

\$IMMENTALNZ THE MONEY MAKER

TARGETED NEWS FROM THE INDUSTRY HEAVYWEIGHTS

PGG Wrightson Livestock

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Hi Everyone

Welcome to the strangest newsletter we ever thought we'd write, coming from level four lockdown! At least we have the farm to work and move around on – but the challenges of getting basic supplies, stock sold, stock bought Many of us have made or are making decisions about how we will sell our bulls this season – it is a challenging year to put it mildly! At this time we are reminded of how fortunate we are compared to other countries and extend our best wishes to all the NZ Simmental family. To those who have lost loved ones recently, our sincerest condolences. We especially acknowledge the passing in November of Lorraine Partridge, of Ladburn Simmentals.

We wish you all the best for your sales, however you choose to hold them, in this very unusual time we find ourselves in.

cattle working on the hills was great and driving uphill to what seemed to be the top of the world was amazing, with stunning views in all directions. We then travelled to new breeders Brad and Dana Johnston's Kirkland stud at Kurow, where we had a talk from Brad about their breeding goals and a look at their cattle. This was topped off by an enjoyable afternoon tea outside their home which is a converted church. Dana is also a talented artist, look up her website. We finished the day at Lone Star Farms Caberfeidh Station up the Hakataramea valley where an interesting woolshed presentation was topped off by a trip to see the giant centre pivot irrigators in action, and a look at the dam system they have which is fed by water flowing uphill from the river below. There, 400 Angus cows are calved with finishing progeny targeted to the Silver Fern Farms Eating Quality System. Then back to Timaru with an enjoyable group dinner at Zest to round off the day.

2020 AGM & TOUR WHAT A GREAT TOUR OF THE SOUTH CANTERBURY AREA, AND ALL ITS VARIETY.

Wednesday - from Christchurch down to Wakanui and a drive through the seaside Five Star Beef feedlot, very interesting presentation on the history, volume of cattle, feed systems and environmental oversight. Then inland to Quartz Hill Station in the Rakaia Gorge, a very diverse business with sheep, cattle, deer and a lucrative tourist business of deer trophy hunting. Constantly looking to add value to their business, they breed Headwaters sheep and finish them on chicory for marbling to specific requirements for supplying to Te Mana Lamb. Their cattle are an Angus base cow which they are newly moved into crossing with Simmental to improve their meat quality and weight gains. An interesting tour up part of the station to look at cattle, and be told Hokitika was 'just over the hill'. We then travelled to Timaru to our accommodation, with dinner and AGM at the Bullock Bar – highly recommended. A presentation was made to John Hammond for his many years of service to Simmental NZ in many guises including 13 years on Council. We welcomed Tom Sanson as our newest council member.

Thursday – began with a visit to David Scott's farm where he breeds his Hereford Simmental cross cows to Simmental bulls and sells the progeny as weaners, very sought after cattle. Then on to the McRae family's Overland Stud at Waimate, where we were treated to morning tea and a wonderful lunch with delicious roast lamb as the star! The farm tour to view stud



Friday – our final day was a scenic drive to Opawa Simmentals, where we were treated to an extensive farm tour by the Timperley family. From the R2 sale bulls to the extensive mobs of cows and calves, both purebred and crossbred, it was a fascinating look at both cattle and farm, with land from the valley floor to the hilltop ranges with a view to Mount Cook. It was finished off by a delectable lunch served by Jane, David and family on the beautifully landscaped grounds of their lovely homestead. After group photos and farewells, the tourists travelled back to Christchurch to disperse homeward.

Another great tour of fellowship, scenery, cattle, farming and food. Our grateful thanks to David and Jane Timperley for their planning (and their effort above and beyond to get our replacement mini vans to us – it was a nervous way to start a tour!) and all the other hosts for their hospitality and efforts. The planning is now on for 2021! It was great to see some of the new breeders on this trip. If you haven't been on a tour before, please try to make the next one. As it is now the only time the Simmental Society comes together formally, it's a great way to meet other breeders and catch up with friends.

WELCOME TO NEW BREEDERS

Welcome to Karen and Bruce Woolley of Willowcreek Stud in Wellsford.
And Connor Pilet of Rushbrook Simmentals in Marton

BEEFCLASS & DOCILITY

A reminder there are two accredited BeefClass assessors available, Bill Austin in the South Island, and John Hammond in the North, although Bill does do a run North by appointment. If you are unsure of how to do this structural assessment yourself both men are knowledgeable and very helpful.

Docility scores done at weaning are used to generate the docility EBV. A temperament score as part of BeefClass is different and is not considered in EBV's generated. It is possible for animals to score differently, but as always should be consistent within your herd overall. As breeders get stricter at culling poor temperament animals, there are herds whose overall docility is very positive – a great effort and very welcome by all Simmental aficionados!

GOLD CREEK SIMMENTALS

Tom & Adeline Sanson

Stud Focus

We breed for economically viable and productive cattle, with an emphasis on reproduction, structural soundness, docility and easy finishing, all without compromising the explosive growth rates the Simmental breed is known and valued for.

Background

Tom is the third generation to farm at Gold Creek Station, located 45km North West of Gisborne. Gold Creek Stud was established in 2009 with the purchase of top-quality females from Caribou, Kapiti, Willowbrook and Wai-iti stud dispersals.



Number of Cows

120 registered cows and heifers plus 60 embryo recipients. With the aim calving 200 registered cows by 2022.

Sires Used

3-5 Natural and 2-4 AI

Size and Contour of Farm.

Combination of two Stations Gold Creek and Haunui. Total 750 hectares, 690 hectares effective. Contour is medium to steep hill country. Annual rainfall 1500-1800 mm.



Other stock

Total stock units 7,000
1,500 Ma Coopworth ewes, 1000 ewe hoggets

250 Red Hinds, 400 Ma Red Velvet stags.

Mating

Natural, AI and Embryo transfer.

Council goals

Initially to gain a better understanding of how the breed society is run.

Helping to improve the breed, not only the cattle but also the market standing Simmental has as a beef breed in NZ.