

Simmentales

Issue 10 July 2008

DELAYED BULL INTAKE INITIATES IMPROVEMENTS



SIMMENTALS SHINE AT EXPO



SIRLOIN SUCCESS AT STEAK OF ORIGIN



SIMMENTAL STEERS A FUTURE FOR NZ BEEF



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Expectations Exceeded at Expo

Despite concerns going into the 2008 Beef Expo and bull sale season, many breeders were pleasantly surprised by the sale results.

At the Simmental sale we had a good clearance, and some very respectable prices. Top price went to 2008's Reserve Champion of Champions (and Champion Simmental bull), Ruaview Scotch, which sold for \$13,000 to Glen Anthony. Ladburn Travolta gained the next highest price at \$8,500, Tony and Lorraine Pertridge's bull selling to Marokopa Station. Of the Test Station bulls Idesia's Travis took top price at \$6800, a wonderful result for Ray and Carol Cameron's first Expo outing!

SIMMENTAL SALE RESULTS

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Quantity Offered | 29 (2 heifers) |
| Quantity Sold | 22 |
| Average per Head | \$5068 |
| Minimum per Head | \$3200 |
| Maximum per Head | \$13,000 |

Full Show and Sale Results are Available at www.simmentalnz.co.nz



Left: Ross Cockburn presents Babara Glover with the Champion Unled bull ribbon for High Valley's outstanding Test Station bull, Tarad AT2.

Top Right: Tony Partridge leads his Reserve Champion Led Bull, Travolta, which took \$8500 under the hammer.

Right: Judge Wayne McLaren checks out Malcolm and Ngaire Entwisle's yearling bull, Hampton Downs Valid, led by Catherine Rawnsley.

Below: Bill Lott (far right) leads his winning yearling heifer, Sunnyvale AU3, before the Simmental Show crowd.



Simmental Test Station Continues to Evolve

The outcome of an exceptional last season is an exceptional new programme for our Simmental Test Station.

Fortunately the effects of last summer's drought don't all need to be negative. SNZ and our Test Station (TS) grazier have responded to the challenge of less rain and potential feed shortages by delaying the Test Station bulls' intake by six months.

Some breeders have already expressed intent to send bulls to the 2008-09 programme, and SNZ encourages all breeders to consider supporting the TS- which continues to be a good showcase for Simmental at Beef Expo.

Along with the later date, some more changes have been made to the intake criteria.

- » It is recommended that the bulls you send to the TS should have reached 500kgs by October 13th. This is a recommendation only, and should not preclude the entry of good bulls which don't weigh quite so heavily.
- » EBV Minimum Standards; With the exception where overseas genetics have been introduced- Birth should be 5 or less, Growth should be above average.
- » It is essential that all entries are accompanied by their bulls' Beef Class assessments. Entries without Beef Class forms will not be accepted. Bulls with scores higher than 2 for temperament will not be accepted. For other traits 4's and 6's are as low as your bulls should score.
- » All bulls must be Tb tested within 60 days of movement. Bulls must test BVD antigen negative.
- » Do not send bulls to the TS with an excess of tags. Two tags- primary and secondary, max.



Elite Sires Update

Some of you have taken the time to contact the office and Councillors with feedback concerning the Test Station Elite Sire programme.

The possibility of developing an Elite Sire class, from within the Test Station bulls, is still of great interest to the Council; however it is unlikely the Elite Sire programme will be finalised in time for the 2008-09 Test Station season.

Your views on what should define an Elite Sire are still welcomed, and the Council encourages debate on the programme.



Test Station Dates 2008-09

TEST STATION BULL ENTRY DEADLINE

September 15, Monday

FIRST FEE INSTALMENT (\$600+GST)

September 15, Monday

TEST STATION BULL INTAKE

October 13, Monday

SECOND FEE INSTALMENT (\$600+GST)

November 3, Monday

Some points to bear in mind;

- » The criteria to be set in place would be very difficult to achieve, an Elite Sire bull would need to have EBVs which break a lot of antagonisms- ie high growth/low birth.
- » If a bull meets the Elite Sire criteria; it is imperative that the industry should have access to him, in order to maximise the use of his outstanding genetics. An Elite Sire should be a tool to develop the Simmental market- rather than solely to fetch a standout price at Expo.
- » The parameters for determining an Elite Sire would be such that it is conceivable only one bull every two or three years might be considered exceptional enough to be Elite. The criteria would be such that it is unlikely an Elite Sire would be identified every Test Station year.
- » It is commercially smart for SNZ to put a mechanism in place whereby young bulls which are pushing the boundaries are identified, and employed to maximum benefit.

At the beef industry's most talked about and inspirational youth event, Hoof & Hook, Simmental's reputation was boosted not only by the strength of its cattle- but also through the outstanding performance of one of our young breeders.

The Hoof & Hook steer competition is an event run for young people interested in beef cattle and beef industry careers. Months of steer preparation go into the two-day contest which is held the weekend before Beef Expo.

Proof of a Bright Future for Simmental

The young competitor to take out the prestigious Beef Ambassador award was former SNZ member, Daniel Clayton.

Daniel's passion for Simmental began with his family using Sim bulls at their Waipukurau property. SNZ member Tony Thompson proved a great mentor when Daniel worked with Tony, making the most out of his experience alongside the highly respected cattle showman.

Though Daniel recently suspended his membership, finding it slightly too costly, his long term ambition is to own his own property and breed Simmental on it. Daniel, who is now 20, currently works at Ardo Farm, a Hereford stud in Marton.

From the moment Daniel sat down before the Hoof & Hook interview panel, he made a strong impression on the industry leaders sizing him up.

To take out the coveted Beef Ambassador award, it was necessary that Daniel excel in a number of areas of competition; but it was the interview process in which competitors really had the chance to distinguish themselves.

Daniel's performance in the stockman-ship component of the competition was as impressive as his interviewing ability- he placed Reserve Champion Handler, behind Champion Trudy Robertson. Again, in the Educational Module Tests, Daniel proved his worth with a score topping the senior competitors'.

Simmental Steers Shine

Simmental NZ was a major supporter of this year's Hoof & Hook, providing steers for the use of a group of young competitors from the Manawatu.

The store bought steers killed out impressively in the Hook component of the competition. Their ability to perform well was impressive for a number of reasons;

- The steers were commercial cattle, selected at Feilding sale. At Hoof & Hook they competed against steers from stud properties, bred specifically for the competition.
- The steers were grazed in the drought-struck Manawatu, on a property where stud bulls were given grazing priority. They were not fed supplements.
- The steers were transported to various events to be used as educational tools, an added task which the other cattle competing didn't face.

Our Simmental steers rated exceptionally, despite the challenges they overcame.

On the Hook the single SNZ Light-weight Pure-bred steer placed;

- 4th Light-weight Pure-bred Carcass.

On the Hook SNZ Light-weight Cross-bred steers placed;

- 1st equal Light-weight Cross-bred Carcass
- 2nd Light-weight Cross-bred Carcass
- 3rd Light-weight Cross-bred Carcass
- 4th equal Light-weight Cross-bred Carcass

On the Hoof SNZ Light-weight Cross-bred steers placed;

- 2nd Light-weight Cross-bred Steer
- 3rd Light-weight Cross-bred Steer

On the Hoof SNZ Heavy-weight Cross-bred steers placed;

- 3rd Heavy-weight Cross-bred Steer
- 4th Heavy-weight Cross-bred Steer

The anticipation of calving usually brings excitement at the prospect of seeing the outcomes of the decisions that you have made at mating. This is no different for FBNZ. Last year Simmental NZ made the decision to fully back FBNZ with support of Sim cross steers for the Hoof & Hook competition.

The fruit of this really showed at Hoof & Hook where Simmentals featured in every line up.

Where I saw the most benefit was with young people having their first contact with Simmental. These young people have few conceptions of what the livestock will be like, and the impression these cattle gave them were that Simmental are quiet, large, intelligent cattle which have the ability to grow.

FBNZ does not judge its success by the steers that attend H&H- we judge our success by the gains of the young people that participate. However, for the breeders and commercial cattlemen

that watch the event the steer judging is keenly observed. Next year's H&H will have over 100 entries, coming from a vast range of breeds, and the level of competition will be a big step up.

I do believe Simmental have the ability to win this event, however the type of cattle with the greatest potential are generally kept by astute cattlemen who know their value.

Simmental breeders have always been behind FBNZ, and for that we are always grateful, but for Simmental to get the most benefit from our program it is reliant upon its members making available quality cattle to pick from. If you are able to make these quality cattle available for FBNZ, please don't hesitate to contact us, or let your SNZ Council know.

By Mark Stevens

| TAG | Live Wt | Carcass Wt | Yield % | Yield Pts | EMA | EMA Pts | pH | pH Pts | Fat Colour | Fat Colour P | Meat Colour | Meat Colour P | Marbling | Marbling Pts | P8 Fat Depth | Rib Fat Depth | Teeth P | Mus Score | Fat Dist P | HOOK | HOOF | Total H&H | Lead By |
|-----|---------|------------|---------|-----------|-----|---------|----|--------|------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|----------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------|-----------|------------|------|------|-----------|---------|
|-----|---------|------------|---------|-----------|-----|---------|----|--------|------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|----------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------|-----------|------------|------|------|-----------|---------|

Heavy Purebred

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|-----|-------|----|----|-----|-----|------|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|-------|------------------|
| 1 | 496 | 272.5 | 55 | 15 | 80 | 0 | 5.54 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 6 | 72 | 60 | 132 | Kara Ireland |
| 3 | 500 | 257 | 51 | 12 | 71 | 0 | 5.42 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 6 | 67 | 75 | 142 | Leanne Ireland |
| 18 | 482 | 262 | 54 | 15 | 91 | 5.5 | 5.41 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 10 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 81 | 90 | 170.5 | Wade Marshall |
| 27 | 490 | 264.5 | 54 | 15 | 92 | 6 | 5.62 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 6 | 75 | 94 | 169 | Patrick Crawshaw |
| 28 | 512 | 267 | 52 | 13 | 70 | 0 | 5.61 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 6 | 73 | 91 | 164 | Annette Crawshaw |
| 29 | 486 | 295 | 61 | 15 | 112 | 10 | 5.51 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 10 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 86 | 84 | 170 | Nancy Crawshaw |
| 30 | 486 | 281 | 58 | 15 | 102 | 10 | 5.48 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 2 | 5 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 88 | 87 | 175 | Tom Dever |
| 32 | 564 | 319 | 57 | 15 | 97 | 8.5 | 5.54 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 87 | 65 | 151.5 | Peter Kane |
| 35 | 486 | 252 | 52 | 13 | 75 | 0 | 5.74 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 6 | 72 | 82 | 154 | Matt Herries |
| 43 | 504 | 304.5 | 60 | 15 | 83 | 1.5 | 6.44 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 6 | 65 | 91 | 155.5 | Trudy Robertson |
| 50 | 558 | 245 | 44 | 5 | 101 | 10 | 5.52 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 78 | 84 | 162 | Ruby Hauschild |

Heavy Crossbred

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|-----|-------|----|----|-----|-----|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|-------|-------------------|
| 8 | 532 | 300 | 56 | 15 | 92 | 6 | 5.43 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 6 | 75 | 87 | 162 | Samantha Hodgetts |
| 9 | 518 | 293 | 57 | 15 | 86 | 3 | 6.01 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 6 | 72 | 90 | 162 | Alex Meads |
| 11 | 520 | 280.5 | 54 | 15 | 90 | 5 | 5.71 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 6 | 73 | 70 | 143 | Chloe Carrodus |
| 13 | 484 | 271.5 | 56 | 15 | 82 | 1 | 5.71 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 6 | 68 | 65 | 133 | Fraser Ward |
| 31 | 558 | 321.5 | 58 | 15 | 99 | 9.5 | 6.46 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 6 | 80 | 91 | 170.5 | Daniel Clayton |
| 39 | 574 | 314.5 | 55 | 15 | 107 | 10 | 5.51 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 86 | 65 | 151 | James Hopkinson |
| 40 | 526 | 298 | 57 | 15 | 99 | 9.5 | 6.43 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 81 | 62 | 142.5 | Prudence Harris |
| 41 | 526 | 295.5 | 56 | 15 | 94 | 7 | 5.64 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 84 | 62 | 146 | Robert Marsh |
| 44 | 558 | 327.5 | 59 | 15 | 113 | 10 | 5.66 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 6 | 81 | 96 | 177 | Jasmyrn Sturley |

Light Purebred

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|-----|-------|----|----|-----|-----|------|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|-------|---------------------|
| 2 | 468 | 261.5 | 56 | 15 | 90 | 10 | 5.55 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 84 | 73 | 157 | Jo Goudswaard |
| 4 | 450 | 255.5 | 57 | 15 | 84 | 10 | 5.55 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 87 | 70 | 157 | Sam Waugh |
| 5 | 456 | 258.5 | 57 | 15 | 92 | 10 | 5.61 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 87 | 62 | 149 | Michael O'Callaghan |
| 7 | 432 | 241 | 56 | 15 | 87 | 10 | 5.57 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 10 | 2 | 5 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 6 | 85 | 62 | 147 | Chris Kilmister |
| 10 | 468 | 277.5 | 59 | 15 | 83 | 10 | 5.99 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 82 | 81 | 163 | Stewart Smythe |
| 14 | 462 | 264.5 | 57 | 15 | 81 | 10 | 5.61 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 89 | 93 | 182 | Mac Wilcox |
| 21 | 406 | 231.5 | 57 | 15 | 92 | 10 | 5.52 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 6 | 78 | 65 | 143 | Joel Stewart |
| 22 | 454 | 262.5 | 58 | 15 | 70 | 5 | 5.48 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 79 | 73 | 152 | Amy Hoogenboom |
| 23 | 442 | 254 | 57 | 15 | 76 | 8 | 6.61 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 6 | 75 | 72 | 147 | Samantha Thomson |
| 24 | 430 | 245 | 57 | 15 | 76 | 8 | 5.41 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 83 | 67 | 150 | Seath Nesdale |
| 25 | 408 | 234 | 57 | 15 | 76 | 8 | 5.31 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 82 | 74 | 156 | Rhonda Kuhn |
| 33 | 432 | 239 | 55 | 12 | 87 | 10 | 6.01 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 6 | 74 | 75 | 149 | Grace McLeay |
| 34 | 422 | 230 | 55 | 15 | 75 | 7.5 | 5.52 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 81 | 60 | 140.5 | Ben Burgess |
| 36 | 436 | 262.5 | 60 | 15 | 71 | 5.5 | 5.49 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 84 | 87 | 170.5 | Jenny Ogle |
| 37 | 438 | 261.5 | 60 | 15 | 81 | 10 | 5.45 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 6 | 80 | 88 | 168 | Katie Herries |
| 38 | 476 | 273.5 | 57 | 15 | 82 | 10 | 5.61 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 87 | 86 | 173 | Sam Mason |
| 42 | 480 | 280.5 | 58 | 15 | 78 | 9 | 5.45 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 6 | 79 | 78 | 157 | Brennan Cure |
| 48 | 428 | 239.5 | 56 | 15 | 104 | 10 | 5.56 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 89 | 89 | 178 | Tim Hauschild |
| 49 | 396 | 235.5 | 59 | 15 | 95 | 10 | 5.58 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 91 | 60 | 151 | Jack Hauschild |

Light Crossbred

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|-----|-------|----|----|----|-----|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|-------|------------------|
| 12 | 472 | 261 | 55 | 15 | 78 | 9 | 5.61 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 6 | 82 | 80 | 162 | Rowan Sandford |
| 15 | 460 | 271 | 59 | 15 | 96 | 10 | 5.95 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 6 | 77 | 86 | 163 | Lachlan Hopkins |
| 16 | 414 | 242 | 58 | 15 | 75 | 7.5 | 5.45 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 6 | 79 | 76 | 154.5 | Jesse Hewlett |
| 17 | 432 | 230 | 53 | 14 | 75 | 7.5 | 5.51 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 81 | 61 | 141.5 | Heather McGinty |
| 19 | 424 | 230.5 | 54 | 15 | 70 | 5 | 5.95 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 75 | 85 | 160 | Sandra Tomblison |
| 20 | 466 | 251 | 54 | 15 | 84 | 10 | 6.05 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 6 | 74 | 77 | 151 | James Danvers |
| 26 | 448 | 249.5 | 56 | 15 | 70 | 5 | 5.51 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 6 | 72 | 79 | 151 | Ruby Mulinder |
| 45 | 452 | 239 | 53 | 14 | 72 | 6 | 5.42 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 6 | 74 | 63 | 137 | Alex Stewart |
| 46 | 454 | 243.5 | 54 | 15 | 71 | 5.5 | 5.64 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 6 | 77 | 89 | 165.5 | Sam Kirk |
| 51 | 418 | 233 | 56 | 15 | 89 | 10 | 5.51 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 6 | 82 | 83 | 165 | Torey Harnett |



CONGRATULATIONS

Best of Brand - Simmental NZ 3rd

Best of Cross-breed - Gerald & Sue Kemp 4th (Sim/Ang)

Opportunity there for the Steaking

The success enjoyed by Simmental NZ, and Gerald and Sue Kemp, at the 2008 Steak of Origin contest should be a great incentive for more Simmental breeders to enter the steak-off next year.

One category in particular; Best of European, offers Simmental a chance to show how our cattle excel. Of the four categories steak can be entered into, Best of European is the least well supported- and therefore offers the best odds in the competition, which is a numbers game to some extent.

This year there were over 300 entries in the competition, with most entries evenly distributed between the Best of British, Best of Crossbreed, and Best of Brand categories. However the European category had less entries. By the time the semi-finalists were announced there were only five steaks competing for Best of European, while the other categories had far more in the running (Best of British 32, Best of Crossbreed 15, Best of Brand 16).

Some Steak of Origin Trends/Facts

- You can enter steers or heifers in the competition, the majority of entries are heifers. Simmental NZ's was one of only two steers to make the final 16.
- In-calf and freemartin heifers are often entered because of their favourable pH levels.
- There are seven participating processors in the North Island, and four in the South.
- An important trick which entrants have worked out through trial and error; Cattle which have been re-hydrated (placed in a 'water pen') overnight tend to do better. Processors won't do this as a matter of course- you must make a specific request.

Entry Numbers

- Best of European 21 (0 Simmental)
- Best of British 119 (N/A)
- Best of Crossbreed 66 (Total 15 = 5 Sim/Ang, 2 Sim/Jer, 8 SimX)
- Best of Brand 61 (5 SimX)

Bear in mind that the steer with which SNZ was most successful- which placed third in the Best of Brand category; was a store-bought cross-bred steer, from a commercial Taihape property. It was grazed in the drought-struck Manawatu, behind prime bulls which were the property's priority stock. Our Simmental-cross successfully placed against branded products- from entrants which pride themselves on proven meat quality and eating experience.



First Place Brand
Glanworth Angus, Pahiata



Second Place Brand
Neat Meat, Auckland



Third Place Brand
Landmeat NZ Ltd &
Simmental New Zealand



Fourth Place Brand
Freshzone Foodmore
Foodtown/Woolworths/Countdown
Te Mania Certified Angus

Determining the pH of the steak



Determining the tenderness of the steak

- Step 1:** The steak is cooked
Step 2: Rectangular pieces of meat are cut from the steak parallel with the fibres in the steak
Step 3: Tenderness of the steak is determined by a tenderometer



The top four steaks in each class were cooked in a supermarket and the taste response of the public consumers noted.



| CODE | FINALIST | Graham Hawkes | Jon Morgan | Ian McKelvie | Average of the 3 (out of 90) | Public Tasting (out of 10) | Total mark (out of 100) | Overall Placing | Placing within class |
|------|------------------------|---------------|------------|--------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 5 | Buchanan | 70 | 69 | 53 | 64.0 | 8.0 | 72.0 | 6 | 3 |
| 13 | Burrows | 71 | 72 | 50 | 64.3 | 8.3 | 72.6 | 5 | 2 |
| 15 | O'Shea | 55 | 61 | 42 | 52.7 | 8.0 | 60.7 | 15 | 4 |
| 9 | Stephens | 80 | 76 | 73 | 76.3 | 8.5 | 84.8 | 2= | 1 |
| 4 | Bayly | 70 | 70 | 55 | 65.0 | 7.8 | 72.8 | 4 | 2 |
| 3 | Hoskin | 60 | 62 | 52 | 58.0 | 8.8 | 66.8 | 11 | 3 |
| 7 | Priest | 59 | 64 | 54 | 59.0 | 7.5 | 66.5 | 12 | 4 |
| 6 | Sharpe | 85 | 84 | 76 | 81.7 | 8.9 | 90.6 | 1 | 1 |
| 10 | Dreaver | 55 | 65 | 46 | 55.3 | 7.8 | 63.1 | 13 | 3 |
| 11 | Kemp | 54 | 65 | 43 | 54.0 | 8.2 | 62.2 | 14 | 4 |
| 12 | McConnell | 65 | 68 | 46 | 59.7 | 7.8 | 67.5 | 10 | 2 |
| 16 | Robertson | 71 | 66 | 48 | 61.7 | 8.6 | 70.3 | 7 | 1 |
| 8 | Freshzone | 67 | 63 | 55 | 61.7 | 6.9 | 68.6 | 9 | 4 |
| 14 | Neat Meat | 66 | 81 | 69 | 72.0 | 8.1 | 80.1 | 3 | 2 |
| 2 | Glanworth | 80 | 79 | 72 | 77.0 | 7.8 | 84.8 | 2= | 1 |
| 1 | Landmeat/ Simmental | 65 | 68 | 55 | 62.7 | 6.9 | 69.6 | 8 | 3 |

PROSPECT SAYS GOODBYE

After 27 years of breeding, the Cockburn family's Te Anau stud- Prospect Simmentals, is dispersing. Although it will be sad for the Cockburns, as dispersals always are, the sale will be a tremendous opportunity for Simmental breeders to improve their herds with outstanding Prospect genetics.

The Cockburns established their Simmental herd in 1981. Ross started out with a grade up nucleus of 20 _ cows from Tan Bar stud, plus six 7/8 heifers, eight 7/8 calves and one herd sire; Westdrums Enterprise (imported from England).

It was while buying rams at Mt Linton Station that Ross saw his first Simmental. Of the cattle there Ross said, "I was so impressed with the calves I ended up selling Hereford cows and replaced them with Simmental. I got them home and to my pleasant surprise, after running them with my commercial herd of Hereford and Angus cross, found these new imports foraged to the top of the hill country where cows had never been before."

After the initial establishment of the Simmental stud, and following the phase-out of their commercial Hereford/Angus X herd, Ross has gradually invested in top Simmental genetics for Prospect. His efforts have paid off and Ross said they are now seeing real positive gains from the genetics boost.

While still striving towards what a terminal breed must achieve; improved profits for clients due to superior growth, Ross said they are proud of Prospect's easy calving, docile, high growth rate herd. The standard of their herd has been achieved by retaining no-nonsense dams, and remaining commercially focussed.

In the Cockburns' opinion, the greatest attribute of Simmental cattle is their ability to forage under difficult conditions. Maternally; their high fertility distinguishes them, while their amazing ability to stack on meat, combined with

outstanding growth rates, also places them ahead of other breeds.

Ross' confidence in Simmental cattle is high. "We are serious about the superior traits the breed possesses and are very confident of their ability to outperform any other breed based on meat per stock unit (of feed eaten). This is the main driver of profit, simple but true, especially given our present market parameters. I have always been of the opinion that this breed are very much under-utilised, given their very strong maternal strengths, and therefore should not be regarded as a terminal breed only," he said.

Advances in structural assessment technology also work in Simmental's favour. "I believe the introduction of the Beefclass programme, although only voluntary, has been pivotal in getting breeders to understand structural requirements, and gives them the opportunity to be more critical of their stock when assessing what is a saleable animal."

Ross said he felt it was important that EBVs were employed sensibly as a tool. "I'm somewhat doubtful that EBVs are doing the breed and the industry a hell of a lot of good, unless the system is used in its proper intended context; of being a further tool and performance indicator of genetic improvement of various traits. It's obvious that numbers can be stacked very easily, and look impressive, but if they are not combined with structural assessment factors it will ultimately be the downfall of the breed."

Prospect will be dispersed at an on-property sale the 6th of March 2009. The Cockburns said that, being a Friday, the date would give them the opportunity to make it a weekend to remember. They will be providing the great Southern hospitality, which the Cockburn family are so well known for, to all those who attend. "Be sure to mark this date on your calendar, take a break to beautiful Fiordland!" Ross said.

The time to move on has come due to a number of factors. The Cockburns have made a change in farming practice, to dairy grazing, and Joan and Ross have moved to Te Anau, with a house building project starting early spring. Ross also has a very busy programme as a regional councillor.

Ross had these words of encouragement for Simmental members...

We sincerely wish all fellow breeders a very prosperous future, along with hopefully a more reliable climate pattern. Although the bull selling circuit was somewhat disappointing in a lot of cases, the market indicators look very promising and given all the variables that dictate prices and demand, there are a lot of very encouraging signals out there.

Both Joan and I have thoroughly enjoyed the long association we have had with the Simmental breed, and no doubt will miss taking an active part in it but, as the saying goes- nothing ever happens at the right time, and the rest don't happen at all.

We will always value the friendships gained, and will no doubt keep some form of contact. Thank you all.

Ross Cockburn





The summer of 2008 has probably been one of the most difficult ever experienced for those in the business of producing red meat. The challenges of very severe drought in many parts of the country combined with the ever increasing wave of dairy conversions and dairy support units has led to serious reductions in breeding cow numbers.

John and I have been in the happy position of being in one of the few parts of the country to experience an excellent summer for grass growth but being the veterans of a number of extreme droughts in both Hawke's Bay and Northland we have really felt for those of you in the drought areas. Hopefully you will have a mild winter and a good spring to lift your spirits.

The Bull Selling season has only just started as I write but already the expectation that bulls will be hard to sell has not eventuated with a steady Expo followed by some strong sales in both Islands. The commercial buyers have a wide range of individual objectives when they purchase a bull. They know what they want a bull to do in their particular programme and we as seed stock producers must know our commercial market and attempt to produce what they need. Their support is telling us that they want the production of quality Simmental genetics to continue.

2008 has already been a year of change and new initiatives for SNZ and there are more to come.

Our new Breed Officer Rebecca Black has great journalistic and promotional skills and you will all have admired her efforts on the website and in the Beef Review. Unfortunately we can only afford to employ her on a part-time basis because of the reduction in our membership. Fortunately Rebecca is one of those who is willing to work until the job is done and I thank her for all the extra work she did to make Expo such a success for us. I congratulate her on the success of the Future Beef programme into which she put hours of extra work. Well done Rebecca.

You have a new President. I have more time to put into the job

than previous Presidents because I no longer have any other job as important, to occupy my mind. This may be a good or a bad thing! Time will tell.

I would like to thank Ross for his time as President. In spite of the loss of his home to fire Ross was always cheerful and optimistic and John and I wish him and Joan a long and peaceful retirement in Te Anau.

I would like to thank Council for the time they put into working on your behalf. Expo ran so smoothly because everybody had a job and did it in a very professional way. All the Councillors pay their own way to Expo and they all turn up without a word of complaint. Without them we would not have a Breed Society.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Merial Ancare for agreeing to continue the association we had previously with Ancare. Their sponsorship of our programmes has been very important to us and we look forward to a long association with the new company.

The new initiatives started with the investment of some of our capital into the purchase of Simmental cross steers for the purpose of entering some into the Steak of Origin competition and some into the Future Beef competition. The success of the project has been beyond our expectations. The steers were carted around the country to promote Future Beef in Schools and at the same time everywhere they went they promoted Simmental especially at the Central Field Days.

All the scanning technology available went into the selection of the steers for the Steak of Origin competition and this led to an exciting third place in the Best of Brand.

Reserve Champion in the Hoof and Hook section of the Future Beef Competition was the icing on the cake. Next year we hope we will not have to purchase the cattle for this programme but SNZ will continue to run the programme in the same way as we did so successfully this year.

Shortly John and I leave for the World Congress Tour of Northern Ireland, Scotland and England. We will be promoting New Zealand as a venue for a Tour after the Congress in Australia in 2010. We look forward to networking with breeders from all around the World and I am sure we will return with some new ideas for the Promotion of the breed.

We wish you all a profitable bull selling season, a mild winter, an early spring and a good calving.

Helen Ellis,
President

Update from Helen Ellis, in Scotland on the World Simmental Congress Tour

We are having a great tour so far but there have been a lot of long trips and late nights and a lot of people have nasty flu bugs and have had to stay in the hotel.

The first day in Ireland we visited the Kilbride Stud. Sires from this stud have been used in NZ in the past. They have a very sound well fleshed easy calving bull called Newry. We have been enormously impressed with the best of the cattle we have seen so far as they have not been messed around with by the introduction of other breeds. They look like Simmental cattle used to look like in the early days of the breed in NZ. I have been horrified to find out how proud the Americans and Canadians are about how they use Angus to produce their Black Simmentals and just keep using it to get what they think they want. The same thing has happened in the European countries where the Simmental is primarily a Dairy cow and the have used Red Holstein to improve the milk. Eisenhertz is the best example used in NZ.

The British cattle are living proof that you don't have to downsize to get fleshing. There are structural problems and calving problems that go with the amazing meat but I would love to have the chance to use some British genetics carefully. In the afternoon of the first day we had a long scenic drive to the Giant's Causeway which was well worth the visit. It is a World Heritage site.

On the second day we drove for 2hrs South to the border with Southern Ireland and saw a herd of cows that could have been in any NZ Stud except they were all pale coloured. The Northern Ireland Club then put on a special Show for us and in spite of the fact that it was freezing with heavy showers we watched it all and they were very grateful. I was astounded that except for one class I got the judging spot on. The Irish cattle have huge rounded rear ends more like Limosins and in many cases this trait seems to have produced some very straight shoulders and an inability to walk properly. The progeny of the Kilbride Newry bull are an exception. It was interesting to be able to see the bull and his progeny. I had my photograph taken with a prize winning calf. Very elegant in heavy jacket and leggings!!

The reaction to the NZ President has been interesting. The Austrians were astounded but are now treating me as their

special person...There are several women on the British Council and one is Vice-Chairman of their Congress committee. She is also an Advanced Three Day Event rider and is treated with considerable respect. I may be the only woman at the main Delegates meeting so hope I am on top of my game that day. Some of the Canadians are very interested in DNA testing but most don't want to know about it which is not surprising if they are playing around with other breeds. I may get the chance to talk about it although of course the Australians are well ahead of us. Bill Almond is here.

We had a good crossing of the Irish Sea on a big Ferry and had a very interesting drive to Edinburgh. The Scottish farmland is beautiful and much of it looks very like NZ.

The Opening Ceremony at the Show Grounds was very impressive with the pipers and the haggis ceremony and a good MC.

We spent a whole day at the Highland Show. Very similar weather to the HB Show on a cool very windy day. Simmental Judging was in the morning. The Champion Bull was to die for and the best of the heifers were very good but the cows were a bit disappointing. Once again I did well with the judging. We were very well looked after in the matter of food and drink in the Simmental tent.

There were some amazing breeds of Sheep. We took more photographs of them than of the cattle because nobody would believe us if we didn't have proof. Sheep with four horns, large horns and some that had faces like a Staffordshire bull terrier. I expected to have my hand bitten off when I stroked one!!

Had a great day yesterday with some very high quality shopping a visit to a castle and a trip around the estate which is 145 thousand hectares. Very little is actually farmed by the Estate as they have tenant farmers and woodland and moors for deer and grouse. They are organic which was interesting. All the cattle are kept outside in the winter on a feeding pad which seems to be the way on a lot of Scottish properties. They have an interesting fixed crossbred animal. Highland crossed with Shorthorn and they cross them with Simmental.

We had an excellent meal at the Famous Grouse distillery and some very good whiskey to taste.

THE LETTER FOR 2008 IS

W

Unfortunately in your ADL letters the 2008 letter was noted as V, we apologise for the error and hope it hasn't caused anyone any inconvenience.

Simmental Office within New PBB Premises



The opening of the new Performance Beef Breeders building on May 12 was keenly anticipated by PBB staff and the breed societies.

All of the new tenants feel very fortunate to be working out of such a comfortable, attractive office space.

SNZ is a shareholder in the building, along with the other breed societies.

The new premise, at 75 South St Feilding, is in convenient proximity to the Beef Expo venue, Feilding township, and hotel facilities.

The postal address and phone numbers for Simmental remain the same.

Construction on a new hotel next door is due to begin any day, once completed it will provide a much needed accommodation boost for Expo week and Council meetings.

The new office boasts impressive board and meeting room facilities, and encompasses the PBB graphics department and Meat & Wool NZ Genetics and Regional staff. The board room has already be hired by outside groups' conferences.

Next to the registry and administrative staff's area, the Breed Managers have a whole wing of five offices.

Any Simmental breeders calling through Feilding are encouraged to call in and enjoy the new offices.

| STUD | TOP PRICE | AVERAGE | TOTAL SOLD |
|----------------------|-----------|---------|------------|
| Prospect | \$6500 | \$3538 | 8 |
| Beresford | \$5000 | \$3611 | 9 |
| Kerrah | \$5700 | \$3059 | 27 |
| Lone Pine | \$4800 | \$3358 | 12 |
| Glenside | \$9000 | \$4262 | 16 |
| Ruaview | \$4100 | \$3600 | 8 |
| Central South Island | \$4200 | \$2911 | 9 |
| Martin Farming | \$5200 | \$3360 | 11 |
| Tarawapake | \$2900 | \$2300 | 9 |
| Idesia | \$5000 | \$2660 | 7 |



| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Group Breedplan Run Cut-off Date | 15th August* |
| ADL's Due | 31st July |
| Test Station Entries Due | 15th September |
| Test Station Bull Intake | 13th October |
| Council Meeting | 6th & 7th November |
| Christchurch Royal Show | 12th, 13th, 14th November |
| Calf Returns Due | 19th December |

**Data cut off refers to last date for receipt of non-electronic data (paper, fax e-mail files –text, spreadsheet, etc). The cut off for electronic data will be one week later.*



WEBSITE OVERHAUL

As you will all no doubt agree, our Simmental NZ website is due a big overhaul. Over the next couple of months I will be directing a number of changes and improvements to the website.

Your ideas, about how the website can be (and needs to be) improved, are most welcome. I would also be delighted to receive any good generic photos and images to use for the website and advertising.

If you have any feedback and advice regarding the website, or if you have any photos which you think would be useful to us, please contact me at the office.

Rebecca Black
simmentalnz@beefbreeders.co.nz
06 323 4484



Bill Austin

Austins Ultrasound Ltd

Accredited BreedPlan Scanner No. 1036 - Structural Beefclass accreditation No. 1036

McLaren Ultrasound Ltd, Wayne and Jane, are pleased to announce that they have sold their business to Bill and Judy Austin taking effect from the 1 April 2008. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our clients for their support over the last twelve years. We have enjoyed working with you all and wish Bill and Judy well with their new business Austins Ultrasound Ltd.

Thank you to Wayne and Jane for giving us the opportunity to purchase your scanning business. We have already enjoyed this last season scanning in the South Island and meeting you all and look forward to meeting others as we cover some of the North Island. Stewart Robinson is staying with the team and will continue scanning for clients during the busy time in the North Island.

Scanning Fees will remain the same.

Price List for 2008 / 2009 Season

VISIT FEE \$200

| | | |
|--------|------|-----------|
| 1-40 | \$15 | +\$4 IMF% |
| 41-60 | \$13 | +\$4 IMF% |
| 61-100 | \$10 | +\$4 IMF% |
| 100+ | \$9 | +\$4 IMF% |

A DISCOUNT OF 10% ON 150+ HEAD on EMA R/B RUMP and IMF

We wish you all well with the up coming Bull Selling Season and hope spring brings plenty of grass and improving product prices.

Kind Regards
Bill and Judy

Phone **027 4100 377**
Email austinsorthorns@xtra.co.nz
761 Mt Nessing Rd
RD14
Cave 7984

Weakest Link Determines Strength of Chain

Animal breeding is like walking a tightrope – on the one side of the rope you are trying to satisfy the requirements of one set of customers and on the other side another set and no matter how hard you try you will never satisfy them all. That is why identifying who your customers are, and in particular your immediate ones, then determining their requirements is so critical in any business.

The quickest way to go broke is to produce what your customers don't want

In the bull breeding business there are immediate customers, the bull buyers, however they also have customers that should be of some concern to the bull breeder and they are the finishers and processors. On the one side of the tightrope there are the bull buyers whose primary focus is to get the maximum percentage of calves to weaning at the least cost. On the other side of the rope there are the finishers and processors whose primary interests are the carcass traits and growth rate. Straying too far to one side or the other, akin to losing one's balance, is likely to affect a bull breeder's popularity and will certainly impact on the bottom line.

There is a biological conflict between the major traits of interest to the bull buyer and those of the finisher and processor

If the bull breeder panders too much to the requirements of his immediate customers, his bull buyers, he may well improve their profitability but it may well be at the expense of the bull buyers' customers, the finishers and processors. If the situation is extreme, the bull buyers may end up producing a product that the finishers and processors are not very interested in. On the other hand if the bull buyer produces exactly what the finishers and processors want he may well shoot himself in the foot as his profitability may suffer because of poor reproductive performance.

This is the bull breeder's predicament and making well informed, financially rational compromises is the secret to satisfying his bull buyers as well as the finishers and processors.

Using indexes is the best known tool for achieving this compromise. However in saying this, an index is only as good as its ability to represent a particular production system or market endpoint. If it is too far off the mark, breeders will end up selecting inappropriate bulls resulting in both breeders and

Summary

- Customers' needs should be the primary focus of any supply chain.
- If customers' needs are not substantially met, a supply chain will fail.
- Indexes are currently the best genetic tool to produce animals that satisfy defined customer specifications.
- Indexes should be designed to satisfy most of the requirements of customers along the supply chain.
- It is futile to develop new indexes if they don't significantly re rank bulls from a specific population when compared with existing indexes.
- The strength of a supply chain is determined by the weakest link.

Russell Priest

Meat & Wool New Zealand Beef Genetics Coordinator

customers suffering. In ranking bulls, the index system has to deal with millions of different combinations of EBVs and come up with financially the best available combination to satisfy the particular production system/market endpoint it represents. Different combinations and values of EBVs will suit different breeders, however the index value should always be the focal point of genetic selection, as it represents the relative profit per cow mated each bull is expected to generate by way of his progeny. Fine tuning the index to suit specific breeder requirements can then be carried out by referring to the EBVs that make up each index.

Some breeders have developed their own indexes to cater for what they consider to be specific needs of their clients. These indexes are in addition to those that individual breed societies have developed. The idea of developing one's own index is fine, however if this index ranks bulls in a similar order to an existing index for the breed there is little point in setting it up. Also, in developing an index the breeder must be very conscious of not only the needs of his immediate customers (his bull clients) but also the needs of his clients' customers (the finishers) and in turn the needs of the finishers' customers (the processors). If any of these customers' needs are not substantially met, the chain will break and the bull breeder will be left holding the short end.

This is an excellent example of the adage 'the strength of a supply chain is determined by the weakest link'.

This and other articles written by the author can be found on the Meat & Wool New Zealand website at www.meatandwoolnz.com.

For further information contact :

Russell Priest

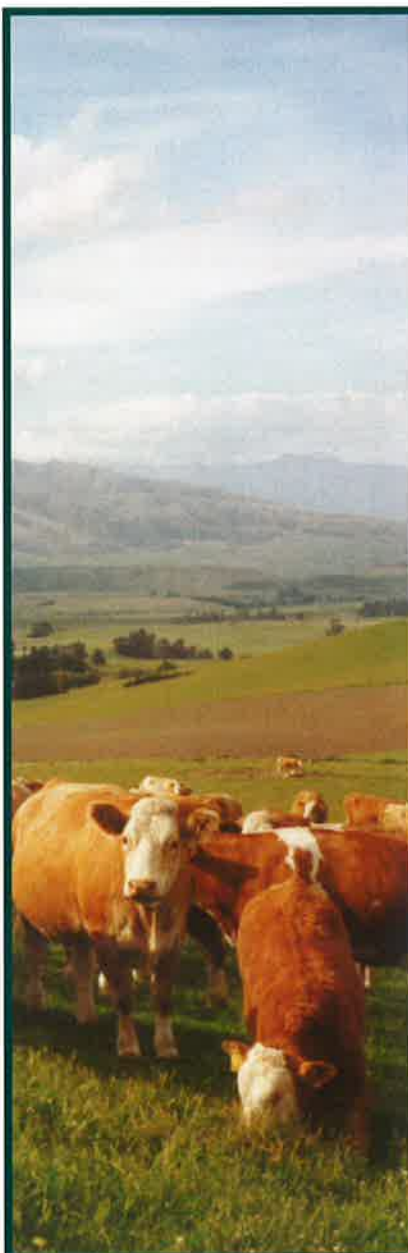
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Test Station School Master**Alastair Miln**

(06) 328 5052

Breeder Brett Perry, who resigned at the end of last year, has Simmental semen stored at Ambreed and has kindly offered the straws to SNZ members.

SNZ members would only be charged Ambreed's fees for the semen.

The following semen is available:

| Account | Name | Code | Description | Quantity | Location |
|---------|-------------|---------|-------------------------|----------|----------|
| 117266 | BRETT PERRY | S666231 | WAITITI BAZOOKA | 1 | A M D10 |
| 117266 | BRETT PERRY | S666236 | GLADSTONE RED BARRON | 3 | A M D10 |
| 117266 | BRETT PERRY | S700019 | NGA TAWA BRAVEHEART | 5 | A M D10 |
| 117266 | BRETT PERRY | S700106 | CAMUS FRONTIER | 10 | A M D10 |
| 117266 | BRETT PERRY | S703096 | WAI-ITI LORD MAYOR AL46 | 5 | A M D10 |

AMBREED DESPATCH FEES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

TO ANOTHER AI COMPANY (except LIC) (Code 4300) \$30.00 +GST

TO STORAGE WITHIN AMBREED (Code 4305) \$20.00 +GST

TO THE FIELD (Code 4300) \$30.00 +GST

TO LIC (Ambreed Despatch Fee) (Code 4306) \$10.00 +GST

(LIC Surcharge) (Code 4304) \$50.00 +GST

NOTE: All Transfers to LIC WILL incur The \$10.00 & \$50.00 Charges.

LATE FEE: \$30.00 May apply if straws are not received at LIC approximately 3 days prior to the group technician bank leaving LIC.

This will only apply if Ambreed are charged the fee. LIC request Ambreed to supply participant codes & FULL address details, including telephone number, for all clients sending straws to them.

A 'jigsaw puzzle'

A simple analogy we like to use is to imagine livestock nutrition as a jigsaw puzzle, comprised of many pieces which mesh together. It's important to remember this. It's all too easy to get 'fanatical' about a few particular nutrients and lose track of the complete picture. Pieces to this puzzle include macro minerals, trace minerals, fiber components, proteins, carbohydrates, lipids, vitamins, organic acids, feed additives, health and efficiency of the digestive system, rumen microbial populations, and responses to stress and disease challenges.

Nutrients in balance

As far as possible, mineral and other nutrients should be in balance. This can be more difficult to achieve on pasture systems. Livestock nutrition is about trying to get the right balance; ideally we don't want deficiencies and we don't want excesses.

Types of mineral deficiencies

In fully-fed animals, mineral deficiencies can be primary, meaning a lack of enough mineral in the feed. Or, deficiencies can be secondary, due to (1) high levels of antagonists to the mineral in question, or (2) reduced feed intake (i.e. mineral levels in feed are adequate but animals are not fully-fed, so nutrient intake is reduced). Deficiencies can be clinical with obvious signs, or subclinical with no obvious signs.

Excessive inputs

Excessive nutrient intake can cause problems. For example, excessive copper (Cu) intake can lead to negative effects including unbalancing of other nutrients, adverse effects on beneficial rumen microbes, potential oxidative flavor damage to milk, tissue cell damage (e.g. liver, kidney), appetite loss, weight loss and death. Excess mineral intake problems can be chronic (building up over time) or acute (sudden heavy overload).

Mineral antagonists (interfering factors)

Minerals in livestock shouldn't be considered in isolation, as they sometimes are. Minerals interact with each other and some act as antagonists to others. As an example, it's well known that excessive amounts of molybdenum (Mo), sulfur (S), iron (Fe) and zinc (Zn) can interfere with the availability and/or uptake of Cu. Thus, when assessing Cu (and other mineral) nutrition and intake requirements, as much as possible we also consider interfering factors.

Mineral absorption

Not all ingested mineral is actually absorbed by animals. The portion absorbed is known as the absorption coefficient, which varies from element to element. For example, based on numerous studies over the years, typically less than 5% of ingested Cu is absorbed by adult ruminants. On the other hand, some 75-90% of ingested iodine (I) can be absorbed by the ruminant. Also, absorption coefficients are not constant for any



Grass silage is a widely used supplement, but quality can be variable even when it looks and smells okay. Silage testing for nutrients is a useful tool for fine-tuning diets.

one mineral but can vary due to factors such as presence of antagonists, animal demands, prior nutrient status, feed passage rate through the digestive tract, feed intake level and form of mineral consumed.

Internal control systems

To varying degrees, ruminants have internal regulatory systems to regulate amounts of minerals in the body. These regulatory mechanisms vary for different minerals. But as an example, using Cu again, on low to moderate Cu intakes ruminants attempt to regulate liver levels by increasing or decreasing Cu absorption, and by decreasing or increasing Cu excretion out in liver bile. However, on very high Cu intakes, this system can be overloaded. And there are differences between species, and between breeds within a species, in the degree to which this Cu balancing system functions. For example, sheep are more susceptible to Cu poisoning than cattle,

and Texels and island-origin sheep are more susceptible than Romneys. In cows, there can be differences in Cu retention between Jerseys and Friesians, and between some beef breeds.

Deficiency signs

Deficiency symptoms can be provoked by various causes. In other words, symptoms are not necessarily unique to a single deficiency. For example, bone problems can derive from various causes including phosphorus (P) and calcium (Ca) imbalances, Cu deficiency, manganese (Mn) deficiency, excessive fluoride (F), infection and disease. As another example, rough dull coats can result from various causes including Zn deficiency, Cu deficiency, P deficiency, energy deficiency, excessive iron (Fe), excessive selenium (Se), parasite burdens and winter weather. Higher incidence of retained membranes has been provoked by various causes including bacterial or fungal infection, premature birth, abortion, diseases (e.g. brucellosis, leptospirosis, IBR), difficult or multiple births, overfat cows and ewes, Se deficiency, I deficiency, Ca deficiency and energy deficiency.

Nutrient testing

Animal blood and liver tests are useful tools but can be mistakenly interpreted if the limitations of each test are not understood. Ideally, laboratory test results should be evaluated within the farm and herd/flock context. Make sure the most appropriate tests are used. As an analogy, why would I check the engine dipstick in the tractor if I want to find out how much

diesel is in the tank? Unfortunately, that's how some of these livestock mineral tests are used occasionally.

Genetics

Good genetics mean bugger all if animals are not fed properly and lack good nutrition.

Dietary additives

Commercial additive minerals, vitamins, protein products, energy products, rumen modifiers, digestion improvers, gut conditioners and other additives are promoted to correct imbalances and improve animal performance and health. If they don't do this, what's the point in buying them and supplementing them?



Animals lacking in energy are headed for trouble.

A final comment

Frequently farmers discuss how confusing it is with so many commercial companies pushing a vast range of additive products. Also, there are some really good products out there with poor marketing, and there are some poor products out there with good marketing. There are however, some simple key questions that can help sort truth from nonsense. Firstly, ask the representative, just what the active ingredients are in the product? And exactly what are they supposed to do in the animal? Next, and importantly, what are the actual levels of active ingredients in the product and are they enough to do the job? Also, are the suggested

dose rates sufficient and frequent enough to be of any use? And, is there any trial work to support claims? A product's benefit to cost ratio should include proper trial work done that did not produce a desired result, not just the trial work that did. Otherwise, the benefit to cost ratio can be misleading. A product's benefit to cost relation doesn't mean much if it's worked out on two positive-result trials but conveniently leaves out another seven negative-result trials! Farmers tend to have good b.s. radar and the company representative's response or non-response to these questions will tell you something right away. A response of 'commercially-sensitive' doesn't stack up these days and may be trying to hide something. There is plenty of detailed knowledge publicly-available today on animal nutrition and feeding. Check it out! Talk to your technical advisor or veterinarian.

Greg Smith
Rural Element Ltd
(021) 875 554

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