight.

TRIPLE S SIMMENTALS

2nd Annual Bull Sale
40 Selected Bulls

16th May, 1995
1.30pm
Castlerock, Lumsden

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What Kind Of Bull Do I Need?

By Dr. James B. Neel, University of Tennessee, Agricultural Extension Service.
Courtesy of Simtalk, January 1995

A List of questions the bull buyer should ask himself before making his purchases.

What kind of bull do I need? This is a question that cow-calf producers consider around bull-buying time. This is important because it affects profitability of the operation.

Bull selection is not a simple task. In the past, the question could have been answered by selecting a fast gaining bull with ample muscling. This is not the case today. In just about every situation in today's beef production, all decisions, especially in bull selection, will impact profitability of your operation for several years.

In addition, the breeding decisions made by cow-calf producers will also determine the kind and quality of animal and product that will move through the industry to the consumer, thereby influencing profit of the total industry.

There are several factors that should be considered by cow-calf producers in deciding the kind of bull to select and use in a breeding program. Following is a list of questions, in no order of importance, except for the first one, that producers should "think through" and answer in arriving at the decision "What kind of bull do I need?"

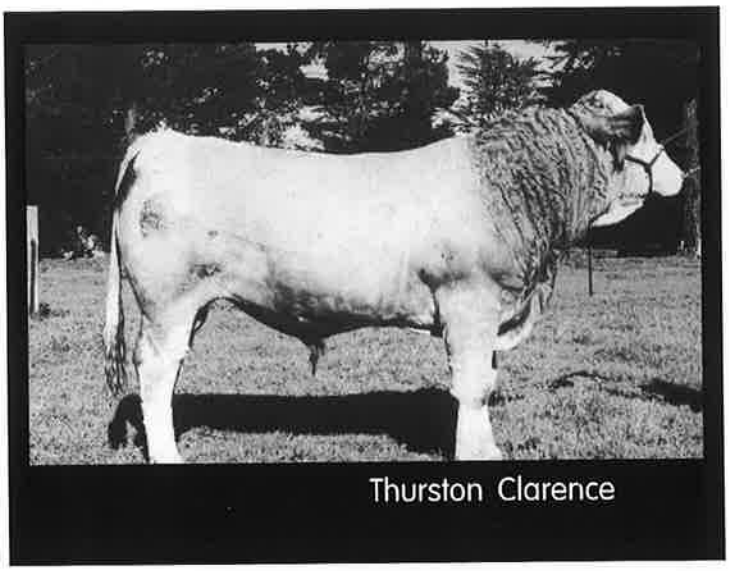
1. What is the overall objective of your breeding program? This is a necessity. A plan is needed. You cannot begin to answer the question "What Kind of Bull Do I Need?" without a breeding objective.
2. How do you plan to use the bull in your breeding program? Will the bull be used to sire replacement heifers or be used in a terminal cross to sire feeder cattle?
3. What is the breed or crossbred makeup of your cow herd?
4. What breed or type of bull are you currently using to breed your cows? Do you want to change?
5. What breed of bull would you consider and will that breed work well with your cows?
6. What production traits of your cow herd do you want to change? What is the current level of production of these traits?
7. Will he be mated to first calf heifers or mature cows?
8. What is the size and type of your current cow herd? Do you want to change it or maintain it?
9. How well does the genetic composition of your cow herd "match" your farm's resources (management, feed supply, labour, etc.)? What is the condition of "flesh" of your cow herd and/or what was the calf crop percentage weaned from your cow herd? How will a change in "breed make up" of cow herd affect this?
10. What market goal do you have for the calf crop?
11. What has been the market acceptability of your calf crop? What do they grade? Do they "fit" with calves from the area when marketed? Are they uniform?
12. How well do your calves perform in the feedlot and how do they grade and yield?
13. What kind of bull do you think you need?

These questions are important and should be considered in bull selection. The accuracy of the answers to these questions is dependent on the amount of information available on the cow herd and the resources on the farm. You should be able to answer these questions without reviewing a sale catalogue or a potential sire's individual performance. The kind of bull that is needed should be "fixed" as well as the "objective" of your breeding programme before evaluating individual bulls.

The question of what kind of bull you need is very important. How it is answered - the eventual selection and use of the herd sire - will have a large impact on the profitability of your cow-calf operation.

THURSTON SIMMENTAL

Thurston Simmentals are proud to present two sires for the 1995 Palmerston North National Bull Sale



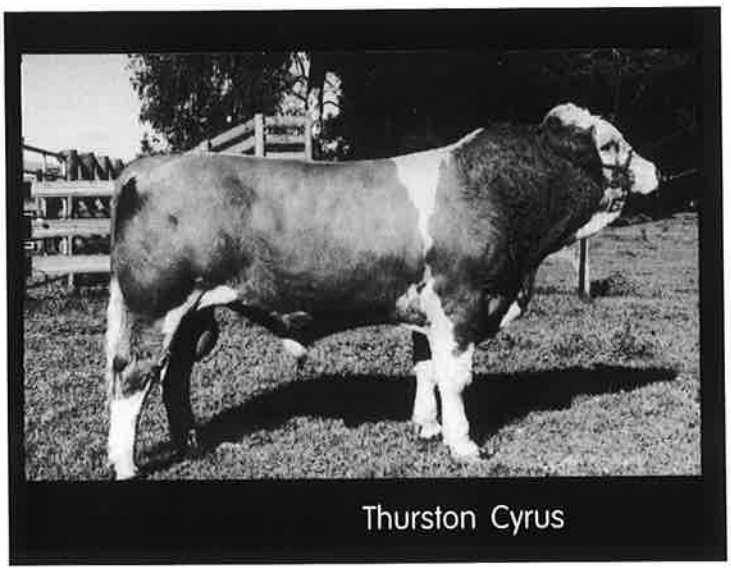
Thurston Clarence

Clarence's dam was champion Simmental Female at the 1993 Canterbury Show.

Sire. Rotomara Zane — Kindar Galaxy / Rotomara Useful

Dam. Rissington Rebecca — Shawest Big Red 17P / Bar 5 Princess 355P

B/W	200Milk	200 Wt	400Wt	600Wt
+0.6 53%	+5 32%	+13 49%	+21 46%	+20 46%



Thurston Cyrus

Grand Sire Malvern Downs AY1 who sold for $32,000 at the 1991 Palmerston North National Bull Sale

Sire Thurston Ace. Supreme Champion Simmental at the 1993 National Bull Sale who sold for $11,000.

Sire. Thurston Ace AA60 — Malvern Downs AY1 / Levels Lotte 3/AL19

Dam. Thurston Yippee — Scottish Extra Special / Levels 3/AU 31

B/W	200Milk	200 Wt	400Wt	600Wt
+1.4 72%	+5 38%	+10 64%	+13 57%	+19 57%

Enquiries and Inspection Welcome:

Andrew and Biddy Ritchie Hawesbury RD 2 Blenheim Phone (03) 572 9083 Fax (03) 572 9430

East is East and West is West and never the twain shall meet - until two Simmental breeders had Glenside Bart to talk about ...

West Otago breeder Garry McCorkindale and East Coast breeder Gerald Kemp with "Bart" who fetched $30,000 at the 1994 National Sale.

Another good match by Wrightson -
The leaders of pedigree cattle marketing in New Zealand

Wrightson

"SELECTING A BULL"

Courtesy of Better Bull Buying

Breeding Soundness

Once you have selected a bull with the desired genetics, you must be sure that this bull is capable of causing pregnancy in a cow herd. Each and every bull needs to have a breeding soundness evaluation every year, 30-60 days before the start of the breeding season, it has been reported that more than 10% of yearling bulls are either sterile or subfertile and 4% of proven sires develop serious fertility problems between breeding seasons.

Examining bulls for breeding soundness before the breeding season will detect most bulls with potential fertility problems. This examination should be performed by a veterinarian who has had significant experience in bovine herd health and fertility evaluation of bulls. However, even with the best personnel, current techniques can not accurately predict degrees of fertility. Breeding Soundness Evaluations are really a screening process used to assess probable bull fertility. Results from an actual breeding season remain the only true test of a bull's fertility.

EVALUATION GUIDELINES

Physical examination:

This will cull out bulls with undesirable physical characteristics or abnormalities.

Palpate scrotum and testes

Bulls having a normally shaped scrotum with a distinct neck generally have the best testicular development. Testes are located in the scrotum because sperm can only be produced within a narrow temperature range, several degrees cooler than internal body temperature. Normal scrotal anatomy permits effective temperature regulation.

Bulls with straight-sided scrotum's often have only moderate testicle sizes. The straight-sided neck of the scrotum is generally due to fat deposits that will probably impair proper themoregulation, particularly in the summer. As bulls mature and lose fat, they often develop a more normal-shaped scrotum.

Wedge-shaped scrotum's are pointed towards the bottom and tend to hold the testes close to the body wall. Bulls with this scrotal configuration have undersized testes that seldom produce semen of adequate quality. Bulls with wedge-shaped scrotum's should be avoided.

Palpate the scrotum and testicles, noting position and consistency. This should be done by your local veterinarian who can properly evaluate testicular tone as it relates to testicular function. Deviations from normal testicles vary from extremely hard and fibrous to a soft and flabby. Inflammation of the testis affect the consistency and size of the testicles and result in abnormal sperm production.

Examine extended penis and prepuce

The external genitalia should be examined with great care; the penis is palpated through the external sheath and by protruding it manually. Prolapse of the prepuce is occasionally found, more often in the Brahman and Brahman derived breeds. Unless there are lesions on the prolapsed membrane, the prolapse does not interfere with mating. However, the exposed membrane is predisposed to injuries. Record any injury or abnormality as acceptable or unacceptable. Bulls with gross deficiences or abnormalities detected by physical examination should be culled.

Scrotal circumference

Scrotal circumference and testicular size are directly related to sperm production in beef bulls. Since the testicles are composed of 75-80% semen producing cells, it is logical that the larger the testicles, the greater the bull's ability to produce sperm and produce pregnancies. In addition, bulls with small testicles tend to produce a higher percentage of abnormal sperm.

As the scrotal circumference increases, motility and percent normal sperm increase and sperm abnormalities decrease. Scrotal circumference has been shown to be a more accurate predictor of when a bull reaches puberty than either age or weight, regardless of breed or bred cross. Yearling bulls should have a scrotal circumference of at least 28cm. Measure close to puberty at around 10-13 months. 18-20 month bulls should have a minimum scrotal circumference of 30cm. There appears to be little advantage in having scrotal circumference in excess of 35cm.

Record the actual measurement of scrotal circumference in centimetres, and the age of the bull at time of measurement.

Scrotal circumference is highly heritable and has a high positive genetic correlation to age of puberty of the bull's daughters. Studies have shown that for each additional 4.0cm of scrotal circumference above the breed or herd average, one can expect a 1.0cm increase in the scrotal circumference of male offspring and 15 days earlier puberty in female offspring. The use of a sire with above average testicular size (scrotal circumference) for his age and breed will result in female progeny that reach puberty at a younger age, cycle more regularly and consequently have greater potential lifetime productivity. Scrotal circumference is the most useful linear measurement currently taken on beef cattle.

Libido

Libido, or sexual activity, and semen production in bulls apparently have no relationship, so it is possible to get good semen from bulls with low libido and vice versa.

Serving capacity tests count the number of serves a bull performs in a set time with restrained females. This is used to predict the number of cows a bull can be mated to and to rank bulls accordingly. Yearling bulls are difficult to test. Serving capability test are a simpler test only giving a bull a couple of test serves. There is no ranking but capability is proven. Animal welfare aspects need to be observed at all times with these tests. It is recommended veterinarian supervisors serving capability tests. Differences in libido in bulls are due to genetic as well as environmental factors. Several studies have shown that the dominant bulls in a group often sire the largest number of calves. However, if the dominant bulls happen to be subfertile, this could actually result in a reduced number of pregnant females. In a group of bulls with varying ages, social ranking affects a bull's serving capacity. Therefore, do not mix yearling and two year old bulls with older bulls.

Other Selection Considerations
Body Condition

Bulls should have enough body condition to be strong with some reserves of energy in the form of fat. Over-fat bulls have decreased fertility and decreased stamina for mounting and seeking cows in heat.

Feet, legs and joints.

Good feet and legs are essential if a bull is to travel long distances over rough terrain and mate cows successfully. Particular attention should be given to the manner in which the bull moves. The stride should be free with no signs of lameness. Abnormal conformation of the rear limbs (ie. sickle-hocks and post-legged) is especially detrimental to the bull used in natural mating.

Eyes

Pinkeye or cancer eye hinder a bull's vision and reduce his breeding effectiveness. Bulls that are blind in one eye present a danger to the people handling them and to cows they are attempting to mate.

Pelvic measurements

Some breeders overseas perform pelvic measurements on yearling bulls because of this trait's high heritability (50-55%). The hypothesis is that bulls with larger pelvic areas will sire daughters with larger pelvic areas which should result in a reduction in calving difficulty. However, pelvic measurements and other physical measurements (eg. pelvic slope) have generally served as poor predictors of calving difficulty.

As a general rule, larger-framed cattle have larger pelvic areas and also produce calves with heavier birth weights. Calf birth weight and age of dam at calving are the most important factors affecting calving difficulty.

The Hill Country Hay Baler & Automatic Feeder

by DR ALASTAIR NICOL
LINCOLN UNIVERSITY

One of the roles of the hill country beef cow is to transfer feed from late spring/summer to winter. This is on top of the need for her to produce one calf every 365 days with a weaning weight equal to at least 50% of her own body weight and to start producing next years calf before she has finished producing this years'. Quite a tall order in a hill country environment and more, in many ways, than is expected from a hill country ewe.

It is difficult in most hill country environments to have enough stock to cope with the very rapid rate of pasture growth in the late spring. The alternatives of taking areas out of grazing for hay and silage or winter crops which are used on flat land are not appropriate for hill country. Beef cows are very useful to "mop up" a proportion of the spring "flush". When pasture reaches a height of 8cm or more, beef cattle are capable of eating much more than they need for their own maintenance and milk production and have enough left over to readily gain liveweight at 1.0kg/day.

The pasture required for 1.0kg liveweight gain per day for 150 cows for 30 days is around 30 tonnes of dry matter, or the equivalent of 1300 conventional hay bales. So the statement that "the beef cow is a self-propelled hill country baler that uses no string" is well founded. This surplus feed is stored as liveweight (mainly fat) at very little extra cost as it takes relatively little more energy to maintain a heavy fat cow than a light thin one.

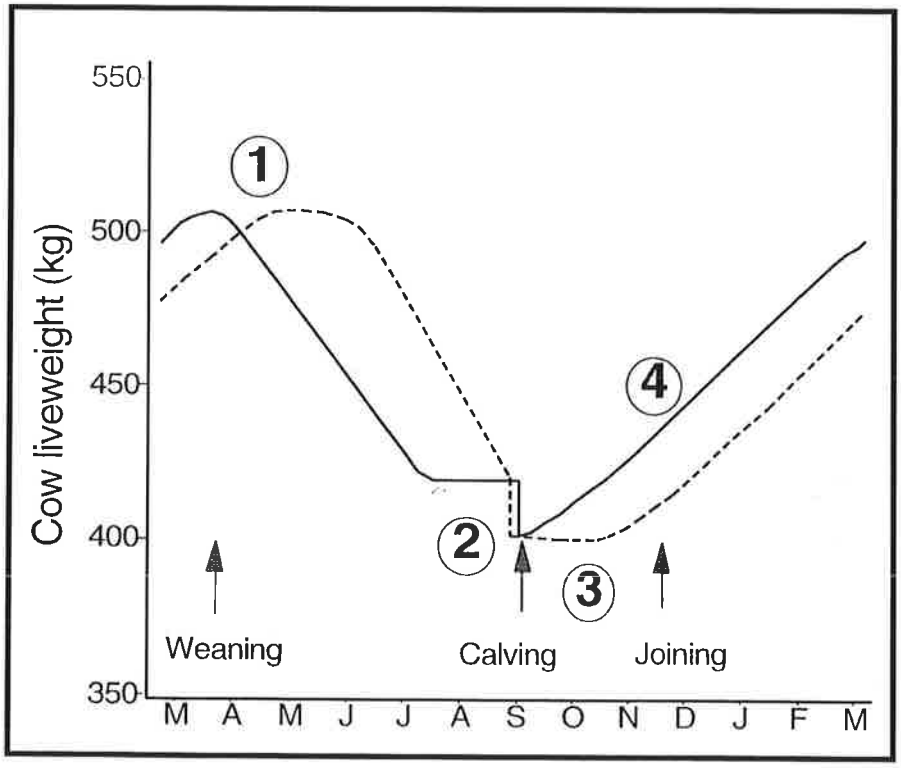
In the winter the equation is just as good. Every 10kg extra liveweight, a beef cow takes into the autumn/winter, represent a saving of 8% in her feed requirements over a 100 day winter period. As she loses body weight, she feeds herself and what's more, there is no non-biodegradable residues of plastic covers left or fossil fuel used in feeding out.

This effective transfer of surplus pasture in spring/summer to winter through the annual seasonal cycle of body weight of the mature beef cow is a key component of the hill country management system. It is important then that it is done correctly which means:

* maximising the feed transfer while
* ensuring no detrimental effect on cow productivity.

Achieving these two objectives requires knowing:

* the right amount of liveweight gain/loss
* the right pattern of the liveweight change



Amount of liveweight change for beef cows

If beef cows are in good (forward store/fat eg. G fat class on the Beef Carcass Classification System) condition by the end of summer, then a 10-15% (40-60kg) loss in liveweight, if achieved in the right pattern (see below), will have no detrimental effect on the cow's productivity in terms of weaning %, calf weaning weight or cow pregnancy rate.

Greater losses, or liveweight loss in cows in less good condition at weaning, are likely to decrease calf survival and weaning weight. On the other hand, bodyweight losses of less than 15%, on good cows means maximum use is not being made of the cows' ability to transfer feed. The pasture saved by a beef cow losing 0.5kg/day in early winter is sufficient to increase the daily liveweight gain of a weaned steer from from 0.0 to 0.05kg/d.

Pattern of liveweight change

The graph (shown below) illustrates diagrammatically two different patterns of seasonal liveweight change of a beef cow. From a quick glance they may look similar but one spells a successful pattern (the solid line) and the other (the broken line) illustrates a few potential traps. The broken line pattern differs from the solid line in 4 ways:

1. Maximum liveweight occurs in late autumn early winter rather than late summer.
2. Cow winter liveweight loss continues right up to calving, rather than stopping 4 - 6 weeks before calving.
3. Liveweight does not start increasing until 4 - 6 weeks after calving
4. Cow liveweight is 20-30kg lower at joining.

These effects in combination are likely to reduce the productivity of the breeding cow herd so let's look at each of them in some detail.

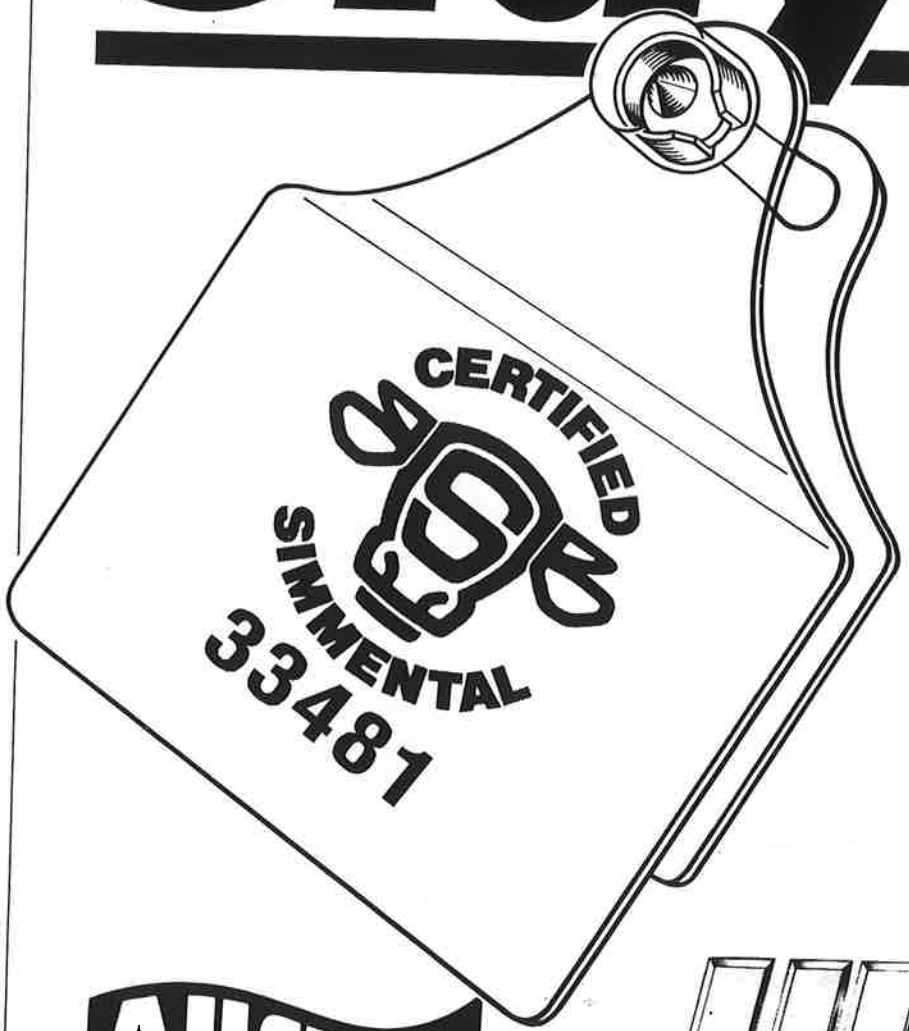
Timing of maximum body weight

If cow body weight is not up to target at weaning, the tendency is to laxly graze the cows to increase body weight before winter. The effect of this is to reduce the pasture reserves for winter and thus reduce the opportunity of controlling later winter liveweight loss and saving some pasture for pre-calving.

Liveweight loss continues up to calving

Unless winter liveweight loss has been excessive (>15%) losing liveweight right up

The Stayer



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to calving will not necessarily have a major detrimental effect on calf birth weight or calf survival but it is a high risk option. In worse than average winters and where hypomagnesemia is a potential problem, not providing areas of saved pasture for cows in the last 4 - 6 weeks before calving to halt liveweight loss, risks death of cows and calves. Furthermore, "turning the corner" before calving sets the cows on a rising plane of nutrition for lactation and re-breeding.

Post-calving to joining

Post-calving to joining in many ways is the most critical period of the beef cow's annual cycle. If the pasture available after calving is not sufficient (eg. 8 - 10cm long) to more than satisfy the cow's maintenance and lactation requirements, they cannot gain liveweight and condition.

It is condition score when the bull goes out which determines how many, and how quickly cows will get back in calf. Calving too early and/or cows competing with breeding ewes over this early part of the spring can easily result in cows being 20 - 30kg lighter when the bulls go out. This can make the difference between 60% of cows calving in the first cycle or 30% with the rest in an extended calving pattern. There are many options for converting the less-than-adequate broken line graph into the desirable solid line and the most suitable one, or combination, will depend on the individual property. Some of the possibilities are:

* more subdivision, or larger mobs (cows plus ewes) for winter rotations to control feeding level.
* provision of saved or N boosted pasture for pre-calving.
* later calving for more pasture post-calving.

Summary

The seasonal pattern of liveweight gain and loss of the beef cow is an essential component of hill country pasture and animal management. The precise form of this liveweight pattern is important if beef cow productivity is not to be compromised. This article has contrasted potential differences between the "ideal" and "sub-optimum" beef cow liveweight patterns.

Conditioning Replacement Heifers

Replacement heifers must reach puberty between 13 and 14 months of age if they are to become profitable cows capable of achieving the following production goals:

- becoming pregnant in the first 25 days of the breeding season
- giving birth to live calves with little calving difficulty
- raising the calves to weaning at or about average weaning weight
- breeding back as 2 year olds within the first 45 days of the breeding season
- continuing to reproduce and wean calves every year for six to nine years.

Research has shown that the two most important factors in influencing onset of puberty are age and weight. Feeding replacement heifers so that they weigh about 65 percent of the mature weight for their respective breed prior to the breeding season enhances the odds of achieving long-term production goals.

Since conception rates are higher on the third estrus of replacement heifers than the first, producers should be encouraged to get their heifers to the 65 percent target weight as early as one month before the set breeding season. Such a practice increases the odds of heifers conceiving early in the season and keeping them on the same yearly schedule as the cow herd.

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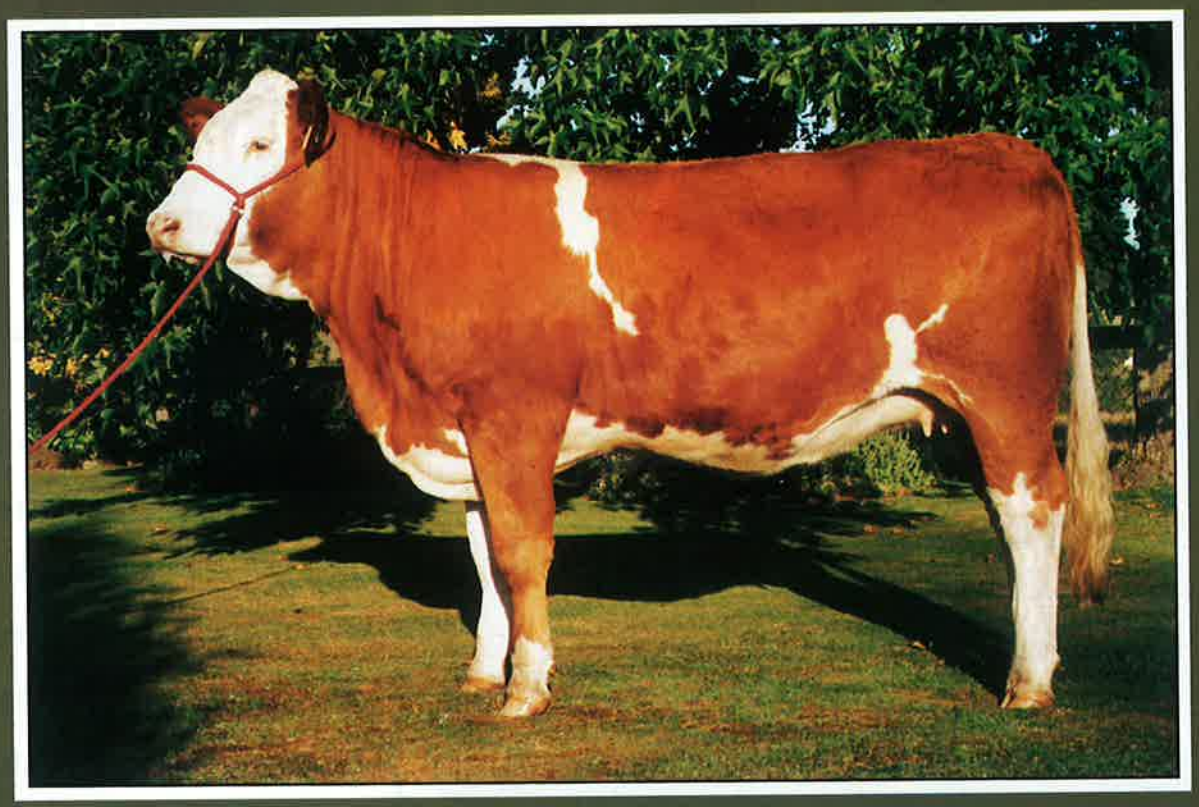

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After 10 years of Rumblings & Tremors:
in Palmerston North on June 21st 1994:
The *Big One* Struck!

Moneymore Earthquake
Levels Hans x Moneymore Robina

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6 months later the epicentre shifted 1400Km south to Invercargill

1994 NZ Royal Show
Supreme Champion Simmental
3rd Meat & Wool Cup

1994 National Beef Week:

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- **Record Price $36,000**
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"Champion of Champions"

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New Plymouth

MONEYMORE TAMARA AA91
Calf: Moneymore Aftershock AD11
2/9/94 by Levels Hans

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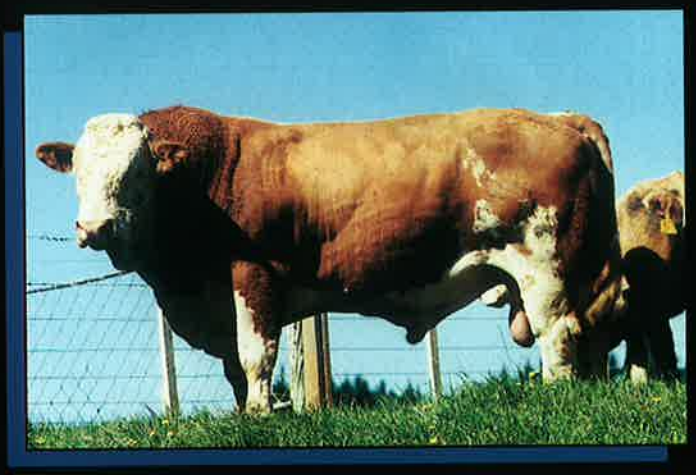

"Levels Hans"
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Senior Herd Sire

"Wai -iti Loch Lomond"
Deutsche Loch x Rotomara Unni
Junior Herd Sire
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Junior Herdsperson

The Central South Island Junior Herdsperson and Heifer Show

Twenty competitors, in three age groups, took part in the Central South Island Beef Breeders Junior Herdsperson and Heifer Show held in the Timaru Showgrounds on the 23rd and 24th October, 1994.

The Judges for the events were Don and Dorreen Goodall from Braxton Hereford Stud.

This year the competitors were judged not only on their ability to prepare and handle their cattle they were asked to judge classes and give reasons for their placings. All competitors coped very well and all gained confidence as they went. On the Saturday evening there was a Quiz session to test the competitors knowledge of cattle and cattle related topics.

Sponsor support was excellent.

The New Zealand Farmer sponsored the overall winner to the New Zealand Bull Week in Palmerston North. Other major sponsors, Wrightsons, C.R.T. Mid and South Canterbury Veterinary Services, Nithdale polled Herefords, World Wide Sires, P.G.G., A.N.Z. Ambreed, Superstock , Aorangi Vets

Merryleas Herefords, and the Simmental, Shorthorn, Hereford and Charolais Cattle Breeders Societies.

The overall winner was Margaret Austin, with Shane McDrury runner up.

Champion Heifer: Highway Ispe, Shane McDrury

Reserve: Willowbrook Calico, Tusha Midgley

It was an excellent training weekend with competitors gaining experience in speaking in public and having a thorough knowledge of cattle in all aspects, which is vital if we are going to send our young people overseas to represent New Zealand as Ambassadors for the cattle industry.

Simmental Society - Junior Herdsperson Competition

It was encouraging to see such a great turn out for the Simmental Society Junior Herdsperson Competition, there were 15 entrants in the senior section and 9 in the junior section.

The Simmental Cattle Breeders Society sponsors the first two place-getters in the senior class a return airfare to Australia. While in Australia they will spend approximately a month as a guest of a leading Simmental Stud, who will provide animals, gear and training for participation in the South Australian All Breeds Handlers Competition. The first three placings of each section also receive Herdsperson medals as part of the prize giving.

This years judges Janet McLachlan and Bruce Donald (both previous winners of the Simmental Herdsperson Competition), commended the level of presentation and skill of the young handlers in the competition.

Senior section:
1st Derek Hayward
2nd Douglas Brown
3rd Sharon Patterson

Junior section:
1st Cameron Moore
2nd Stephanie Smythe
3rd Richard Blackmore

This year the two trips to Australia were won by Derek Hayward from Cambridge and Douglas Brown from Loburn, (pictured).

The Simmental Society would like to thank all entrants that participated in the Simmental Society Junior Herdsperson Competition. We hope to see many of you enter again in next year's competition, which will be held at the Waikato Royal Show.

Southland Times Herdsperson Competition

Junior Beef and Dairy Cattle Handlers impressed the judges at the Southland Times Herdsperson Competition on 11th February.

The event is sponsored by the Southland Times, MSD - AGVET and the National Bank. The increased entries in the Dairy section to 20 reflected the expansion of the dairy industry in Southland.

Entries in Southern Combined Beef Breeders Group Junior Handlers section dropped this year to 11. But the standard of presentation and exhibition of parading their heifers was once again high.

The beef section was judged by Don and Doreen Goodall of Braxton Hereford Stud at Mossburn.

Mrs Goodall said the young people had been "marvellous" to work with and she had noticed a great improvement in the standard.

In the lunch break Don and Doreen gave an informative talk on structure and different types of handling and their advantages and disadvantages.

Beef Section
Heifer Classes
Ivomec Champion Heifer
Robot Cheri AC40 led by Jane Harrington

Reserve Champion Heifer
Clover Downs Carol 57 led by Hamish Blackmore

Senior Heifer
1st Clover Downs Carol 57 led by Hamish Blackmore
2nd Waikaka Peal N42 led by Mathew Paterson
3rd Waikaka Lily N63 led by Douglas Brown

Junior Heifer
1st Robot Cheri AC40 led by Jane Harrington
2nd Clover Downs Carol 58 led by Alice Grimm
3rd Waikaka Lill N101 led by Glen Baty

Champion Beef Herdsperson
Casey Robertson

Reserve Champion Beef Herdsperson
Peter Blackmore

Junior Herdsperson - under 12 years
1st Ross Paterson
2nd Hamish Blackmore
3rd Mathew Paterson

Junior Herdsperson - 12 - 15 years
1st Casey Robertson
2nd Peter Blackmore
3rd Alice Grimm

Junior Herdsperson - over 15 years
1st Jane Harrington
2nd Douglas Brown
3rd Regan Irwin

Novice Championship
1st Peter Blackmore
2nd Alice Grimm
3rd Ross Paterson

1993 Junior Herdsperson Winners

Colleen Taylor

On July 28th, 1994 I returned from Australia after spending 3 weeks with the Corbin family on their Simmental and Border Leicester Studs. This was a five and half hour bus trip South East of Adelaide.

In the first week of my trip I got to know the Corbin family well and the area I was staying in which was Lucindale. I went around some Merino Sheep field days which was a great experience as I have not had much to do with Merino's. In this week I was also introduced to my heifer, 'Morton Nemesis' with whom I became great pals. She was only broken to halter and tie up, so I had a week to get her leading and polished for the Show.

All packed up and ready for the competition

In the second week we left for the South Australian Heifer Show in the Land Rover packed up with good gear and work gear, Emily Corbin and I sang along with 'Garth Brooks' the whole way, which made the trip a bit faster. We got there after four hours drive. Then after meeting a few people we got our cattle stalls organised for when the heifers arrived. I was in the Intermediate Class so I did not get given a balloted heifer, as the seniors did.

On Tuesday, 19th July, I had an early start. During the day we had several educational lectures on Structural Soundness, Marketing, Feed Lotting, Fertility and Reproduction, Beef Primal Cuts usages and percentages and also Public Speaking.

This took up most of the day.

On Wednesday 20th July the heifers were judged so it took a while as there were over 200 entries in this competition. That night the intermediate competitors had to prepare skits for entertainment which was great fun. Our group skit title was Show Day Photos. They also picked out the top 8 competitors throughout the previous two days to have an Interview on Thursday morning. We had been judged on attitude/participation, presentation of stall, heifer and yourself, knowledge of heifer, marketing and a general knowledge quiz. I was one of these people interviewed so it was a great thrill even to get this far.

On Thursday 21st July we had our interviews which were over and done with in no time. Then it was on to the Handlers Classes which was very nerve-racking as there were 50 Intermediate competitors. This was done in four heats I was in heat 3 which I won so I was on Cloud 9. Then went on to win the Champion of Champion Handlers Competition and fourth overall, so it was a great week.

In this time I have gained a wide range of knowledge which has been valuable as I have gone on to win the Canterbury Show Herdsperson Competition 1994 and the Dannevirke Herdsperson Competition 1995.

I would like to take this chance to thank my host family - the Corbins, the Simmental Society for sponsoring this competition and the Chesterman family of Koanui Herefords. Without them the trip would not have been made possible. I would also like to wish Sarah Goodman all the best in Australia.

Colleen competing in the Champion of Champions Handler Class, shortly before being awarded first place.

Nathan Hellyer

Australia and New Zealand are known for their differences and the first one that we encountered was the change in temperature during the middle of winter. Leaving Christchurch in a -1 degree frost and landing in a 24 degree heat wave certainly took us by surprise.

When finally arriving at John and Chyrs Corbins Morton Simmental Stud in Lucindale we began to notice how different the soil type and pasture were - the stock looked like they were eating sand with a bit of green forage here and there.

The Corbins didn't live far from the Callendale Stud which is were Belinda Baker is from and we were lucky enough to have a look around the Baker property while down in Lucindale.

John and Chyrs' daughter Emily was also taking part in the Junior Herdsperson and was a great asset to have at the week long show that took place at the Adelaide Show Grounds. The competition consisted of seminars, interviews, judging schools, public speaking and the chance to prepare a heifer straight out of the paddock which became a real challenge for me. I was also very interested in some guest speakers and the views on feedlots, breeding and feeding methods.

It was a very enjoyable experience and I learnt a great deal in my short time over there and hope to use the experience gained in Australia back in New Zealand.

I would like to thank the New Zealand Simmental Society for the opportunity to participate in the Herdsperson, Jan Gray, who arranged the Australian side of the exchange and the Corbin family for the chance to stay and work with their cattle.

"Morton Nightengail" - Nathans' heifer taking a break from the rigours of competition

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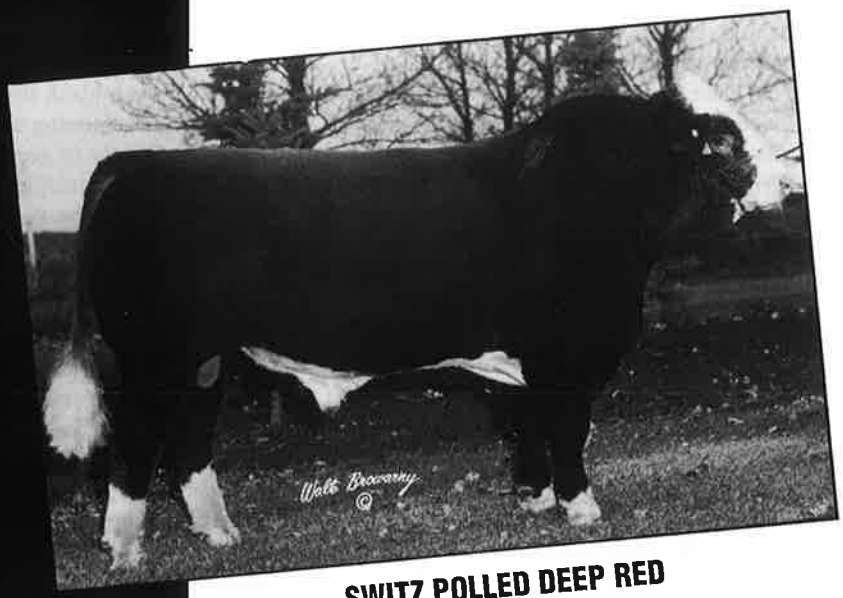

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- ***MUSCLE**

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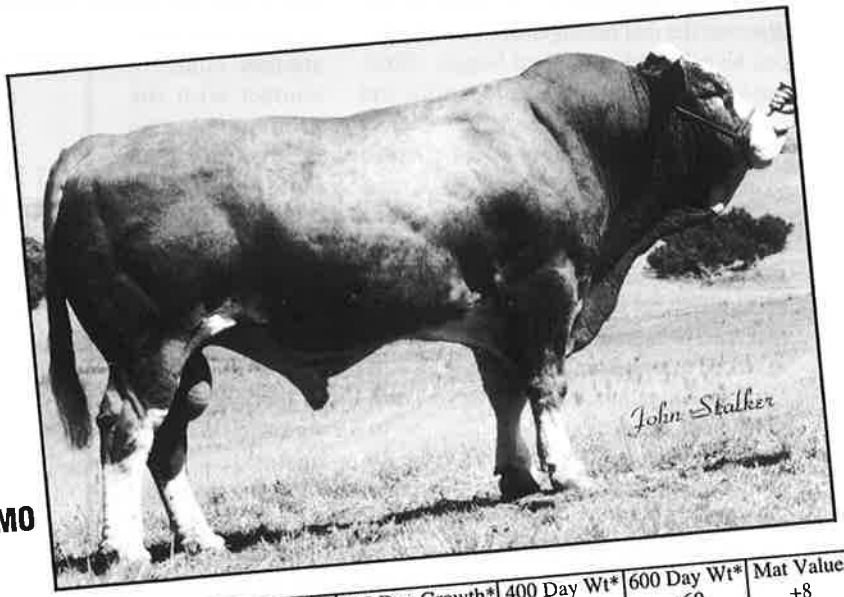

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Simmental Breeders Continue To Improve Their Herd Magic Skills

By Philip Wooster,
Business Development Manager, Saltbush Software.

Following last year's popular Herd Magic training seminars, TBC Computing and Saltbush Software once again undertook the 'NZ grand tour' in order to give all our clients the opportunity to improve their Herd Magic skills. Over seventy clients attended these seminars and strong Simmental representation was maintained. It is a credit to the society that their office staff invested some of their time in these seminars to ensure that they are able to provide knowledgeable advice and assistance to members.

Members who have attended the last two rounds of training schools will now have their Herd Magic "tires" well inflated. Routine tasks such as producing calf registrations and performance records on disk, via Herd Magic, will continue to save users valuable time and reduce recording errors. The challenge now is to move on and discover the real management benefits that can be achieved with Herd Magic. Obvious examples may be standard fertility and growth performance reports however in most cases the programme is only limited by imagination.

For readers interest I will outline an imaginative use of Herd Magic which some Australian herds have evolved. Here is an opportunity for the Kiwis to borrow some real Aussie ingenuity! The task at hand is to record information necessary in an Artificial Insemination (AI) or Embryo Transfer (ET) programme.

Firstly a worksheet is created in the Reports section of Herd Magic. One major feature of this layout is that at the end of the day it is possible to visualise the spread and timing of the heats displayed by the cows being AI'ed or implanted. This is essential in an ET programme where the aim is to match recipients heat times to the donors heat times.

Once the worksheet is created, print the worksheet for the desired range of animals using the Range and the Run option in the report Options Box. For ET programmes, also use the Sort function to sort the print out into firstly donors then recipients and secondly into tag order within these two groups. This means that the donors heat times will be easily noted at the top of the worksheet and the spread of the recipients heat times will be easily noted in relation to the donors at the top of the page.

After the worksheet report has been printed, simply carry it around during heat detection and fill in the twenty four hour time in the day column for which the cow comes into season. Fill the worksheet in pencil as it will not run when rain or other undesirable substances come in contact with the printout. Aussie farmers are firm believers in "Murphy's Law" and therefore take a copy of the report each day of the programme so that it s almost impossible to loose all the information in a wind gust etc.....

After heat detection, use the worksheet to record the AI sire and date or the ET details such as Donor Dam, Embryo Quality, Corpus Luteum Quality and implant date. Matching heat times together has been mentioned above. After these details have been entered into Herd Magic it is easy to check for transcription errors by ranging and/or sorting the active joining records into tag order, as they are on the printout. Just hold the worksheet next to the screen and any errors will be obvious.

There are other advantages of recording information next to a list of tags printed out in order. If a cow has not been mustered there will be a blank line. Not only do you know one is missing but you know who. It is less likely to accidentally put two embryos into one recipient at three in the morning, due to the recipient being drafted into the race twice, as her implant details will already be filled in.

It is important to continue to maintain contact with fellow Herd Magic users and your software support centre in order to continuously improve your usage of your software investment. Past enthusiasm of Simmental breeders suggests this will not be a problem. Herd Magic queries are ably fielded by Paula Forde at your Breed Society office.

Good luck with your future breeding endeavours.

Puriri Simmentals

Puriri Caesar 1278 AC7

Bw	200Mk	200Wt	400Wt	600Wt
N/A	+6	+28	+51	+62
N/A	41%	67%	63%	61%

Tokaweka Yippe AY 23 - Trait Leader

Bw	200Mk	200Wt	400Wt	600Wt
N/A	+3	+33	+53	+73
N/A	45%	88%	87%	84%

In 1995 25 Puriri Bulls will be available for sale on the property at Taipa, Northland on Friday July 7th. We are New Zealands northern most Simmental Stud farming Kikuyu covered hills. We have a reputation for cattle that shift and grow.

Visitors and enquiries are always welcome

John & Helen Ellis
Taipa R.D. 3. Kaitaia. Tel. (09) 406 0201

Pineview Simmentals

(Herd No.52)

We are using the 3 top progeny tested beef sires from Austria,
Moris, Mark and Max.
If you want more milk from your breeding cows, we have sons available by these sires, from our herdtested dams, with high fat and protein milk.

For Sale
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Look To Simmental For Profit Potential

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Over the next five years, the cattle business will be difficult for the high-cost, inefficient cattle producer to make a profit. Everyone involved in the cattle industry will have to closely evaluate their records to determine what must be done to maximise the profit potential of their operation.

On the bright side, the cattle industry will improve through this period. Inefficient, poor producing cows will immediately be culled. Low-performing, inferior bulls will be sold. And in the end, the average cow herd in the United States will be better managed and have more efficient, profitable cattle in them.

When evaluating your cow herd or contemplating on your bull purchases this year, there is one breed that you need to strongly consider . . . . Simmental. Simmental and Simmental-influenced cattle offer the cattle industry profit potential. In University research, bull tests, and steer futurities, Simmental and Simmental influenced cattle have continuously excelled and have been the exotic "breed of choice" for several years. Consider the following:

Simmental and Simmental influenced females are some of the highest performing, strongest maternal females you can find for your cattle operation. In the annually-updated Across-Breed Comparison Chart published by the US Meat Animal Research Centre (Table 1), Simmental excels in maternal strength. Cattlemen who have Simmental-influenced cows will verify that they are some of the heaviest-milking, reproductively sound cows they have seen. And when it's time to wean calves, there is no question which cow will bring in the biggest calf.

This is also proven in a research project performed at the Antelope Range Livestock station in north west South Dakota. The 12 year study evaluated seven biological types of cows: straightbred Hereford (H), 1/2 Simmental-1/2 Hereford (SH), High percentage Simmental (5/8- 3/4)- Hereford (SHS), High percentage Hereford (5/8-3/4)-Simmental (HSH), 1/2 Angus-1/2 Hereford (AH), high percentage Angus (5/8-3/4)-Hereford (AHA), and high percentage Hereford (5/8-3/4-Angus (HAH). All of the cattle were managed alike with the exception of two winter supplement levels from 1975 to 1979 and no calves received creep feed. As you can see in Table 2. the Simmental-influenced cows had the heaviest weaning calves, the highest weaning weight per cow exposed and the calves with the highest average daily gain. Also, the Simmental-influenced cows performed that while maintaining their body condition with the balance of cows involved.

The January, 1994 Cow-Calf Survey conducted by Cattle-Fax also shows the popularity of Simmental-influenced cattle. The results of the Cow-Calf Survey summarised 1,072 cattle producers from 43 states and represents 426,000 head of cattle. You will notice in Table 3 that Simmental ranked third in four of the five regions behind Angus and

Table 1. Breed Comparison Chart Adjusted to 1992 Base

Breed	Birth Weight	Weaning Weight	Yearling Weight	Maternal Weaning Weight	Milk
		(lbs)			
European Breeds					
Simmental	0.0(87)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Charolais	.3 (87)	-13	-29	-30	-23
Gelbvieh	-1.0(86)	-15	-43	-5	-3
Limousin	-3.7(83)	-25	-65	-46	-34
Maine-Anjou	.9 (88)	-26	-53	-16	-3
Pinzgauer	-3.3(84)	-37	-78	-37	-19
Salers	-3.3(84)	-20	-50	-21	-11
Tarentaise	-3.2(84)	-25	-67	-17	-5
British Breeds					
Angus	-7.7(79)	-35	-54	-34	-17
Hereford	-2.6(85)	-26	-45	-35	-22
P.Hereford	-1.6(86)	-25	-50	-64	-52
Shorthorn	-3 (87)	-21	-42	-23	-12
Bos Indicus					
Brahman	3.8(91)	-22	-102	1	12

Based on research at U.S.D.A. Meat Animal Research Centre, Clay Centre, NE

Table 2 Antelope Range Livestock Station

Breed	Birth Weight	BW as % Cow Weight	Calf Pre-Weaning ADG	Weaning Weight	WW/CE	% Change Cow Weight Fall-Spring
H	79.5	8.1%	1.77	447	430	11.1
SHS	90.6	8.5%	2.21	547	511	11.1
SH	88.1	8.1%	2.12	529	497	7.2
HSH	94.3	9.1%	2.08	525	499	12.3
AHA	85.3	9.61%	1.99	498	486	15.9
AH	80	8.7%	1.94	483	464	9.7
HAH	87.3	9.1%	1.93	486	465	15.1

Marshal et al (1990), Journal of Animal Science68(12): 4051

Hereford. In Table 4. you will notice that Simmental-influenced cows represented two of the three most popular breed combinations in cow herds.

The Simmental bull is also recognized as one of the most performance-oriented bulls in the industry. The Across-Breed Comparisons in Table 1 shows that the average Simmental bull should sire the heaviest calves at weaning and at yearling with a low birth weight of 87 pounds. Whether you sell your calves at weaning or retain ownership through the feedlot, Simmental-influenced cattle are performance-oriented in all areas.

At bull tests, Simmental bulls are respected for their ability to gain rapidly, putting weight on a sensible-frame. Also, Simmental bulls continually have one of the largest scrotal circumference measurements of any breed, which is directly related to puberty and reproductive performance in the bull's daughters.

Feedlot performance is no different. In steer futurities across the country, Simmental-influenced cattle have always been at or near the top in average daily gain, cost per pound of gain, and profitability. Simmental-influenced cattle are respected for their cutability and produce Quality Grades that, together with Yield Grades, are ideal for the industry's move towards Value-Based Marketing.

Research and surveys indicate that the some of the most efficient cow-calf operations use a British x Continental crossbreeding programme. When considering which Continental breed to use in your programme, take a look at Simmental. Cattlemen across the country are proving everyday that Simmental and Simmental-influenced cattle are ideal for maximum profit potential from conception to consumption.

Table 3. Top Breeds

Breeds Ranked 1 to 10 for Popularity in Cow Herds

Breed	South	North	Southern	South	Mid
Angus	2	1	1	1	1
Hereford	1	2	2	2	2
Simmental	7	3	3	3	3
Charolais	5	7	6	4	4
Limousin	4	4	4	8	7*
Brangus	3	9	5	6	9
Gelbvieh	8	8	7	7	6
Salers	9*	5*	8	9	5
Brahman	9*	5*	10	10	7*
Red Angus	6	10	9	5	10

**Equal in Popularity*

Source: January, 1994 Cattle-Fax Cow-Calf Survey

Table 4.
Top Breed Crosses in Cowherds

1. Angus x Hereford
2. Angus x Simmental
3. Angus x Hereford x Simmental
4. Angus x Hereford x Charolais
5. Angus x Hereford x Limousin
6. Angus x Gelbvieh x Hereford
7. Angus x Brahman x Hereford
8. Angus x Charolais x Hereford x Simmental
9. Angus x Gelbvieh x Simmental
10. Angus x Hereford x Salers.

Source: January, 1994 Cattle-Fax Cow-Calf Survey.

National Bull Sale Prospect:
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1995

Camel Wheal
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"Visitors always welcome"

World Simmental/ Fleckvieh Congress

Organised by the Simmentaler Cattle Breeders' Society of Southern Africa under the auspices of the World Simmental Federation.

(26-31 August, 1996)

Invitation

It gives us great pleasure to extend this invitation to you on behalf of the Simmental breeders of South Africa, to attend the 1996 World Simmental/Fleckvieh Congress in South Africa. Following you will find details of attractions offered in the Congress Package. In as far as its magnificent scenery, sunny and mild climate, wildlife, standard of accommodation, infrastructure, excellent foods and fine Cape wines are concerned, South Africa has no equal on the African continent.

A century has passed since the first Simmental were introduced to Southern Africa, the first country outside Europe where this wonderful breed was established. Come and gain first hand knowledge on how the Simmental performs under completely different environmental conditions than that of its countries of origin. The foreign exchange rate in this country offers you a holiday/congress bargain.

With kind regards and hope to see you in 1966 in South Africa.

C. Peter Massmann
Breed Director.

Venue & Languages

The congress and show will be presented in Pretoria - a few kilometres from Johannesburg and Jan Smuts International Airport. An air of history pervades Pretoria - the famous sandstone Union Buildings, Vootrekker Monument commemorating the Trek of Boers and Kruger House, the residence of former President Paul Kruger.

The language medium will be English, Simultaneous interpretation in German and Spanish will be provided at the general meeting. Excursions with German and English speaking experts.

World Record Show

You will be part of the largest international Simmental Show ever throughout the world. Over a thousand Simmental entries from South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe will participate in the National Simmental championships. For the first time ever, a panel of international judges will judge bulls imported from Austria, Germany, Namibia and Zimbabwe as well as locally bred bulls to crown a World Congress Bull.

Technical visits include Simmental stud herds under contrasting environmental conditions, Simmental cross, Zebu crosses and the largest feedlot in the southern hemisphere.

The first official World Congress was staged in 1976 by the South African Simmental Association.

Post Congress Tour A Must

The organisers envisage an interesting post-congress tour. Fly from Johannesburg to Cape Town at the slopes of majestic Table Mountain - one of the most beautiful cities in the world. Visit Cape Point, Stellenbosch renowned for its gracious Cape Dutch buildings and wine sampling along the Cape Wine Route. From Cape Town at the Atlantic Ocean to Whale watching in scenic Hermanus at the Indian Ocean. Enjoy Cape wines, seafood, barbeque and beautiful Simmentals. The "garden route" trip winding along the coastline, which features lakes, mountains, beaches, cliffs and indigenous forests to the scenic beauty of George, can be the Grand Finale prior to your return flight to Johannesburg.

Local breeders eliminate the large rangy types and prefer Simmentalers with plenty of body capacity and early fleshing ability.

A century has passed since Simmental cattle were first introduced to Namibia - the first country outside Europe where the breed was established.

The good performance of the breed in interbreed tests under extensive farming conditions in Namibia was the main reason for its establishment in South Africa and many other countries.

In order to adapt better to the local extremes in temperature, humidity, nutrition and altitude as well as tropical disease, the breeders in Southern Africa have over many years developed an "African Simmental" with a sleep haircoat, proper legs to walk long distances, well pigmented eyelids and middle of the road size.

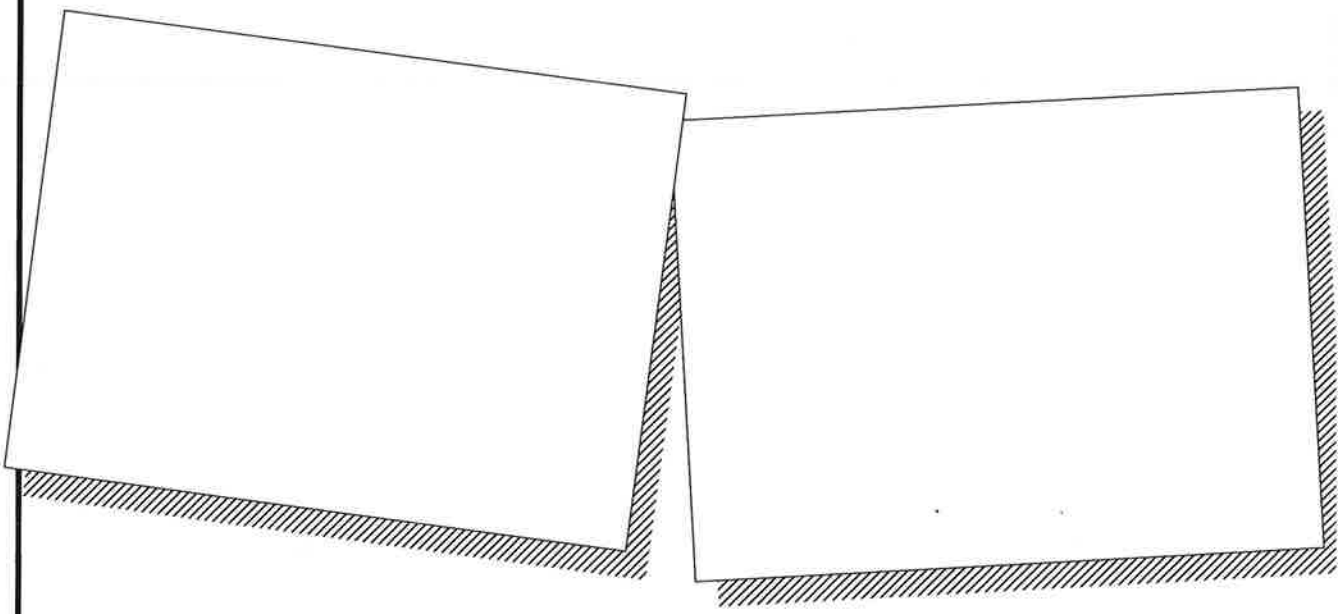
Great emphasis is placed on correctness of legs and hooves which are of vital importance under our conditions where animals must walk long distances for water and grazing.

The Simmentaler Breeders" Association has more breeders than the British beef breeds, Angus, Hereford and Sussex together and four times as many as the continental beef breeds Charolais or Limousin.

Avon Park

NEW ZEALAND'S
– For the Disc

Our bulls have



They say their

Top performance

Superb genetics

Great conformation

National reputations

don't photograph well at this time of the year.

VISITORS MOST WELCOME AT ALL TIMES - FURTH

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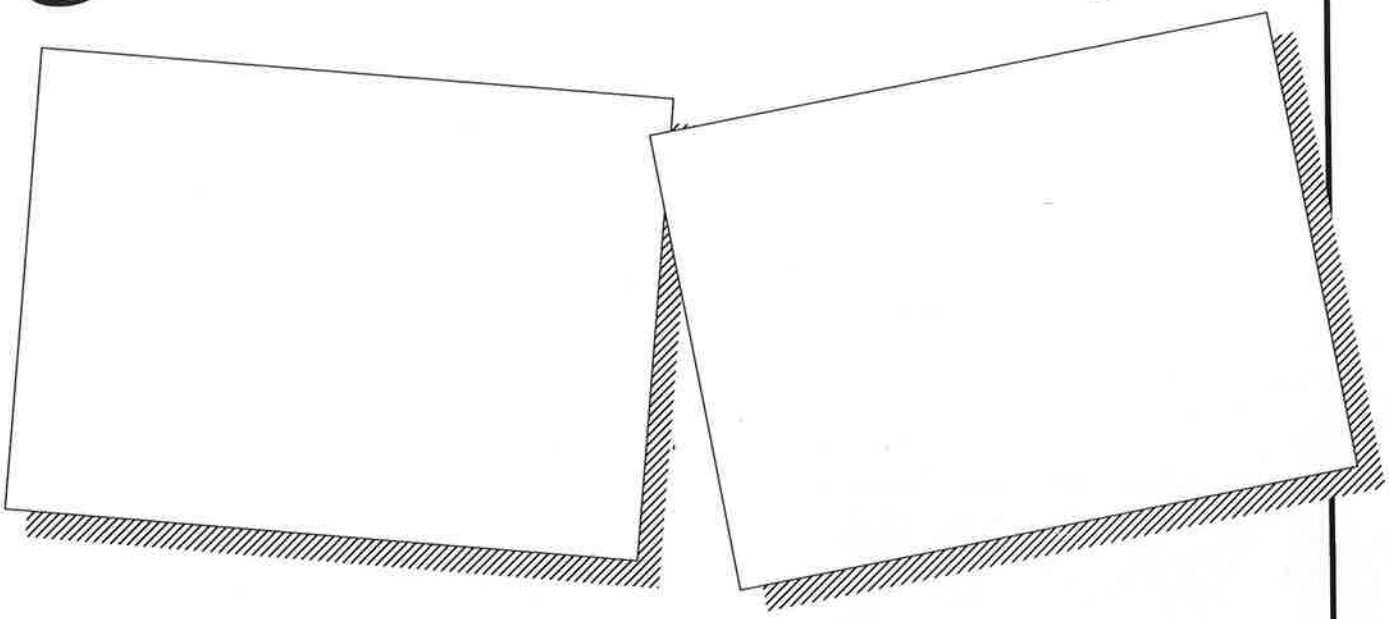
Simmentals

PREMIER HERD

erning Buyer –

gone camera shy



We offered to excuse them one photo session on the condition they didn't behave like prima donnas once they were out working in our client's herds.

They appreciated that.

Lucky for us they have such great temperaments.

R INFORMATION & ENQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT -
ON, CHRISTCHURCH. PHONE (03) 329 9731. FAX (03) 329 9001

STOKES

The Benefits Of Trans Tasman Breedplan

By John Absolom

New Zealanders now have a recording scheme, namely Breedplan, that is widely accepted by an ever increasing number of commercial and stud breeders. The main teething problems have been ironed out and breeders are fast learning to use and analyse their figures as a tool in the selection of their cattle.

The concept of Group Breedplan, where every animal with link sires is able to be compared throughout New Zealand was at first a difficult one for some breeders to come to grips with. The fact of the matter is that EBVs are more precise than ratios (the old Beefplan system) or visual selection for growth. The environmental effects are removed and the EBVs also look beyond the individual animals performance. Now cattle breeders can assess if the improvements in their herd are due to genetic advancement or just better feed.

In the quest for more accurate assessments of our cattle it made sense to explore a trans Tasman Group Breedplan. All the original Australian Simmentals were born in New Zealand so there are many link sires and dams. This means that the information produced will have a high accuracy from the beginning. It will more than double the number of animals that will be analysed and in turn should help the breeders get a line on where they stack up with their trans Tasman cousins.

Long term the marketing opportunities for both countries Simmental breeders will be twofold. Firstly the breeders with superior genetics in whatever desirable trait required will have more chance of marketing their semen or progeny to a much larger clientele. Secondly, all breeders in both countries will be able to have access to these genetics.

There has already been talk amongst the English speaking countries of the desire to have a uniform performance recording system Worldwide so who knows what the future might hold?

Gentle Cattle Handling Pays Off

Editors' Note: The following advice regarding cattle handling, was presented to a recent meeting of the American Veterinary Medical Association by Dr. Temple Grandin, Colorado State University.

Reprinted from The Register, November 1994.

Gentle cattle handling practices, maybe even a woman's touch, will pay dividends in better returns for ranchers and feedlot owners.

"Gentle pays. You can work cattle just as fast by doing it gentle", said Dr. Temple Grandin, department of Animal Science, Colorado State University. "A lot of feedlots are hiring women today, because they've learned that aggressive, wild cowboy is not the best way to handle cattle."

Gentle handling practices will increase returns to cattle producers by preventing accidents to both cattle and people, improving weight gains, increasing conception rates, and reducing losses due to illness.

Dr. Grandin outlined a series of principles to make livestock handling more humane and efficient, including:

1. Work on the edges of the animal's flight zone. Cattle have wide angle vision, and are easily frightened by shadows or moving objects.
2. Block the vision of newly-arrived wild animals with solid sides of chutes and restraint devices.
3. Avoid sudden, jerky movements of both people and equipment.
4. Minimise noise from people and equipment. Cattle are more sensitive than people to high frequency noises, and yelling at cattle will cause unnecessary excitement.
5. Restraint devices should apply sufficient pressure to give an animal the "feeling of restraint" without causing pain or discomfort.
6. Handlers who follow behavioural principles can greatly reduce the use of electric prods.

Temperament tests show that only six percent of steers and nine percent of bulls may be classified as wild and excitable", she said. "Most cattle will remain calm unless aggravated or frightened by rough handling."

Cattle producers need to exercise continual vigilance for a number of little things that can make cattle balk. The animals may react to a little chain hanging down in the restraining facility or corral, a shadow, reflection, crack in the floor, or a even small puddle of water.

TURN YOUR FORTUNES AROUND
BUY A SIMMENTAL BULL

1. Monday 15th - 11.00am,
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and K. Hinton 'KGM'
Omakau Saleyards
- 15 bulls

2. Tuesday 16th - 1.30pm
'Triple 'S' Bull Sale
R. Cockburn 'Prospect'
W. Rouse 'East Dome'
D. Dickie 'Windy Ridge'
Castlerock Saleyards
- 40 bulls

3. Wednesday 17th - 2.00pm
W.T. Burgess 'Beresford'
L.K. McLay 'Westview'
Owaka Saleyards
- 15 bulls

4. Thursday 18th - 1.30pm
Glenside Simmentals
on farm - Waitahuna
- 25 bulls

5. Friday 19th - 1.00pm
Southern Districts
Simmental Club
Charlton Saleyards, Gore
- 35 bulls

UP

BOTTOMS

Cattle Yards That Work

By Bob Wilton, Reprinted from the Australian Farm Journal BEEF

The dramatic change in cattle yard design - from the traditional rectangular yard and straight race to the more radical circular yard and curved race designs - has been in progress for over 20 years.

Most cattle producers have seen the circular design or know a neighbour who has one, but are still wary of how well they really work and whether to take the plunge and build one. "After all the old yards didn't work so well, but at least they looked like proper cattle yards," is a typical response from cattle producers.

Over the past 20 or so years I have designed or sent out circular yard plans to several hundred cattle producers. In every case, when the feedback comes, it's usually "they really surprised me how well the cattle move around in yards, and how easy it is to get the cattle into the race."

Circular yards are good because they work with the natural instincts and flow of the cattle, but in all yards it's the little things that make the difference. Those little things determine whether the cattle will work with you or against you, the difference between a positive, safe and pleasant experience or a battle ground of skinned knuckles and snorty cattle.

Principles of good design

- If you run 300 breeders you don't necessarily need a set of yards to work that number as it's rare to have all your cattle in the yards at one time. A smaller set of yards with an efficient working and drafting area, coupled to a number of larger holding and receiving yards, will allow you to work big numbers of cattle quickly and efficiently.
- Curved yards work because they eliminate corners and blind spots where cattle like to "hide" and give a long continuous fence line that cattle can move along and keep a safe distance from you.

They have that feeling of "going somewhere". They can't see what's going on up ahead but it's got to be better than here and it may just provide a way out.

Design the outer curved fence line so that it runs around and up the slope to the race and crush. The curve should also move back toward the direction from where the cattle have entered the yards.

- The yard size should progressively reduce down to funnel cattle into the force yard and race.

The working yards around the race should not be too large. Large working yards lead to loss of control or influence over the cattle and eliminate the possibility of one-person operation.

- Round drafting yards should be between 3.2 to 3.7 metre radius, i.e. 6.4 to 7.4m across at the widest point. Smaller yards than this become a little cramped and awkward to work while yards larger than the 3.7m radius reduce the operator's control over the cattle.

Round yard gates should preferably swing both ways but should take account of the direction of normal flow of cattle either in or out.

- The forcing yard should flow smoothly into the race, preferably with a curved or angled fence line.

The angle of entry into the race should be around 35 degrees and no more than 40 degrees. Wider angles don't funnel the cattle enough and give the animals too much room to change their minds and turn around.

The forcing yard should comfortably hold at least one full race length of cattle, but don't overfill the yard or cattle will "pack" rather than move around you and "flow".

Always incorporate a manway at the rear of the forcing yard to allow easy access out to the race.

The outside curve of the race can be between five to 10m radius. The tighter the curve the shorter the panels will need to be.

The internal width of the race should be 700mm wide at the post, which will reduce by 20 to 50mm at the centre of the panel, depending on the length of the panel and radius of the curve.

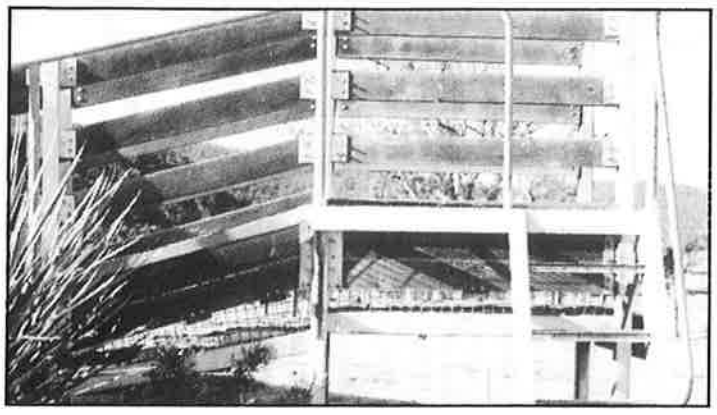
The width at entry into the race should be 50mm wider than the rest of the race to reduce the tendency for the cattle to bump their shoulders.

Races longer than five panel lengths should incorporate a sliding or backing gate midway to stop cattle from moving too far back along the race.

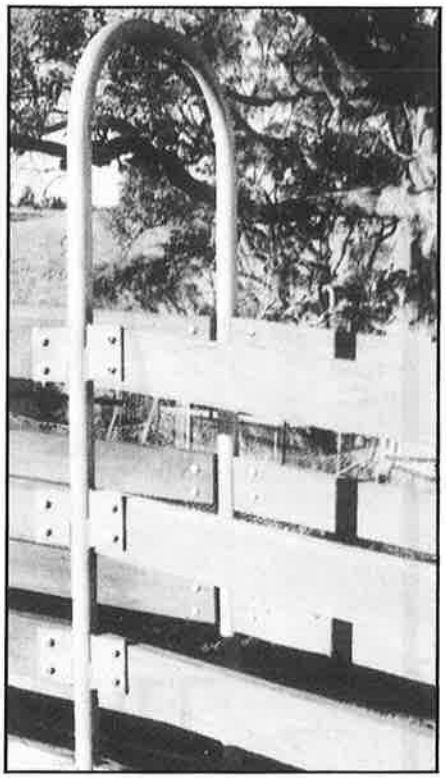
- Scales are better set up in the panel just before the crush rather than in the crush itself as cattle are more likely to push or drag back in the crush area and move the scales.
- Always incorporate manways at strategic points in the main working area to allow easy access between the force yard, race, loading ramp and calf race.

There are many other innovations that can be incorporated into yards, but if the basics don't work right the rest is a bit of a waste.

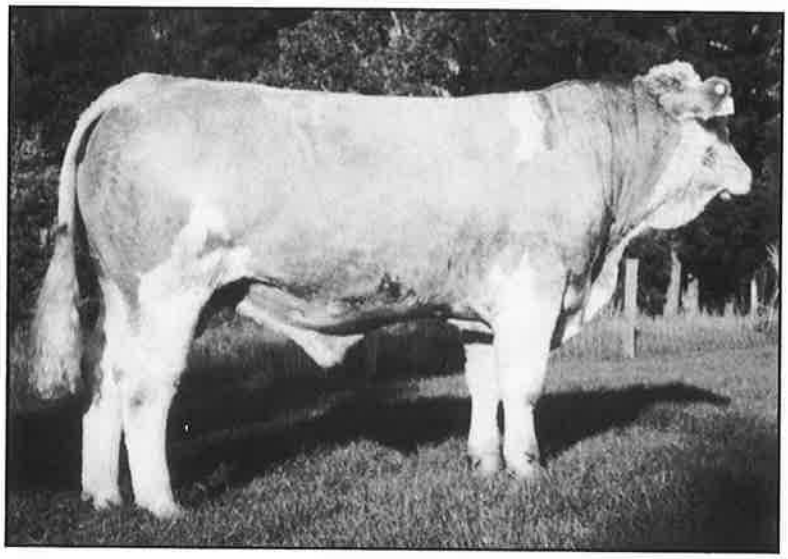
Whatever you incorporate in your yards try looking at it from the cattle's point of view - it may change the way you do things and make the job a lot easier.



Incorporate steps and a level platform into the loading ramp to make loading easier.



Always incorporate manways in areas when frequent access is required



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Collateral AC28

Collateral is a lovely quiet natural bull, very thickly fleshed and free moving.
Collateral will be offered at the Simmental National Bull Sale at Palmerston North, 21 June 1995.

Piggott Range James
Sire: Pendeen Yeoman
Pendeen Jasmine
The Lakes Collateral AC28
ERZ
Dam: The Lakes AZ17
The Lakes 1281

Bw	200Mk	200Wt	400Wt	600Wt
+1.9	+5	+18	+27	+32
60%	27%	55%	47%	48%

A Little History.

The Lakes foundary cows were bred by Peak Hill Station in the upper reaches of the Rakaia Gorge in Canterbury.
The Peak Hills Stud was run on a very commercial basis and during this time using Sundowner Ranches Ensign as a stud sire. The resulting cows that assisted the start of "The Lakes" were very sound and use to tough conditions.

The Lakes current stud sires are:

Pendeen Yeoman

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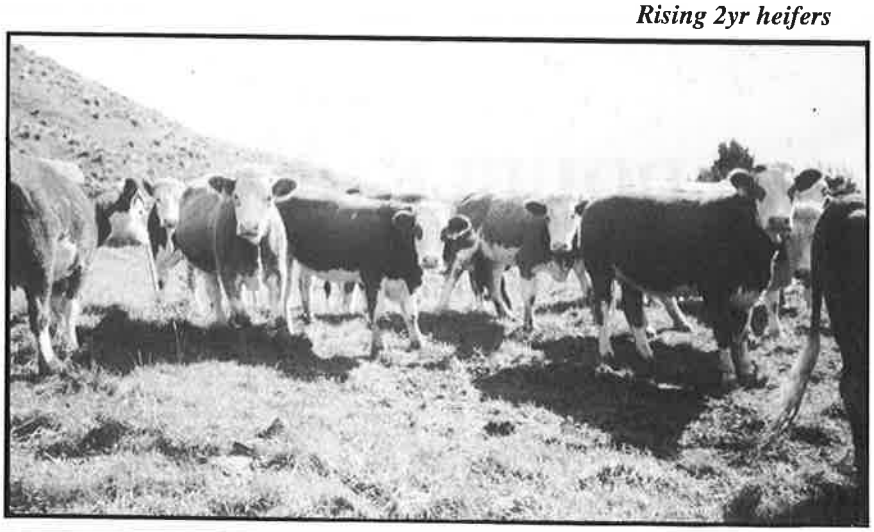
Rising 2yr heifers



Contact:
Vince & Faye Daly
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BREEDING SIMMENTALS FOR EXTENSIVE RANCHING CONDITIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

By C P MASSMAN:
Breed Director, The Simmentaler Cattle Breeders' Society of Southern Africa.

(Abridged from a presentation made October 1992 at the 9th World Simmental Congress in Dallas, U.S.A.)

Editors Note: Many New Zealand breeders have already indicated interest in visiting South Africa when the Simmental World Congress meets there in 1996. The following article by C. Massman covers many aspects of Simmentals in Southern Africa.

The reason for being her is that Simmental, like Christopher Columbus, discovered new countries far away from Europe and most of them vastly different to where this wonderful breed originated. The object of this paper is to demonstrate that the environment in our, and I am sure in many other "Simmental countries" in the Southern Hemisphere, demands selection criteria which are different from those in Northern Simmental countries. Cattle breeders who believe in universal adaptation - instant adaptation of a breed to all possible conditions will find this paper boring.

Climatologically - A World in One Country

In order to interpret this paper, it is essential to have a brief background of the environmental conditions to which our Simmentals are subjected.

You will note that our Breeders' Association serves Namibia and South Africa, an area 90% larger than the traditional Simmental countries (Austria, France, Germany and Switzerland) or about the size of Mexico. The climatic zones are tropical - sub humid, - semi arid and -highlands.

The cold Benguela Atlantic current along the west coast of Africa is responsible for low rainfall and arid conditions in the west. Towards the east this changes through all the varieties of soil types, rainfall and altitude to a hot and humid tropical region by the warm sea current along the Indian Ocean. Rainfall is strictly seasonal from less than 200mm (8in) to over 1200mm (47in) and you will find Simmentals at an altitude of 1200 (5,000 ft). Temperatures of up to 40 (C) degrees (107 (F) degrees) in summer are fairly common and some areas experience dry winter temperatures of below freezing-point. Almost 85% of the total agricultural area can only be used for grazing under extensive conditions and particularly during periods of drought, which are very common, animals are kept on a low nutritional level. These are some of the environmental extremities of solar radiation, temperature, humidity, nutrition and altitude our Simmentals have to cope with.

Adaptability is Vital

Breeds which produce well in non-stressful environments perform relatively poor in a dry or wet tropical environment. Production in the latter environment is mainly restricted by high temperatures, forage utilisation under very extensive conditions, internal and external parasites, solar radiation and in many instances, low quality and quantity of nutrition.

It is well documented that unless crossed with local Zebu breeds and types, cattle breeds from the temperate and cold, often intensively operated environment of Europe and Britain, have been transferred with limited long term success to the afore mentioned stressful environments.

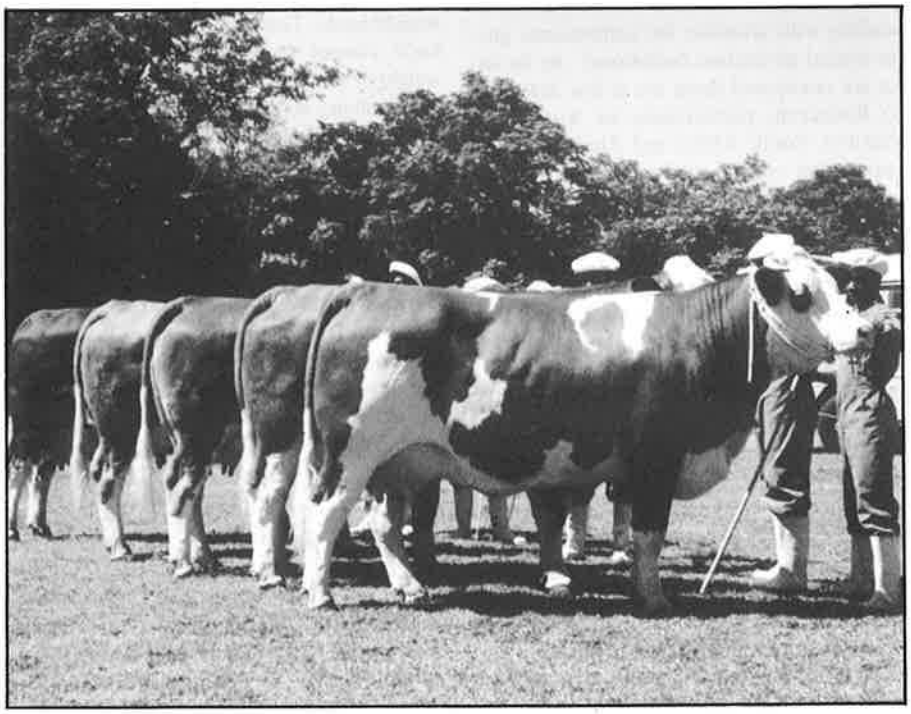
In Southern Africa most beef is produced by combining the tropical adaptive qualities of the Zebu breeds and types with the growth and/or milk of Bos Taurus cattle in the cross bred. In order to achieve maximum hybrid vigour the majority of bulls are supplied by the seed stock breeder and since natural service plays a major role, the popularity of his breed depends on its availability, productivity, however, above all, ability of the bull to adapt to the environment of the commercial breeder.

Breeding Simmental For The Clients Environment

In order to improve the adaptability of Simmental to the region described, we realised that much more emphasis should be placed on characteristics such as haircoat, pigmentation and walking ability than in the countries of origin. Berg (1976) once said: "In attempting to produce adapted cattle we have two choices - we can breed cattle which are suited to the environment or we can adjust the environment by management to suit the cattle".

Should we modify the genotype to suit the environment or vice versa? Under our beef cattle farming system it is not possible to modify the environment without high cost improvements. Consequently, we concentrated on adapting the Breed Association's breeding system with the grazing system of the client. Breeds which failed to adopt this policy are struggling today.

Crossing with Zebu would be the most rapid means of injecting adaptive attributes into the Simmental. We preferred within breed selection to maintain genetic stability in order that the performance and appearance of the Simmental bulls offered as seedstock, should be derived from additive genes and not hybrid vigour. From the beginning we were fortunate in that there were, and still are, many different types of Simmental in Europe and therefore a large genetic variation to choose from for what we were look-



ing for. We opted for the medium-sized and well fleshed Fleckvieh and based our selection on capacity, a smooth coat, medium to fine bone structure and pigmentation.

Already since 1950 our breeding programme has included a selection system where visual appraisal by highly qualified inspectors is one of the prerequisites for registration in the Herd Book. The foundation of the system was to a large extent laid by observations made by pioneer Simmental cattlemen who had been living in close association with the breed under local conditions for many years. Inspection is carried out at a young age (average 18 months) before females breed and bulls reach the point of sale. Emphasis is put on functional efficiency and disqualifications for Herd Book entry that will not be discussed in this paper include genetic defects, bad temperament, poor or excessive muscling in bulls, malformed genital organs, only or rangy types and growth for age within the environment of the herd.

This enforced inspection system has both a direct and indirect effect on the selection intensity of the breed. The direct effect is the culling of animals by inspectors and the indirect effect is that inferior animals are not presented for registration because breeders know that they will not pass the inspection.

Since most of the important selection criteria at inspection are moderately to highly heritable (legs and feet defects 59%, general appearance 40%, growth under grazing conditions 30% , scrotum circumference 65%, scrotum defects 38%, temperament 45% and hair quality 63%) we have already experienced and still expect good progress in the national population over the long term.

Visual appraisal vs. performance testing

Why not merely performance testing seeing that indirect selection for adaptation is possible with selection for performance under natural production conditions? As far as we are concerned there are a few reasons: (i) Research, particularly in Australia, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe revealed that certain characteristics of Bos taurus breeds reduce productivity in our environment and those animals may be culled by our inspection system before they breed or reach the bull buyer. (ii) In our commercial industry it is a well known fact that the physical appearance of a bull generally plays a more important role than performance figures in the bull buyer's estimation of the bull. (iii) Local circumstances, such as, herd size, extensive ranching and periodical droughts make it impossible to apply performance testing in every herd and it can therefore not be enforced. (iv) It is often blamed on performance testing that it encourages continuous selection for greater weight gain and size which, as I will explain later, will have more disadvantages than advantages in our case. As Berg (1976) puts it: "Breeding of cattle will probably be a compromise between nature's desire for adaptability and man's desire for productivity". Visual evaluation under our conditions, when based on "the form that function determines" and not on "fancy or mode terms", is essential.

Structural Correctness

The Reader's Digest Dictionary defines correctness as "free from error or fault, conforming to accepted standards". Structural correctness involves many visually perceptible characteristics in beef cattle but we will confine ourselves to visual appraisal of legs at an early age "before the harm is one". Walking ability is of great importance under our conditions where animals, contrary to Europe, must walk long distances to waterings and low carrying capacity grazing. According to five randomly selected stud breeders, the average distance covered by cows amount to 1100 miles (1800 km) per year. Artificial insemination plays a minor role and correctness of legs in bulls is of major economic value. If a bull is hampered by a structural hoof, pastern and/or leg defect he cannot walk to do the job intended and will reduce reproduction of the herd. In visually analysing a bull one should always start by looking at the "business parts", viz. the feet, legs and scrotum. Some of the conditions that are eliminated at an early age by means inspection are:

Hooves and pastern: Screw claws, outgrowing hooves, roller hoof and split hooves that do not cause concern. Small hooves, block feet or tip-toes, which seem to be a problem in all large fast growing breeds, deserve much attention. This is normally associated with straight pasterns and straight hocks. This type of hoof cannot carry the weight of a bull and handicaps walking ability. The hooves and pastern are the main shock absorbers and the weight they carry is astronomical. As far as the colour of hooves is concerned Pflug (1978), working with Simmentals, Africander, Brahman and crosses, observed no difference between lighter and darker hooves with regard to hardiness (degree of aberration). The colour (pigment) of the hoof is found only at the surface of the horn. He proved that factors such as moisture and micro structure of the horny walls of a hoof have a greater bearing on hardiness.

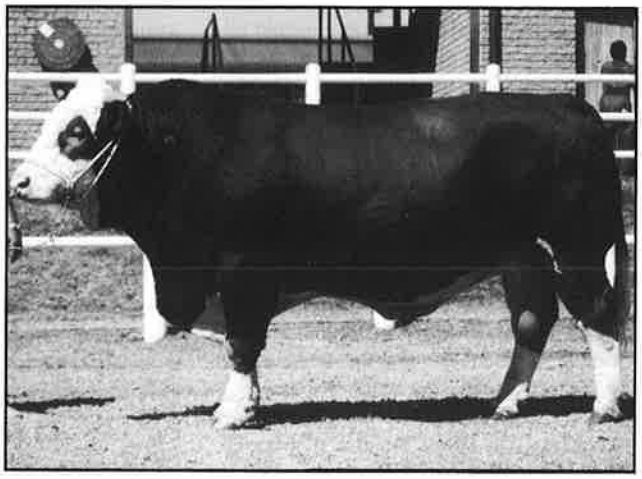
Legs

The incidence of front leg defects such as bandy (bow legged) and knock-knees (turned out) is not worth mentioning. Moderately turned out front legs is of no consequence - antelope and buffalo all have turned out legs.

Cow hocked hind legs, which are often associated with condition, and sickle hocks are often over-rated when one considers that all antelope are cow and sickle hocked. Most problems are encountered when hind legs are too straight. In this situation the shock absorbing action of the hock and pastern is lost. This causes various problems. In artificial insemination the hocks are not used by with natural service the bull carries most of his weight on the hind legs and places considerable stress on the hocks. Post-legged bulls do not have the shock absorbing ability required for mounting. Rieck and Leipold (1964), in a study on the relationship between straight hocks and the genetic defect spastic paresis, concluded that post-legged animals should be suspected of arising from families in which the genes for spastic paresis are present and should therefore, without exception, be eliminated from breeding.

According to Kropp (1991) the post-legged syndrome is highly heritable. The effect of straight hocks on production was proved by Moster (1988) on station performance tested Simmental bulls in Germany. They found the following relationship between hock angle and daily weight gain: normal angle: 1364 gr. too much angle: 1346 gr (-1%) to little angle: 1286 gr. (-6%) spastic or nearly spastic :1250 (-8%).

The hock angle should be between 125 degrees and 140 degrees. We would rather have bulls with too much hock angle than too little.



Young performance tested bulls are scored for structural correctness by inspectors with no performance data at their disposal. Correlations between the inspector's score (linear 1 to 9) and performance data for over 1,000 Simmental bulls are (highly significant $p<.05$):

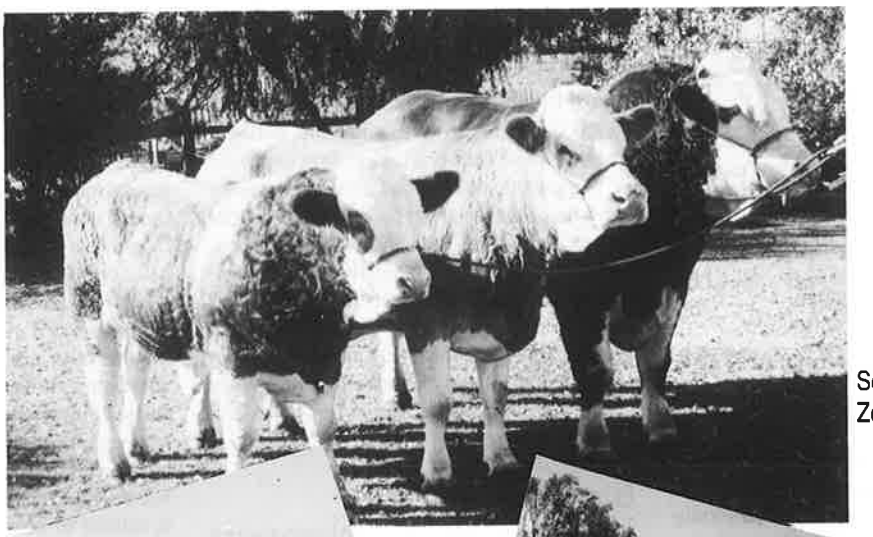
- Medium to high for final mass (0.24) and average daily gain in test (0.20).
- Low for feed conversion rate index (0.08), height at shoulder (0.10) and body length (0.09).

Rump - sloping or flat?

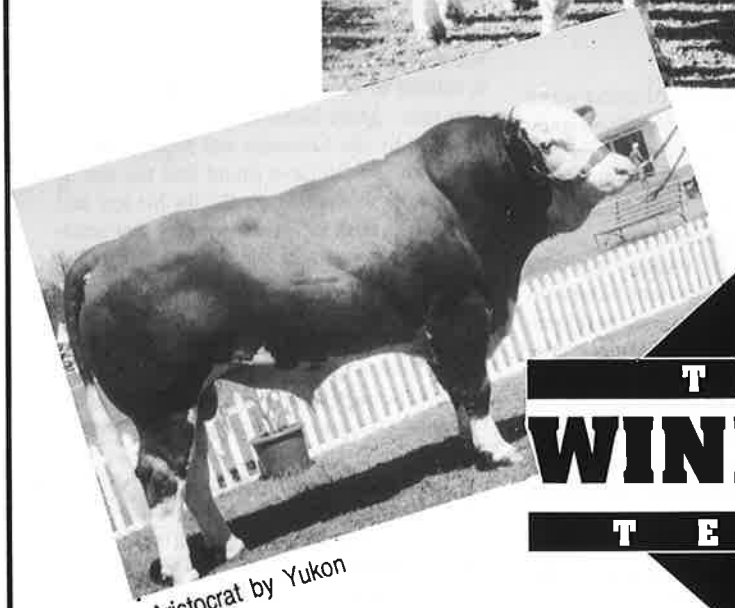
If we take a look at Zebu and antelope, all known for their calving ease, we find a sloping rump. By sloping rump we mean a slope from hip to pinbone, a large angle measured from hip to pin and pin to thurls (A-B-C=25 degrees plus) and a difference of a few inches in height

continued on page 48

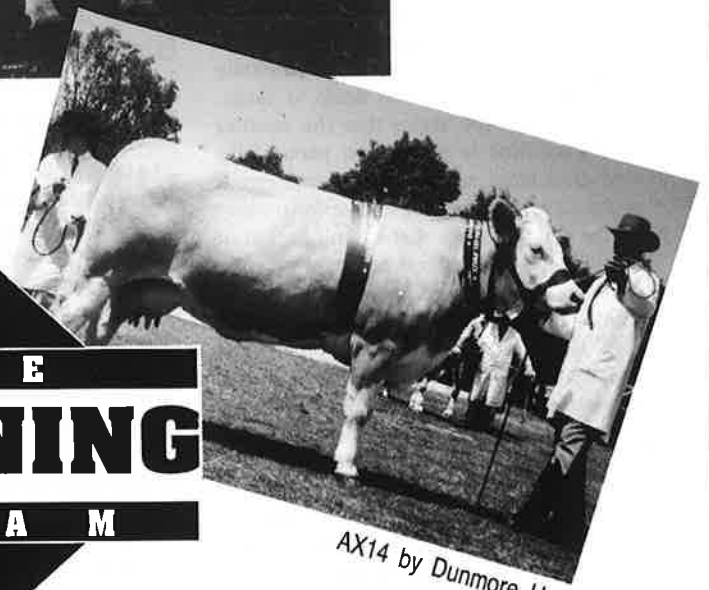
GlenAnthony Simmental Stud



Sergeant Pepper,
Zelda & Aristocrat



Aristocrat by Yukon



AX14 by Dunmore Hansa

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Fleckvieh Cattle with

SIZE

SOUNDNESS

SUPERIOR FLESHING QUALITIES

National Sale Entries

3 Pure Fleckvieh sires by
Dunmore Hansa
Glenanthony Yukon
Great Guns Ferdinand

6th Annual Bull Sale

30 2yr bulls
15th june 1995
Waipukurau

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between hip (A-D) and thurls (C-E). Limited information is available on the effect of rump slope on calving ease. According to Deutscher (1989) pelvic angles and slopes, in the few trials that have been conducted, have not been significant sources of variation in dystocia. By observation, many of our breeders agree with McFarlane (1976) and Maree (1977b) who came to the conclusion that low pins and thurls in beef cattle facilitate the calving process. Contrary to some judges who believe flat rumped animals are better muscled or carry more muscle in the hindquarter, Harmse (1976) and Butterfield (1977) produced clear evidence that a square rump has no advantage in terms of increased muscling. We will keep a flat or square rump on our list of disqualifications and animals with this disqualification which are rejected at inspection constitute 3 - 5% of the animals presented.

Body Size

"The body size of the functionally efficient animal is restricted by production relation to environment." (Maree, 1979a)

Size in beef cattle has been debated for many years. The size pendulum has swung from large to small and back to large. Bergmann's Rule states that the smaller breeds are fund in the warmer parts of the ecological range and the larger sized breeds in the cooler regions. A number of reviews in our country show that in hot, humid or dry climates with sparse seasonal grazing, the smaller to medium cows are more efficient.

Frisch (1981) from Australia reports that 'small animals with their low maintenance requirements have an advantage under low planes of nutrition in combination with other stresses'. Ritchie (1989b) from the U.S.A. concludes that under a limited feed supply and/or a stressful environment, biological types having inadequate size and/or milk production tend to be better adapted and outperform larger, heavier milking types in biological efficiency.

According to Bosman (1991) feed cost for both maintenance and production in a cow herd account for about 70% of the total cost. If larger cows are favoured, it will be necessary to provide sufficient feed to ensure optimal production. However, cattle in our country are mostly dependent on natural vegetation and in certain parts seasonal crop residues. In Africa grain will be used more and more for human consumption. In this environment the commercial producer, our bread and butter, requires hardiness or constitution which he will not obtain from the large rangy or "hard-doing" type.

The fact that cow size is "inferior" to fertility and weaning efficiency (relationship between 205-day calf weight and weight of dam) is advocated amongst our breeders. In beef cattle breeding reproduction is the most important aspect world-wide. In times of food shortage such as droughts large cows loose condition which affects ovulation. Regular calving and weaning a 50% calf (calf/cow weight relation) normally restrict the size and weight of the cow.

From data of 10 beef breeds in the South African Beef Cattle Performance Testing Scheme, Scholtz (1984) investigated the relationship between the 460 day weight of 4,500 performance tested bulls and fertility measured by 85,000 calving intervals. They found a positive (negative) relationship between weight and calving interval (Note: fertility is inversely related to calving interval) and concluded: "This example as well as the findings of Cundiff, Laster and Barlow clearly indicate that a negative relationship between bodymass and fertility exists in farm animals."

Against this background we advocate the "middle-of-the-road" type by means of our inspection system with the result, and beneficial for the breed, that nearly all our breeders adopted the "middle-of-the-road policy" over the last few years. Continuous selection for bigger and heavier Simmentals is not advocated at all and extremes in size, weight and/or coarseness are culled at inspection and are not registered.

Birth Weight

There is one other size related aspect which is of paramount importance, especially in countries like ours where cross-breeding is practised on a large scale and that is birth weight. It has been well documented world-wide that selection for larger frame size increases birth weight and all studies examined by us show that birth weight is the single most important factor contributing to the incidence of calving problems. A few studies reveal that the correlated response in birth weight, when selecting for yearling and 18 month weight, range of 0.58 to 0.70.

In our breeding policy we never loose sight of the fact that nothing can be more harmful to a breed than having a reputation for calving difficulty. Judging by national performance testing figures, the Simmental's birth weight relative to cow weight at birth remained stable at just over 7% over the last 10 years.

Muscle

As in the above mentioned cases, extremes are avoided. Highly fertile beef cows are never fleshy - they are feminine in appearance. As pointed out by Ritchie (1989a) extremes in muscling may increase calving difficulty, lower milk production, reduce fertility and reduce levels of marbling. Regarding frame size and muscling the well known Dr. R.A. Long (1991) comments that in giving preference to tall big framed steers at steer shows, judges select against muscle or meat, which makes no sense in the beef production business.

Fertility

(prior to records being available)

Fertility is the most important aspect in the cattle industry. There is no substitute for proper calving records in the measuring of reproduction. However, in our system females and bulls are inspected before they reproduce and therefore we must look out for any early signs of reduced fertility in the heifer and young bull.

Maree (1977b) maintains that a subfertile heifer appears masculine, has a small and shrunken volva as well as shrunken teats with poor udder development. We classified 130 one-and-a-half year old Simmental heifers in one herd according to these outward appearances. This herd uses a two-month breeding season and animals that do not conceive in this period are culled. Two years after classification we found that only 17% of the heifers with a poor rating were still in the herd against 70% of the heifers with a good rating. Admittedly, from a scientific point of view, this policy may have a questionable value but experience has taught that sex characteristics in male and female can be associated with fertility.

Since our industry is very dependent on natural service (95%) the various features of bull fertility are of great importance at inspection. Bulls with heritable scrotum defects, among others hypoplasia, prolapse, a large pendulous sheath, split scrotum are eliminated from the Herd Book. Research has revealed that scrotal circumference (SC) is related to semen production and conception rate. More benefits of using SC were revealed by the Colorado and Montana State Universities who have found that the use of a sire with above-average SC for his age and breed will result in female progeny that reach puberty at a younger age, cycle more regularly and consequently have greater life-time productivity.

A study conducted in North Carolina confirmed these findings but indicated a high positive genetic correlation (r+=0,66) between bull testicular size and pregnancy rate of female progeny.

Because of these advantages as well as the fact that SC is highly heritable our Associated imposed the following minimum SC for registration: 350-400 kg = 33cm, 401-500 kg = 34cm, 501-601 kg = 35cm and 601-650 kg = 36cm.

In Summary

Under the auspices of their Breed Association, dedicated, knowledgeable and practical close to the earth breeders took a sophisticated European breed, which hit the headlines because of its excellent production under favourable conditions, and modified it by within breed selection to thrive and produce economically under harsh unfavourable African conditions.

The main object of our Breed Association is not the issuance of certificates, but rather further improvement of full blood Simmental on a national basis in terms of suitability to, and productivity in the environment in which they are to perform, "easy-care-characteristics" and to keep up with the changing demands of the commercial beef producer of Southern Africa.

Beresford Simmentals

Warren Burgess
Puketiro
R.D.2 Owaka
Phone/Fax (03) 415 8019

CERTIFIED SIMMENTAL

Stud and commercial bulls for sale at the combined Owaka Bull Sale, Wednesday 17th May 1995 and Gore Southern breeders' sale Friday 19th, May.

KGM XELAXIIe (Lot 1, Owaka Bull Sale)
This top performing stud sire is for sale.

Birth	200Mk	200Wt	400Wt	600Wt	Maternal
+1.7	+2	+10	+13	+22	+4
74%	61%	78%	75%	75%	67%

Proud to be a part of SOUTHERN SIMMENTAL SALES WEEK

The proof of Beresford Bulls is in their progeny around the South Island

FOR SALE AT NATIONAL BULL SALE

Pouriwai Chester AC478 (Pouriwai Yacker AY2 - Rissington AU 874[E]) Interim EBV's BW +0.8 77%, 200 day milk +2 47%, 200 day +17 70%, 400 day +25 65%, 600 day +35 66%

ALSO FOR SALE AT NATIONAL. **Pouriwai AC 426[E] (Swiss Pol Buds Dealer - Rissington AN202) BW +0.9 64%, 200 milk +2 42%, 200 day +12 59%, 400 day +24 58%, 600 day +30 56%.**

Available at the Combined Matawero Sale

Pouriwai AC 489 (Polled)
Sire Pouriwai Yacker AY2

BW	200Mk	200Gwth	400Wt	600Wt
+0.4 (77%)	+1 (48%)	+14 (70%)	+30 (66%)	+41 (66%)

POURIWAI
SIMMENTALS

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Ph. 06 867 0867
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Top Performing Bulls, Bred on the Hills

Pouriwai Simmentals

(TB and Brulloses Accredited)

Top Performing Bulls, Bred on the Hills

FOR SALE
GISBORNE COMBINED
NEW BREEDS SALE
June 1 - Matawero Sale Yards
15 high performance bulls
(Potential stud sires) with
paddock sales to follow.

Pouriwai Cosmo AC 477
Sire - Sir Nick 56U

BW	200Mk	200Gwth	400Wt	600Wt
+1.5 (77%)	+3 (39%)	+29 (72%)	+43 (66%)	+43 (67%)

Bulls by Yacker have positive EBV's for calving ease and growth - ideal for calving 2 year heifers

Pouriwai AC 514 (Polled)
Sire Pouriwai Yacker AY2

BW	200Mk	200Gwth	400Wt	600Wt
+0.2 (76%)	+6 (46%)	+13 (70%)	+16 (65%)	+32 (66%)

Pouriwai AC 442
Sire Pouriwai Yacker AY2

BW	200Mk	200Gwth	400Wt	600Wt
+0.8 (77%)	-2 (45%)	+21 (71%)	+34 (66%)	+48 (66%)

These EBV's are group interims

Makerikeri Cantabrian

This one is not one-eyed!

A Top Prospect From The South

This bull has got:

Pedigree

Performance

Soundness

CANTABRIAN (1226/AC12)	Wai-iti Wombat (1261/AZ68)	Wai-iti Warrior (1261/AW32E)
		Rissington Ripple (49/AR452)
	Makerikeri Tiffany (1226/AT3)	Scottish Striker
		HK 435/AM25

Double Trait Leader - 200 Day Milk, Maternal Value

BW	200Mk	200Wt	400Wt	600Wt	Wt 17/3/95
N/A	+8	+20	+40	+38	944Kg
	42%	60%	57%	56%	

Scrotal circumference 47cm

HOT OFF "THE PRESS"

Champion All Breeds Yearling Bull - at New Zealands largest one day cattle show - Hawarden A & P Show (24 entries).

To be offered for sale at the National Simmental Bull Sale, Palmerston North

Inspection & Enquiries Welcome

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10th World Simmental-Fleckvieh Congress

May 1994

AUSTRIA

By John Scott

In May of 1994 Penny and I were fortunate enough to attend the 10th World-Simmental-Fleckvieh Congress in Austria.

On our way there we spent some time with a car exploring Italy. Naturally, we saw a number of Italian White breeds of cattle, some of which were very impressive. In the mountainous areas they, like the cattle in many alpine regions of Europe, were wearing the bells which we more often associate with Simmental cattle. In these places too, we often saw the dogs which are entrusted by their owners to guard small mobs of sheep, and to prevent them from straying too far afield. An incautious approach to photograph the group proved to me the zeal with which the dogs do their duty.

It was not until we reached the South Tyrol, in the Dolomites, that we saw our first Simmentals, a cow with a huge bull calf. This area, called in Italian the Alto-Aldige, was formerly a part of Austria, and was ceded to Italy in 1918. The area still feels very Austrian and the cattle are predominantly Simmental. German and Italian are both spoken.

We proceeded over the Brenner Pass into Austria and spent some days in the (Austrian) Tyrol, Vorarlberg, drove through the tiny Principality of Liechtenstein, and into eastern Switzerland.

Finally, on the first of May we drove into Vienna to return the rental car and book in at our hotel. As the Avis Depot was in the centre of town we ended up driving as part of the May Day parade through the streets of Vienna.

On the 2nd of May, a cold and windy day, we met at the Opera to be taken by bus to Neusiedl, on the shores of the large lake of the same name. Here the different committees of the World Simmental Federation - Finances and Membership, Breed Development and Promotion, Breeding Methods, Beef Production and Breeding in Tropical and Sub-tropical Areas - held their meetings. All committee members sat in on most of the meetings, but I was on the Breed Development and Promotion Committee. Meanwhile Penny, together with the other wives of committee members, was taken on a horse drawn coach tour of the "Seewinkel" National Park.

Also on this day we visited the Federal Experimental Farm at Koenigshof. Here was a presentation of 10 young Simmental bulls which we judged. Details of age, daily weight gain and body measurements were displayed. The average age of the 10 bulls was 504 days, the average liveweight 700 kg, height at shoulders 136 cm, body length 163 cm, depth of chest 71 cm and width of hips 52 cm. These were interesting to compare with the types of Simmental we produce in New Zealand.

While the committee meetings were proceeding the bulls were slaughtered and in the afternoon we saw the carcasses. Average slaughter statistics of the bulls were:-

Carcase weight - 409 kg

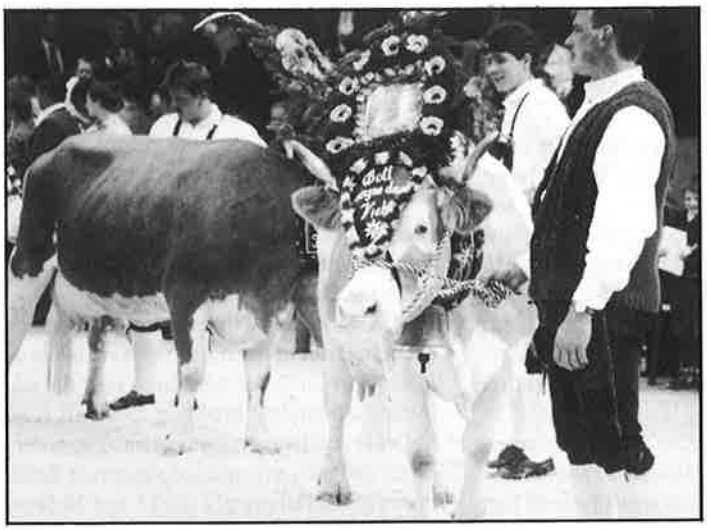
Net carcase dressing percentage - 64.1%

Net gain - 832 gm

Kidney fat - 10.1 kg

Considerable research is being done here on meat quality with objective criteria.

Also at Koenigshof, a wine tasting of the products of the province, Burgenland, was held, and proved most enjoyable, although the quantities provided and the time allowed proved almost lethal.



Cows decorated for the return from alpine pastures - Rotholz

That evening we visited a well known Viennese restaurant famous for it's beef specialities, which was most timely.

The next morning was the Council Meeting of the Federation, held in Vienna itself, with simultaneous translation into English and Spanish. The various Committees reported on their deliberations of the previous day.

The Finances and Membership Committee reported a satisfactory situation due to advertisements and the sale of promotional material, however, there were still some outstanding membership fees.

Breeding Methods reported that Interbull was investigating the across country comparisons of EBVs. This could be of great interest to NZ, where the proposed trans-Tasman Group Breedplan is a first step in that direction.

The Chairman of the Beef Production and Breeding in Tropical and Sub-tropical Areas, Peter Massman, who is well known to many New Zealanders, was not present, due to the very important South African general elections. This committee spent some time discussing genetic defects and their worldwide registration.

Breed Development and Promotion presented the new brochure of the Federation, which is published in German, English and French, as well as two versions of Spanish (for Europe and South America) This is now of course available in NZ. A promotional watch was also available at the congress. The Federation has plans to promote the Simmental breed at international fairs. Finally a plan was formulated for the production of a specimen newspaper to be distributed internationally to commercial breeders of Simmental cattle, with the hope that it will become a permanent publication. Matters pertaining to the Presidency and the admittance of new countries were also discussed. An interesting paper was presented by Fernando Carvalho of Brazil on frame and size of Simmental cattle in that country.

That afternoon we were pleased to see the arrival of the only other New Zealanders to attend the Congress, Jack and Betty

Ashworth.

In the evening all the delegates from the 30 countries attended the official reception at the Vienna Town Hall, and later enjoyed a Heurigen restaurant at the nearby wine village of Grinzing. Here, interestingly, I sat next to Hans Haeckel, the German breeder of the famous old bull, Scottish Neff. This bull of course still appears in the pedigrees of many New Zealand cattle of today, and the conversation with this breeder was enjoyable.

The General Meeting of members took place in the Palais Ferstel. George Anderson of Scotland was re-elected President, Hugo Valentin of Italy 1st Vice-president, and Andres Weil from Argentina as 2nd Vice-president.

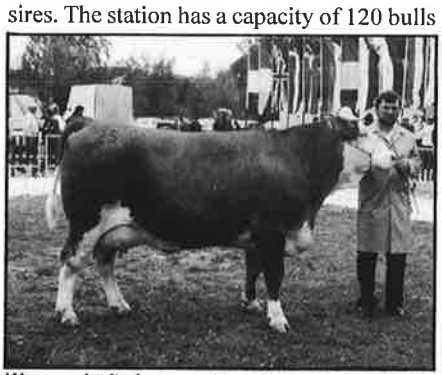
At this meeting a "Round Table " discussion, with time for questions and answers, took place on the topic, "The importance of Simmental-Fleckvieh as a multi purpose breed in agricultural politics, science and economy."

Dr Foeger gave a paper on the breed in Austria and Hugo Valentin one on the 20 year history of the Federation.

The lunch at the Intercontinental Hotel gave a good opportunity for old acquaintances to be renewed and new ones made.

That evening was one of the highlights of the non cattle events, namely a special performance of the Spanish Riding School. This was something I will long remember. Later we walked through the night streets of Vienna to the Goesser-Braeu for a beer and goulash meal, which is a real Austrian tradition, .

With the finish of the formal part of the congress it was time to relax a little and enjoy seeing the Simmental cattle of Austria, and on Thursday the 5th we set off for Lower Austria and the town of Wieselburg. First, we arrived at the performance testing station of Rosenau. After the customary welcoming drink, or two, of schnapps, followed by a band playing Austrian music, we heard about their system of testing the young bulls for weight gain, and the future use of those sires. The station has a capacity of 120 bulls



We were invited to vote for the cow most closely embodying the breeding aim pursued in our individual countries. Above is one of the two cows that took the majority of votes.

At Rotholz, amidst beautiful alpine scenery, after a musical welcome, we were treated to a well organised elite cattle show. Two bulls were of note, one of which was Zario 459 840 871.

per year . The tests are accompanied by field tests in cooperation with the slaughter houses.

We also visited the cattle show, which had a very good commentary and we were invited to vote for the cow most closely embodying the breeding aim pursued in our individual countries. Two cows took the majority of votes. They were Sterna 525 965 846 and Berga 698 954 532. The bulls Horror and Morello, well known in NZ in both Austrian and German bloodlines, were well represented here by progeny. The standard of both preparation and quality was excellent, but interestingly enough, most people seemed of the opinion that the females were more impressive than the males. That leads to interesting conjecture on either the science of genetics or the objectivity of the spectators!

A bus trip of 200 km took us to the beautiful old city of Salzburg. A rushed walking tour of the city gave us a an idea of the history and culture of the place. That evening we were entertained to a Mozart concert in the Prince Archbishop's Residence, followed by dinner.

On Friday we were taken by bus to the Tyrol. The only practical way to reach there from Salzburg was through a part of Bavaria, Germany. Some members who didn't have the entry requirements for Germany were required to travel by train to prevent any illegal immigration into Germany, which, since the opening up of Eastern Europe, has had an enormous problem with immigration, both legal and illegal.

It is interesting to note that Austria seems to use this route as a part of it's national road system but apparently doesn't have to help with the maintenance of the roads.

At Ebbs we visited the Haflinger stud farm of the Tyrolian Haflinger Breed Association, where we saw a parade and dressage performance by the world champion stallions and mares of the breed. We were also treated here to a buffet, and more schnapps.

At Rotholz, amidst beautiful alpine scenery, after a musical welcome, we were treated to a well organised elite cattle show, with once again, an excellent running commentary, together with some interesting details of the breed and it's suitability to the alpine country of Tyrol.

Two bulls of note here were Iwan 411 622 271 and Zario 459 840 871. It should be noted here that some of those cattle less esteemed by the Europeans often appealed more to those of us from the countries which use Simmentals almost exclusively for beef production. The differing systems of meat grading, and the use of Simmental predominantly as a terminal crossbreeding sire also plays a part in these varying preferences.

The finale to the show was a traditional parade of cattle returning from alpine pastures, complete with their floral headpieces and accompanying horses and carts.

A late lunch at Maurach on the shores of Lake Achen preceded the return drive to Salzburg. Dinner at Restaurant Winkler offered a superb view of "Salzburg by Night". Later, some delegates had a somewhat different view of the world after a visit to Salzburg Casino!

On Saturday 7th, after checking (or chequing) out of our hotel, we were taken to Hoehnhart in Upper Austria to visit the adjoining Simmental breeding farms of Karl Meixner and Herbert Priewasser. The orderliness and attractiveness of these two farms impressed us all greatly. At 31 and 38 hectares, these farms are sizeable by Austrian standards. The above areas include 7 and 13

DDM Farms

Suppliers of Registered, Pure-bred and F1 Bulls and Heifers
* SIMMENTAL
* RED ANGUS * DDM COMPOSITES

"Achieving genetic gains through large scale and intense selection pressure."

The DDM Farms herds mate 1,000 cows annually, pure-bred Simmental and American Red Angus for the production of seedstock, and performance recorded crosses for the development of F1 and Composite breeding stock. Outstanding American and New Zealand sires are selected for use in an extensive AI program each year. All animals are identified at birth and entered into a performance and progeny recording system providing computerised analysis of Breeding Values. Selection pressure is extreme with a 'no excuses' culling policy for temperament, yearling fertility, calving ease, milk and condition. The cattle are run on dry summer country at Tapora, near Wellsford, North Auckland.

The DDM breeding principles are drawn from the successful programs developed at the U.S. Meat Animal Research Centre (MARC) which are now widely practised by leading cattle companies throughout North America including, most notably, the Leachman Cattle Company of Billings, Montana.

BREEDING POLICIES

1. A yearling heifer must get in calf within two cycles, deliver a calf unaided and get back in calf again by the same date yearly thereafter. One miss and she is culled. (In the third generation under this selection criteria our Simmental-cross herd achieved a 101% calving success rate for VIC heifers - with a twin or two!)

2. The calf, identified and weighed at birth, and weighed at regular intervals thereafter, must meet growth targets throughout its life.

3. Mature cows must stay within moderate frame maintenance parameters while still delivering a minimum weaning weight in their calves.

4. Steers are targetted to provide high-yielding carcases of >300kg within 24 months.

5. Convenience traits such as quiet temperament, polledness, resistance to cancer eye, and sound feet are selection criteria absolutes.

6. Replacements and sires chosen by reference to Breed Society and Herd Recording Programs (BV's).

Performance bulls and breeding heifers are available for sale 'in the paddock'. Please contact:

Chris Canning, DDM Farms Limited,
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Tel: (09) 522 0402 Fax: (09) 520 7874
or
Peter Maxwell, DDM Farms Limited,
Tapora, RD7 Wellsford
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Ask for our brochures on 'Cross-breeding Systems"

hectares of forest respectively. The statistics of the larger of the two farms are interesting.

Total size	38 ha
Crop	12 ha
Pasture	13 ha
Forest	13 ha

CLIMATE AND SOIL

Altitude	490 m
Mean Temperature	7.2 Celsius
Rainfall	1000 mm

Soil type Sandy, stony loam on gravel

Crops : Silage maize, wheat, oats, winter barley, biennial clover.

Pasture : cut for hay and silage 4 times

Fertiliser : cattle dung from stalls, liquid fertiliser on crop and pasture plus about $230 per hectare worth of artificial fertiliser on the crops.

MACHINERY

2 tractors 90 hp 4wd and 55 hp 4wd
1 dung spreader
trailer
blower
hay making equipment
rotary mower
silage cutter

Maize planting and harvesting weed spraying and threshing is done by outside machinery.

Buildings are much larger and more substantial than here, especially as the cattle are housed and the feed must be stored. The silo space is 560 cubic. metres

STOCK NUMBERS

20 cows - average liveweight	- 750 kg
10 yearling heifers	- 450 kg
10 heifers less than 1 year	- 220 kg
17 bulls (less than 16 months)	- 420 kg

Average age of cows 6.4 years

Calving percentage 100%

Mating period (AI) 92 days

On the farm work the farmer, his wife and their son.

One of the two top cows chosen by the Congress participants in Wieselburg

The New Zealand contingent John & Penny Scott, Jack & Betty Ashworth

The cost structures and prices received are of course very different to those to which we are accustomed and the overall economic efficiencies of the properties were difficult to estimate. The properties were obviously well run and profitable. The cattle very well fed and the calving percentages would be enviable by NZ standards. Whether we could with similar stock numbers justify the high capital costs of machinery and buildings is another matter.

The visit to these farms raised again the frequently discussed matter of Austria and the European Union. At that time Austria was not in the EU but there was soon to be a referendum on the matter and it was generally thought that Austria's acceptance of membership was a foregone conclusion. In fact, this was correct, and Austria is now a part of the European Union.

The Austrian farmers have in the recent past, like the Swiss, been very protected and highly subsidised and although we would feel the prices being paid to farmers in the European Union to be very attractive the Austrians were very anxious about their product prices being dragged down to that level. Most thoughtful people we spoke to seemed to think that membership of the European Union would be in the overall interests of Austria. Ironically, the EU itself is wondering how it can continue with the subsidies which it pays to it's agricultural sector. Switzerland, in the meantime, has decided to stay out of the EU, however, all the Swiss with whom I discussed the matter were of the opinion that sooner or later Switzerland would have to join.

Later that day, we were guests at the elite cattle show of the Simmental Breeders Society of Inn- and Hausruckviertel at Ried, which celebrated it's 100th anniversary.

This Society has pursued what they consider the ideal combination of beef and dairy type. A very impressive bull on show here was Henri II 373 395 344, (born 20.09.90) with an exceptional weight of 1460 kg and a frame to match. With a shoulder height of 164 cm he is a son of the well known sire, Horler. Another sire, Pasta, was represented by 11 daughters, one of which, Hinze, was most impressive, with a weight of 1045 kg,. These very large cattle were shown to us with a hint of apology, but to emphasise that with purebred Simmentals it is possible to achieve the combination of high milk yields with high weight gains and very good muscling. It was noted in the commentary that the size of Henri II is probably reaching the upper desirable limit.

The high point of these Austrian cattle shows is the arrival of the bell chariots, which in this case brought more than 100 bronze bells and their collars, to be presented to the exhibitors.

The Simmental Cattle Breeders Society of this area also has it's own AI station which enabled us to view all the sires being held there, among them being Pasta, Streiter, Horax and Hobby II.

The final occasion of the Congress was lunch at Aspach, with farewell speeches and presentations. Unfortunately, it all ran somewhat overtime, and many of the delegates, including us, had to leave to catch planes or trains before it quite finished.

We spent a short time in Germany and saw some more Simmentals, and even some Belgian Blues on a short excursion to that country before returning home from a European spring to a New Zealand winter and..... the start of a new bull selling season.

The 10th World Simmental Fleckvieh Congress had come to an end, and with it a period of both education and entertainment. The Austrian organisers are to be congratulated .

SOUTHERN ROBOT

Herd 1

Herd 585

Pedigree is One Thing - Performance is Everything
Our Cows are the Heart of Our Herd

Part of the 1994 SHOW TEAM

Robot Cathleen
Risingholme Zelig ex Robot Trixie
Junior Champion Gore & Winton

Robot Cheri
Risingholme Zelig ex Robot Opal
Southern Heifer Show Champion

Top line of bulls for the Southern Club Sale
Gore, 19th May 1995

4 Southern Bulls by Southern 1/AZ4
6 Robot Bulls by Risingholme Zelig

Sires in use:

Dunmore Cossack II — *Southern 1/AZ4 by Austrian Hais*
Wai-Iti Mr.X — *Glenside Arnold Step Toe by Waimiro Pascal*

T.B. Accredited ***Group Breedplan Recorded***

Contact:
John & Joyce Robins,
Armagh Park, Lochiel No 1, R.D.
Winton. Tel. (03) 221 7150

Proud to be a part of
SOUTHERN IMMENTAL SALES WEEK

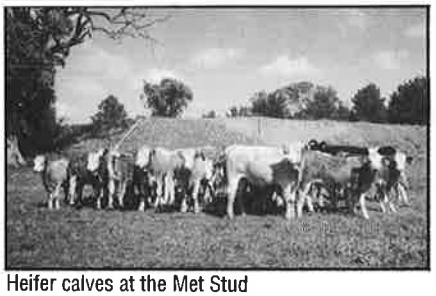
Club News

Retired

Rod Harper, Hamilton Stud Stock Manager for Elders Pastoral, retired at the end of March. Following a long interest in stud stock, including showing pigs, dairy cattle and sheep, he started with Farmers Stud Stock and Allied Farmers in 1980, and continued on with Elders Pastoral. He is well known and respected among Simmental breeders, in the Waikato and nationally. After the recent Waikato Simmental Club Female Sale a dinner was held to thank him for the assistance he gave to our breeders, and a suitable presentation was made. In April Rod and his wife will be leaving for an overseas trip, which will include visiting sons and a daughter in Australia, United States and the U.K. We wish him well on this trip and in his retirement.

Central Club

Have a number of activities planned for the coming year, the first being a field day at the end of April.Contact John Orr or John and Helen Hammond for further details.



Heifer calves at the Met Stud

Waikato & Districts Simmental Club Trip to Australia 1994

On March 24th 1994, a group of Waikato & Districts Simmental Club members, and friends, flew out of Auckland to Sydney.

Four days were spent in Sydney, giving us the opportunity to visit the 1994 Easter Sydney Show. Time was spent viewing the cattle judging, meeting the cattle breeders, seeing an enormous variety of beef cattle breeds, attending the Simmental Australia, NSW Branch Best of the Breed Sale, held during the Show. Also of great interest were the static displays of fruit and vegetables, the dog shows and the poultry show. It was all very educational, as was Kings-Cross, where we stayed!

On Tuesday March 29th March, we boarded our bus and met our bus driver Paul, who knew nothing about Simmentals before he met us, but now is a Simmental Expert. We travelled many kilometres, stayed at Mudgee, Dubbo, Orange and Wagga Wagga. We visited the Ronelle Park Stud, Peppersfield Stud, Met Stud, Wondenia Stud, Valley Park Stud, Duchess Stud, Nashcroft Stud, Steading Stud and Cotswold Stud. We saw cattle in drought conditions, bulls being prepared for bull sales, different types of Simmentals, all of which gave us much to think and talk about.

The hospitality given to us by our hosts at the Studs was quite overwhelming.

We also managed a visit to the Western Plains Zoo at Dubbo, just to divert our minds from Simmentals for a while.

This was an excellent tour, thoroughly enjoyed by all who went on it.

Waikato & Districts Simmental Club members, and friends at the Bar-B-Que lunch at the Steading Stud

World Class Judging Appointments

Don Graham from the Waingaro Stud of Parnassus, North Canterbury has been invited by the Royal Agricultural Society of England to judge the Simmental breed. The Society will be celebrating its 25th Anniversary of Simmentals into the U.K. Don will be the first overseas judge ever to have judged the breed at Stoneleigh.

Peter McWilliam from the Wai-iti Stud of Masterton, judged two events in Australia. The first show was the 1994 Perth Ryal Show, Western Australia, followed by Beef '94 at Rockhampton later in the year.

Canterbury Club

The Canterbury Club had a reasonably active year with the Christchurch Show, a two day farm visit weekend and the A.G.M. Vince Daly and Mark Chamberlain organsised an excellent tour in the Cheviot district. A number of commercial and stud properties were visited and a lot was learnt by those that attended.

The A.G.M. saw Mark Chamberlain voted as President with Dave Matheson as Secretary. Tony Partridge stood down as President and we owe him a big thank you for the work he gave to the Club.

Tony and Lorraine had the misfortune to have their house burn down this year. This is a very traumatic experience and we wish them the best in getting this problem sorted out.

As in past years several members combined with South Canterbury members to organise our Bull Sale at Temuka. Penny Wright, Tony and Lorraine Partridge and Dave Matheson have worked on this committee for several years and were very pleased with the good turnover and healthy average the sale generated.

In 1995 we have a weekend trip arranged and a local field day, as well as the usual show and sale.

SPRINGBROOK SIMMENTALS

IN QUEST OF PERFORMANCE

Springbrook imported semen from Bar 5 Excelleration sold at auction for $150,000 and two of his progeny took out the big double at the Royal Show winning the Coopental and Rissington trophies.

Bulls from this sire and other high performance sires will be for sale at the Springbrook on farm sale on June 15.

Springbrook Accelleration AC 464

Springbrook Rarity AC 474

Enquiries always welcome by telephoning Colin, Valmai or Mark Patterson
Tel. 03 324 3706

TOP PERFORMANCE BULLS
FROM A TOP PERFORMANCE HERD

AC118 (Polled) D.O.B. 10/8/93

+3.0	+5	+29	+36	+44
77%	40%	71%	66%	66%

AC115 D.O.B. 15/8/93

+2.3	+2	+20	+30	+40
76%	46%	70%	66%	66%

AC128 D.O.B. 1/9/93

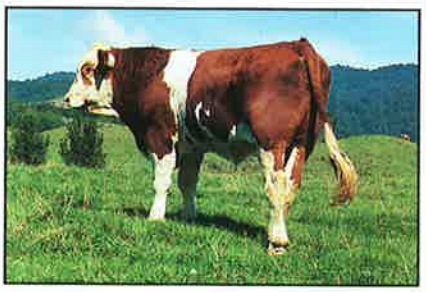
+3.3	+4	+30	+44	+61
76%	46%	70%	66%	66%

AC117 (Polled) D.O.B. 17/8/93

+2.1	+3	+29	+41	+48
77%	43%	72%	67%	68%

AC109 D.O.B. 30/7/93

+2.2	+4	+22	+34	+48
75%	47%	70%	66%	65 %



AC120 (Polled) D.O.B. 23/8/93

+5.1	+8	+41	+57	+60
77%	42%	71%	66%	66%

AC127 D.O.B. 30/8/93

+2.8	+5	+220	+32	+38
77%	49%	70%	66%	66%

AC138 D.O.B. 26/9/93

+2.5	+2	+21	+30	+43
75%	42%	70%	66%	66%

AC112 D.O.B. 20/8/93

+1.9	+1	+11	+17	+26
77%	48%	71%	67%	67%

In 1995 40 Puketawa bulls will be available for sale - Waikato Simmental Sale (6/7/95) and by private treaty on farm.
Puketawa interim EBV's for 1994 Calves are an indication of Puketawas performance.

BW	200Mk	200Wt	400Wt	600Wt
1.6	3.2	17.7	28.0	34.4

FOR MORE INFORMATION & CATALOGUE CONTACT:

Puketawa Simmentals

J.B. Scott, Roberts Road, RD 2, Cambridge
Tel. (07) 827 2864 Fax. (07) 827 2977

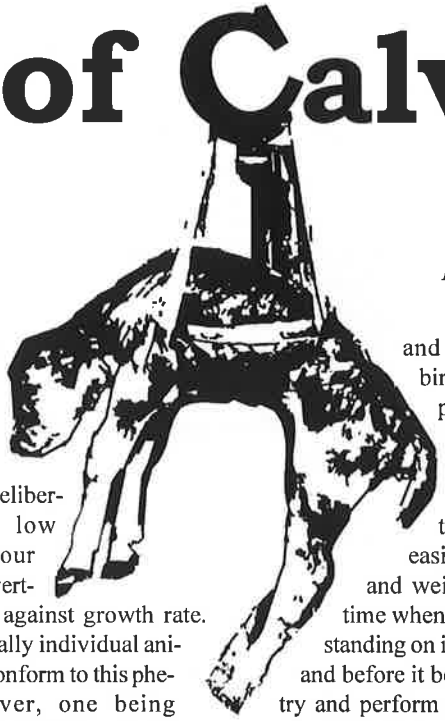
AC126 D.O.B. 28/8/93

+2.0	+3	+20	+29	+44
76%	48%	71%	66%	67%

AC133 D.O.B. 11/9/93

+1.7	+5	+23	+35	+46
75%	42%	70%	65%	65 %

Weighing of Calves at Birth



By Russell Priest, Feilding

Since the introduction of Breedplan more stud cattle breeders have become interested in recording the birthweights of their calves. Currently it is not mandatory to record this information, however there are a number of benefits in obtaining it.

- Breeders may wish to use a yearling bull to mate with their yearling heifers. A high birthweight animal is unsuitable for this purpose because of his potential to leave high birthweight progeny.

- Clients may wish to know the birthweight of the bulls they are buying, with a view to avoiding large birthweights on their commercial herds.

- Stud breeders may use them to cull excessively large calves.

- Birthweight information is a useful tool in predicting future growth rates.

Birthweight is of medium heritability (35 - 40%), which means that this percentage of the variation in calves weights is controlled by the parents genes. The other 60 - 65% is due to environment effects such as the level of feeding of the cow or the size of the maternal environment. At this level of heritability, significant genetic progress can be made by selecting for or against this trait. An unfortunate phenomenon associated with birthweight is that it is quite strongly negatively correlated with the traits for growth. This means that if you deliberately select for low birthweights in your herd, you will inadvertently be selecting against growth rate. There are occasionally individual animals which don't conform to this phenomenon, however, one being Leachman Red Polled Baldy, who has a birthweight EBV of -1.7 and moderate to good growth EBVs.

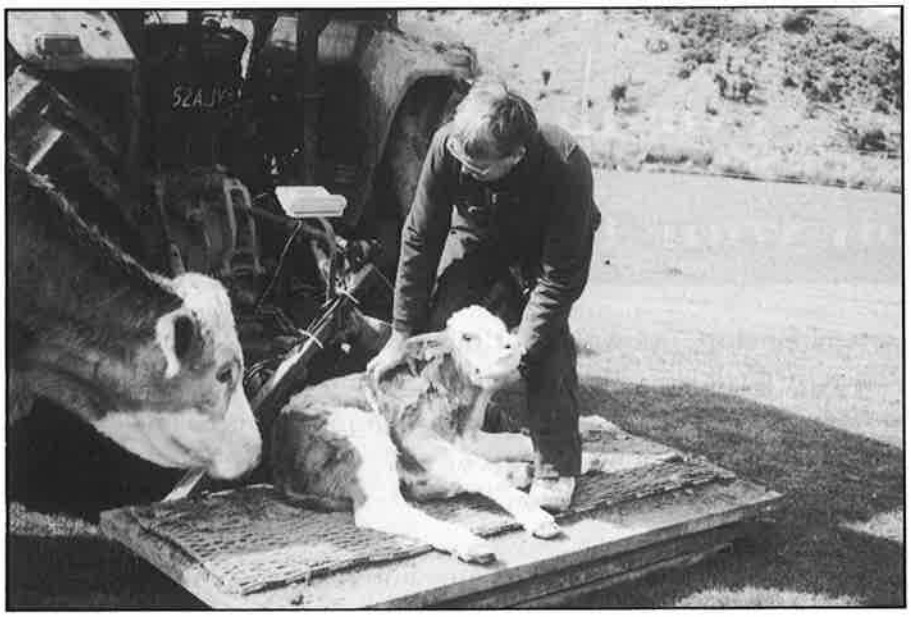
There is now very strong evidence to suggest that part of the environmental influence upon birthweight can be controlled by feeding not in the latter stages of pregnancy (a common misconception) but in the early stages. Placental size is strongly correlated with calf size, and placental size is established in the early stages of pregnancy. If the pregnant females intake is restricted at this time, this will restrict placental size and hence subsequent calf birth size. Restricting intake in the latter period of pregnancy does not significantly reduce birthweights (unless drastic) but will leave the pregnant female in a state of diminishing bodyweight and in no condition to give birth. The other serious implication of this scenario is poor rebreeding rates.

Now let us move on to physically weighing the newborn calf. I find the easiest period in which to tag and weigh a calf is between that time when the calf has been licked, is standing on its feet having its first drink, and before it becomes too mobile. If you try and perform these operations too soon after birth, the cow is generally over protective and you may find yourself assuming an undignified position on the ground! If on the other hand you leave it too late, you may find yourself chasing the calf around the paddock with Mum in hot pursuit, and in not very good humour! When handling a newborn calf I generally find that the cow is more relaxed if she can see and smell the calf. This means, whenever possible to position yourself on the opposite side of the calf to the cow. Always perform the tasks positively but gently (no violent actions) and don't hesitate to talk to the matron. If possible, birthweight should be taken consistently at the same stage after birth for each calf; but remember this is only a guide.

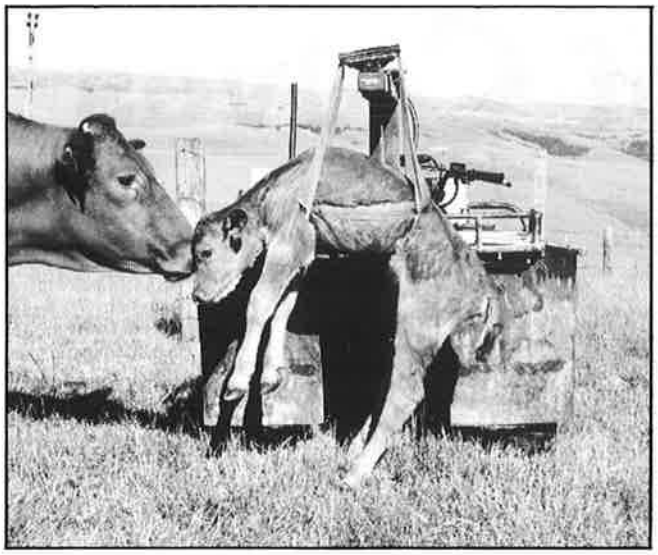
There are a number of techniques used in weighing calves and I don't pretend to be aware of them all. However, there is one method (taking of the girth measurement) which is unaccepted because of the inaccuracies involved. The others involve the use of scales of one sort or another.

1. The sling and clockface scales. This method involves using a sling, constructed of some sort of robust fabric material. This is fed under the belly of the calf, and each end hooked onto a set of clockface scales. The operator then hoists the calf off the ground and records the weight of the calf. (Remember to tare the scales). This technique is possibly better suited to weighing calves from smaller breeds, unless the operator is a power lifter!!

2. The sling, clockfaced scales (or electronic) and frame. The same method as above can be used, except that the scales are attached to a frame mounted at the rear of a four wheel motorbike, or on any other ve-



Platform scales on the tractor tray involves very little lifting - photo supplied by R. Cockburn



Scales mounted onto a frame attached to a four-wheel motorbike with calf held in sling. Photo supplied by DDM Farms

Bathroom type scales allow a great deal of portability and ease of use. Photo supplied by J Absolom

hicle. A slight variation of this technique is to use a cradle made from steel rod to support the calf, the cradle being permanently attached to the scales. The calf is simply lifted on and off this support mechanism.

3. Platform scales on the transport tray of a tractor. The operator tares the scales against his/her weight and stands on these holding the calf.

4. Bathroom type scales mounted on a small platform of heavy plywood. The same procedure is used as above. This method has the advantage over the previous one in that the equipment is much more portable and you can always position the calf between yourself and the cow.

In summary:

- Birthweights are a useful breeding "tool".

- Birthweights should NOT be taken (particularly for Breedplan recording) using a girth tape.

- Consistency, with regard to timing of weighing, will give the most meaningful results.

- Timing of tagging and weighing will minimise any difficulties experienced with these operations.

- Birthweights are only a guide as to the birth size of the progeny an animal will leave; there are other influential factors involved in this trait.

Only Our Top Bulls on Offer ...

...at the
Central South Island Simmental Bull Sale

Temuka Selling Centre

Wednesday 14 June, 1995

Inquiries & Inspection Most Welcome

Alyth Simmentals

I R Caird
No. 2 RD, Timaru Tel. (03) 686 4879

Delivering Backward Calves

By Heather Smith Thomas
Reprinted from SimTalk, March 1995

Most calves are born head first, front feet extended. But, a few are positioned backward and may not survive the birth unless you are there to help. In 1969, our vet Dr. Pete South, told us a person is lucky to save one out of ten backward calves. This is true when cows are not being closely observed, but with frequent checking and assistance given at the right time, you can beat those odds.

Losses Can Be Substantial

Years ago, when we were pasture calving in late spring, we averaged a four percent birth loss from various problems. But, since 1969, we've been calving in winter, constantly checking the cows (most of them go into the barn to calve) and we are there for every birth. As a result, our annual birth loss is now less than one percent (many years, including '92, '93 and '94, we've had no birth losses.)

During the past 28 years, we've had 53 backward or breech' calves in our 160-head cow herd, an average of about two a year, and have lost only four. One died because we didn't check the cow soon enough; the calf was breech (rump first) and hadn't entered the birth canal; so the cow wasn't straining yet. But, she'd been in labour too long and the placenta had detached. The other three losses occurred during birth - big calves that were too difficult to deliver fast enough.

Urgency Is Critical

Every posterior presentation is an emergency. If the hind legs don't enter the birth canal or are in breech position (hindquarters toward the birth canal, with legs forward in a sitting position) the calf can't be born. The legs must be brought into the birth canal before the birth can proceed. Even if the legs do enter the canal, the birth is usually so slow and difficult that the calf suffocates when the umbilical cord breaks or pinches off, since the head and shoulders are still inside the cow. If a posterior presentation is recognized early, however, you have a good chance of saving the calf, by helping the cow and speeding up the birth.

The backward calf is at a disadvantage because it is not streamlined for that direction; the hips are often difficult to pass, and the rig-cage may catch on the cow's pelvis. The umbilical cord may be pinched off early on, making it urgent that the calf be born immediately.

Labour Delayed in Breech Deliveries

If the calf is breech, the cow takes a longer time in early labour and may not start straining at all. Abdominal contractions don't begin until some part of the calf enters the birth canal. If a cow seems to be in early labour too long, catch her and check her. If the calf is breech, call your vet or give assistance and correct the malpresentation before the calf dies.

If the legs do enter the birth canal, the feet will eventually protrude from the vulva and you can tell they are hind feet because the heels and dewclaws are up instead of down, the bottoms of the feet pointing upward. Before you assume the calf is backward, however, double-check. Occasionally, a frontward calf will be upside down or sideways with legs twisted so that when the feet first appear, they are pointed upward. Always be sure which part of the calf is presented before you put on the pulling chains.

Gentleness Required

When pulling a backward calf, go gently at first until the hips are out and the ribcage is free of the pelvis. Once the hips are out, hurry the calf on out. If you rush too much at first you may injure the cow and kill the calf. The calf's rib-cage can be crushed if you pull too forcefully, too soon.

If the calf is large, you probably won't be able to deliver it fast enough without a mechanical calf puller or several strong people. When using a puller, stop for a moment and put the chains above the calf's hocks after you get it out that far. This will give you more room to winch. If the calf is long legged, you may run out of cable at just the time you need to be pulling the fastest. There is nothing more frustrating than getting a big calf almost out, then losing it because you run out of cable. We learned this the hard way on one of the four backward calves we lost.

Getting Legs Into Birth Canal

In a breech presentation where you must bring the legs into the birth canal, it is easier to manipulate the calf if the cow is standing. Then, you can get both arms into the birth canal. The calf must first be pushed back into the uterus as far as possible. Then, grasp a leg, bend the hock joint and lift it upward. Draw the calf's foot backward in an arc, keeping the hock joint flexed tightly and the calf pushed forward. lift the calf's foot up over the cow's pelvis, cupping your hand around the hoof so it won't tear the uterus. Do the same with the other leg.

This technique was demonstrated to us in 1978, by Dr. Robert Cope, and we have successfully used it a number of times since. Once both legs are in the birth canal, attach chains and pull the calf.

After The Delivery

After you get the calf out, get it breathing. It may be alive, but still in danger because the air passages are full of fluids and there is a shortage of oxygen (sometimes unconscious) from extended time in the birth canal or because the umbilical cord broke early on. The calf may seem dead (limp and blue) but if there is a heartbeat (feel the chest, behind the front leg, left side), there is a chance, if you can clear the airways and get it breathing. You may have to hang the calf upside down briefly to let fluids drain out. Then, stimulate him to cough by tickling a clean piece of hay or straw up his nostril. If the calf is unconscious and can't get it to cough, apply artificial respiration by holding the mouth and one nostril shut and breathing into the other nostril. We've saved several calves that were unconscious at birth, by giving artificial respiration until the calf could start breathing on its own.

If you are present at calving time, observing cows closely, you have a much better chance of saving backward calves.

Obtaining a high percentage calf drop could depend on your own ability to deliver calves that may be coming backwards.

WAINGARO SIMMENTALS

Largest Performance Recorded Herd in the South Island

We cows have got our EBV's working in these hills
We now want our bull buyers' to use Certified Simmental Tags to evaluate their progeny at slaughter

Our Progeny are by Top Sires

"Hans" *"Thomo"* *"Shareholder"*

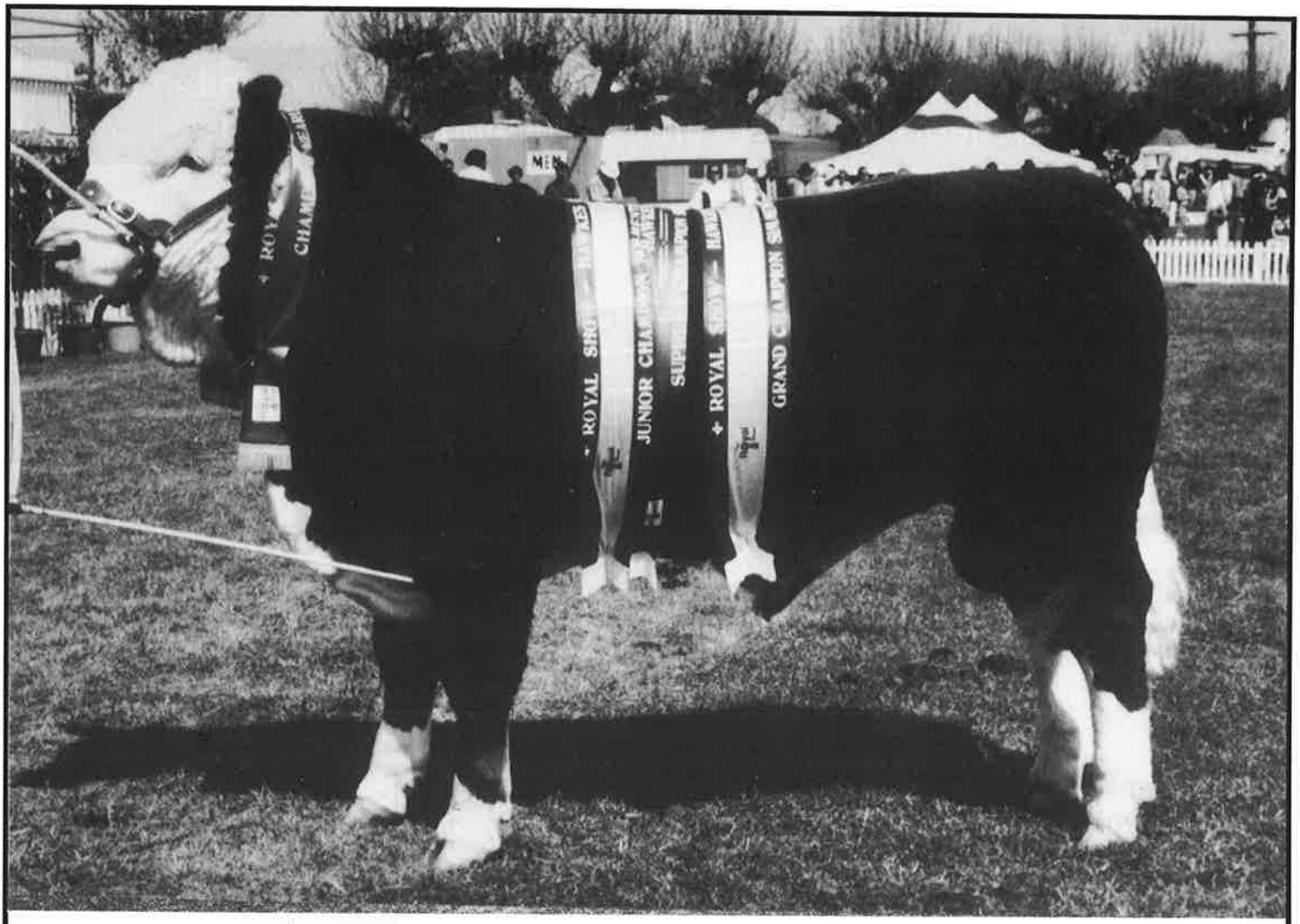
Enquiries Welcome:

Craig & Don Graham
Waingaro,
Parnassus RD
North Canterbury

Tel. 03 319 2839
Tel/Fax. 03 319 2809

1995 Simmental Sales Calendar

June	**North Island**	
Thursday 1st	H D & J S McIntyre "Brocade" Simmental Annual Bull Sale	Apiti
Thursday 8th	Ailsa Farms 11th Annual Simmental Bull Sale	Ohingaiti
Friday 9th	A H Plummer "Te Kouka" Annual Simmental Bull Sale	Dannevirke
Friday 9th	P Cowley "Rockvale" Simmental Bull Sale	New Plymouth
Monday 12th	D Murphy "Dunshaughlin" Annual Simmental Bull Sale	Waipukurau
Monday 12th	Combined Simmental Breeders Bull Sale	Inglewood
Wednesday 14th	G & A Thompson "Glen Anthony" Annual Simmental Bull Sale	Waipukurau
Friday 16th	P & S McWilliam "Wai-iti" Simmental Bull & Female Sale	Gladstone
Monday 19th	C & C Hutching "Brooklands" 9th Annual Simmental Bull Sale	Dannevirke
Monday 26th	"Rissington" Cattle Company 13th Annual Simmental Bull Sale	Rissington
Tuesday 27th	"Trossachs" Simmental Annual Bull Sale	Carterton
Friday 30th	Taranaki Simmental Breeders	Stratford
July		
Monday 3rd	J R Houlbrooke "Tokaweka" Mrs L. Sloane "Terrilyne" and W J Mackey "Cariboo" 3rd Annual Combined Simmental Bull Sale	Whangarei
Thursday 6th	Waikato & Districts Simmental Breeders' 15th Annual Bull Sale	Frankton
Friday 7th	P J Ellis "Puriri" 3rd Annual Simmental Bull Sale	Taipa
Friday 7th	D Wills "Motiti" 3rd Annual Simmental Bull Sale	Rangiuru
Thursday 13th	Lower Northland 3rd Annual Bull Sale	Wellsford
Wednesday 19th	Bay of Plenty Simmental Breeders 3rd Annual Bull Sale	Rangiuru
Friday 21st	Izard Pastoral "Springhill" 1st Annual Simmental Bull Sale	Wellsford
May	**South Island**	
Thursday 4th	P Bradley "Freewalk" Simmental Dispersal Sale	Temuka
Monday 15th	Central Otago Simmental Bull Sale	Omakau
Tuesday 16th	"Triple S" Simmental Bull Sale	Castlerock
Wednesday 15th	W Burgess "Beresford" and L McLay "Westview" Owaka Simmental Bull Sale	Owaka
Thursday 18th	"Glenside Simmental Bull Sale	Waitahuna
Friday 19th	Southern Simmental Breeders' Annual Bull Sale	Charlton
June		
Monday 12th	D S Crosson "Risingholme" 4th Annual Simmental Bull and Female Sale	Ashburton
Wednesday 14th	Central South Island Simmental Bull Sale	Temuka
Thursday 15th	C J Patterson "Lakeside", A A T Partridge "Ladbrook" and N D Oliver "Springhead" 5th Annual Simmental Bull Sale	Lakeside
Friday 16th	"Levels" Annual Simmental Bull Sale	Levels
Friday 30th	Enterprise Cattle Company 9th Annual Simmental Bull Sale	Wakefield



RISINGHOLME BAEZ

Champion Yearling Simmental Bull	HB Royal 1993
Grand Champion Simmental Bull	HB Royal 1993
Supreme Champion Simmental	HB Royal 1993
All Breeds Champion Yearling Bull (87 entries)	HB Royal 1993

HEIFERS

Risingholme is offering some quality heifers for private sale in calf to the following sires:-

EXTRA
HAMLET
AVONCROFT ASTER
G-SON of HEARTBEAT

ANNUAL BULL SALE JUNE 12, 1995

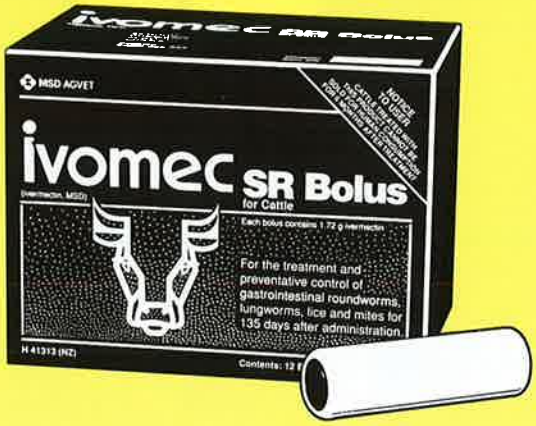
Enquiries & Inspection Welcome

Stan Crosson. "Risingholme"
No. 8 RD
Ashburton
Tel. (03) 302 5898

RISINGHOLME

Over 30 years stud breeding in general &
Over 20 years breeding Simmentals in particular

The new **IVOMEC**®(ivermectin) SR Bolus offers you a unique combination of benefits no other cattle drenching product can.



1 **Unsurpassed control of internal and external parasites[1] for 4.5 months (135-days)**

- Gastrointestinal roundworms (including *Ostertagia* spp.)
- Lungworm
- Lice
- Mange Mites

2 **Intended for use in young cattle most susceptible to parasite infection**

- Suitable for all ruminating cattle over 12 weeks of age weighing between 100 kg and 300 kg liveweight.

3 **Lasts longer than any other cattle drench in New Zealand**

- Your young cattle remain virtually free from economically important parasites for 4.5 months (135-days).

4 **Controls both existing and newly acquired parasite burdens**

- Quick "start-up" controls existing parasite burdens soon after administration.
- The on-going power of the **IVOMEC** SR Bolus controls newly ingested parasite burdens picked up by grazing cattle for 4.5 months following administration.

5 **Reduces pasture parasite contamination**

- Controls parasites before they can reach the adult egg-laying stage reducing egg output onto pasture.
- Grazing cattle ingest and destroy worm larvae already on pasture.

6 **Convenient single application**

- Saves you time and labour.
- Less mustering, handling and drenching.

At least you can depend on the

ivomec® (ivermectin) **SR Bolus** for Cattle

A Season-long Parasite Control Programme in a Single Dose

Show Results

Katikati A & P Show
Judge - David Holmes
Yearling Heifer (10 entries)
4th Karewa Crystal L & J McNaughten
Heifer Calf (20 entries)
1st Double AA Diva A & S Aukaha
Champion Junior Heifer
Double AA Diva A & S Aukaha
Yearling Bull (12 entries)
1st Shelven Cowboy S & S Robinson
Bull Calf
1st Double AA Dallas A & S Aukaha
Champion Junior Bull
Shelven Cowboy S & S Robinson
Reserve Champion Junior Bull
Double AA Dallas A & S Aukaha
Pair of Yearlings
3rd J & L McNaughten

Tauranga A & P Show Results - All Breeds
Bull Calf
1st Emerald Dale Phenomenon J & S Marshall
2nd Double AA Denver A & S Aukaha
Heifer Calf
1st Double AA Diva A &S Aukaha
Yearling Bull
1st Hampton Downs Challenger M & N Entwisle
2nd Karewa Conference J & L McNaughten
Yearling Heifer
2nd Karewa Crystal J & L McNaughten
Team of Three
1st J & S McNaughten
3rd A & S Aukaha
Cow & Cow at foot
1st Emerald Dale Mandy J & S Marshall
Male Champion
Emerald Dale Phenomenon J & S Marshall
Reserve Male Champion
Double AA Denver A & S Aukaha
Pair of Yearlings
1st J & S McNaughten
Female Champion
Double AA Diva A & S Aukaha
Supreme Champion
Double AA Diva A & S Aukaha

Kumeu Show
Cow 3 years and Over
or own calf at foot (3 in class)
1st Helensbrook Wynette
Springhill Simmental Stud
2 Year Heifer (3 in class)
2nd Springhill Bermuda Sun
Springhill Simmental Stud
Yearling Heifer (11 in class)
3rd Karewa Crystal J & L McNaughten
Heifer Calf (10 in class)
2nd Westline Delight J & L McNaughten
Yearling Bull (7 in class)
1st Hampton Downs Commander Ole
Hampton Downs Simmental
2nd Hampton Downs Challenger
Hampton Downs Simmental
3rd Karewa Contender J & L McNaughten
Bull Calf (17 in class)
1st Springhill Dynamite
Springhill Simmental Stud
3rd Hampton Downs Deputy
Hampton Downs Simmental
Junior Male Champion
Hampton Downs Commander Ole

Reserve
Springhill Dynamite Springhill Simmental Stud
Best Other Breed in Show
Helensbrook Wynette Springhill Simmental Stud
All Breeds Junior Bull (22 in class)
2nd Hampton Downs Commander Ole
Hampton Downs Simmental
3rd) Karewa Contender J & L McNaughten
3rd) Springhill Dynamite
Springhill Simmental Stud
All Breeds Senior Cow (9 in class)
1st Helensbrook Wynette
Springhill Simmental Stud
Junior Heifer
1st Karewa Crystal J & L McNaughten
Supreme Champion Beef Animal
Helensbrook Wynette Springhill Simmental Stud

Matamata A & P Show 15th October 1994
Yearling Heifer All Breeds
1st Karewa Caresse J & L McNaughten
2nd Karewa Crystal J & L McNaughten
Two Year Old Heifer with Calf - All Breeds
2nd Hampton Downs Beauty M & N Entwisle
Yearling Bull - All Breeds
2nd Hampton Downs Challenger M & N Entwisle

Waikato A & P Show 28th/29th October 1994
Simmental Ring
Two Year Old Heifer with calf
1st Misty Moor Bonny Girl W & H Woolston
2nd Camel Wheal Bodecia B & J Holland
3rd Misty Moor Babette W & H Woolston
Yearling Heifer
1st Karewa Crystal
2nd Karewa Caresse
3rd Hampton Downs Cynthia
Yearling Bull
1st Hampton Downs Challenger
2nd Shelven Connor S & S Robinson
3rd Camel Wheal Chevy B & J Holland
Breed Champion
Misty Moor Bonny Girl B & H Woolston
All Breeds Yearling Bull
2nd Shelven Connor
Yearling Heifer
1st Karewa Crystal
3rd Karewa Caresse
Two Year Heifer with calf

Show Results Continued

1st Misty Moor Bonny Girl
2nd Camel Wheal Bodecia
3rd Misty Moor Babette
Meat & Wool Cup
2nd Misty Moor Bonny Girl

Morrinsville A & P Show
Judge Mr P Newman
Cow or Heifer 2 Years or over with Calf at foot (6 in class)
1st Helensbrook Wynette — Izard Pastoral Ltd
2nd Singing Hills Yell — B B Anderson
3rd Emerald Dale Mandy — J & S Marshall
4th Misty Moor Bonny Girl — W &H Woolston
Heifer 2 Year Old (2 in class)
1st Misty Moor Bonny Girl — W & H Woolston

2nd Misty Moor Babette — W & H Woolston
Champion Cow
Helensbrook Wynette — Izard Pastoral Ltd
Reserve W & H Woolston
Heifer 1 Year old (2 in class)
1st Karewa Crystal — J & L McNaughten
2nd Hampton Downs Clematis — Hampton Downs Simmental
Heifer Calf (12 in class)
1st Double AA Diva — A & A Aukaha
2nd Karewa Delight — J & L McNaughten
3rd Singing Hills Della — B B Anderson
Champion Junior Heifer
Double AA Diva — A & A Aukaha
Reserve
Karewa Crystal — J & L McNaughten
Bull 2 Years and Over (1 entry)
1st Victoria Bagnolet, Misty Moor — W & H Woolston
Bull 1 Year Old (6 in class)
1st Karewa Contender — J & L McNaughten
2nd Hampton Downs Commander Ole — Hampton Downs Simmental
3rd Shelven Connor — S & S Robinson
4th Hampton Downs Challenger — Hampton Downs Simmental
Bull Calf (12 in class)
1st Double AA Dallas — A & A Aukaha
2nd Double AA Denver — A & A Aukaha
3rd Emerald DalePhenomenon — J & S Marshall
4th Hampton Downs Deputy — Hampton Downs Simmental
Champion Junior Male
Double AA Dallas — A & A Aukaha
Reserve
Karewa Contender — J & L McNaughten
Supreme Champion
Helensbrook Wynette — Izard Pastoral Ltd.
All Breeds
Heifer 1 Year Old (15 entries)
1st Karewa Crystal — J & L McNaughten
Heifer Two Year Old (4 in class)
1st Misty Moor Babette — W & H Woolston
2nd Misty Moor Bonny Girl — W &H Woolston
Bull 1 Year Old (15 in class)
3rd Hampton Downs Commander Ole — Hampton Downs Simmental
4th Karewa Contender — J & L McNaughten
Bull 2 Years and over (4 in class)
2nd Victoria Bagnolet, Misty Moor — W & H Woolston
Cow or Heifer with calf at foot (15 in class)
1st Helensbrook Wynette — Izard Pastoral Ltd.
2nd Emerald Dale Mandy — J & S Marshall
3rd Singing Hills Yell — B B Anderson
Heifer Calf (26 in class)
1st Double AA Diva — A & A Aukaha
2nd Karewa Delight — J & L McNaughten
Bull Calf (31 in class)
1st Emerald Dale Phenomenon — J & S Marshall
3rd Double AA Dallas — A & A Aukaha
Supreme Champion Female
Helensbrook Wynette — Izard Pastoral Ltd.

Te Puke A & P Show - 18th February, 1995
Bull Calf- All Breeds - (11 entries)
1st Double AA Dallas — A & A Aukaha
2nd Charolais
3rd Limousin
Heifer Calf - All Breeds - (7 entries)
1st Shorthorn
2nd Double AA Diva — A & S Aukaha
Yearling Bull - All Breeds - (6 entries)
1st Camel Wheal Chevy — B & J Holland
2nd Limousin
3rd Shelven Connor — S & S Robinson
Yearling Heifer - All Breeds - (3 entries)
1st Shorthorn
2nd Limousin
3rd Shorthorn
Junior Champion Male — Camel Wheal Chevy
Reserve Junior Champion Male — Double AA Dallas
Junior Champion Female — Shorthorn
Reserve Junior Champion Female — Shorthorn
Novice Herdsperson — Double AA
Novice Herdsperson Trophy awarded to: Kent Haine, Oparau, Kawhai.
Female with or without calf at foot - (3 entries)
1st Limousin
2nd Camel Wheal Alpine — B & J Holland
Pairs any age - (9 pairs)
1st Shorthorn
2nd Charolais
3rd Limousin
Team of three any age - (5 teams)
1st Shorthorn
2nd Double AA Dallas — A & S Aukaha
Double AA Denver
Double AA Diva
3rd Shelven Connor — S & S Robinson
Shelven Cowboy
Shelven Dancing Bear
Grand Champion
Camel Wheal Chevy — B & J Holland

Rotorua Show
All Breeds Heifer Calf (11 in class)
1st Camel Wheal Dewberry — B & J Holland
Bull Calf Class (18 in class)
2nd Emerald Dale Phenomenon — J & S Marshall
Reserve Champion - All Breeds Beef Calf
Emerald Dale Phenomenon — J & S Marshall
Three Years Old and Over Cow with Natural Progeny at foot - (4 in class)
1st Emerald Dale Mandy — J & S Marshall
2nd Camel Wheal Alpine — B & J Holland
Heifer Two Year Old with or without Calf at foot - (3 in class)
1st Misty Moor Bonny Girl — W &H Woolston
2nd Misty Moor Babette — W & H Woolston
Yearling Heifer - (3 in class)
1st Karewa Crystal — J & L McNaughten
Champion All Breeds Beef Female
Emerald Dale Mandy — J & S Marshall
Reserve Champion Female
Karewa Crystal — J & L McNaughten
Yearling Bull -(9 in class)
3rd Karewa Contender — J & L McNaughten

Franklin Show Results
Cow, Natural Progeny at foot 3 years & Over - (1 in class)
1st Helensbrook Wynette — Springhill Simmental Stud
Two Year Old Heifer - (3 in class)
1st Misty Moor Bonny Girl — W & H Woolston
2nd Misty Moor Babette — W &H Woolston
3rd Springhill Bermuda Sun Springhill Simmental
One Year old Heifer - (5 in class)
1st Karewa Crystal — J & L McNaughten
2nd Springhill Carla — Springhill Simmental
3rd Hampton Downs Clematis — Hampton Downs Simmental
Heifer Calf - (6 in class)
1st Springhill Duchess — Springhill Simmental
2nd Springhill Dazzle — Springhill Simmental
3rd Hampton Downs Diana — Hampton Downs Simmental
Senior Female
Helensbrook Wynette — Springhill Simmental
Junior Female
Springhill Duchess — Springhill Simmental
Reserve Junior Female
Springhill Dazzle — Springhill Simmental
Grand Champion Female
Helensbrook Wynette — Springhill Simmental
Bull Two Years and Over - (1 in class)
Victoria Bagnolet, Misty Moor — W & H Woolston
Bull Yearling - (4 in class)
1st Hampton Downs Challenger — Hampton Downs Simmental
2nd Karewa Contender — J & L McNaughten
3rd Hampton Downs Commander Ole — Hampton Downs Simmental
4th Springhill Chessman — Springhill Simmental
Bull Calf - (6 in class)
1st Springhill Dynamite — Springhill Simmental
2nd Hampton Downs Deputy — Hampton Downs Simmental
3rd Karewa Dignified — J & L McNaughten
Junior Champion Bull
Springhill Dynamite — Springhill Simmental
Reserve Junior Champion Bull
Hampton Downs Deputy — Hampton Downs Simmental
Champion Bull
Springhill Dynamite — Springhill Simmental
Breed Champion and Meat & Wool Cup Winner
Helensbrook Wynette — Springhill Simmental
Best Two Yearlings - (3 in class)
1st J & L McNaughten
2nd Hampton Downs Simmental
3rd Springhill Simmental
Group
1st Springhill Simmental
2nd J & L McNaughten
3rd Hampton Downs Simmental
All Breeds
Cow with natural Progeny at foot 3 Years and over - (9 in class)
1st Helensbrook Wynette — Springhill Simmental
Two Year Old Heifer - (7in class)
1st Misty Moor Bonny Girl — W & H Woolston
2nd Misty Moor Babette — W &H Woolston
One Year Old Heifer - (17 in class)
1st Karewa Crystal — J & L McNaughten.

Egmont A & P Show - Hawera 19th November, 1994
Simmental Ring
Two Year Old Heifer with calf
1st Misty Moor Bonny Girl & calf Misty Moor Darling
2nd Misty Moor Babette & calf Misty Moor David
Heifer Calf
1st Misty Moor Darling
Supreme Simmental
Misty Moor Bonny Girl with Misty Moor Darling
All Breeds - Two Year Heifer with Calf
1st Misty Moor Bonny Girl with Misty Moor Darling
2nd Misty Moor Babette with Misty Moor David
Supreme Champion Beef Animal
Misty Moor Bonny Girl with Misty Moor Darling

Te Kauwhata A & P Show - 10th December, 1994
All Breeds Show
Yearling Bull - (7 in class)
1st Hampton Downs Commander Ole
Two Year Old Heifer with or without Calf - (6 in class)
1st Misty Moor Bonny Girl with calf Misty Moor Darling
2nd Misty Moor Babette with calf Misty Moor David
Yearling Heifer - (17 in class)
1st Karewa Crystal
4th Hampton Downs Cynthia
Pair of Yearlings - (7 in class)

Show Results Continued Page 74

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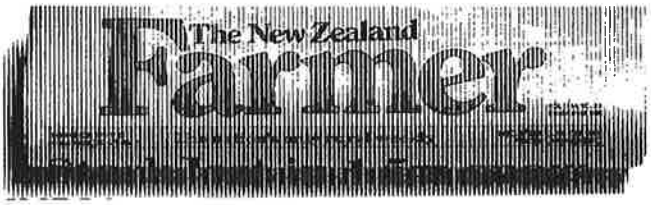


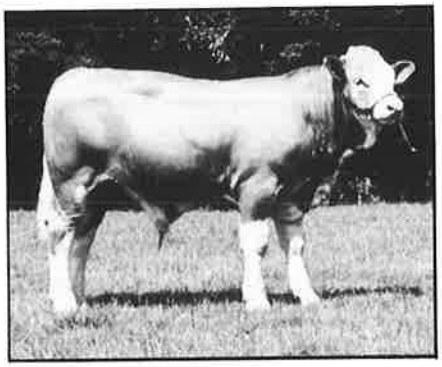
THE GREATEST ASSET A FARMER CAN HAVE

"SPRINGHILL STUD"

Izard Pastoral Ltd

Herd No 511 was originally Cross winds Simmental Stud founded in 1973 by Richard Izard in Te Awamutu.

In 1992 Richard Izard on behalf of Herd No 511 had the good fortune to be able to purchase the entire Mt Heslington Stud from Phillip Newman of Otorohanga and thus re-establishing the Herd under the name of



"Springhill Simmental Stud".

From this initial stage developments took place which saw Bob Sceats, a well known Beef Stud Breeder in Northland, take over as Manager of Wayby Station and Stud master for "Springhill Stud".

With Bob's assistance the following acquisitions were made. In 1993, females were purchased from the Tokaweka Stud of Jim Houlbrooke, Waipu and the Gayley Stud dispersal at Whangarei.

Last March we purchased 20 top females at the complete dispersal sale of the Helensbrook Stud of Milton, Otago. Included was the 1992 Royal Show Champion Simmental cow, Helensbrook Wynette, purchased for $9,400.00. Wynette now has an outstanding bull calf sired by Wai-iti Mr. President.

Recently we have been fortunate enough to purchase the complete herd of cows and calves, including 25 16 month bulls, from the Black Beach Stud of Alan Black of Nuhaka, Wairoa. Among these cows are many outstanding breeding cows, including trait leaders of the breed. Also purchased was the very good Waingata herd of cows and heifers from Alan Fleming of Mangatangi. Other females brought in have come from the well known herds of the Silvermoyle, Karewa and Singing Hill Studs, giving us one of the larger herds of registered Simmental Cattle in New Zealand, with a total of 630 head.

These numbers enable us to carry out a ruthless culling programme to enable us to obtain maximum genetic performance along with a very strong emphasis on quiet temperament, good feet and conformation.

Herd Sires

Our sire battery includes the very best of bulls available in New Zealand and overseas.

Resident Sires are:

Rockvale Apollo - top price $17,000 at the 1993 National Sale. His first crop of calves are outstanding.

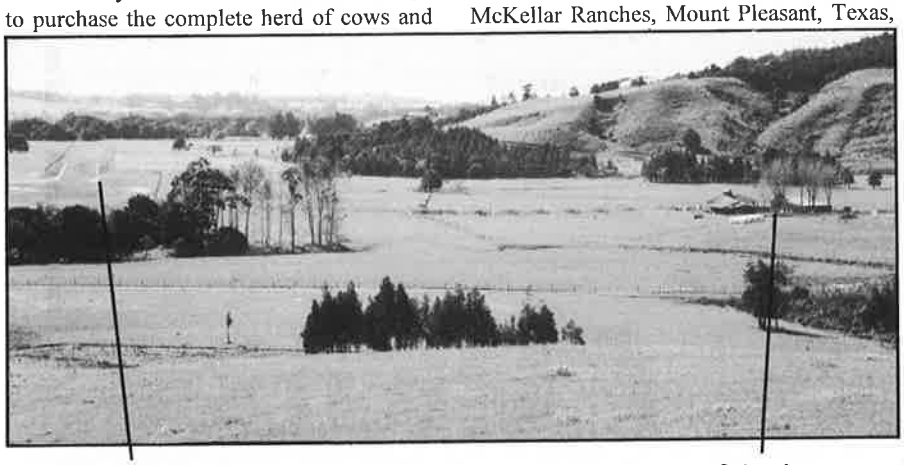
Puketawa Zealandia - equal top price of $14,000 at the 1992 National Sale. Zealandia stands at 170 cm hip measurement, possibly the tallest bull of any breed in New Zealand.

Singing Hills Beaven - Reserve Champion at the Waikato Simmental Breeders Sale 1994. Plus our highest ranked home bred yearling bulls.

A.I. Sires

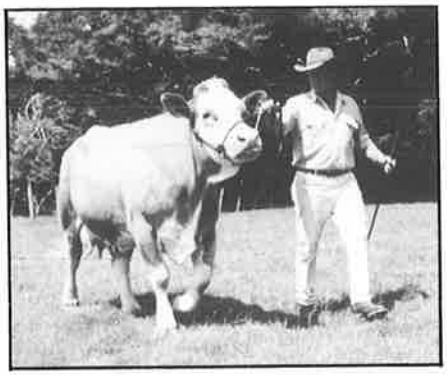
Moneymore Earthquake - Supreme Champion All Breed 1994 National Bull weighing in at 1014 kg at 2 years and selling for $36,000. We have purchased an interest in this exciting young sire.

Great Guns Karl 17C - Owned by McKellar Ranches, Mount Pleasant, Texas,



950 metre Aerodrome

Sales Arena



U.S.A. this record priced bull is about to make a huge impact on the breed. We are fortunate to have bought the only available semen to come to New Zealand.

Great Guns Ferdinand 13Z - Another outstanding bull, making a huge impact on the breed throughout the world.

Coopental Terrific - Outstanding breeding and trait leader, New Zealand Bull.

Tokaweka Rascallion - Only bull in Australasia to gain Trait Leader status in five traits.

Rissington Polled Red Baldy - top son of Leachman Polled Red Baldy.

Glen Anthony Thomo.

Property Description:

Wayby Station including Springhill, totals over 1,000 hectares of pasture land varying from steep to perpendicular sandstone country to rolling heavy clay country with approximately 200 hectares of river flats and easy rolling hills.

Our stock are naturally raised on grass with hay and baleage supplements only.

Our stud Simmental cows are worked on the same basis as a hill country commercial herd and run in conjunction with our flock of 5,000 Romney sheep.

We also carry a commercial herd of purebred Hereford cows which we cross with selected bulls from our stud Simmentals to enable us to monitor their genetic performance.

Show Successes

Our stud cattle were entered in the following shows: Wellsford, Warkworth, North Kaipara, Puhoi, Helensville, Kumeu, Franklin and Morrinsville. Supreme Beef Champion All Breeds Male and Female was attained by the "Springhill" Stud at each show plus obtaining the coveted Meat & Wool Cup at the Franklin Show.

The Offering

Our Inaugural Annual Sale offering a selected minimum of 50 top performance recorded rising 2 year old bulls from a total of 90.

A limited number of top selected in-calf heifers will be offered for sale and we anticipate our 1st Annual Female Sale will be held early next year.

IZARD

"SPRINGHILL STUD"

Izard Pastoral Ltd

NEW ZEALAND SIMMENTAL

Inaugural
Simmental Bull Sale

Friday July 21, 1995

Minimum 50 Top Performance Recorded Rising 2yr Bulls

Enquiries: Bob Sceats, Stud Master Tel. (09) 423 8530 Home
(09) 423 8536 Office
025 746 818 Mobile
Richard Izard 025 959 738 Mobile

Springhill, State Highway One, Wayby, Wellsford

Show Results Continued

3rd Hampton Downs Commander Ole & Hampton Downs Cynthia
Calf and Calf - (7 in class)
1st Misty Moor Babette with Misty Moor David
2nd Karewa Velvet with Karewa Dignified
3rd Misty Moor Bonny Girl with Misty Moor Darling
Bull Calf - (19 in class)
2nd Karewa Dignified
3rd Hampton Downs Deputy
Heifer Calf - (12 in class)
1st Westline Delight
3rd Misty Moor Darling
4th Hampton Downs Diana
Champion All Breeds Beef Animal
Karewa Crystal

South Otago A &P Show - Balclutha - Saturday 26th November, 1994
Judge: Warren Burgess, Owaka
Supreme Champion and Grand Champion Male
Glenside Cowpoke AC4 Glenside
Reserve Champion Male
GlensideCodpiece AC24 Glenside
Yearling Bull
1st Glenside Cowpoke AC4 Glenside
2nd Glenside Codpiece AC24 Glenside
Grand Champion Female
Glenside Cuddles AC302 Glenside
Reserve Champion Female
Glenside Champagne AC303 Glenside
Yearling Heifer
1st Glenside Cuddles AC302 Glenside
2nd Glenside Champagne AC303 Glenside
Pair of Yearling Heifers Glenside Simmentals
All Breeds
Meat & Wool Cup
Glenside Cowpoke AC4 Glenside
Champion Yearling
GlensideCowpoke AC4 Glenside

West Otago A & P Show - Tapanui - Saturday 19th November, 1994
Judge: Lachie McLachlan, Dunedin.
Supreme Champion and Grand Champion Male
Glenside Cowpoke AC4 Glenside
Reserve Champion Male
Glenside Codpiece AC24Glenside
Champion Female
Glenside Babs AB207 Glenside
Reserve Champion Female
Glenside Cloverleaf AC326 Glenside
Yearling Bull
1st Glenside Cowpoke AC4 Glenside
2nd Glenside Codpiece AC24 Glenside
Yearling Heifer
1st Glenside Champagne AC303 Glenside
2nd Glenside Cuddles AC302 Glenside
All Breeds
Pair Yearling Heifers
3rd Glenside Simmentals
Group - Three Females and One Male
1st Glenside Simmentals
Wm Kane Breeders Group 1 Bull and 2 Females
1st Glenside Simmentals
Two Progeny of One Cow
1st Glenside Simmentals
Three Progeny of One sire (Male and/or Female)
1st Glenside Simmentals
Supreme Beef Animal Glenside Cowpoke AC4

Gore A & P Show - Wednesday, 30th November 1994
Judge: David Dickie, Ferndale
Simmental Breeders Club Supreme Champion and Troy Hill Grand Champion Female
Robot Amanda AA104 J A & M J Robins
Reserve Senior Champion Female
Brookdale Yourmine AY2 G K & S M Donald
Cow Over Three Years
Brookdale Yourmine AY2 G K & S M Donald
Three Year Old Cow
Robot Amanda AA104 J A & M J Robins
Yearling Heifer
1st Robot Cathleen AC141 J A & M J Robins
2nd Robot Cindy AC139 J A & M J Robins
3rd Robot Celia AC135 J A & M J Robins
4th Robot Cherie AC140 J A & M J Robins
Pair of Yearling Heifers
1st Robot Simmentals
2nd Robot Simmentals
Robot Grand Champion Male
Robot Churchill AC129 J A & M J Robins
Reserve Champion Male
Robot Carson AC130 J A & M J Robins
Yearling Bull
1st Robot Churchill AC129 J A & M J Robins
2nd Robot Carson AC130 J A & M J Robins
Breeders Group - One Bull and Two Females
1st Robot Simmentals
2nd Robot Simmentals
M V Dickie Trophy - (Runner up to Meat & Wool Cup)
Robot Amanda AC104 J A & M J Robins
B H Miller Trophy - (Most points at show)
Robot Simmentals
Waikaka Herefords Junior Herdsperson
1st Derek Hayward
3rd Jane Harrington

Upper Clutha A & P Show - Wanaka - Saturday 11th March, 1995
Judge: John Robins, Winton.
Southern Simmental Supreme Champion and Champion Female
Glenside Babs AB207 Glenside
Reserve Champion Female
Glenside Champagne AC303 Glenside
Two Year Old Heifer
1st Glenside Babs AB207 Glenside
Yearling Heifer
1st Glenside Champagne AC303 Glenside
2nd Glenside Cuddles AC302 Glenside
Heifer Calf
1st Glenside Delight AD408 Glenside
Champion Male Glenside Codpiece AC24 Glenside
Yearling Bull
1st Glenside Codpiece AC24 Glenside
All Breeds
Heifer Calf
1st Glenside Delight AD408 Glenside
Junior Herdsperson
1st Jane Harrington
Supreme Champion Beef Animal
Glenside Babs AB207 Glenside

Winton A & P Show - Saturday 4th February 1995
Judge: Sheryl Donald
Supreme Champion & Champion Female
Robot Amanda AC104 J A & M J Robins
Reserve Champion Female
Robot Cathleen AC141 J A & M J Robins
Yearling Heifer
1st Robot Cathleen AC141 J A & M J Robins
2nd Robot Celia AC135 J A & M J Robins
3rd Robot Cherie AC140 J A & M J Robins
Two Yearling Heifers
1st Robot Simmentals J A & M J Robins
Yearling Bull
1st Robot Churchill AC129 J A & M J Robins

Wellsford A & P Show - 19th November 1994
All Breeds Bull Calf
3rd Rivendell D'Artagnon JA & DJ Longville

Warkworth A & P Show - 21st January 1995
All Breeds Bull Calf
4th Rivendell Damocls JA & DJ Longville

Waitemata A & P Show - 11th February 1995
Continental Breed Bull Calf
3rd Rivendell Damocls JA & DJ Longville
Continental Breeds Novice Leader
2nd Rivendell D'Artagnon JA & DJ Longville
All Breeds Novice Leader
3rd Rivendell D'Artagnon JA & DJ Longville

Helensville A & P Show
All Breeds Bull Calf
3rd Rivendell Damocls JA & DJ Longville

64th Royal Show Invercargill A & P - December 1994

Judge: Peter McWilliam, Masterton
Associate Judge: Andrew McLachlan
Senior Bull - Sponsored by Oakley Simmentals
1st Willowbrook Zak AZ19 A R & J A Midgley
Senior Yearling Bull - Sponsored by Glenside Simmentals
1st Glenside Cowpoke Glenside Simmentals
2nd Glenside Codpiece Glenside Simmentals
3rd Springbrook Acceleration C J Patterson
Junior Yearling Bull - Sponsored by Sunnyvale Simmentals
1st Robot Carson J A & M J Robins
2nd Robot Churchill J A & M J Robins
Senior Cow with own Calf at Foot - Sponsored by Pinelea Simmentals
1st Rissington AZ108 A R & J A Midgley
2nd Ladburn Zignify A & L A Partridge
3rd Robot Zara J A & M J Robins
Three Year Old Cow with own Calf at Foot - Sponsored by East Dome Simmentals
1st Moneymore Tamaka Enterprise Cattle Company
2nd Robot Amanda J A & M J Robins
Two Year Old Heifer with or without own calf - Sponsored by KGM Simmentals
1st Glenside Babs Glenside Simmentals
2nd Ladburn Brocade ATT & L A Partridge
3rd Willowbrook Blossom A R & J A Midgley
Beef Cattle Performance Plus Class - Sponsored by NZ Farmer
1st Moneymore TamakaEnterprise Cattle Company
2nd Glenside Babs Glenside Simmentals
3rd Robot Amanda J A & M J Robins
Senior Yearling Heifer - Sponsored by Brookdale Simmentals
1st Glenside Cuddles Glenside Simmentals
2nd Glenside Champagne Glenside Simmentals
3rd Okair Cora J P & M B Wakeman
Junior Yearling Heifer - Sponsored by Robot Simmentals
1st Willowbrook Candle A R & J A Midgley
2nd Robot Cheri J A & M J Robins
3rd Risingholme Camille D S Crosson
Pair of Yearling Heifers - Sponsored by Hillcrest- Westview Simmentals
1st Glenside Simmentals
2nd JA & MJ Robins
3rd DS Crossan
Yearling Bull and Heifer - Sponsored by Windyridge Simmentals
1st Glenside Simmentals
2nd DS Crossan
3rd JA & MJ Robins
4th C & V Patterson
Bull and Three Females - Sponsored by Ohio Simmentals
1st Glenside Simmentals
2nd AR & JA Midgley
3rd JA & MJ Robins
Progeny Class - Sponsored by Lone Pine Simmentals
1st Glenside Simmentals
2nd JA & MJ Robins
3rd JA & MJ Robins
Local - Two progeny from one Dam
1st Glenside Simmentals
2nd JA & MJ Robins
Supreme Champion
Moneymore Tamaka Enterprise Cattle Company
Champion Animal of Opposite Sex
Glenside Cowpoke Glenside Simmentals
Promotion Award Levels Challenge Trophy
Glenside Simmentals
Performance Classes
Coopental Challenge Tray (male)
Springbrook Acceleration C & V Patterson
Rissington Trophy (female)
Springbrook Rarity C & V Patterson
Best Herdsperson
Tusha Midgley Willowbrook Simmentals
Most Successful Exhibitor
Glenside Simmentals

Landcorp performance records its Simmentals for a very good reason. It produces results.

Performance recording measures those traits that make a difference in financial terms. And these days its the bottom line, the financial results that really count.

Landcorp uses this philosophy in its Simmental herd at Waikite. All animals are performance recorded, and only those that measure up are retained. It doesn't matter that the animals were bred in New Zealand, or that they came from Canada.

The advantages of performance recording can be seen in the bulls from Waikite. As terminal sires Landcorp's Simmentals must perform. And they do . . . producing calves which have faster growth rates, to meet current market demands.

If you would like to benefit from Landcorp Simmental's performance recording, contact -

Roger Bedford

Landcorp Simmental Waikite RD1 Rotorua

Telephone (07) 333 1835.

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Simmentals Handle The Extremes

Simmentals Perform on West Otago High Country

- Doug & Bronwyn Eason

FORGET the view Simmentals are only good for flat downlands, says West Otago farmers Doug and Bronwyn Eason.

Their steep 3,600 ha Wilden run block, Crown Rock, reaches 1238ml asl where they run 900 Hereford and Hereford Angus cross cows with 600 of the crossbred cows put to a Simmental bull.

Buyers are pleased with the performance of his calves and they are quiet to work with.

At last year's West Otago calf sale Mr Eason averaged $453 for 378 mixed sex Simmental cross calves, proof he says that the Simmental breed can mix it with the best of them. Crown Rock is typical, steep oversown hill country, where snow is a threat at calving in early September, with cows expected to graze right up to the tops and where they can spend several days standing in snow.

Doug calves his cows up to 900m above sea level and they stay on that country until marking in February. He pregnancy tests his cows and regularly has a 90% calving, always 5% ahead of his Hereford calving. Doug has pregnancy tested and culled dry cows for 20 years, reaching the point now where he will cull just 25 to 30 dry cows a year. When bulls go out, cows are mobbed up into mobs of approx. 300 and rotated on the hill blocks prior to weaning in late March.

After weaning the cows are taken out to the tops and stay there until early June when they are drenched and set stocked on lower country for calving.

Doug is using Simmental bulls because he has found the calf market more receptive to Simmentals and for the breed's growth rate. He has found calf buyers pleased with the performance of his calves and the calves quiet to work with. "They seem to do alright and they come back and buy them on a regular basis". A feature of Doug's calves are the evenness over such a large number. "There is little variation from top to bottom" he says.

Doug calves his cows up to 900m above sea level and they stay on that country until marking in February

His 32 bulls get few favours wintered at 750 m asl with some hay and silage to build them up prior to mating from early December. The high calving and the calf performance is proof, says Doug, that the Simmental bulls can handle harsh conditions.

Doug has oversown, topdressed and limed 2,000 ha of the run block and developed 100 ha of paddock country. He also has a further 70 ha adjacent to his home where he runs 400 ewes and grows out replacement heifers from August to February.

Eighteen years ago he was running 400 cows and 3,500 sheep on Crown Rock block and today he has 900 cows and 7,000 sheep. There is still room for more cattle, says Doug, and he plans to start culling cows based on her calf performance.

Simmentals handle the Fiordland bush

- Wayne and Sharon Schmidt
Takaro Lodge

TAKARO lodge on the edge of Fiordland National Park is an unusual setting for a story about cattle production.

Lodge Managers, Wayne and Sharon Schmidt farm 800 ha of Upukerora river flats surrounded by the distinctive Fiordland bush north east of Te Anau.

On those river flats the Schmidt's run 200 crossbred cows which are mated to a Simmental and the calves sold at the Castlerock autumn fairs each April.

Wayne says when they arrived to manage the Lodge the herd was a mix of crossbreds.

The 11km of river flats are native and not fenced, the cows expected to roam and forage for feed. Wayne says it is a harsh existence and the best performers are those born on the property with bought in stock often not coping. "They have got to move around to keep themselves in grass".

They introduced the Simmental bull to get size and frame in to the calf crop. "Having a Simmental bull definitely improves the calves, it gives a better frame" says Wayne.

Simmentals handle the Fiordland bush at Wayne and Sharon Schmidts' Takaro Lodge

Five Simmental bulls are mated to the cows in early December and Wayne says the bulls have to find the cows which can be spread along the length of the river flats.

Calves are weaned and sent straight to the Castlerock sale, last year the top steers made $560 and heifers averaged $350. The year before the steers made up to $530 and heifers averaged around $345.

From May until August the cows are shifted to river flats in an adjacent valley but return to the main valley three weeks before calving in September. Floods are a constant threat at calving and any wet dry cows are given a second chance.

Wayne says he plans to lift cows numbers to around 230 and oversow and fertilise the river flats. He will breed those extra cows to ensure they can handle the conditions and will therefore be predominantly a first cross Simmental with a Simmental bull put back over.

Articles supplied by "Triple S Simmentals"

RISSINGTON CATTLE COMPANY

RISSINGTON COMMANDER AC777
National Sale Entry (Pictured October 1994)

13th ANNUAL BULL SALE
Monday 26 June 1995

46 R 2yr Simmental
4 R 2yr Black Simmental
10 R 2yr Red Angus
5 R 2yr Black Angus
3 R 2yr South Devon
2 R 2yr Black Salers
1 R 2yr Gelbuich
12 R 2yr ½RA/¼HER/¼SIM Composites
4 R 2yr ½Salers/¼Angus/¼SIM Composites

2nd ANNUAL YEARLING SALE
Thursday 7 September 1995

6 Simmental
2 Black Simmental
10 Red Angus
2 Black Angus
2 South Devon
1 Black Salers
10 ½RA/¼SIM/¼HER Composites
10 ½Salers/¼SIM/¼Angus Composites

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