

the Register

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Evaluating Fat Cattle

The history of the yield grading system, current challenges, and potential solutions.

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Adding Value to Feeder Calves
Water in the Ogallala Aquifer
and Beyond

Common Questions to Prepare
for Sale Season

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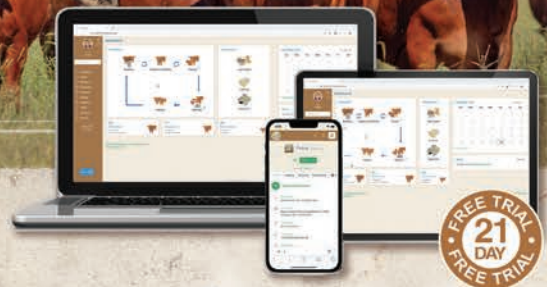
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EPD	+18.4	-3.4	+85.5	+129.9	+28	+10.6	+35.1	+76.6	+16.2	+16.2	+45.4	+0.9	+74	+0.48	+57	-.39	+172	+100
ACC	.47	.52	.50	.50	.29	.19	.28	.32	.42	.41	.34	.40	.39	.39	.02			
%	5	10	20	25		10	1	4	35	15	20		10				5	3

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EPD	+15.4	-1.7	+89.6	+147.3	+36	+9.6	+28.0	+73.8	+16.0	+9.8	+58.7	-.04	+88	-.007	+72		+177	+104
ACC	.65	.75	.56	.56	.56	.34	.22	.32	.32	.52	.46	.38	.42	.40	.47			
%	20	25	10	10	10	15	20	10	35		4		4				3	1

EPDs as of 09/17/2024 **TOP 35%**

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by ASA Staff

Bull sale season means many producers are submitting data and DNA samples, prepping sale catalogs, and answering questions from potential buyers. ASA staff answers common questions.

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.43	.47	.46	.46	.46	.22	.15	.25	.31
15%	30%	10%	5%	10%	15%		15%	15%

DOC	CW	YG	MB	BF	REA	SF	API	TI
18.3	40.2	-0.08	0.90	-0.013	0.54	-	184.5	105.1
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A SimGenetics pair on fall pasture at Bichler Simmentals, Linton, North Dakota.



About the Cover

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by *Maureen Mai, Western Region*

Control is so often desired, yet so often unobtained. We must seek opportunities to be in control when we can and try and prepare for when we cannot. We would love to control Mother Nature. We would like to have it rain more, rain less, snow on Christmas, but be done by New Year's. If the wind could blow at a gentle breeze on days to dry the hay, but not when we need to preserve moisture. It seems too often the agriculture world is "challenged" by Mother Nature. While we cannot prevent, or perhaps prepare, for the 100-year wind, flood, and snow, we can utilize the tools we have to survive and rebuild.

Remember the days of Simmental's unwanted, spotted giants that were slow to come out and get up? The Simmental breed thought life was good until buyers discounted the color, and producers were unimpressed with calving ease, carcass traits, and vigor. The ASA and its trustees used a foundation of science-based, beef-industry-first policies, and rebuilt the breed to today's overwhelming success. The Association used the tools available, created and evolved new tools, and relied on its members to provide data to rebuild and come out better and stronger on the other side of the storm.

Our current board of trustees remains dedicated to the science-based breed we have created. We continue to support new

research on various fronts such as Hydrops Syndrome, feed efficiency, feet/leg scores, heifer pregnancy, etc. We continue to request actual physical data and have vastly expanded our DNA data collection. We are trying to include the next generation of Simmental breeders by providing them with education and opportunities for DNA collection at national events. We are working closely with various herds around the country for the Carcass Merit and Carcass Expansion Programs. We will get more information back on some of those animals in the coming years than ever before. Every time we collect data, our information becomes stronger, more accurate, more reliable, and more saleable.

Our membership is fortunate to have the tools to build for the future and prepare for any storms. EPD at our fingertips help us select the more productive and profitable animals for our ranches. DNA programs such as Cow Herd Roundup and Calf Crop Genomics provide the most affordable options to see how our animals are truly made. Carcass programs allow membership to collect data and prove young new sires that might improve the legacy of the breed in a shorter interval. Total Herd Enrollment has several options designed to fit any size herd with various needs and goals. While you may think these programs are for the "big guys," think again. They benefit all sizes. I encourage the membership to use the opportunities the Association has available to take control of those opportunities. Stay safe! ■

FROM THE HEADQUARTERS



by *Chip Kemp, director, ASA and IGS Commercial and Industry Operations*

This issue of *the Register* reminds you that the Holiday Season is upon us! And what a gift you'll find in this issue: serious, forward-looking content that highlights real opportunities to better your position in the business. And just as importantly, to serve your customers as they do the same. Your breed association stays

in touch and in tune with these forces and changes to best serve your family. You expect that of us. And in turn, we ask that you please consider how this information should impact your decision-making.

The business of Simmental has always been about navigating a novel, business-minded, data-driven path. As I often say, our model may not look like everyone else's. But, then again, neither do our successes. Look at where your breed is situated! Nearly every single indicator about where the US beef industry is headed points to the clear need for Simmental-influenced genetics to maintain and strengthen their role. Heavier carcass weights? Simmentals can check that box. Added cutability? Check the box.

Added cow longevity? Simmentals not only check the box they are paving the way in stayability. Added monetary and resource sustainability? Again, check the box. These aren't my opinions. They are facts driven by the industry, responsible science, and your commitment to data collection.

How has this happened? While simple to explain, it is hard to do. The Simmental business has been unwavering in its commitment to:

1. Serving the commercial beef business
2. The most credible and time-tested genetic tools — without falling prey to marketing hype.
3. Keeping our prices as rancher- and farmer-friendly as possible.

This model has seen your breed and your association rise to prominence and success at a time when most breeds and most associations are struggling for anything looking like a win or industry relevance. Again, what a gift. But a hard-earned, decades-built gift that requires that we continue to renew our commitment to the Simmental Way.

We have a seat at the table. It is our obligation that we use it well. ■

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Evaluating Fat Cattle:

Yield Grade Challenges, Potential Solutions, and the Value of Tallow

by Lilly Platts

At Fall Focus 2024, Dr. Ty Lawrence with West Texas A&M University presented about the history of the yield grading system, current challenges, and potential solutions. He also discussed tallow values, challenging the idea that packers want fatter cattle because of the added product. Market pressure for heavier finishing cattle affects decision-making throughout the system, down to seed-stock producers and commercial cow-calf producers.

Yield grades, which estimate the percentage of expected cutability from a carcass, became an industry practice in the 1950s. Before that point, carcasses were only graded based on quality. Yield grading has been adjusted since that time, in an attempt to narrow down the actual percentage of meat that ends up being boxed and sold to the consumer.

In response to industry shifts, a yield grade equation was developed, based on a study evaluating 162 carcasses. Researchers studied the measurements of each carcass, which varied widely in size and fatness, to determine common factors affecting yield. It was determined that backfat, kidney, pelvic, and heart fat, carcass weight, and ribeye area were important in predicting the percentage of a carcass that would be highly trimmed rib, loin, round, and chuck. The equation left out brisket, plate, flank, and ground cuts.

In 1962, a proposal was initiated to evaluate the yield grade equation, and to challenge whether the system was benefiting the industry. In 1965, yield grading started, as did ribbing (the process of cutting through the backbone of the side of beef between the 12th and 13th rib) as a part of quality grading.

Cattle have changed dramatically since yield grading became standard.

Before 1967, beef was either sold as a whole carcass, in halves, or quarters, and shifted to the current boxed beef model. Since that time, the system has shifted with industry pressure. In 2009, camera grading became an option, developed to keep up with the demand of large processors. Lawrence explained that yield and quality grading methods vary greatly across packing plants today. One may have real people doing both yield and quality grading. Another plant may utilize both human and camera grading. “Today, we have a tremendous

variability in how things actually get done,” Lawrence explained. “The variety of what happens is not consistent within an individual plant, or within a company day after day.”

For cattle sold on the grid, yield grade is important to the carcass value. A Yield Grade 1 animal is the most desirable, and any animals grading above that (2–5) are trimmed to match. Yield Grade 4 and 5 animals are discounted, often heavily, because of the excessive fat that has to be trimmed off the carcass before being cut and boxed.

Lawrence explained that backfat is 73 % of the yield grade equation. “When I’m teaching live animal evaluation to students, I tell them that if they can predict the backfat correctly, they can get the yield grade right,” he said.

Cattle have changed dramatically since yield grading became standard, which Lawrence demonstrated using photographs. He also discussed how much feeding technology has improved over this time, including the use of implants, and steam-flaked corn. Lawrence also discussed how much carcass size has increased, predicting that the trend will continue into the future. “Cattle are much bigger every year,” he explained. “In my lifetime, carcasses will likely exceed 1,500 pounds.”

Larger carcass weights present challenges with the current yield grade system, assuming that the cattle researched to develop it were much smaller.

These larger carcass weights present challenges with the current yield grade system, assuming that the cattle researched to develop it were much smaller live, and on the rail. Camera evaluation is another issue. “The camera is programmed to take the leanest measurement. So, if there’s a hide hole or a fat tear, the camera automatically

takes the leanest option and you get data back on that animal when in reality, the other side was the truest value of backfat. Cattle are always fatter than the camera's interpretation," Lawrence explained.

This hole in the system has an effect beyond the packing plant. "The camera is programmed to choose the leanest side, which is in favor of the animal, but if you're trying to make genetic improvement or selection, you're getting under-finished data," Lawrence added.

The current system also presents challenges with beef-on-dairy. "If we apply it to a dairy-type animal, it predicts absolutely 0% of the variation in red meat yield. The primary reason is that selection pressure for dairy cattle has been pushed to put fat reserves internally — around the stomach, intestines, kidneys, throughout the pelvic cavity, and around the heart," Lawrence shared.

Dairy cattle that appear to be thin, with visible hips for example, are often quite fat. In beef-on-dairy feeder cattle, these genetics affect how the animals carry fat, and ultimately, the yield grade they receive.

Marbling, and the consumer demand for more prime grade beef, also presents challenges to the current system. "If you want marbling in one spot in the ribeye to improve the grading outcome of that animal, the reality is that they get fatter everywhere else," Lawrence said.

Tallow, or beef fat, is a byproduct of finished cattle, which can be utilized in a number of ways. Tallow has a variety of uses, from cooking to lubrication and biodiesel; tallow-based skincare is currently popular. Some tallow, cut early in the process, is indelible, and is frequently used for biodiesel. Edible tallow, which is cut after the USDA has inspected a carcass, goes into soap, lotion, food, etc.

Packers are not demanding fatter cattle just for the sake of selling more fat.

While tallow is a byproduct that can be sold, Lawrence clarified that packers are not demanding fatter cattle just for the sake of selling more fat. "They're not making cattle fatter to hit tallow outcomes. They're making cattle fatter to hit quality outcomes," he said.

Lawrence shared that a committee sponsored by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association is working to tackle the issues with the current grading system, and is weighing the pros and cons of either starting from the ground up with a new system, or tweaking the current system to better serve the current beef industry environment. ■





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www.cattlemenscongress.com

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January 2025

www.nationalwestern.com

This is the National SimGenetics Show for 2024–2025

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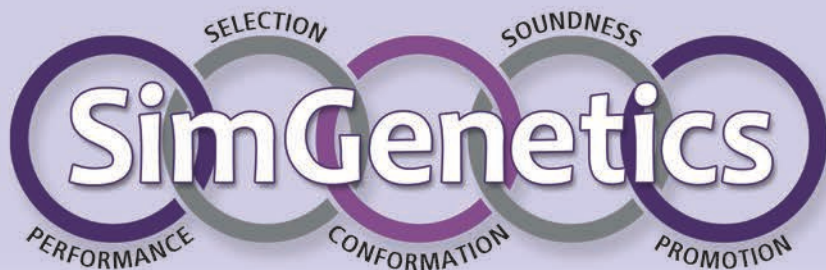
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2025 Cattlemen's Congress
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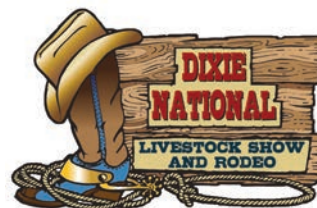
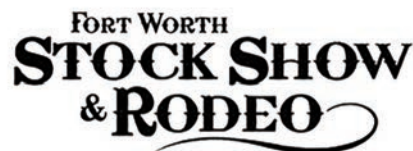
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Adding Value *to* Feeder Calves:

Helping commercial customers market their feeder calves based on genetic merit.

by Lilly Platts

Customers are a seedstock producer's number one priority. From listening to their feedback to staying up to date on trends in the beef industry, breeders are tasked with making sure the genetics they produce are going to make their customers money, and help them improve their cow herds long-term. The nature of the cattle business makes it difficult to ensure that this added genetic value is rewarded when feeder calves are sold. The Feeder Profit Calculator (FPC), and Genetic Merit Pricing Task Force go hand-in-hand in helping seedstock producers give their customers tools, and in promoting the use of quantitative genetic merit in feeder calf marketing.

Dr. Ken Odde recently teamed up with ASA's Chip Kemp and Eichacker Simmentals to share about these important tools. Odde, who works as a SimSpecialist for ASA, is also a longtime producer and professor emeritus at Kansas State University. He has a deep knowledge of both genetics and the nature of raising and marketing feeder calves.

Odde recently signed on to be the lead facilitator for the Genetic Merit Pricing Task Force. This industry-wide effort is a collection of breed associations, professionals ranging from scientists to feeders, and individual producers. The American Simmental Association joined the task force, and has provided funding for the effort.

The overarching goal of the Genetic Merit Pricing Task Force is to increase the percentage of feeder cattle marketed using quantitative genetic information. Traditionally, this information is not shared with potential buyers. Genetics are a solid indicator of how a calf is going to perform after weaning; heterosis, growth, and marbling for example, are reliable predictors of how healthy and profitable an animal will be. Producers, who invest significant time and money into producing these high-quality animals, and buyers, who are taking on the risk of getting an animal to finish, can both benefit financially if value is placed on genetic merit.





Producers gathered at Eichacker Simmentals near Salem, South Dakota, to learn about tools for marketing feeder calves.

The FPC takes into account measures that add genetic merit to an animal and calculates the added value those animals should garner at weaning. Pedigree information and health protocol are important pieces, and the FPC uses this genetic information to evaluate potential performance. The producer then receives a certificate, which can be taken to the sale barn, added as a supplement at video auction, or handed directly to a buyer.

Spreading the Word

These tools are only valuable if producers know about them, which was a goal of the gathering at Eichacker Simmentals. Odde and Eichacker took the time to meet with a representative at Mitchell Livestock Marketing before the event, getting insight from the marketing side, and working to better understand how to spread the word about tools like the FPC.

Eichacker owns and operates a seedstock business alongside his family. A large part of their business is focused on selling SimGenetics bulls to commercial producers. Eichacker shared, “The FPC is a great tool, but if the day a commercial guy goes to sell these calves, the sale barn isn’t on the same page with you bringing in the FPC certificate, you wasted your time. They’re not going to recognize the genetic merit of your calves at the auction block.”

Eichacker and Odde saw an opportunity to spread the word about these valuable tools. “We decided that we need to start telling the story. If you tell it and put the

word out, pretty soon more people will know about it. It will start resonating with them,” Eichacker said.

Odde shared about the Genetic Merit Pricing Task Force, and Kemp gave a presentation to the 60 producers in attendance about the FPC. Tim Clark, a member of the ASA Board of Trustees, was in attendance, and helped spread the word about the event. “It was very well attended, by both seedstock producers and commercial cow-calf producers. It was a good balance of both,” Clark shared. “Chip and Dr. Odde both did a tremendous job presenting.”

ASA SimSpecialists like Odde are available across the country to help facilitate educational events and spread the word about valuable tools like the FPC. For more information, please visit simmental.org. To learn more about the Genetic Merit Pricing Task force, check out the Late Fall issue of *SimTalk* in print, or online at simmental.org.



Scan the QR code for the Feeder Profit Calculator sign-up sheet.



Scan this QR code to watch a video about the Feeder Profit Calculator.



\$API: 109
STI: 70

TJSC H-Town 131L

STCC Tecumseh 058J x TJSC Diamond 312H
ASA# 4274275 • Black • Polled
2024 NWSS Champion Bull by STCC Tecumseh



\$API: 93
STI: 70

RJ Trust Fund 212K

W/C Bankroll 811D x Hara's Kim Kardashian 1C
ASA# 4147173 • Black • Polled
Exciting, NEW, 3/4 Bankroll x Broker x Harietta for elite type!



\$API: 125
STI: 74

Walsh Against The Odds

Bet on Red x WLE Big Deal
ASA# 4256400 • Red • Homo Polled
ATO has foot size, excellent design & body dimension! His dam was a popular champion for Walsh, WI.



\$API: 135
STI: 83

SAS Black Majic L334

SRH Hannibal x Silver Lake Gold Digger
ASA# 4265277 • Hetero Black • Homo Polled
\$55,000 high-seller at Springer Simmentals 2024. Add mass & outcross pedigree.



\$API: 120
STI: 76

SJF SMJ Payroll 7245J

W/C Bankroll 811D x Profit
ASA# 3992818 • Red • Polled
Exciting combination of look, power, pedigree!



\$API: 99
STI: 63

Only One 905K

SFI Platinum FS5 x TLLC One Eyed Jack
ASA# 4132878 Black, Polled
Added hair, flexibility, rib & eye appeal!



\$API: 118
STI: 80

LLSF High Profile J903

W/C Executive Order 8543B x
PSCS Alley's Lady 902G ET
ASA# 4062764 • Hetero Black • Homo Polled
Outstanding balance and look! 2023 MO State Fair Champion!



\$API: 125
STI: 77

SFIS Unstoppable J3

W/C Bankroll 811D x SFIS Crystal Gayle
ASA# 3969316 • Heterozygous Black • Polled
Awesome son of famous donor Crystal Gale that'll improve depth, profile & structure!



\$API: 148
STI: 87

WHF/JS/CCS Woodford J001

EGL Firesteel 103F x WHF Summer 365C
ASA# 4068398 • Homo Black • Homo Polled
3/4 Simmental. NEW and exciting calving ease and outcross pedigree with outstanding phenotype out of fantastic donor Summer 365C!



\$API: 97
STI: 68

Revelation 2K

TL Revenant 35 x CSCX Bandwagon 513A
ASA# 4153090 • Black • Polled
\$200,000 exciting outcross to improve all!



\$API: 113
STI: 84

LLSF Vantage Point F398

CCR Anchor x Uprising x Quantum Leap's Dam
ASA# 3492381 • Hetero Black • Homo Polled
3/4 Lead-off Bull in the 2019 NWSS Percentage Champion for Lee.



\$API: 125
STI: 75

Felt Perseverance 302F

W/C Executive Order 8543B x Rubys Rhythm Z231
ASA# 3493800 • Hetero Black • Homo Polled
Perseverance is a new, exciting baldy Executive Order son with tremendous maternal genetics behind him. The first dozen calves out of him have been born light and easily out of first calf heifers.



\$API: 181
STI: 106

LCDR Affirmed 212H

EGL Firesteel 103F x WS Miss Sugar C4
ASA# 3812282 • Homo Black • Homo Polled
Use him to make those next generation Purebreds. Excellent foot shape and depth of heel.



\$API: 104
STI: 74

WHF/JS/CCS Double Up G365

W/C Double Down x WHF Summer 365C
ASA# 3658592
Double Up is by proven calving ease sensation Double Down out of the legendary WHF/Steenhoek multiple time champion WHF Summer 365C.



\$API: 112
STI: 74

JBSF Berwick 41F

Rocking P Legendary C918 x JBSF 402B
ASA# 3462584 • Black • Polled
Newly available and producing extremely valuable progeny across the nation!



\$API: 172
STI: 105

HL Tommy Boy K65

CLRS Guardian 317G x HL Ms Smooth Criminal E174
ASA# 4167626 • Homo Black • Homo Polled
Blaze Calving ease Guardian son at Echard, IA, and Heartland.



\$API: 110
STI: 70

Wood Ruthless 151H

Relentless x High Regard x Aubreys BlackBlaze II
ASA# 3878993 • Homo Black • Homo Polled
Exciting outline and build with phenomenal cow families on both sides!



\$API: 140
STI: 85

ZTGC Just Cuz 52K

W/C Night Watch 84E x ZTGC The Blaze
ASA#: 4063644 • Black • Homo Polled
Jared Werning's new & exciting balanced sire for profile & function!



\$API: 121
STI: 77

GOE Lets Roll 749J

W/C Bankroll 811D x W/C RJ Miss 8543 6105D
ASA# 4141350 • Hetero Black • Homo Polled
Lots of neck extension in a complete package!



\$API: 166
STI: 98

TSN Architect J618

G A R Home Town x TSN Miss Cowboy D350
ASA# 3928828 • Homo Black • Homo Polled
The most exciting calving ease SimAngus™ in the land with top % ranks in every trait!

COOL Additions!

CATTLE *Visions*

573-641-5270

www.cattlevisions.com



\$API: 108
\$TI: 72

TJSC Coping with Destiny 9K
WLE Copacetic E02 x TJSC Diamonds Destiny 134C
ASA# 4103854 • Black • Polled
2023–2024 dominante Grand Champion!



\$API: 141
\$TI: 83

Rocking P Private Stock H010
WLE Copacetic E02 x Rubys Wide Open 909W
ASA# 3775641 • Homo Black • Homo Polled
Private Stock was the 2022 Fort Worth Champion Bull and the 2021 NAILE Champion Bull.



\$API: 200
\$TI: 112

CLRS Guardian 317G
Hook's Beacon 56B x CLRS Always Xcellent
ASA# 3563436 • Homo Black • Homo Polled
Guardian was the \$85,000 selection in the 2020 "Bred For Balance" Sale. He's the breed's #1 \$API Purebred and #2 Marbling Purebred!



\$API: 130
\$TI: 75

KJK1 38 Special 801J
JSUL Something About Mary 8421 x
R Built To Believe 801F
ASA# 3972780 • Hetero Black • Hetero Polled
Cool profiled SAM son with a cool face backed by a great cow family!



\$API: 109
\$TI: 75

SO Remnant 418J
SO Remedy 7F x STCC Ms Persistent 7161
ASA# 4035943 • Black • Polled
Great Remedy son who was Reserve Champ at NAILE & Cattlemen's Congress!



\$API: 128
\$TI: 80

W/C Bet On Red 481H
W/C Fort Knox x W/C Relentless
ASA# 3808091 • Red • Homo Polled
Griswold's red bull purchase from the 2021 Werning sale!



\$API: 155
\$TI: 96

CLWTR Clear Advantage H4G
LLSF Vantage Point F398 x Miss Sugar C4
ASA# 3858588 • Homo Black • Homo Polled
Exciting, new sire that's ultra-complete out of one of the hottest donors!



\$API: 118
\$TI: 77

W/C Red Bird 269J
W/C Bankroll 811D x W/C Miss Angel 2870Z
ASA# 3974327 • Red • Homo Polled
Red Bird is the \$90,000 Brandon Bird & Jared Werning owned HOT red sire by Bankroll & National Champion ANGEL!



\$API: 134
\$TI: 88

W/C Express Lane 29G
Rubys Turnpike 771E x Hooks Shear Force 38K
ASA# 3644933 • Homo Black • Homo Polled
Complete Turnpike son at Western Cattle Source, NE!



\$API: 105
\$TI: 71

SWSN Cash Flow 81E
Profit x MR CCF Vision
ASA# 3348420 • Black • Polled
Cash Flow sired some of Hartman's and Vogler's high selling lots this past year!



\$API: 130
\$TI: 97

SAS Infra-Red H804
All Aboard x Erixon Bitten
ASA# 3803257 • Red • Homo Polled
One of the hottest red bulls to sell in 2021!



\$API: 203
\$TI: 115

BAS Money Maker J801
Hook's Eagle 6E x BAS Miss Beacon F801
ASA# 3978845 • Homo Black • Homo Polled
Exciting herdsire at Heartland, IA!
HIGH \$API WITH GREAT BUILD!



\$API: 173
\$TI: 92

Bar CK Red Empire 9153G
IR Imperial x CDI Verdict
ASA# 3766616 • Homo Polled
High-selling bull at BAR CKs 2021 Sale! Top 1%



\$API: 150
\$TI: 88

ES Right Time FA110-4
Welsh Dew It Right 067T x ES A110
ASA# 3481590 • Homo Black • Homo Polled
Newly available power, phenotype and marketability sire!



\$API: 132
\$TI: 76

WHF Entourage H450
KCC1 Exclusive 116E x
WHF Delilah 45D by TJ Main Event
ASA# 3924201 • Hetero Black • Homo Polled
WHF & Boyert's exciting new herdsire!



\$API: 98
\$TI: 61

ALL/FCF Hot Topic 099H
Profit x FCF Phyllis 532
ASA# 3926810 • Hetero Black • Homo Polled
Hot Topic was the 2021 NAILE Grand Champion % Bull! His dam is one of the hottest Angus donors in the world!



\$API: 104
\$TI: 81

RP/CMFM John B J104
HPF Quantum Leap Z952 x RP/BCR Stylish Love F158
ASA# 4109070 • Hetero Black • Homo Polled
Current 2023 Champion PTP % Bull! Champ at Ft. Worth, OKC, Am Royal!



\$API: 106
\$TI: 72

S&S TSSC Limitless 041H (1/2)
Conley No Limit x WS Revival
ASA# 3776857 • Black • Polled
Calf champion at 2020 NAILE and 2021 Royal!

Water *in the* Ogallala Aquifer *and* Beyond

by Lilly Platts

The Ogallala Aquifer is a diminishing yet necessary resource in the West. Two water experts offer their insight on the current situation, and potential solutions.

Water is top of mind for beef producers across the West. As development and drought continue to decrease available water, good management and planning are more important than ever. The Texas Panhandle and Ogallala Aquifer serve as an example of how a diminishing resource can be managed. Amy Bush and Janet Guthrie shared about water struggles in the Texas Panhandle at Fall Focus 2024, and also touched on larger water issues facing beef producers, offering valuable insight into the current challenges and potential solutions surrounding one of our most basic needs.

Getting a Grasp on Groundwater

Amy Bush is a hydrologist with RMBJ Geo, Inc., with over 20 years of experience working with and for groundwater conservation districts and landowners in a variety of roles. She has a BS in hydrology and water resources engineering from Tarleton State University. Today, she works as a consultant for groundwater districts, water rights owners, ranches, and landowners.



Photo by Hannah Wine.

The Ogallala Aquifer stretches from southern South Dakota through the Texas Panhandle, covering close to 175,000 square miles. The depth of the water in this aquifer varies greatly, with areas in Nebraska holding 1,200 feet of saturated water; other areas may only hold 50 feet of water. Many producers throughout this area rely on wells tapped into the Ogallala for irrigation.

To understand how water is being used, depleted, and replenished, it is important to measure. Bush discussed the challenge of doing this, and predicting what may happen in the future. In some areas, the aquifer recharges fairly easily due to sandy soil and adequate rainfall. In other areas like the Panhandle, water does not appear to be replenishing, making it a finite resource. Bush recalled a study conducted by the Bureau of Economic Geology that measured groundwater age. One sample, which was taken 27 feet below the surface, was estimated to be over 100 million years old. Another sample, taken in an area with much sandier, loose soil, was around 30,000 years old. When water goes back into the ground, it takes a significant amount of time to re-enter the aquifer.

When water goes back into the ground, it takes a significant amount of time to re-enter the aquifer.

Water laws vary by state. In Texas, water use is determined based on a 50-year goal. In the Panhandle, water is managed under the assumption that the aquifer is being depleted. Once a goal is determined for the amount of water that should be left in the aquifer in 50 years, the amount that can be used up to that time period is determined. Essentially, various agencies decide what percentage needs to be left — say 50% — and set policy based on that goal.

Many of these decisions are based on prediction models. Bush shared a model beginning in 2010, showing what will happen to the aquifer if the current level of water pumping continues. As the years progress, the model shows areas turning from blue (charged) to brown (dry). “There are already places that used to be over productive aquifer that no longer are,” Bush shared. “I have picture after picture of huge irrigation motors that are sitting with weeds grown up around them because there is no water left in wells.”

Janet Guthrie is the general manager of the North Plains Groundwater Conservation District, which extends over 7,335 square miles in the northern Texas Panhandle. She has over 22 years of groundwater management experience as the general manager of the Hemphill County

Underground Water Conservation District. She currently serves as the treasurer of the Panhandle Regional Water Planning Group, and the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts.

Guthrie discussed the evolution of groundwater management and laws. In Texas, it was established at the turn of the century that landowners also owned the water beneath their land. This gave landowners the right to produce as much groundwater as they desired. In 1949, groundwater districts began to form to guide water management. One of the biggest questions facing areas reliant on groundwater has been at which point the water is the vested property of the landowner. Does possession begin in the ground, or only once water has been drawn? In 2013, the Texas Supreme Court ruled that water is the vested property of the landowner in the ground.

A landowner may have a fence surrounding their property above the ground, but the water beneath is obviously not contained to these boundaries. Because of this and other factors, the Texas Supreme Court’s ruling left many questions unanswered. Guthrie shared that these questions were immediately brought up, and fortunately, it was determined that a groundwater district can deny a drilling permit if it is not within the district’s rules. It was also decided that groundwater districts are the state’s

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Water in the Ogallala Aquifer and Beyond

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preferred method for managing groundwater. This allows locally appointed groups to make decisions about groundwater management, which is especially important for agriculture. The alternative of having all water decisions be made at a state or federal level could leave important rural voices out.

Seeking Solutions

The Ogallala Aquifer is one of several under depletion management. While the water is being put to beneficial use and managed, the harsh reality is that the aquifer in the Texas Panhandle simply isn't recharging. From large dairies to farming and beef cattle, the area produces a large volume of agricultural products, and is also home to many communities. This means that water in the aquifer must be managed in the best way possible while continuing to support water needs.

Guthrie shared that measuring groundwater use through meters is important for future management. While the Ogallala Aquifer is being depleted, data shows that agricultural producers are doing more with less. "You can't manage what you don't measure," Guthrie said.

Her work involves educating producers about management practices that can conserve groundwater. "The North Plains Groundwater Conservation District has focused a lot of time, money, and effort on doing agricultural conservation demonstrations," she shared.

Guthrie's district also offers a four-week course focused on in-depth information about irrigation technology, new crop varieties, tilling practices, and measurement tools

that can reduce water use while maintaining production levels. These educational efforts give farmers and ranchers options to take back to their operations that can help conserve water for future generations.

The Panhandle is home to many large dairies, which require significant water. Because the groundwater in this area is managed equitably, dairies are not allowed to use more water than others. However, feedstuff production also plays into the amount of water required to produce dairy products. Guthrie shared about studies being done to determine if different feeds can reduce the amount of water being used, while maintaining production.

Crops like corn also require significant water, and in areas like the Panhandle, researchers and farmers are studying seed varieties that have been genetically modified to require less water. Bush shared, "These genetics and advancements are making a big difference in water use."

Sometimes, evaluating the way things "have always been done" can reveal major opportunities for improvement. Bush shared a story about a farmer who was struggling to make it through each growing season with enough water for his crops. He switched from using a standard seven-tower pivot to a four-tower pivot, which is lower to the ground, and found that he not only had enough water when the season was over, but that he also had more yield.

Bush and Guthrie emphasized that the future sustainability of the Ogallala Aquifer, and others being depleted, will be dependent on good management, conservation, and cooperation. ■



Chip Kemp moderating a panel discussion with Amy Bush (left), and Janet Guthrie.



TRUST THE ORIGINAL

The first multi-breed evaluation is still cattlemen's first choice.



Common Questions to Prepare for Sale Season

by ASA Staff

Bull sale season means many producers are submitting data and DNA samples, prepping sale catalogs, and answering questions from potential buyers. The following are common questions answered by ASA staff.

Why do EPD change on registered animals?

Response by Molly Diefenbach,
DNA Services Coordinator

It can be confusing to see an EPD change from just one week to the next, but it's important to keep in mind that no genetic evaluation is static — if it was, then we would be a lot farther behind in our selection decisions! New information builds on top of prior data, which helps improve the statistical power of our models. Most importantly for our producers, it improves the prediction accuracy for all animals within the International Genetic Solutions (IGS) genetic evaluation.

The genetic evaluation revolves around four key components: 1) the animal's individual performance records, 2) the animal's parents' genetic predictions (i.e., we use parental averages as the starting point to an EPD and adjust accordingly), 3) the performance data of progeny, and 4) the genomic information on the animal itself and progeny combined. New data is constantly being uploaded to the IGS genetic evaluation, so as both producers and partnering breed associations work together to add more information weekly, the evaluation changes weekly, which is why you'll notice the EPD values changing.

One common cause of change is incorporating DNA information into the evaluation (i.e., genotyping). For example, genotyping a yearling bull is like knowing over 25 progeny growth records before he has even sired a single calf. A frequent source of confusion and frustration is the misunderstanding that more information equates to "better" EPD. That simply isn't the case. In fact, all animals have equal opportunity to have EPD move in a favorable or unfavorable direction after additional information is incorporated. If that wasn't the case then the evaluation would be biased toward certain outcomes and would not be giving the most accurate picture of an animal's genetic merit. The key is that the new information leading to the change improves prediction accuracy and gives you more confidence in your selection decisions as well as increases the rate of genetic progress in your herd.

What is an economic selection index and why is using it a good idea?

Response by Ryan Boldt, PhD, IGS Lead Geneticist

An economic selection index is a methodology that has been around for a long time. It is used to economically weight an animal's expected progeny difference (EPD) profile. These allow for multiple trait selection and improvement based on the economic impact and direction. There are several types of economic indexes that target different phases of production. Generally, you can think of indexes as all-purpose, maternal, and terminal. An all-purpose index is designed to weight different traits across the entire beef supply chain. These indexes should always be targeted as an important factor in selection decisions because they allow for multi-trait improvement for all economically relevant traits that have genetic predictions. Maternal indexes are targeted for traits that happen at the cow-calf level. Generally, they will have traits from conception to weaning. The final type of index is a terminal index, which targets profitability through the feedlot and harvest phases of production.

Most breed associations provide a combination of the above indexes for their members and commercial cattle producers. One important part of bull selection is understanding what a selection index is targeting. For example, if the goal is to retain replacement heifers from the bull, a high terminal index would not be an appropriate choice. All breed associations will have information about the indexes and their targets. However, having a conversation with your seedstock provider can also help with identification of the correct index.

The main advantage of these indexes is the optimization of the selection decisions. Selecting on a few traits may result in a suboptimal selection decision. When looking at indexes, knowing that the selection decision is being guided by sound economic principles is vitally important. Another added benefit is that it drastically simplifies selection decisions. Instead of looking across an animal's entire EPD profile, a single number can be used. Another way to think about these indexes is a summary of that animal's EPD profile.

The sale catalog has actual BW, adjusted BW, BW ratios, BW EPD, and a CED. First, why? Second, which do I use? Third, can I overemphasize calving concerns in my program?

Response by Chip Kemp, Director, ASA & IGS Commercial and Industry Operations

The benefits of reducing dystocia (calving difficulty) are widely recognized in scientific literature. But to be frank, mere cowboy logic and intuition is enough on this front. Stress at the time of birth puts both the calf and cow at risk in both the short and long terms. It causes added human labor and directly impacts profitability. So, it is appropriate that the sale catalog gives you a meaningful metric by which to help you get a handle on the level of concern. As an aside, hopefully you are provided an accuracy of the EPD (Expected Progeny Difference) as well to give you a sense of the confidence associated with the EPD prediction. The accuracy number ranges from 0 to 1 and grows closer to 1 as more is known about an animal and those related to the animal. Additionally, EPD only have value when they are compared to another EPD. As a stand-alone they are uninterpretable. So, ideally, the catalog also offers percentile ranks or breed average as a means to compare.

So, you need and deserve a meaningful metric. Which one is it? Actual birth weight information on a calf, the birthweights of the calf's contemporaries that are born in roughly the same location and at roughly the same time, the birthweights of ancestors, and DNA information via genomics are all extremely valuable. You couple it with similar information from farms and ranches across the country and world, identify the genetic material to be gauged, and account for different environments and

management systems. That is a lot of information. So, to whom is it valuable? When the data is properly gathered and properly transmitted to a breeder's genetic service provider (think breed association) then the various forms of information can be properly vetted and weighted in formulas that generate EPD and the associated accuracies. Only after this information is transitioned into EPD does it have meaning for you on sale day. That is the purpose of an EPD: to deliver a meaningful tool by which to make selection decisions. EPD are *the* tool to use, along with resulting indexes (for a conversation on another day). Not actual weights or adjusted weights or ratios. Those are important in the calculation of the EPD; beyond that they are confusing and unclear. For example, the same mating in spring and fall is almost always going to generate a heavier calf in spring because cold weather forces more blood flow to the core of an animal. Hence, more blood flow and nutrients to the growing calf. If you looked at raw birthweights of the two instances you might mistakenly think there are drastic genetic differences. Likewise, similar genetics tend to beget heavier calves in North Dakota than in Texas.

So, we know it is an EPD. But is it the BW EPD or the CED (Calving Ease Direct) EPD? The two are highly correlated as you'd expect. Which trait is more important to your banker? The fact that you have a calf that weighed 77 lbs. or that you had a live calf that causes minimal

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Common Questions to Prepare for Sale Season

(Continued from page 23)

stress to the cow? Or conversely, that you had a 90-lb. calf or a dead calf that caused the cow to go down as well? You know. One measure gets at an interesting metric of predicting differences in birthweights. The other measure gets to the heart of profitability: a live and healthy calf. Birthweight is a large part of calving ease, but it is not everything. Every cowboy or cowgirl has seen a huge calf come with no trouble and a small calf that caused grief. There are other elements and as such CED is the trait of importance. That is why we call CED an Economically Relevant Trait (ERT).

How useful are weight ratios in making selection decisions?

Response by Lane Giess, ASA Geneticist

If we consider our buying habits when making bull purchases, how often do we still look at the weight ratios and adjusted weights printed in the sale catalog? I'd wager everyone who has been buying bulls for a while still uses those ratios in their decision-making; however, the question is should we? For decades, weight ratios have been the hallmark marketing tool to benchmark animals, and in an industry that pays by the pound, it makes sense that the animals that ratio at the top of their contemporary group "should" be more desirable. However, much like any other industry, tools that we used 50 years ago have been improved upon and become outdated.

A weight ratio represents how well an animal did for a performance trait within its contemporary group. There is an important distinction though, because a weight ratio tells us how well that animal "did," which is not the same as how well an animal will "do" as a parent. What we observe (whether it be birth weight, weaning weight, or horn length) is an animal's phenotype, and a phenotype is made up of both genetic and environmental influences. Management is an environmental influence and can impact how an animal ratios. Often, when you pay extra money for an animal with a high weight ratio, you are spending extra money on that management, which has no influence on its merit as a parent.

Weight ratios are a simple tool that in the absence of any other information can be useful, yet our ability to understand an animal's genetic merit as a parent has become so much more refined through the development of expected progeny differences (EPD). An EPD uses all available information such as pedigree knowledge, performance data, progeny records, and genomic information to determine an animal's genetic merit using advanced statistics and technology. While EPD have been around for many years, we have even bettered their predictive ability through improved statistical modeling, larger datasets more reflective of the commercial beef industry, genomic innovation, and improved computer processing capabilities. This means that EPD are the best tool available to better understand the genetic potential of parent animals.

Our ability as animal breeders to better the next generation relies on robust and innovative tools. While weight ratios have served their purpose over the years, they are largely obsolete in the era of precision livestock production. Tools such as economic selection indexes that balance selection for all relevant EPD traits are much more informative and useful to make genetic progress through selection decisions. ■

Editor's note: The preceding Q&A pieces were originally published by Morning Ag Clips.



ND Simmental CLASSIC SALE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2024

Kist Livestock • Mandan, ND • 1:30 p.m. (Approx.)
Sale follows the ND Red Angus Select Sale, which begins at 11 a.m.

Selling **40** BRED HEIFERS **20** OPEN HEIFERS
also selling SEMEN & EMBRYO LOTS

Offering selected from the heart of herds that host some of the top bull sales in the land!

Selling many open heifers that will be competitive in Junior and Regional Open Shows!

Offering many bred females that will complement the most serious programs!



Offering females that develop into Great Maternal Mothers!



Selling genetics from proven Maternal Dams and Sires!



Offering a tremendous set of Elite Bred Heifers royally bred!



An exceptional set of open heifers that will be very competitive in shows as well as develop into outstanding mothers!

ANNUAL MEETING AND BANQUET
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2024

Meeting at Kist Livestock • Noon
Social and Banquet • Baymont Inn, Mandan, ND
5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Sale Headquarters:
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Ask for the ND Simmental block rate.

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by Larry H. Maxey,
founder and superintendent, NAILE Fullblood Simmental Shows

Our Pioneers – Geneticists & Ag Scientists

A story published recently in *The Guardian* was titled “‘Goldmine’ Collection of Wheat from 100 Years Ago May Help Feed the World.” Written by Robin McKie, science editor, the focus was on the scientific contribu-

tions of Arthur Watkins, who launched his career over 100 years ago. Watkins, a British geneticist, was described as a “shy pioneer.” His start in agriculture was highly unusual. At the age of 19, he was fighting in the trenches of World War I. He survived the war and was ordered to remain in France as an assistant agricultural officer. He worked with local farmers securing food needed to sustain troops remaining in the war zone.

This work spawned his interest in agriculture. He returned to Britain to study at Cambridge. Subsequently, he joined the university’s department of agriculture where he began his life’s work: collecting wheat samples from across the planet.

“‘Crucially, Watkins had realized that, as we began breeding new wheat varieties, genes that were then thought to be of little use and which were being deleted from strains, might still have future value,’ said Simon Griffiths, a geneticist at the John Innes Centre near Norwich. Further, ‘his thinking was incredibly ahead of its time. He realized that genetic diversity — and in this case, of wheat — was being eroded and that we badly needed to halt that.’”

In the 1920s, Watkins began collecting samples of wheat from all over the globe. He was relentless in acquiring these samples from local markets. Watkins had assembled 827 kinds of wheat that were stored, nurtured, and protected at the John Innes Centre. In collaboration with the Chinese, all of the 827 varieties have been DNA sequenced. The result is a “genetic goldmine” identifying previously unknown genes that promise significant breakthroughs in yields with strains adaptable to climate and soil incapable of wheat production in modern times. From strains that grow in salty soil, improved disease resistance, and a reduction in nitrogen fertilizer needs, the possibilities are endless.

It was noted that the wheat genome is made up of 17 billion units of DNA compared to three billion base pairs for the human genome. Only with the use of powerful computers, used in the collaborative effort with their Chinese partners, could this massive database be processed. The data revealed that modern wheat varieties make use of only about 40% of the genetic diversity found in the Watkins collection. The 20th-century “green revolution” led to many varieties being cast aside.

It is estimated that today, one in five calories consumed by humans comes from wheat. Ten thousand years ago in the Fertile Crescent in the Middle East, wheat was first domesticated and cultivated. For most empires, from ancient Egypt to modern day, wheat was a bedrock staple. Now, thanks to the foresight, persistence, and dedication of Arthur Watkins, unimaginable genetic benefits can be brought forward to help feed and sustain an ever-growing world population encumbered by known and unknown challenges.

When I read the *Guardian* article, my mind went back ten years to my Fleckvieh Forum article for the July/August 2014 edition titled “How Do You Do That?” That piece covered a number of topics to include the introduction of new breeds of cattle to North America from the European continent. That process included our Simmentals as well as many others, all wearing their native coats and colors. This introduction of new genetics led to a paradigm shift in the beef cattle industry. A revolution in performance occurred, fueled by the science of heterosis, more commonly referred to as crossbreeding.

In the 2014 article, I wrote; “The significance of the impact represented by the genetic infusion of these new breeds into the existing beef cattle population in North America cannot be adequately described. Today, unfortunately, we are at risk of losing our ability to sustain what has been achieved through crossbreeding with the many breeds during those six decades. Gradually, genetic diversity is being lost as breed after breed is pushed aside and relegated to the dustbins of history. Lost are the endless possibilities those genes represent when mixed in an infinite combination of mating schemes. Too conveniently, we have assumed we know what is best. However, I believe that approach is shortsighted. The answers are in the science of it all. Preserving breed identity in the modern era has become more and more challenging. For those of us that understand the value of the genetic diversity those visionary folks brought to our benefit 60 years ago, and those dedicated to the task of preserving the many breeds they gave us, we need to impress upon the industry the message I have attempted to convey here.”

In conclusion, there is an obvious parallel between the lifelong work of geneticist Arthur Watkins to preserve 827 varieties of wheat seed and our need to equally preserve the genetic diversity of our many beef breeds. The world is now benefiting from Watkins’ vision over 100 years ago. Let’s take to heart the remarkable lesson learned from his example and figure out how we can chart our own preservation path forward for the next 100 years. The answer is in the science! ■

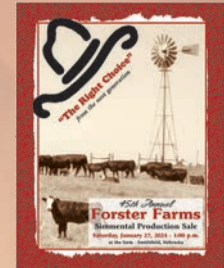
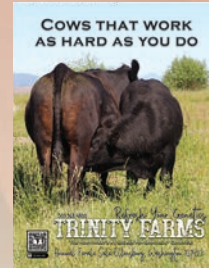
Editor’s note: This is the fortieth in the series Our Pioneers.

Is there a Simmental pioneer who you would like to see profiled in this series? Reach out to Larry Maxey or the editor to submit your suggestions:

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Thousands Raised for ASF

The American Simmental-Simbrah Foundation (ASF) committee has had a busy couple of months raising funds for the Foundation. Several fundraisers were held during the National Classic in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in July. The popular Breeders Cup Golf Tournament was held at the Hard Rock Tulsa Golf Course and raised over \$12,000 to benefit the Merit Scholarship program. There were also opportunities to purchase unique items in the silent auction or participate in the BBQ contest and show off your culinary skills. Together these two fundraisers brought in over \$5,000 to support the AJSA and youth education programs.

Summer fundraising wrapped up with the fun-filled Cash Cow event held during Fall Focus in Amarillo, Texas. Numbered ear tags were sold for \$100 each, and removed from the board as numbers were drawn throughout the event. During the Recognition Dinner, the remaining tags were auctioned off. Circle M Farms of Texas had the last tag, and walked away with the cash prize. The Cash Cow fundraiser raised a record-breaking \$14,550 for the Foundation. Thank you to everyone who continues to support the Foundation! ■



Right: Cathy Eichacker, Brandi Karisch, and Mia Bayer drawing tags for the Cash Cow Fundraiser.

Below: A group of Cash Cow organizers and supporters pictured at Fall Focus.





Honoring Tradition



Giving Back: Dickson Farms Donates 2025 ASF Foundation Female at Cattlemen's Congress

It is an absolute honor to be the donating the 2025 ASF Foundation Female at the Cattlemen's Congress in Oklahoma City. Our family has been heavily involved in all aspects of the American Simmental Association since 1978, including Total Herd Enrollment, data reporting, and in the show ring. It was started with Jim and Rita Dickson, and their 4 children (Mike, Dan, Sherry, and Melissa). The operation was named Dickson Simmental Cattle with the ASA #066916. For the last 10 years, we have been recognized as being one of the top 4 farms with total registered cattle annually in Ohio with the ASA. Our multi generational operation has grown significantly over the years with the involvement of Rachel and her siblings in AJSA. Today, Mike and his family operate as Dickson Farms in St. Louisvillle, Ohio, and run a combined 120 Purebred Simmental and Sim-



Genetics females with the focus on cow families. We strive to produce functional and practical females with the maternal ability and longevity to sell to seedstock and commercial breeders alike. In addition, many bulls are sold privately to commercial and purebred breeders each year. Annually, we consign a select group of females and bulls to customer appreciation sales including the Legends of the Flint Hills Sale at Schaake Farms in Westmoreland, Kansas. More can be found on Facebook at Dickson Farms.

Mike and LeighAnne have 3 daughters: Rachel, Olivia, and Abby, all with their own interests and goals. Rachel has been the most involved with the family farm while Olivia and Abby are

pursuing their dreams of playing collegiate golf and basketball.

Since Rachel's first National Classic in 2011 in Sedalia, Missouri, to her very last in 2023 in Des Moines, Iowa, she was heavily involved in the AJSA. In 2014 and 2015, she joined the short list of exhibitors to win the High Overall Junior in back-to-back years. Later in her career, Rachel served 2 terms on the AJSA Board of Trustees where she was the Vice President of Marketing for 3 of the 4 years. It has been a goal of ours to give back to an organization that has provided so much for Rachel growing up, so when this opportunity presented itself, we could not turn it down.

DICKSON FARMS St. Louisvillle, OH
Mike. 740-501-1508 | Rachel. 740-915-1160
Donation Heifer ASA# 4421349
More information in the next issue.

YOUTH, EDUCATION & RESEARCH
www.simmental.org/foundation
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AMERICAN SIMMENTAL-SIMBRAH
FOUNDATION



Developing leaders through friendship, networking, and communication skills!



by Ella Fischer

Some doors are tougher to open, and some leaps require a bit more faith — and maybe a nudge from a loved one. Yet, no organization offers opportunities quite like the American

Each National Classic event is unique, offering special moments and opportunities to connect with both new members and old friends. Tulsa, in particular, holds a special place in my heart. With the new board structure and the At-Large trustee position, candidates now seek votes beyond their regions. While this can be daunting — balancing personal commitments with meeting new people — these connections are crucial for effective leadership.

I got to meet a bright-eyed girl from Kentucky, excited about the week's events. We discussed contests, her cattle, and various life topics. After her public speaking contest, we chatted about her experience, and her mother suggested she join me to speak with junior members. She hesitated, saying, "I'm not brave enough for that." I was taken aback; this vibrant, talkative girl didn't see herself as brave and outgoing as I did. I responded, "Well, if there are two of us, then we each only have to be half brave." Her smile was a reminder that with the support of friends and family, we are never truly alone in our endeavors. We don't always have to be entirely brave on our own — sometimes, we just need someone to share the journey with us.

Some opportunities may seem scarier than others, and some require more courage. Yet, no organization can offer its members better outcomes than the AJSA. Embrace every door, take every leap, and opportunity to improve yourself, even if you can only be half brave. With the AJSA, you're never alone in your journey toward greatness.

Junior Simmental Association. I remember vividly the anxiety and hesitation I felt as a nervous ten-year-old on my way to my first AJSA National Classic. Sitting silently next to a stranger during the drive, I had no clue what awaited me. The journey was daunting, and I couldn't have imagined that years later, I'd be sitting here as a trustee.

That stranger — who later became like the big sister I never had — helped me break out of my shell and overcome my nerves. Her companionship allowed me to truly embrace the AJSA experience. We became inseparable every summer and were practically attached at the hip. Her support was pivotal in my growth and setting me on the right path toward unpredictable destinations.

Initially, the contests were intimidating. I felt overwhelmed and uncertain, so I gravitated toward quizzes, where I could let my knowledge shine while hiding behind the questions. This approach sparked my passion for learning more about other contests and striving for excellence. The AJSA's educational opportunities are unparalleled. Members get the chance to excel both in and out of the show ring, showcasing their animals and showmanship skills as well as industry knowledge and poise. Beyond that, the Association offers outstanding educational contests, academic support, and leadership opportunities. I've had the privilege of participating in the Steer Profitability Contest (SPC) twice. Each experience deepened my understanding of cattle and the end product. With ever-changing markets and increasingly informed consumers, the SPC provides invaluable insights into the entire process of feeding out cattle and analyzing the real-world effects of EPD.



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by Noah Goss

“As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.”

Although this verse can be found in Proverbs 27:17 in the Bible, I simply can't help but think about the American Junior Simmental Association when I hear this verse. I realized the truth behind this statement this summer when hosting the North Central Regional in Hutchinson, Kansas, and during campaigning for my trustee position at the National Classic in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Although these were the most trying and challenging weeks of my life, the memories, connections, and experiences were highly rewarding. Whether it's the staff at the AJSA or the juniors themselves, high-quality people are guaranteed to be found at every single event. Walk the aisles, meet new people, make friends and connections, and continue to build your industry network.

One of the more unique components of the AJSA shows is the educational contests that juniors are required to participate in. Now, these are oftentimes viewed as a burden. However, I would encourage juniors to view this as an opportunity to compete against some of the most skilled and talented youth in the country. Personal growth happens by stepping outside of your comfort zone and striving to succeed. By switching your mindset, you can truly tap into your potential during your limited years as a member of the AJSA.

The AJSA has a history of helping develop industry leaders, not to mention high-quality people all around. I genuinely would not be where I am today without being a part of the AJSA. So juniors, I challenge you to truly embrace the few short days each summer that we spend in each other's presence, because the sleepless nights and long days won't last forever, but the joy, passion, and growth will last a lifetime.



www.juniorsimmental.org

AJSA members: it's time to take a look at your subscription preferences in Herdbook!

AJSA members will begin receiving digital copies of *the Register* beginning with the February 2025 issue. If you wish to continue receiving printed copies of *the Register*, account settings should be updated in Herdbook Services by December 20, 2024. Thank you! ■



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Hydrops Update: TraitTrac and a Recommended Marketing Statement

ASA has been investigating a developing genetic condition that causes Hydrops pregnancies in a certain line of Simmental genetics. Here are some updates in relation to this research and ASA's actions/suggestions:

Hydrops has been added to Herdbook's TraitTrac with WS All Aboard B80 listed as a documented carrier. At this time there are no genetic holds placed on his descendants as there is not a DNA test available yet. Once there is a test, then Hydrops will follow the same policy as other genetic conditions.

Female progeny who are descendants of or are directly sired by WS All Aboard B80 (ASA# 2852207) are at risk for carrying a genetic abnormality called Hydrops. Daughters may develop a serious condition during late gestation that results in excess fluid in the fetal membrane, which typically causes the loss of the calf and occasionally the dam. There is no current test at this time to identify animals carrying this mutation. Research is ongoing regarding the transmission of the abnormality, and to develop a genetic test. Helping our producers navigate this issue is of the utmost importance to us. Therefore, given that there is neither a full understanding of this condition nor a test, careful consideration should be given regarding the question of whether to breed WS All Aboard B80 descendant females until more information is available to breeders.

For questions regarding established WS All Aboard B80 genetics, Hydrops symptoms, reporting an active case, or additional information, please visit the Hydrops Information Center at www.simmental.org or reach out to Jackie Atkins at jatkins@simmgene.com.

DNA Updates

DNA Research Fee Application

DNA research fees are \$1/minute and may apply to parentage rechecks, misidentified samples, or other scenarios involving unusual increase in staff time. Each case is unique, so estimating the final charge is difficult. If there are a significant number of animals not qualifying to a parent(s), please reach out to the DNA Department to discuss a rough estimate of time and cost.

Testing Timeline

Allow 4–5 weeks. Please communicate any deadlines you may be working with to the ASA DNA staff. Expedited and tracked shipping is always recommended when ordering kits and shipping samples to Neogen.

\$30 DNA Research Fee

Sample packages sent to the ASA office (with or without paperwork), instead of the lab, will incur a \$30 research fee. With the exception of research projects (CHR, CCG, CXP), all samples are to be sent directly to the lab with ASA paperwork.

TSU/Applicator Price Increase

Due to rising costs from the TSU manufacturer AllFlex™, ASA has increased the price of TSU sampling kits to \$22 per box. Each box will still include ten individual tissue sampling units. The cost of TSU applicators has also been increased to \$90 each.

Semen Sample Fee

There is a \$7.20 processing fee for all semen straws and/or semen samples submitted to Neogen for DNA testing.

Check-Off Bonus Program Reminder

While the July 15 deadline to submit all state association program requests seems far away, it's a good time for state associations to familiarize themselves with the check-off bonus program. Aside from the quarterly check-off money states can receive, state associations are also eligible for additional money in the form of yearly bonus checks if certain activities are completed throughout the year. Examples include hosting a field day with ASA representation and participating in the cost share program. To learn about the check-off bonus program, visit simmental.org and contact Callie Cooley at stateassoc@simmgene.com with any questions.

2024 Year-Letter is M

In accordance with the Beef Improvement Federation guidelines, the year-letter animal identification for 2024 is M, and will be followed by N in 2025, and P in 2026. The letter L was the year-letter designated during 2023. Per the BIF guidelines, the following letters are not used: I, O, Q, and V.

Digital Certificates Available

ASA now offers members the option to download official digital certificates for registered animals. ASA no longer scans and emails or faxes copies of printed certificates, and is encouraging shows, sales, and other events to utilize digital certificates. Digital certificates are the easiest, most reliable way to obtain an official record quickly. To download a digital certificate, search for your registered animal on Herdbook. If you are logged in and the animal is registered in good standing, there will be a button to download a digital certificate. Only the current owner of an animal can access the digital certificate. Please contact the registrations department at simmental@simmgene.com with questions.

DNA Research Programs Continue



The Calf Crop Genomic (CCG) testing project and Cow Herd DNA Roundup (CHR) continue to accept new submissions. The CCG offers a 50% off GGP-100K genomic test including parentage (\$25 compared to \$50 equivalent test) to participating breeders who test their entire calf crop group.



The CHR program also continues to accept new herds. The project tests females at \$25 per sample for a GGP-100K genomic test. Members must test 90% of their calving-age cows to qualify for the reduced price. When members submit mature cow body weights and body condition scores or hip heights on 90% of their calving-age cows, they will receive a \$5 credit to their account for each reported cow. Cows must be 18 months of age or older when mature cow measurements are taken to qualify for the \$5 credit. The \$5 credit will only be applied once in an animal's life. For example, if a member received a credit for the phenotypes in 2018 for that cow, they cannot receive another credit for the same cow with a new weight and BCS in 2019.

Additional requirements apply for both programs. Please visit simmental.org, and email researchdna@simmgene.com for full program requirements and more information.

Office Holiday Schedule

Thursday, November 28 & Friday, November 29

Thanksgiving

Wednesday, December 25, Thursday, December 26,

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Christmas

Wednesday, January 1

New Year's Day ■

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COW SENSE / Register

Ten questions designed to test your beef industry knowledge:

1. From which strain of French Simmental did “Parisien,” ASA registration number 1, originate?
2. A cow herd that has had no outside breeding stock introduced is known by what term?
3. An animal that results from the mating of a straightbred bull to a straightbred cow of another breed is known by what designation?
4. The very top of a beef animal’s skull is known by what descriptive term?
5. Folds of hide located in the throat area of a beef animal are known by what term?
6. The practice of utilizing forage and roughage to prepare stocker cattle for finishing is known by what industry term?
7. What would be the average daily gain of a calf that weighed 620 pounds at the start of a 160-day feeding period and finished at 1,100 pounds?
8. What is the approximate gestation period for a mature cow?
9. Twins produced from one fertilized egg are known by what common term?
10. What is the phenotype of a bull that is homozygous for the horned trait? ■

Answers:

1. Pie Rouge; 2. A closed herd; 3. F-1; 4. The poll; 5. Dewlap; 6. Backgrounding; 7. 3.0 pounds per day; 8. 285 days; 9. Identical twins; 10. Horned



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Biological Time Lag of Heifer Retention

Mark Z. Johnson, Oklahoma State University Extension

It is evident that the pace of expansion of the US cow inventory will be slower than past cycles. Several factors will continue to contribute to the slow rebuild. Our beef cow inventory continues to tighten and pushes market prices to record levels. With regard to heifer retention, the questions most of us are asking:

- Will increased heifer retention (at some point in the future) result in even higher prices?
- How long will these prices last?

These are good questions. Past cattle cycles indicate the answer to the first is most likely yes. When producers begin to retain more heifers to develop as herd replacements, it results in fewer calves going to market.

The answer to the second question is the topic of this article: the biological time lag of beef production. The reality of beef production is that what competing animal proteins can accomplish in weeks (broiler production) or months (pork production), will take those of us in the cow-calf sector years to accomplish. The biology of the beef animal is why.

The Timeline

If we selected a high percentage of our 2024 spring-born heifer calves to develop as replacements this fall, by next spring (2025), those properly developed replacement heifers would be ready to breed by 14 or 15 months of age. The following spring (2026), those heifers would calve at two years of age. Those calves would be ready to market at weaning in the fall of 2026. Those calves would become yearlings in 2027 and eventually become marketed as “A Maturity” finished cattle or beef carcasses six to seven months after entering the feedyard.

Bottom Line

As of now there is little evidence of large-scale heifer retention across the country. If and when we begin to retain heifers (on a large scale) we are a couple of years away from increasing the cow inventory, and at least 30 months away from increasing the supply of weaned calves, and so on, regarding yearlings and fed cattle. As is always the case in the beef cattle industry, other factors can and will have an impact on the market. That being stated, the basic fundamentals of supply and demand favor strong prices for all categories of cattle until cow inventory begins to increase, and that will take some time.

Take Care of Cows During Calving Season

More new calves are dropping each day as fall calving progresses. To ensure they get proper nutrition, keeping the cow herd in top nutritional shape is imperative so that cows can provide high-quality colostrum for calves at birth and a high quantity of milk until weaning.

Nutrition during late pregnancy and early lactation will also affect the reproductive performance of each cow. In fact, her nutritional status from the time she calves and through the breeding season determines when she returns to estrus as well as her fertility level. Maintaining top nutrition levels can become challenging.

“Seventy percent of a fetus’s growth takes place during the last three months of gestation, so you can quickly understand the need for increased nutrients,” Dr. Scott Westlake, Solvet

Technical Services Veterinarian, says. “This means a cow needs to gain about 1.25 lbs. a day, including the fetus and related tissues. If she doesn’t get enough nutrition to maintain this, her body weight and body condition score will go down. It’s not uncommon to feed high-quality feed in late pregnancy to meet nutritional needs.

“A cow’s nutrient requirements remain elevated after calving because she needs to produce the high-quality colostrum essential for a healthy start for her calf, and she must produce enough milk to feed an appetite that grows until weaning. Plus, she needs to rebreed during this time. It’s a tall order.”

Fall-calving cows need adequate nutrition to deliver their offspring’s potential, maintain a good body score, and rebreed. Multiple nutrient sources can meet these needs.

Nutrient Sources

Extra nutrients can come from multiple sources. Grazing crop residues can be economical but will require adding a quality supplement to deliver enough nutrients. If available, corn byproducts can help, or if pairs are confined all winter, a total mixed ration can help support nutrient needs.

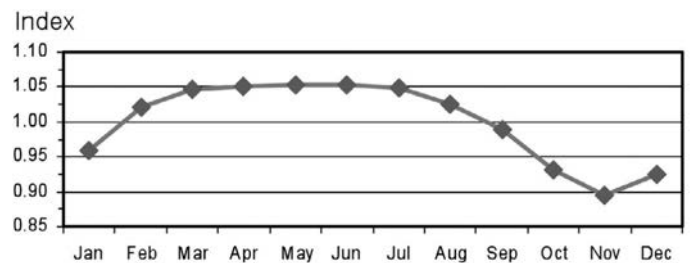
Annual forages, such as silage corn or wheat planted behind another crop can offer quality grazing for cows, calves, and bulls. It’s understood that feeding cows is the largest production cost in cow-calf operations. Westlake says it’s also understood that money invested in improving the nutritional status of a cow now will more than pay off in improved cow pregnancy rates and calf performance.

Your veterinarian, and county and state Extension service specialists can provide more information about fall calving and herd nutrition.

Financial Opportunities of Cull Cow Marketing

Mark Z. Johnson, Oklahoma State University Extension

We, as cow-calf producers, typically focus most of our marketing efforts on calves. Accordingly, little marketing effort is put into cull cows and bulls. While pregnancy and culling rates vary among operations, over time, the sale of cull breeding stock accounts for roughly 20% of gross revenue in a cow-calf production system. The ebb and flow of the cull cow market has proven to be extremely consistent (and predictable) over time, as shown in the graph below.



The seasonal pattern has been consistent for decades. The 20-year average break from the highs of summer to the low in November is 15%. Cull prices typically move higher in the early spring before peaking in the summer when strong seasonal

(Continued on page 38)

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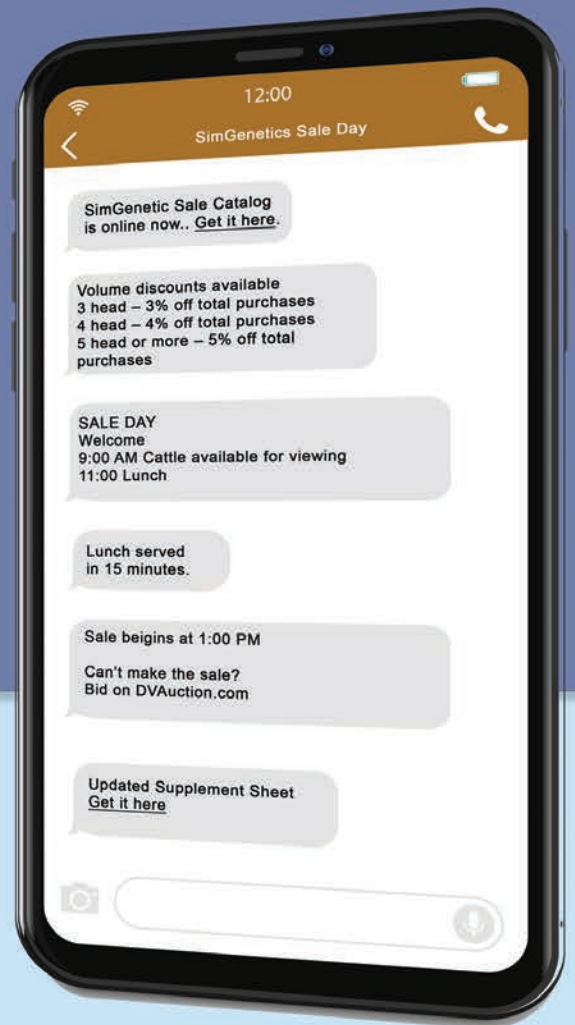
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Start with your Preliminary Inventory by accessing it online

(see reverse for instructions or use paper packet received in mail/email)

See Enrollment Template below

- 1 **Confirm that ALL spring-calving cows are listed on the form.** This should include any cow enrolled in the previous year, first-time heifers, purchased cows, and cows in associated junior accounts that run with your herd.
- 2 **Enroll or Remove each dam.** Enter an enrollment or removal code in the Primary Code column.
- 3 **A/B/C/D/N** — Enter an enrollment option: A, B, C, or D for each cow. If a cow is being removed, enter “N.”

Enrollment Template

AnmReg Nbr	AnmTatt	Primary Code	AddtnlCode	A/B/C/D/N	Season	Animal Name	BirthDt	BrdCds	EnrYear	BillCode	Remarks
1		2		3							

Do you still own the dam?

THE Enrollment Codes	
0	Cow Bred to Calve During the Season
1	Heifer Bred to Calve During the Season
2	Not Exposed – Moved to Next Season
3	Exposed and Failed to Conceive – Moved to Next Season
4	Exposed and Failed to Conceive – Moved to Next Year
5	Donor Cow
6	Recipient Cow
44	Not Exposed – Moved to Next Year

Has the dam been sold, culled or died?

THE Removal Codes	
60	Exposed and Failed to Conceive
61	Aborted
62	Age
63	Appearance
64	Calf Loss at Calving
65	Calf Loss Post-Calving
66	Color
67	Died – Calving
68	Died – Other
69	Died – Sickness/Disease
70	Disposition
71	Herd Reduction
72	Hoof Condition
73	Horned
74	Injury
75	Production/Performance
76	Prolapse
77	Sickness/Disease
78	Sold, Breeding Purposes, Paper Not Transferred
79	Sold, Breeding Purposes, Paper Transferred
80	Structural Soundness
81	Udder Quality
82	Genetic Defect Status

Optional Columns

- Additional Code (secondary reason for removal) only to be used if the first removal code is already in the primary code column.
- Remarks are for member use only. Enrollment will not be adjusted from this column.
- If you enter “H” in the Bill Code column, you will be billed half now and half later in the year.
- If you need to add a commercial dam, enter her tattoo (AnmTatt), date of birth (BirthDt), and breed codes (BrdCds).

Send Your 2025 Spring Inventory to ASA by December 15, 2024

- **Online:** using Data Entry section of Herdbook Services: www.simmental.org
- **Email:** THE@simmgene.com • **Mail:** One Genetics Way, Bozeman, MT 59718

Total Herd Enrollment Payment Options

	Option A (TR) Total Registration	Option B (SR) Selective Registration	Option C (LR) Limited Registration	Option D (CM) Commercial
Enrollment Fees:	\$15.00	\$0.00	\$7.50	\$390/herd
Registration Fees:	\$0.00	\$30/\$40/\$50 ^a	\$30/\$40/\$50 ^a	\$42/\$52/\$62 ^a
Choosing the best options:		^a Depending on age of calf	^a Depending on age of calf	^a Depending on age of calf
If you register > 45% of your calf crop.	✓			
If you register < 45% of your calf crop and don't use EPD for selection decisions.		✓		
If you register < 20% and use EPD for selection decisions.			✓	
If you have a commercial herd.				✓
Benefits of enrolling:				
EPD to make informative selective decisions.	✓	Reg. Animals Only	✓	Females Only
Herd participates in genetic evaluation.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Reproductive record on every cow enrolled.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Commercial cows or cows of other breeds are eligible.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Requirements when enrolled:				
Every registered SM/SI dam must be enrolled.	✓	✓	✓	
Each dam enrolled must have calf or productivity reported/year.	✓	✓	✓	✓
Deadlines to be met for enrollment and calf data.	✓	✓	✓	✓



Instructions for Online Enrollment

www.simmental.org



1. Go to www.simmental.org and select **Herdbook**
2. **Log In** by entering
 - 6-digit member number (*zero filled example: 000317*)
 - Password
3. Under **Data Entry** select **Online**
4. Select the **Inventory** tab
 - Click **Spring**
 - Make sure year shows **2025**
5. Select **Update Cow Inventory Online**
- OR-
- Select file type, then **Download** to load your preliminary inventory into an Excel spreadsheet
6. See front for Inventory instructions and codes for both methods of entry
7. To upload completed Excel spreadsheet:
 - Save file to desktop and log in to Herdbook.
 - Under **Data Entry** select **Upload**
 - Enter a **Job Title** such as “(Year/Season) THE Upload”
 - Under **Type** select **Animal Enrollment**
 - Click **Browse** – attach saved THE file
 - Click **Upload File**
8. Review **Errors** and/or **Warnings**
 - **Errors**
(*indicated by red triangle at left side of line*)
 - Select the **Errors** tab – errors will be listed and **MUST** be resolved before submitting
 - Herds in Option D must email job number to THE@simmgene.com for final processing
 - **Warnings**
(*indicated by a purple triangle at left side of line*)
 - Select the Warnings tab – review each warning listed, correct if needed
 - Job may be submitted without resolving all warnings
9. Select **Submit Data**
 - If **Edit Job** button shows, select button, resolve the error(s) and submit again
 - Select **Proceed to Billing** for billing summary (*After December 15, 2024, all options will have a balance due reflecting the \$1.00 non-refundable late fee per animal*)
 - Select **Add Payment**. Enter credit card information. Select **Confirm**
 - Select **FINAL SUBMIT** (*Enrollment will not be completed without this step*)
 - The **Invoice Status** will change to **Complete**. Print and store for your records
10. To save job and return later, click **Save and Exit**. The job will remain in an incomplete status under your account. **Please note that billing is based on the submission date, not the date it was started. Job must be submitted prior to December 15, 2024, to avoid late fees.**

*Job must be submitted prior to
December 15, 2024, to avoid late fees.*

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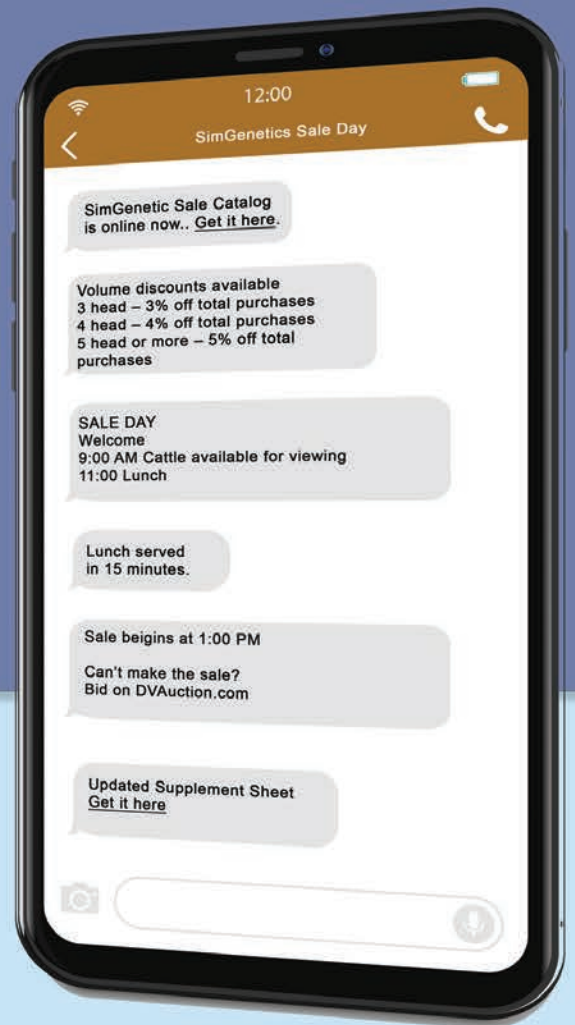
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(Continued from page 36)

grilling activity drives the demand for ground beef. This demand starts to soften in September, and is followed by a large supply of spring-calving cull cows hitting the market — after weaning and fall pregnancy checks — in October and November, resulting in the fall lows. While many spring-calving operations simply choose to dispose of culls as quickly and easily as possible, there is considerable potential to increase the salvage value of culls by 25–45% with some additional effort devoted to marketing and management. Additional value can be gained through added weight, improving the quality classification, and taking advantage of the seasonal price patterns.

The summer of 2024 has seen cull cow values reach record high prices. On the supply side, a decline in beef cow slaughter numbers reflects the current cow herd stabilization. Year-to-date, commercial beef cow slaughter is down 16% from 2023. From a demand standpoint, consumer preference for ground beef products has been robust even at current prices.

For fall-calving herds, the seasonal pattern suggests the most profitable option is to market cull cows at the time of weaning/culling in the spring. There is little reason to expect anything different next year as the decreasing cow herd, and small supply of designated replacement heifers this past January, supports strong slaughter cow demand in 2025.

For spring-calving operations, this fall represents an opportunity to increase the value of cull cows from the fall lows by retaining ownership into the new year. Improved cull cow marketing offers some of the most reliable returns for producers in the uncertain world of cow-calf production. That being said, the cost, moisture conditions, and risk of holding onto culls into 2025 must be weighed against the potential of capturing additional value.

USDA Invests \$17.6 Million to Protect Health and Welfare of Livestock

by Jennifer Shike, Bovine Veterinarian

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and African swine fever (ASF) are two high-priority research areas that will be funded through a \$17.6-million investment by USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) to protect the health and welfare of agricultural animals.

“Protecting the health and welfare of agricultural animals is integral to ensuring a safe, sustainable, resilient, and ethically sound food system,” NIFA Director Manjit Misra said in a release. “Healthy livestock are more productive and less likely to harbor and spread diseases that can affect humans. In addition, properly managed livestock systems help maintain biodiversity and sustainable land use.”

These projects are part of USDA's “One Health” efforts, an integrated, collaborative approach to address issues that impact the health of people, plants, animals, and our ecosystems. The awards include \$12.7 million for 27 projects funded through NIFA's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative's (AFRI) Diseases of Agricultural Animals program and \$4.8 million for ten projects funded through AFRI's Welfare of Agricultural Animals program.

The AFRI Diseases of Agricultural Animals program focuses on maintaining healthy agricultural animals to ensure a safe and adequate food supply, USDA explains. The program supports research in whole-animal health, including disease prevention and control.

“Several projects focus on research related to vaccines that could mitigate the spread of HPAI and ASF. HPAI is a major threat to animal health, trade, and the economy worldwide. ASF is a deadly pig disease that spreads rapidly and affects domestic and wild swine. While not a threat to human health, the virus could devastate America's swine industry and food supply if it entered the United States,” USDA says.

Examples of the 27 funded projects include:

- University of Georgia researchers aim to develop mass vaccination strategies against a prevalent HPAI subtype. The potential benefits extend beyond avian influenza, paving the way for similar studies on other respiratory viruses affecting poultry and livestock.
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology scientists will design and evaluate ASF-engineered vaccine antigens. This work will ultimately lead to development of a vaccine against ASF to aid in disease control and swine health.
- University of Missouri researchers plan to develop safer and more effective swine influenza vaccines, with the potential to reduce both animal and human influenza infections, and block potential zoonotic transmission from swine to humans.

The AFRI Welfare of Agricultural Animals program supports projects that evaluate current animal agriculture production practices and/or development of new or enhanced management approaches that safeguard animal welfare and adaptation to climate change, the release says.

- Purdue University researchers will investigate the most effective indicator traits and breeding strategies to enhance heat tolerance in ducks. Scientists plan to develop guidelines that outline optimal management and breeding strategies to improve heat tolerance in poultry — offering a potential long-term solution to climate change impacts on poultry production globally.
- University of Vermont scientists will investigate how early-life calf management affects long-term behavioral development, emotional states, and physiological stress in dairy cattle. The results will benefit the dairy cattle industry by increasing longevity and improving animal welfare and care standards. ■

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Union Accuses JBS Meat Plant of Trafficking 500 Workers

The UFCW Local 7 Union has accused a JBS plant in Greeley, Colorado, of trafficking 500 Haitian and Benin immigrants. The workers, who entered the US with legal work visas, reportedly found themselves living and working in conditions described as “worse than where they came from.”

The workers also found themselves trapped in a situation where a supervisor named Ebah Edmond and/or his associates forced them to pay fees that are not a part of standard JBS employment agreements. The immigrants were charged for rides from the airport when they arrived in the US, and also for daily trips to and from the plant. The workers were also charged to live in a shared space at a motel in Greeley, which had already been paid for, suggesting that JBS was profiting. Allegations have also been made that 30–50 people were found to be living in one room, and sleeping on floors.

JBS has denied knowledge of the situation, even saying that Edmond wasn't an employee at the plant. The company stated that new human resources staff has been put in place to investigate the allegations. The UFCW Local 7 Union has countered, saying that JBS was fully aware of the situation.

JBS Partners with GreenGasUSA

JBS and GreenGasUSA today announced a new partnership to produce renewable natural gas (RNG) at multiple JBS beef and poultry processing facilities across the US.

Climate change and food security are two seemingly competing challenges — feeding a future world of ten billion people with safe, nutritious, affordable food, while also urgently helping the food system address environmental impacts and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

JBS believes it has a responsibility to help lead sustainable transformation by example and, as a result, is undertaking a comprehensive approach to address its own GHG emissions while also helping to empower its value chain to collectively move forward. One of JBS's key strategies to address its emissions is to adopt circular economy technology to repurpose waste streams into renewable energy. This approach can help the food system meet the twin challenges of food security and addressing climate change impacts.

To move with speed and scale innovative circular economy solutions, JBS is partnering with GreenGasUSA to build upon JBS's existing methane capture capabilities with a goal to maximize methane capture and RNG production.

By installing GreenGasUSA's on-site gas upgrading systems, biogas collected from the wastewater streams of JBS facilities will be purified into pipeline-quality RNG, allowing end users to displace fossil fuel usage.

The partnership will begin with initial installations at JBS facilities in Grand Island, Nebraska, and Hyrum, Utah, and the Pilgrim's Sumter, South Carolina, facility. This collaboration is expected to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions at these facilities while improving wastewater operations and local air and water quality, and support the renewable energy market through the distribution of renewable natural gas. The project at Pilgrim's Sumter, South Carolina, facility is scheduled to be completed in early 2025, while the Grand Island, Nebraska, and Hyrum, Utah, projects are slated for completion at the end of 2025.

“At JBS and Pilgrim's, we're committed to reducing the impact of food production by partnering with stakeholders to reduce our carbon footprint. This collaboration with GreenGasUSA is a perfect example of these efforts,” said Wesley Batista Filho, CEO of JBS Foods USA. “This innovative approach takes what was once an unused byproduct of food production and transforms it to offset a significant amount of fossil fuels. This process can be a model for the rest of the industry to follow.”

The partnership with GreenGasUSA allows for a more circular solution for that biogas by converting it into a renewable fuel. Inserting this RNG into existing energy pipelines will displace the GHG emissions equivalent to 60 million miles driven by a car, or 26 million pounds of coal burned, annually.

“GreenGas is deeply committed to developing solutions that address GHG emissions in the most difficult-to-decarbonize industries,” said Marc Fetten, CEO and Founder of GreenGasUSA. “We see tremendous opportunity in our partnership with JBS USA to significantly reduce on-site environmental impacts, produce sustainable, renewable energy, and support climate change initiatives in other industries.”

In addition to today's announcement, JBS has initiated more than 25 projects globally to eliminate, or capture and destroy, methane emissions from organic waste lagoons at JBS facilities since 2019. Many of these projects additionally include the beneficial reuse of the methane to displace fossil fuel use. Examples include converting anaerobic systems to aerobic, thereby eliminating methane emissions; or using the captured biogas to generate renewable electricity; or producing renewable natural gas for pipeline distribution; or other beneficial uses.

On a global scale, these aggressive actions to destroy and/or recover methane from our anaerobic waste treatment systems has resulted in the reduction of over 600,000 tonnes/year of greenhouse gasses, equivalent to the emissions produced by an average vehicle circumnavigating the earth 193,000 times. ■

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- ❖ Registrations sent to ASA are completed within 7 days
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Canada To Develop a Foot and Mouth Disease Vaccine Bank

by Rhonda Brooks, Bovine Veterinarian

The Government of Canada is continuing to advance its work of protecting animal health by establishing a foot and mouth disease (FMD) vaccine bank, according to a news release from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).

The vaccine bank is a key part of Canada's response plans to control and ultimately eliminate an outbreak of FMD should it be detected in Canadian animals, CFIA said.

In late August, a Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued by Public Services and Procurement Canada, on behalf of the CFIA, to supply vaccine products to the FMD vaccine bank.

The successful bidder(s) would provide concentrated FMD vaccines that could be rapidly transformed into usable vaccines. Information about the RFP, including requirements, criteria, processes, and timelines, is available to interested bidders on CanadaBuys.

"It's vitally important that we continue to take steps to protect livestock, and the livelihood of our hardworking farmers, against the threat of animal disease. By creating a dedicated foot and mouth disease vaccine bank, we're working to reduce the spread of the disease and the impact that a potential outbreak would have on market access for Canadian producers. The announcement marks another step forward in the ongoing work of supporting our animal disease preparedness efforts," said Lawrence MacAulay, Canada Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, in the release.

The vaccine bank would help protect Canada from the emerging threat of FMD, maintain public confidence in the Canadian food supply, and help reduce the spread of the disease, should an outbreak occur. An effective and efficient response, including vaccination, will also help mitigate prolonged market disruptions to trade.

Quick Facts:

- Budget 2023 committed \$57.5 million over five years, with \$5.6 million ongoing, to the CFIA to establish an FMD vaccine bank for Canada, and to develop FMD response plans.
- FMD is a severe, highly communicable viral disease of cattle and swine. It also affects sheep, goats, deer, and other cloven-hoofed ruminants, but not horses. Many affected animals recover, but the disease leaves them weakened and debilitated.
- Canada has been free from FMD since 1952, and strict measures are in place to prevent the disease from entering Canada. FMD is not a public health risk and is not considered a food safety issue.
- The CFIA would use a vaccine only in the event of an outbreak to protect animals and help stop the spread of disease. This complements Canada's current access to vaccines through the North American Foot and Mouth Disease Vaccine Bank (NAFMDVB), ensuring readily available vaccines for Canadian producers.
- In Canada, FMD is a reportable disease under the Health of Animals Act, and all suspect cases must be reported to the CFIA.
- The CFIA monitors the status of FMD worldwide and has emergency preparedness and response plans ready.

Colombia Lifts Ban on US Beef Imports

Colombia placed a ban on beef originating in states where H5N1 had been detected in dairy cows, but recently chose to lift the ban. The US is Colombia's biggest beef supplier. United States Meat Export Federation (USMEF) president and CEO Dan Halstrom issued the following statement:

"On behalf of USMEF's membership, I want to thank the US government, and especially the teams at the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), and Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) involved in the effort to restore full access for US beef shipments to Colombia. The USDA staff posted in Bogota, in particular, worked tirelessly to get these restrictions lifted. We are also grateful to Colombian importers and customers who remained loyal to US beef during this difficult time and who voiced their concerns to the Colombian government about the interruption in trade.

"It is also important to note that effective USDA engagement with other trading partners helped prevent similar trade barriers from affecting additional export markets. While Colombia was the only destination to officially restrict imports of US beef as a result of H5N1 findings in dairy cows, the impact on beef exports was substantial. Prior to the restrictions imposed in April, Colombia was a promising market averaging about \$3 million per month in US beef purchases. In July — the most recent month for which data is available — exports fell to less than \$850,000. We look forward to rebuilding US beef's presence in the Colombian market and meeting the needs of our valued customers." ■


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KBHR Honor x CAPL MISS 88F
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Calf sexed as a Bull

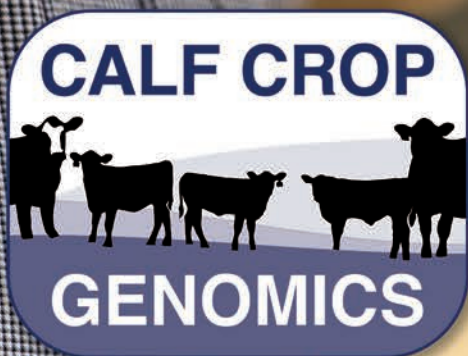


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Russ Danielson Wins NDSA Top Hand Award

ASA SimSpecialist Russ Danielson recently received the North Dakota Stockmen's Association (NDSA) Top Hand Award. A 36-year member of the NDSA, Danielson was recognized with the organization's most prestigious award for his dedication to the betterment of the beef cattle industry.

Danielson grew up on a diversified farm in Barnes County near Cuba, North Dakota. His grandfather homesteaded the farm in 1884 when he came to the United States from Sweden, and Danielson still owns that land today. He went to kindergarten through eighth grade two miles south of their home in Cuba, before attending and graduating from Valley City High School. Danielson went on to North Dakota State University (NDSU), majoring in animal husbandry.

While he was a student at NDSU, Danielson worked at the NDSU Beef Unit and learned more about the beef cattle industry in North Dakota. It was during that time Danielson developed a passion for the industry.

After graduation in December 1964, Danielson completed his National Guard training and subsequently joined NDSU's Animal Science Department faculty in 1965 and became the university's beef herdsman. He served in that capacity until 1973, when he assumed a teaching position. Throughout his career as an associate professor, he taught Introduction to Animal Science, Meat Animal Production and Beef Industry and Production Systems

courses; he was the faculty adviser for the NDSU Judging Club and Saddle & Sirloin Club; and was a student adviser for undergraduate animal science and equine majors, advising more than 1,000 students in his career. He also established the university's purebred Simmental herd in 1978.

Overseeing the popular Little International was one of Danielson's favorite duties. Counting his own years as an NDSU student and "Little I" participant, Danielson was part of more than 50 Little Internationals.

Danielson noted the changes in the university system from the time he attended school until the end of his teaching tenure. "Early in the 1960s, there was one female in NDSU's College of Agriculture," said Danielson. "That is a very large contrast to where the NDSU Animal Science Department is today, with more than half of the enrollees being female. It is extraordinary." His broad industry knowledge, genuine interest in students and unassuming nature made him a favorite instructor of many NDSU students — in some cases, for two generations. Danielson retired from NDSU in 2010 after 44 years.

He and his wife, Helen, are still avid supporters of the NDSU Animal Sciences Department, awarding a scholarship in their name to animal science majors who are actively involved in the Saddle & Sirloin Club, have demonstrated leadership qualities, maintain a 3.0 grade point average (GPA) and have participated or plan to participate in livestock or meats judging programs.

Now, Danielson works as a SimSpecialist, attending events and production sales in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota. He discusses ASA programs and the latest science and technology programs in the beef industry with ranchers in that role.

He has also served on the National Cattlemen's Beef Association Research Committee, the North Star Classic and the North Dakota Winter Show Livestock Committee. He was the secretary-treasurer of the North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame and the North Dakota Livestock Endowment Foundation and chaired the Winter Show's steer shows and Performance Steer Classic. Danielson was inducted into the North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame in 2013.

Danielson is a keen livestock judge, having evaluated beef cattle shows in 26 states and four Canadian provinces, including the National Western Stock Show, Fort Worth Stock Show, Houston Stock Show, American Royal, Cow Palace and Canadian Western Agribition.

He and Helen, his wife of 58 years, live in Fargo, ND, and have two married daughters, Karla McHugh (Dan) and Beth Hessburg (Tony), and four grandchildren, Vaughn, Luke, Brock, and Riley. The couple continues to own the family farm in Cuba Township.

"I am just so grateful to be a part of North Dakota's cattle industry," he said. "It's been great to work with youth, young adults, and producers. I have had the opportunity to meet so many great people and friends." ■



Russ Danielson, with his wife, Helen, receiving the NDSA Top Hand award.



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To learn more about the CMP visit www.simmental.org, then click Carcass Merit Program under the Commercial tab.

Questions, contact cmp@simmgene.com for more information regarding this program.

US Representatives Propose Move Away from “Factory Farming”

US Representative Alma S. Adams, PhD (NC-12), Representative Jim McGovern (MA-02), and US Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ) recently introduced the Industrial Agriculture Conversion Act (IACA), which would allow farmers to voluntarily convert their on-farm infrastructure toward more climate-friendly uses with USDA conservation dollars.

The IACA would use existing agricultural conservation funds to support farmers transitioning from concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) to more sustainable and humane production systems. “Farmers want to produce food in ways that are good for people and the planet, but aren’t always empowered to do so in a consolidated food system like ours. I’m thrilled to introduce the Industrial Agriculture Conversion Act, which unlocks climate-forward conservation dollars to assist producers who want to transition out of the factory farm model,” said Congresswoman Adams. “Whether pasture-based or plant-based, farmers want to farm sustainably, humanely, and resiliently. I’m glad to support them in partnership with Representative McGovern, Senator Booker, and dozens of organizations on the ground.”

“Corporate meatpackers use their market power to trap producers in the factory farm system with terrible profit margins and unsustainable debt,” said Senator Booker. “Their practices contribute to climate change and destroy rural communities. This legislation leverages conservation funding to give farmers a completely voluntary new path forward by providing them with the resources they need to transition to a more climate-friendly and humane production system that is good for people, animals, and the planet.”

The IACA would allow the USDA to create a grant program for eligible climate-smart conversion projects, funded by the Inflation Reduction Act’s pathbreaking investments in agricultural conservation. “Factory farming is not just a nightmare for animals — contract farmers who were promised easy profits and the chance to ‘feed the world’ find themselves taking on seemingly endless debt to raise animals in this cruel industrial model, threatening the security of their families and farms,” said Kara Shannon, director of farm animal welfare policy for the ASPCA. “The Industrial Agriculture Conversion Act offers resources to support farmers who are climbing the ladder out of the pit of factory farming and want to transition to more humane and economically sustainable practices. We commend Representatives Adams and McGovern, and Senator Booker for introducing this groundbreaking legislation to create a more compassionate food system that respects animals, farmers, rural communities, and our environment.”

“The factory farming industry preys on our nation’s farmers by trapping them in exploitative contracts and depriving them of meaningful autonomy. The Industrial Agriculture Conversion Act seeks to promote competition in our food system by creating a program for farmers who wish to transition from the highly consolidated factory farming model to climate-smart practices, such as specialty crop production,” said Frances Chrzan, senior federal policy manager, the Transformation Project of Mercy For Animals.

“I know firsthand the difficulty both financially and socially in transitioning from a confinement animal system to a regenerative farming system, having transitioned our farm in 1996,” said Ron Holter of Holterholm Farms. “Financially there is often a lag time from the beginning of what can be an expensive transition to eventually achieving an improved income while the land heals and the livestock become accustomed to a healthier, happier lifestyle. Transitional funds like those provided in the Industrial Agriculture Conversion Act would be a blessing to farmers attempting to move to more regenerative, livestock-friendly systems.”

This proposal has been met with mixed reactions from the agricultural community. Some have shared stories of successfully downsizing their operations and ending contracts with corporate producers. Others have shared frustration over misunderstandings of US agriculture, especially within beef production.

A CAFO is generally defined as any operation with 1,000 or more animals confined to a space for 45 days or more. The Inflation Reduction Act allotted almost \$20 billion dollars for “climate-smart” agriculture. Much of this funding was caught between arguments over how the money should be spent, with many disagreements focusing on whether improvements to CAFOs — manure management, or methane conversion for example — could be funded. The IACA would mean that this money cannot be used for such improvements.

EPA Awards \$15M for Research on PFAS

In September, the Environmental Protection Agency announced over \$15M in research grant funding to ten institutions for research to reduce per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances exposure from food. Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), or “forever chemicals,” are a human-made group of chemicals, used in many consumer products and industrial processes. PFAS generally are used to resist heat, grease, and water, and there are thousands of types.

The research will collect PFAS data in livestock and plants to explore the levels of PFAS, and then explore strategies for reducing exposure. Many PFAS do not easily degrade, and frequently build up in the environment and within the human body over time.

Rocket Fuel Chemical Detected in Supermarket Products

A chemical used in rocket fuel, fireworks, and airbags has been detected in various supermarket and fast-food items, according to a recent study. Researchers with Consumer Reports tested 196 food samples and discovered that about 67% contained varying levels of the chemical perchlorate. The findings showed that baby and children’s foods, fast food, and fresh produce had the highest levels, while beverages, seafood, and meats had the lowest. Consumer Reports did not disclose any companies or brand names in its study.

Packaging and water contamination are two likely causes. According to the Food and Drug Administration, perchlorate can occur naturally in the environment or be manufactured as an

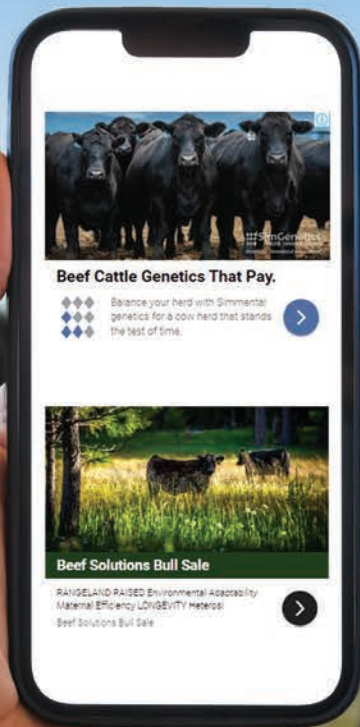
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(Continued from page 46)

industrial chemical. The agency said high levels can cause thyroid problems. It can block iodide from entering the thyroid gland, disrupt thyroid functions, and potentially reduce thyroid hormone production.

White House Announces Billions in Funding for Clean Energy in Rural America

President Biden announced \$7.3 billion in funding for clean energy projects at 16 rural electric cooperatives through the Empowering Rural America Program. When completed, the projects would produce around ten gigawatts of clean energy, with the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 43.7 million tons per year. This is the largest federal investment in rural electrification since the New Deal, and the co-ops in the project are located from Alaska to Florida.

The funding will be focused on wind, solar, and hydro power. The announcement also discussed purchasing power from a nuclear plant in Michigan that is currently idle. White House climate advisor John Podesta said, "Today's awards will bring clean, affordable, reliable power to rural Americans all across our nation."

Dairyland Power Cooperative, based in La Crosse, Wisconsin, received \$573 million in funding. The other projects were still in the underwriting process when the announcement was made. "It's an exciting announcement with a massive impact across 23 states to bring the promise of clean energy and lower costs to approximately five million rural households representing 20% of the nation's entire rural households, as well as farms and businesses that are located in those 23 states," said Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack.

Beef Production Forecasts are Adjusted Up

The latest Cattle on Feed report, published by USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), estimated the August 1 feedlot inventory at 11.095 million head, less than 1% above 11.064 million head in the same month last year. Feedlot net placements in July were nearly 7% higher year-over-year at 1.646 million head.

Marketings in July tallied 1.855 million head, up nearly 8% year-over-year. On a per-day basis, however, marketings were about 2% lower due to the two additional slaughter days in July 2024. The year-over-year increase in marketing was largely expected with a large share of cattle on feed over 150 days. For example, two of the largest cattle feeding States — Kansas and Texas — held 12 and 32 percent, respectively, of their share of cattle on feed over 150 days on August 1. As a result, these feedlots had more market-ready cattle available than at the same time last year. Nebraska, the state with the second largest number of cattle on feed, has about 5% of its cattle on feed over 150 days, but it is lower than last year. Nonetheless, market conditions are encouraging feedlots to add weight to carcasses, allowing packers to offset fewer cattle supplies.

Reflecting on the anticipated pace of cattle slaughter in 2024, the beef production outlook for 2024 is fractionally higher than last month at 26.795 billion pounds. Third-quarter beef production has increased as recent slaughter data point to fewer bulls in the slaughter mix, which is more than offset by higher anticipated cow slaughter and average carcass weights.

In the fourth quarter, production fractionally raised 40 million pounds from last month, based on minor adjustments upward to anticipated steers and cows in the slaughter mix, as well as heavier expected carcass weights. These adjustments more than offset lower anticipated bull slaughter.

For 2025, the beef production forecast is also raised 180 million pounds from last month to 25.625 billion pounds. Production is raised on higher expected fed cattle slaughter and heavier expected carcass weights. The relatively large number of placements in July raises expectations for overall placements in third-quarter 2024. As a result, anticipated marketings in first-quarter 2025 are raised to reflect an increase in expected placements. Further, steers and heifers are spending more time on feed than a year ago in two of the three largest cattle feeding states. This trend of feeding cattle to heavier weights appears unlikely to change soon, resulting in a relatively slow pace of marketing. ■

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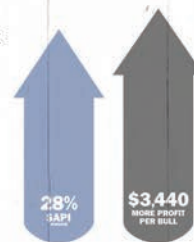


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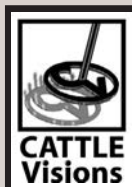
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SIMMENTAL BANQUET

- Annual Meeting and Banquet Friday night
- Semen and Fun Auction
- Join us at 6:00 PM
- All are welcome - Please RSVP 559-696-4941

CATTLE JUDGING CONTEST

- Youth Judging Contest
- Classes and Reasons
- Contest begins at 9:00 AM on Saturday morning

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Sample business card pages in the Register

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JS FLIRT A-WAY 58E

ASA: 3390152 | PB SM

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JS Flirt A-Way 58E is the dynamic FULL SISTER to the legendary "Boots". She sells along with an incredible set of ET daughters!



CONLEY SHEZA STAR 219K

ASA: 4176476 | PB SM

SO REMEDY 7F X CONLEY SHEZA STAR Z32

The 2024 NWSS Grand Champion Junior Simmental Heifer will be a featured lot on November 30th in Perkins, Oklahoma. 219K is a maternal sister to the \$120,000 Conley Sheza Star D3!



WALLACE ARKDALE PRIDE 9155G

ASA: 3697507 | 3/4 SM 1/4 AN

LLSF PAYS TO BELIEVE ZU194 X SJW ARKDALE PRIDE 4104B

The entire donor battery sells on November 30th in one of the premier Simmental events of the fall! The highly proven 9155G donor sells alongside an incredible set of ET progeny!



B C R MISS TIME TO SHINE J074

ASA: 3937252 | PB SM

JSUL SOMETHING ABOUT MARY 8421 X MISS TIME TO SHINE Y251

This powerful 3 year-old daughter of the \$140,000 Miss Time To Shine Y251 will sell!



CONLEY C-4 SHEZA STAR 511L

ASA: 4420990 | PB SM

RP/BCR EMINENCE H005 X CONLEY SHEZA STAR D3

A stunning blaze faced daughter of RP/BCR Eminence H005 that is supported by the \$120,000 donor dam, Conley Sheza Star D3!



C-4 ROSETTA 158L

ASA: 4250066 | 1/2 SM 1/2 AN

GCC KEEP THE CHANGE H136 X CONLEY C-4 ROSETTA 0312

158L is a captivating bred heifer that is supported by the famed "Rosetta" cow family. An elite offering that will feature 60+ bred heifers... only in a dispersal sale will females of this caliber sell!

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6:00 PM - PRE-SALE DINNER

7:00 PM - FROZEN GENETIC SALE

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2024



12:00 PM - NEW BEGINNINGS SALE

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BVD PI	\$6	
Semen Sample Processing Fee	\$7.20	

Genetic Conditions Panel \$29

(Must run with GGP-100K)

- Arthrogryposis Multiplex (AM)
- Neuropathic Hydrocephalus (NH)
- Developmental Duplication (DD)
- Tibial Hemimelia (TH)
- Pulmonary Hypoplasia with Anasarca (PHA)
- Osteopetrosis (OS)
- Contractural Arachnodactyly (CA)

(Individual defect tests can be ordered for \$29.)

***Research Fee charged at \$1.00/min – Includes but is not limited to: DNA re-checks to more than 2 additional parents, multi-sire pastures, excess time spent to confirm parentage, mis-identified samples, and samples arriving at lab without proper ASA paperwork.*

****Prices are subject to change*

DNA Collector Fees: AllFlex TSU - \$22.00 (box of 10) • AllFlex Applicator - \$90.00 • Blood Cards - \$1.00 ea. (processing fee)
Hair Cards - \$5.00 ea. (processing fee) • Sample Pull Fee – \$3.00 ea.

THE Enrollment

Spring 2024 THE Enrollment – (dams calve January 1–June 30) –
Early enrollment open October 15 through **December 15, 2023**.
Late enrollment available until February 15, 2024.

Fall 2024 THE Enrollment – (dams calve July 1–December 31) –
Early enrollment open April 15 through **June 15, 2024**.
Late enrollment available until August 15, 2024.

	Option A (TR)	Option B (SR)	Option C	Option D (CM)
Early Enrollment	\$15.00	FREE	\$7.50	\$500/herd
*Late Enrollment	\$16.00	\$1.00	\$8.50	\$500/herd
*Late enrollment fees				

A re-enrollment fee of \$35.00 applies to any dam that is removed from inventory and re-enters the herd at a later date.

A member who has dropped out of THE and wishes to return, may do so for the next enrollment season. Re-enrollment fee is \$35 per animal (maximum of \$350) plus enrollment fees. Non-THE registration fees will apply to the calendar year when a member did not participate in THE.

American Simmental Association Fees

First Time Membership Fee:

Adult First Time Membership Fee*.....	\$160
<i>(Includes: \$50 set-up fee and \$110 AMF)</i>	
Junior First Time Membership Fee*.....	\$40
Prefix Registration	\$10

**After January 1: \$105 for Adults and \$40 for Juniors*

Annual Membership Fee (AMF)*:

Adult Membership.....	\$110
Junior Membership	\$40

Fiscal year runs from July 1 – June 30

Registration Fees:

Registration Fees enrolled in THE

Enrolled in Option A	No Charge
Enrolled in Opt B or C <10 months.....	\$30
Enrolled in Opt B or C 10 months <15 months ...	\$40
Enrolled in Opt B or C >15 months	\$50

Transfer Fees:

First Transfer	No Charge
<i>Subsequent Transfers</i>	
Within 60 calendar days of sale	\$10
Over 60 calendar days after sale	\$30

Additional Transactions:

Priority Processing <i>(not including shipping or mailing)</i>	\$50
Corrections	\$5

Registration Foreign/Foundation Fees:

Register Foundation Cow	\$5
Register Foundation Bull	\$25

Registration Fees not enrolled in THE:

Non-THE <10 months	\$42
Non-THE 10 months <15 months	\$52
Non-THE >15 months	\$62

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NOVEMBER

- 9 Gibbs Farms' 19th Annual Bull & Replacement Female Sale — Ranburne, AL
- 13 Prickly Pear Simmental Ranch's Female Sale — Helena, MT
- 15-17 Boyle Ranch's Red, White and Beautiful Fleckvieh Female Sale — www.auctions.boylerranchfleckvieh.com
- 16 Lazy C Diamond Ranch's Fall Sale — Kintyre, ND
- 16 Next Step Cattle Co.'s Annual Sale — Livingston, AL
- 16 The Select Sale — Louisville, KY
- 16 Strickland Cattle and Guest Simmental, SimAngus and Angus Bull and Female Sale — Glennville, GA
- 18 Bichler Simmentals' 20th Annual Production Sale — Linton, ND
- 22 The Event Vol. X — Pleasant Dale, NE
- 23 Great Lakes Beef Connection Female Sale — Clare, MI
- 23 Stanley Martins Farms' Fleckvieh Female Sale — Decorah, IA (pg. 7)
- 29-30 C-4 Land & Cattle, Carroll Cattle, & Conley Cattle "New Beginnings" Sale — Perkins OK (pg. 59)
- 30 Clear Springs Cattle Company's Mature Cowherd and Red Dispersal — Starbuck, MN
- 30 Nolan and Bagby Performance Cattle's Breeding For the Future Bull and Female Sale — Rockfield, KY
- 30 Trennepohl Farms' Right By Design Sale — Middletown, IN (pg. 9)

DECEMBER

- 6 Yardley Cattle Company's Focus on the Female Sale — Beaver, UT (pg. 5)
- 7 Hoosier Beef Congress Sale — Indianapolis, IN
- 7 Jewels of the Northland Sale — Clara City, MN (BC)
- 7 T-Heart Ranch and L-Cross Ranch High Altitude Female Sale — La Garita, CO
- 7 Western Choice Simmental Sale — Billings, MT (pgs. 42, 57)
- 13 JS Simmentals' "Midwest Made" Female Sale — Prairie City, IA
- 14 NDSA's Classic Sale — Mandan, ND (pg. 25)
- 14 North Alabama Bull Evaluation Sale — Cullman, AL
- 14 Sandeen Genetics' 15th Annual Buildin' a Brand Production Sale — Blakesburg, IA (pg. 51)
- 15 Trauernicht Simmentals' Nebraska Platinum Standard Sale — Beatrice, NE (pg. 35)
- 20 The Grand Event Vol. 5 at Buck Creek Ranch — Yale, OK
- 21 Griswold Cattle Company's "The Classic" Sale — Stillwater, OK

JANUARY 2025

- 10 Diamond Bar S's Annual Bull Sale — Great Falls, MT (pg. 53)
- 16 Walking 5 Ranch's Annual Bull Sale — Lavina, MT
- 18 Cow Camp Ranch's Annual Spring Bull Sale — Lost Springs, KS (pg. 52)
- 19 The One and Only Simmental Sale — Denver, CO
- 21 Cattle Connect at Franzen Simmentals — Leigh, NE
- 21 Powerline Genetics' Arapahoe Sale — Arapahoe, NE
- 24 Double J Farms' 51st Annual Bull and Female Sale — Garretson, SD (pg. 55)
- 24 Ellingson Simmentals' Annual Production Sale — Dahlen, ND (pgs. 54, 65)
- 25 J&C Simmentals' Annual Bull Sale — Arlington, NE (pg. 53)
- 26 Triangle J Ranch's Bull Sale — Miller, NE
- 27 APEX Cattle's Annual "Heterosis Headquarters" Bull, Bred Heifer and Fall Pair Sale — Dannebrog, NE

FEBRUARY 2025

- 1 43rd Annual Klain Simmental Production Sale — Ruso, ND
- 1 Ruby Cattle Company's Annual Production Sale — Murray, IA
- 1 Springer Simmental's Sale of Value Based Genetics — Decorah, IA
- 1 Stockmen's Source Bull Sale — Wellfleet, NE
- 2 Hartman Cattle Company's 11th Annual Simmental Bull Sale — Tecumseh, NE
- 3 44th Annual Gateway "Breeding Value" Bull Sale — Lewistown, MT
- 3 Bell Simmentals' 9th Annual Bull and Female Sale — Fordville, ND
- 3 Long's Simmentals' Annual Production Sale — Creston, IA
- 4 Koeplin's Black Simmental's 37th Annual Bull Sale — Mandan, ND
- 4 Little Bitterroot Ranch and Laird Simmental's Joint Sale — Ramsay, MT (pg. 42)
- 5 Begger's Diamond V Big Sky Genetic Source Bull Sale — Wibaux, MT (pg. 53)

- 6 K-LER Cattle's Annual Production Sale — Saint Charles, MN (pg. 52)
- 6 Stavick Simmental's Annual Sale — Veblen, SD (pg. 55)
- 7 Kunkel Simmentals' Annual Production Sale — New Salem, ND
- 7 Silver Dollar Simmentals' 1st Annual Production Sale — Rubgy, ND
- 8 Dixie National Simmental Sale — Jackson, MS
- 8 Kenner Simmentals' 29th Annual Production Sale — Leeds, ND
- 8 Oak Meadow Farms' Annual Production Sale — Cresco, IA
- 8 Rydeen Farms 27th Annual "Vision" Sale — Clearbrook, MN
- 10 Dakota Power Bull and Female Sale — Hannaford, ND
- 10 Nelson Livestock Company's Annual Sale — Wibaux, MT
- 10 Prickly Pear Simmental Ranch's Bull Sale — Helena, MT
- 11 Edge of the West Production Sale — Mandan, ND (pg. 54)
- 11 Werning Cattle Company's 44th Annual Production Sale — Emery, SD
- 12 Jackpot Cattle Co.'s Annual Private Treaty Bull and Heifer Sale — Miller, SD
- 12 River Creek Farms' 35th Annual Production Sale — Manhattan, KS (pg. 52)
- 12 Traxinger Simmental's Annual Bull Sale — Houghton, SD
- 13 Lassle Ranch Simmentals' 32nd Annual Bull Sale — Glendive, MT
- 14 10th Annual MODOC Bull Sale — Alturas, CA
- 14 Bred For Balance — Starbuck, MN
- 14 Jared Werning Cattle's Annual Production Sale — Parkston, SD
- 14 TNT Simmentals' 40th Annual "Carrying On" the Explosive Difference Sale — Lehr, ND (pg. 54)
- 16 CK Cattle & Wager Cattle's Annual Production Sale — Highmore, SD
- 15 Flittie Simmental/Schnabel Ranch Simmentals/Lazy J Bar Ranch's Joint Production Sale — Aberdeen, SD (pg. 55)
- 15 Rhodes Angus Open House Bull Sale — Carlinville, IL
- 15 Yon Family Farms' Spring and Bull and Female Sale — Ridge Spring, SC
- 16 Trauernicht Simmentals' Nebraska Platinum Standard Bull Sale — Beatrice, NE
- 17 Bulls of the Big Sky — Billings, MT (pg. 53)
- 17 TC Reds & Weis Cattle's Annual Production Sale — Saint Ansgar, IA
- 18 Quandt Brothers' 13th Annual Production Sale — Oakes, ND (pg. 54)
- 19 Hart Simmentals' 50th Annual Power Bull Sale — Frederick, SD
- 20 Illinois Performance Tested Bull Sale — Springfield, IL
- 20 Wilkinson Farms' Breeding for the Future Sale — C-B Sale Facility
- 21 Dakota Xpress Annual Bull and Female Sale — Mandan, ND (pg. 54)
- 21 Hilltop Simmental's Bull Sale — Worthing, SD
- 21 Multi-Breed Simmental Sale — Springfield, IL
- 21 R & R Cattle Company's Annual Production Sale — Chamberlain, SD
- 21 Sandy Acres Simmental's Bull Sale — Creighton, NE (pg. 53)
- 22-3/1 Hofmann Simmental Farms' "Buy Your Way" Bull Sale — Clay Center, KS
- 26 C Diamond Simmentals' Annual Production Sale — Dawson, ND
- 26 Hill's Ranch Production Sale — Stanford, MT

MARCH 2025

- 1 Cason's Pride and Joy Bull Sale — Russell, IA (pg. 52)
- 1 Gibbs Farms' Spring Sale — Ranburne, AL
- 1 Moriondo Farms & MM Cattle Company's Spring Bull Sale — Mount Vernon, MO
- 1 Powerline Genetics' PAP-Tested Bull Sale — Castle Dale, UT
- 1 Trinity Farms' Generations of Excellence Sale — Ellensburg, WA

- 2 Illini Elite Spring Bull and Female Sale — Shelbyville, IL
- 2 Windy Creek Cattle Company's Production Sale — Spencer, SD
- 3 Hanel's Black Simmentals' Annual Production Sale — Courtland, KS
- 3 S/M Fleckvieh Cattle's Private Treaty Bull Sale — Garretson, SD
- 4 Doll Simmental Ranch's 45th Annual Production Sale — Mandan, ND
- 5 Klein Ranch's Heart of the Herd Sale — Atwood, KS
- 6 21st Annual Cattleman's Kind Bull Sale — San Saba, TX
- 6 Kearns Cattle Company's 36th Annual Bull Sale — Rushville, NE
- 6 Keller Broken Heart Ranch Annual Production Sale — Mandan, ND (pg. 54)
- 7 Eichacker Simmentals' Annual Bull Sale — Salem, SD (pg. 55)
- 8 Carcass Performance Partners Bull and Female Sale — Lucedale, MS
- 8 Yardley Cattle Company's Annual Bull Sale — Beaver, UT
- 13 Brink Fleckvieh's Spring Bull and Heifer Sale — Elkader, IA
- 15 Buck Creek Ranch's Bull Sale — Yale, OK
- 15 CO Select Bull Sale — Fort Collins, CO (pg. 52)
- 15 MCA/MSU Bull Evaluation Sale — Remus, MI
- 15 OSA's Eastern Spring Classic Sale — Columbus, OH
- 15 Powerline Genetics' March Edition Bull Sale — Arapahoe, NE
- 15 Red Hill Farms' "More Than a Bull XX" Bull Sale — Lafayette, TN
- 17 Bridle Bit Simmentals All Terrain Bull Sale — Walsh, CO
- 20 Western Cattle Source's Annual Bull Sale — Crawford, NE
- 21 3C Christensen Ranch and NLC Simmental Ranch 54th Annual Production Sale — Wessington, SD (pg. 55)
- 21 Black Summit Break Out Bull Sale — Powell, WY
- 22 The Clear Choice Bull Sale — Milan, IN (pg. 52)
- 22 Lechleiter 35th Annual Bull Sale — Loma, CO
- 22 T Heart Ranch High Altitude Bull Sale — La Garita, CO (pg. 52)
- 24 McEntire Red Angus' Spring Production Sale — Sweetwater, OK
- 26 Diamond H Ranch's Annual Production Sale — Victoria, KS (pg. 52)
- 29 2nd Annual Blue Ridge Classic Spring Sale — Edinburg, VA

APRIL 2025

- 1 Henry's Fork Cattle Company's Private Treaty Bulls for Sale — Rexburg, ID
- 5 Big Country Genetics Bull Sale — Cody, WY
- 5 McDonald Farms' Annual "Pick of the Pen" Bull Sale — Blacksburg, VA
- 5 Belles and Bulls of the Bluegrass — Lexington, KY
- 5 The Gathering at Shoal Creek — Excelsior Springs, MO
- 8 Thomas Ranch's 53rd Annual Bull Sale — Harrold, SD
- 19 RS&T Simmentals' Performance and Pounds Bull Sale — Butler, MO
- 25 Crosshair Simmental's Production Sale — Napoleon, ND
- 26 Classic Farms' 6th Annual Spring Fever Sale — Weston, WV
- 26 The Clear Choice Customer Sale — Milan, IN (pg. 52)
- 26 Cow Camp Ranch's Spring Turn-Out Sale — Lost Springs, KS (pg. 52)

MAY 2025

- 3 Stars and Stripes Sale — Hummelstown, PA
- 17 Mississippi/Alabama Simmental Sale — Cullman, AL
- 18 Red Hill Farms' Maternal Monday Online Sale — www.redhillfarms.net

JULY 2025

- 6-12 AJSA National Classic — Madison, WI ■

Serving as American Simmental Association's (ASA) official publication, *the Register* is mailed nine times annually, has a circulation of 5,500+, and is focused primarily on ASA's paid membership.

the Register is an 8 1/8 x 10 7/8 inch glossy, full-color publication that provides a direct and consistent line of communication to the ASA membership.

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1 page	\$770	\$730	\$700	\$300
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1/4 page	\$220	\$210	\$200	\$75
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Issue	Sales Close	Ad Materials Due	Camera Ready Due	Approx Mail Date
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March '25	Jan 29	Feb 3	Feb 12	March 19
Sire Source 2025	Feb 19	Feb 21	March 5	April 17
April '25	Feb 21	Feb 26	March 7	April 17
May/June '25	March 28	April 3	April 11	May 19
July/August '25	May 21	May 28	June 6	July 15
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Terms

All accounts are due and payable when invoiced. Interest charges of 1.5 percent per month (18 percent APR) will be added to accounts 30 days past due. If an account becomes 60 days delinquent, all ASA Publication, Inc. work may be suspended until full payment is made. After review by the ASA Executive Committee, ASA privileges may be denied to those with accounts over 90 days delinquent.

Looking for Performance?

Ellingson Simmental Performance Bull & Female Sale



Friday, January 24, 2025 • 1 pm CST

Sale Location: At the farm, Dahlen, ND

SELLING: 75 YEARLING SIMMENTAL AND SIMANGUST™ BULLS & 30 OPEN YEARLING HEIFERS

Sires include: Hooks Galileo 210G, Gibbs 9114E Essential, LCDR Diligence215J, SFG Cowboy Logic D627, R Plus Yuma 9087G, LCDR Patriot 8K, Deer Valley Growth Fund, R Plus Uppercut 6103D, WS Epic E152, RFS Bulletproof, Rockin H Captivate J75, KS Vanderbilt G270, Ellingson Guardian J141 & WS Proclamation E202.

Bulls will be SEMEN TESTED and GUARANTEED BREEDERS.



Miss R Plus 3007A ASA 3979131

CE	BW	VV	YW	ADG	MCE	MM	MMW	MB	REA	SAPI	STI
7.3	3.5	76.1	114.6	0.24	5.6	25.3	63.3	.05	.94	111.1	73.8

Selling 2 ET sons

- Both are full brothers to R Plus Yuma 9087G who sold for \$150,000 (1 solid black & 1 solid red)
- She was the lead off female in the R Plus Dispersal sale in 2023.



HHS GEORGIA 802G ASA 3979131

CE	BW	VV	YW	ADG	MCE	MM	MMW	MB	REA	SAPI	STI
15.6	-1.2	81.9	122.8	0.26	9.8	21.7	62.5	.35	.65	165.3	90.4

Selling Sons & Daughters

- Sired by CLRS Guardian 317G, KBHR Honor H060, R Plus Yuma 9087G, LBRS Genesis G89, Pass Deadwood & KBHR Gunsmoke J131
- Excellent fertility: She has averaged 23 frozen embryos in 18 IVF flushes.



R Plus Yuma 9087G

Ellingson Simmentals

DVAuction

EPDs as of 8-30-24

For catalogs and information:

TERRY ELLINGSON & FAMILY

Phone: 701-384-6225 • Cell: 701-741-3045

5065 125th Ave. NE • Dahlen, ND 58224

Email: tellings@polarcomm.com

Guest Consignor:

Strommen Simmentals, Arthur, ND
701-430-0669

The catalog & updated information (homozygous polled test, ultrasound & scrotal measurements) will be available online.

www.ellingsonsimmentals.com or www.simmental.org

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EPD: CE: 113 \$API: 115 \$TI: 77



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By W/C Relentless 32C
EPD: CE: 8 \$API: 105 \$TI: 65



TJSC King of Diamonds 165E
By LLSF Pays To Believe ZU194
EPD: CE: 13 \$API: 121 \$TI: 70



KBHR Revolution H071
By HHS Mr 847D
EPD: CE: 13 \$API: 171 \$TI: 106



SC Pay the Price C11
By CNS Pays to Dream T759
EPD: CE: 7 \$API: 115 \$TI: 79



HLTS/CLRWTR Ahead of Time K1
By ES Right Time FA 110-4
EPD: CE: 17 \$API: 169 \$TI: 93



W/C Relentless 32C
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EPD: CE: 10 \$API: 111 \$TI: 73



WBF Undisputed L078
By KBHR Hartland H100
EPD: CE: 15 \$API: 184 \$TI: 93



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By WLE Copacetic E02
EPD: CE: 10 \$API: 101 \$TI: 73



W/C Cyclone 385H
By W/C Bankroll 811D
EPD: CE: 11 \$API: 138 \$TI: 82



LLSF Vantage Point F398
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EPD: CE: 13 \$API: 113 \$TI: 84



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EPD: CE: 10 \$API: 103 \$TI: 66



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EPD: CE: 10 \$API: 126 \$TI: 79



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By HPF/HILL Uprising C104
EPD: CE: 12 \$API: 103 \$TI: 65



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EPD: CE: 16 \$API: 134 \$TI: 80



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EPD: CE: 11 \$API: 123 \$TI: 74



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CLRWTR Clear Advantage H4G

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EPD: CE: 15 \$API: 155 \$TI: 96



Schooley Krown 28K

By KBHR Revolution H071
EPD: CE: 13 \$API: 169 \$TI: 106



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EPD: CE: 13 \$API: 136 \$TI: 88



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EPD: CE: 15 \$API: 151 \$TI: 80



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