# SIMMENTAL CONTINUING TO SHINE IN BEEF + LAMB BEEF PROGENY TEST

With bull season upon us, it's a good time to review breeding programmes and ensure you are using the right genetics to achieve your goals as commercial farmers – especially after the turbulent 12 months we have all experienced.

## PROFITABILITY IS KEY

As with any business, profitability is a key driver in decision making. As New Zealand farmers, there is a strong passion when it comes to what we farm and how we do it, but ultimately we need to make a healthy bottom line in order to prosper.

Today's Simmentals deliver on so many levels, be it growth rates, feed efficiency and temperament. As an Association, we've said it once and we will say it again – Simmental is your answer and as a breed we are continuing to go from strength to strength.

## PROVING OUR WORTH

In the most recent BLNZ Beef Progeny report for October 2020, including data for Cohorts 1-5, Simmental gave Angus a real run for their money in carcase traits such as eye muscle area, while continuing to prove its traditional strengths in the areas of weaning and growth rates.

In Cohort 3 for example, with progeny born in 2017, the most recent scanning ranked Simmental numbers one, two, four and five for eye muscle area. Eye muscle area has traditionally been considered territory of the Angus breed, so Simmental is really starting to prove its worth as an all-round high achiever.

As with all previous cohorts, this latest report shows Simmental's consistent representation across weaning weight and yearling weight. In Cohort 5, made up of the youngest progeny born 2019, Simmental achieved the top four rankings for weaning weight.

**SIMMENTAL IS YOUR ANSWER AND AS A BREED WE ARE CONTINUING TO GO FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH.**

## THE BLNZ BEEF PROGENY TEST,

Established in 2014, compares bulls under commercial farming conditions on properties in Gisborne, Taupo and North Canterbury. The test involves mating 2,200 cows and heifers a year and assessing steers for their finishing performance and carcase traits, while replacement heifers are tracked for their maternal characteristics. Some bulls are specifically included to provide genetic links to other programmes, where carcase data is being collected.

Simmental NZ is hugely supportive of the programme because it is capturing actual carcase data, which is putting proof to the claims that the European breeds are in fact just as capable of standing out in traits such as marbling.