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SimTALK

Linking SimGenetics to Commercial Cattle

In This Issue:

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SimTalk
Linking SimGenetics to Commercial Cattle

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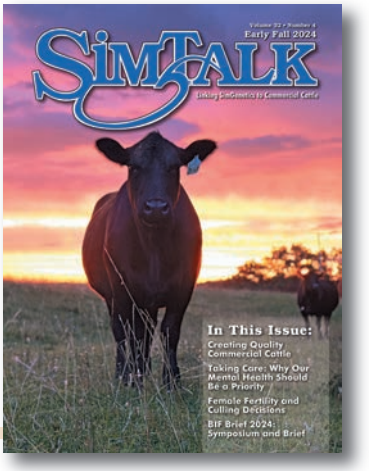

A commercial SimGenetics female at sunset. Photo by Bailey Abell.

Make calving a *breeze*
WITH THESE CALVING EASE LEADERS

7SM124 ENHANCEMENT

ASA: 3764886 | Proclamation x Beacon

A Calving Ease leader that ranks among the best in the breed for carcass traits as well as API

CE	BW	WW	YW	ADG	MCE	Milk	MWW	Stay	Doc	CW	YG	Marb	BF	REA	Shr	API	TI
18.5	-3.2	84.8	139.6	.34	11.7	30.1	72.4	19.1	15.5	44.6	-.25	.78	-.034	.97	-.34	195.7	106.7
2	2	25	15	10	1	10	15	15	15	10	95	1	99	30		1	1

From Gibbs Farms Cattle LLC, AL and Wilkinson Farms Simmentals, ND

7SM133 GOLD STRIKE

ASA: 3909662 | Gold x New Time Line

From a proven maternal line, GOLD STRIKE offers pounds in a Calving Ease package

CE	BW	WW	YW	ADG	MCE	Milk	MWW	Stay	Doc	CW	YG	Marb	BF	REA	Shr	API	TI
15.4	-.5	86.9	138.9	.33	7.6	32.2	74.7	16.3	11	41.4	-.23	.38	-.004	1.11	-.4	147.7	89.9
20	40	15	15	15	40	4	10	35	70	25	50	50	90	4		30	20

From Trauernicht Simmentals and Triangle J Ranch, NE

7SM138 HONOR GUARD

ASA: 3801515 | Radical x Verdict

One of the most elite red Simmentals in the breed for balanced trait selection and phenotype.

CE	BW	WW	YW	ADG	MCE	Milk	MWW	Stay	Doc	CW	YG	Marb	BF	REA	Shr	API	TI
16	-.3	93.8	135.6	.26	8.7	22	68.8	27.2	12.1	33.6	-.47	.52	-.078	1.18	-.28	190.6	101
10	25	10	15	40	15	60	25	1	45	30	20	10	50	10		1	1

From Neidig Farms, NE and C Diamond Ranch, ND

7SM104 BROAD RANGE

ASA: 3404807 | WIDE RANGE x Midland

A proven sire that offers Calving Ease, growth and makes exceptional daughters

CE	BW	WW	YW	ADG	MCE	Milk	MWW	Stay	Doc	CW	YG	Marb	BF	REA	Shr	API	TI
15.4	-2	88	146.2	.36	10.1	25	68.9	12.1	14	47.7	-.19	.28	.013	1.18	-.43	149.2	93.7
10	10	20	10	3	4	35	25	85	25	5	99	30	99	10		25	15

From Gibbs Farms, AL; K Diamond Cattle and TNT Simmentals, ND; River Creek Farms, KS and Trauernicht Simmentals, NE

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From the Editor

by Lilly Platts, managing editor

We dedicate a lot of space in *SimTalk* to science, economics, and other industry-specific subjects about raising cattle. This is of course very important, but none of it really matters if the people in our industry are not well; mental health is a critical part of this. Farmers and ranchers face a lot of uncertainty and stress, and having the tools to deal with this can make all the difference.

In the spirit of encouraging others to be more open, I wanted to share some of my own story. There is nothing unique or special about my mental health story, and I don't intend to just bring attention to myself. However, improving my mental health — and becoming comfortable with who I am — was the defining story of my 20s, and I truly believe there is value in sharing our stories with one another.

I grew up in a small community in southwest Montana, immersed in agriculture and ranching. I was riding horses as soon as I was able, and started participating in the 4-H beef program when I was eight.

Growing up in this community, mental health was not a part of the conversation. I participated in countless youth programs, and don't recall the subject ever coming up. I also day-worked for a large commercial cow-calf operation, and while the people I worked with were like family, "how are you doing" conversations always skirted more difficult subjects.

Being physically tough was an expectation, and this made its way into my attitude about mental health. For a long time, I could push myself physically and mentally. A full day in the calving barn when it was 40 below zero and everything was trying to die felt like an adventure. Taking a green colt out to move cows all day and barely squeaking by without a wreck gave me confidence.

Then my mortality caught up to me. I can't put a finger on a specific thing that happened. I was good at keeping myself out of wrecks, but had watched a number of people get hurt both by horses and cows, and I think that all culminated in me realizing I wasn't bulletproof. Horses and ranching had been my whole identity, and feeling afraid to do things I used to enjoy really turned my world upside down. I was grappling with the "rub some dirt in it" mentality I was raised around, and was also navigating some difficult things in my life, from health to relationships. It all came to a head when I started having panic attacks.

The first one hit while I was driving home from a day in the office. I remember a sense of dread coming over me, and before I knew it my heart was racing and my hands wouldn't stop shaking. I pulled off to the side of the interstate, and long story short, I found my way to the emergency room, sure my heart was about to explode. Prior to this, I had been dealing with a strange rash on my arms and exhibiting a lot of symptoms of being physically and mentally overwhelmed. However, when the doctor looked me over and concluded I had a panic attack I refused to believe him. I was so sure that it was a physical health issue that I pursued a cardiology exam, and tried to convince my primary doctor that it had to be something else. I had more panic attacks, saw more doctors, and kept pushing down my emotions. I would cry at the drop of a hat, and was having a really hard time.

Then I finally decided to try therapy. The therapist I matched with was incredibly insightful and straightforward — she changed my life. It took a lot of sessions, a huge credit card bill, and many years of exploring my mental health, but I can say without hesitation that my life would look very different if I hadn't talked to someone. She taught me about how our mental health manifests in our bodies — practicing yoga, learning how to breathe, and opening my mind to the connection between the brain and body were critical. She also taught me about getting to the true core of who I am as a person, which helped me overcome the identity crisis I was having.

One of the biggest lessons I learned is that mental health is a part of everything in life. The other thing I learned is that we cannot judge one another for feeling the need to seek out help. I was judgmental of myself at first — so much so I wouldn't listen to any of the doctors trying to help me — and I've seen many people judge others for being "soft," or ungrateful.

Recognizing that my mental health was not where I wanted it, and taking the steps to overcome that, did not make me ungrateful or weak. You can have a lot of positives in your life and seek improvement at the same time. If someone tells you they are unhappy, you do not get to look at all of the things they have — a successful business, or a healthy family — and tell them to snap out of it. It's your responsibility to acknowledge that they are struggling, understand that there may be a lot going on that you cannot see, and encourage them to talk to someone.

Making a living in agriculture is hard, often isolating, and physically demanding. You owe it to yourself and your family to check in. People in agriculture are now talking about mental health, and programs like the Montana Ag Producer Stress Clearinghouse, which is featured on page 14, are behind this shift. There are many free resources, which can be accessed discreetly, and I hope that you will share them with all of your friends and family in agriculture. We also share a sampling of other national resources available to farmers and ranchers. There are a number of free counseling resources available to the agricultural community.

I am really proud of this issue of *SimTalk*. We also feature commercial SimGenetics producer Jamie Dail, and Dr. Troy Rowan shares about research recently completed through the Walton-Berry program. We also cover the recent Beef Improvement Federation conference, where several people and operations in the Simmental community were recognized. The Late Fall issue is coming right up, so please keep an eye out for it!

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BEST PRACTICES FOR SEEDSTOCK PRODUCERS

Jackie Atkins, PhD

Matt Spangler, PhD

Bob Weaber, PhD

Wade Shafer, PhD

Best Practices to Receive the Most Accurate Genetic Predictions

1 Clearly define breeding objectives

With the ability to increase the rate of genetic change comes the possibility to make mistakes at a faster pace. Breeding goals need to be clearly identified to ensure that selection at the nucleus level matches the profit-oriented needs of the commercial industry.

2 Use whole herd reporting

Inventory-based reporting captures more complete phenotypes on reproduction and longevity traits, and thus creates more accurate genetic selection tools.

3 Properly define contemporary groups

It is important for the precision of the genetic evaluation to group animals treated uniformly. Proper reporting of contemporary groups reduces bias in EPD.

4 Take data collection and reporting seriously

Phenotypes are the fuel that drives the genetic evaluation. Take pride in collecting accurate data. Report records on the complete contemporary group in order to paint the most accurate picture of the genetics in these cattle. If possible, collect additional phenotypes like mature cow weight, cow body condition score, udder scores, feed intake, and carcass data.

5 Make both thorough and accurate phenotypic data collection for economically relevant traits a high priority

The quantity and quality of fertility traits need to dramatically improve. Providing disposal codes to identify why females leave the herd is vital. Commercial data resources, where the true economically relevant traits exist, are going to become more critical to capture. Breeders can help prove the genetics of their own seedstock by encouraging their commercial customers to join ASA's Commercial Total Herd Enrollment (THE) option and add valuable data to the evaluation.

6 Use index-based selection

As the list of published EPD continues to grow, using economic selection indices will become even more helpful to reduce the complexity of multiple trait selection.

If the number of EPD increase, tools to reduce the complexity of sire selection for commercial producers must continue to develop. Breed associations and seedstock producers have the obligation to aid commercial clientele in making profitable bull selection decisions.

7 Use genomics

Genomic selection offers an opportunity to increase the rate of genetic change and break the antagonistic relationship between generation interval (the average age of the parents when the next generation is born) and the accuracy of selection (e.g., accuracy of EPD) — two components that determine the rate of genetic change. However, as with any tool, genomic information must be used correctly and to its fullest extent.

Adding a DNA test to your decision is like knowing . . .

- 25+ calving ease scores
- 22 birth weights
- 25+ weaning weights
- 25+ yearling weights
- Stayability/productivity records on 15 daughters
- 6 carcass weights
- 10 marbling scores
- 8 ribeye area measurements

All this from a test you can complete before you wean the calf.

IGS Multi-breed Genetic Evaluation

Best Practices for Genomic Testing

1 All animals within a contemporary group should be genotyped.

If genomic data are meant to truly enable selection decisions, this information must be collected on animals before selection decisions are made. The return on investment of this technology is substantially reduced if it is used after the decision is made. The ASA's Calf Crop Genomics (CCG) program offers 50% off GGP100K test for breeders who commit to genotype the entire calf crop. See sidebar for more details.

2 Both male and female animals should be genotyped.

The promise of genomic selection has always suggested the largest impact is for lowly heritable and/or sex limited (e.g., fertility) traits or those that are not routinely collected (e.g.,disease). This is indeed true, but it necessitates that genotyped animals have phenotypes. For sex-limited traits, this becomes a critical choke point, given that historically the vast the vast majority of genotyped cattle are males. If producers wish to have genomic-enhanced EPD for traits such as calving ease maternal and heifer pregnancy, they must begin or continue to genotype females. The ASA has a unique program called the Cow Herd DNA Roundup (CHR) to help herds collect female genotypes. See sidebar for more details.

3 Genotypes can provide useful information in addition to predictions of additive genetic merit.

Do not forget the value in correcting parentage errors, tracking inbreeding levels, identifying unfavorable haplotypes, estimating breed composition, and estimating retained heterozygosity. All of these can be garnered from populations that have a well-defined set of genotyping protocols.

The beef industry should be congratulated for the rapid adoption of genomic technology, but there is a lot of work to do. Of critical importance is the fact that genomic technology will continue to change and does not replace the need for phenotypes nor the fundamental understanding of traditional selection principles including EPD and accuracy.

Total Herd Enrollment (THE)

A cow inventory reporting program, THE requires participants to provide annual reproductive and inventory status on their cow herd. THE is designed to improve quality of data submitted for the genetic evaluation, and in turn improve and develop reproductive EPD. By submitting data on the entire calf crop or contemporary group, breeders will receive more accurate predictions of their cattle. The ASA has four THE options to fit most seedstock and commercial operations.

Cow Herd DNA Roundup (CHR)

The Cow Herd DNA Roundup (CHR) is designed to increase the number of female genotypes to better predict maternal traits, such as maternal calving ease. Genotyping entire herds reduces bias created when only the best cattle are genotyped. Gathering massive amounts of genotypes on entire cow herds will significantly improve the genomic predictions and rate of genetic progress. As parentage testing is included, CHR herds will have pedigrees validated through DNA. Participating breeders benefit from having genomically enhanced EPD on the entire cow herd — equivalent to a lifetime number of calf records in several traits for an exceptionally low cost.

Calf Crop Genomics (CCG)

Calf Crop Genomics, a research project launched by the ASA in collaboration with Neogen Genomics, offers 50% off GGP100K genomic test including parentage ($25 compared to $50 equivalent test) to participating breeders who test their entire calf crop. Genotyping entire calf crops is important to use genomically enhanced EPD (GE-EPD) for selection decisions, reduce selection bias in genomic predictions, and increase the volume of genotyped animals for future improvements to genetic predictions. The latter two points make any singular genomic test in the future better for all members using genomics.

Carcass Expansion Project (CXP)

Despite the importance of carcass traits to our industry, few producers devote resources to collecting and recording actual carcass data. While the Carcass Merit Program (CMP) is a valuable progeny test, it is limited in the number of records produced. We cannot depend on the CMP alone to bring in carcass data. In the age of genomics, it is clear we need genotypes on animals with actual carcass phenotypes.

Adding another layer of commitment to predicting carcass traits, the ASA initiated a new program, called the Carcass Expansion Project, in the fall of 2018 to increase the number of carcass records on genotyped animals. The ASA is are ramping up both phenotypic and genotypic data collection on terminal calves — a vital part of our vision.

Creating Quality Commercial Cattle

by Lilly Platts

North Carolina commercial producer Jamie Dail goes above and beyond in collecting, submitting, and analyzing data for Triple D Farms. His herd of commercial SimGenetics females are expected to consistently produce high-performing calves each year.

Growing the Family Business

Jamie Dail has built a uniform, consistent cow herd in a region where high-performing commercial cow-calf herds are not common. Profit is the ultimate measure of success in the commercial cow-calf business, and by focusing on collecting, submitting, and analyzing data, the Dail family has met their goal of making a living in the beef industry.

Dail grew up in agriculture, with his grandparents operating a laying farm. They always had a small herd of cattle around, which Dail was interested in from an early age. Following high school, he and his wife Maria purchased two cows, kicking off their own career in the cattle business. "That was our start," Dail shares.

Officially bitten by the cattle business bug, they kept purchasing cows and land as they were able. "As my grandparents got older, I took over the cows they had and we started buying a few here and there, and land as we could. It snowballed from that point," Dail recalls.

Dail has since accumulated a sizable tract of continuous land, and the cow herd has grown to 800 head. Located only 30 minutes inland from the Atlantic, Triple D Farms is in a unique, productive area. Hot, often humid summers and cool winters are characteristic of southeast North Carolina. On average, the area receives the most rain from July to September; drought and heat can be a challenge, sometimes requiring early weaning.

Focusing on Profit

In the beginning, Dail's cattle were a range of breeds; understanding that he would need to add value to make a profit, he identified and worked toward a well-thought-out breeding program.

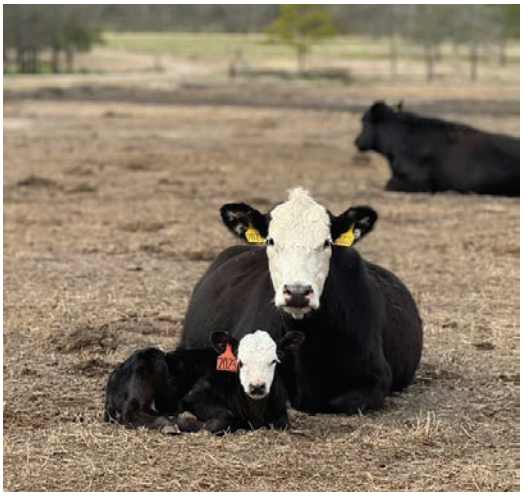
"When I first started making breeding decisions it was out of the ordinary," Dail explains. "People in our area never had a breeding season. They just turned bulls out, and you got what you got. There wasn't a paper trail. That was just normal because everyone was doing it for a hobby."

Dail also knew early on that they needed to add value to their calf crop, and go beyond simply selling through the local auction barn. Taking advantage of heterosis was one essential part of this. Triple D Farms first introduced SimGenetics to their herd around 25 years ago.

In addition to the benefits of crossbreeding, Dail points to the disposition, growth, and heat tolerance SimGenetics offer. "Disposition is a big deal for us. I also want my calves to shed off, and I like how they grow," Dail says.

Data was also an important factor in improving and expanding the business. "I probably have as much data, aside from genomics, on my cattle as any seedstock breeder," Dail shares.

From birth to weaning, every piece of data that can be collected is saved and utilized later on in breeding decisions. Females are also tracked closely, and anything that isn't consistently producing a good calf is culled immediately. Triple D Farms keeps back a large group of females each year to account for this strict culling. Collecting data is a family effort, with Maria ensuring that information is saved and available chute-side when breeding and culling decisions are being made.



Above: Triple D Farms has been incorporating Simmental genetics in their commercial herd for many years.

Right: Docility and maternal instincts are traits of the Simmental breed that Dail values.



Above, L–R: Dail and his son, Cody, sorting calves. Dail family, left to right, Grace, Cody, Jamie, Maria, Taylor, Nolan, Fallon (holding Noah). Dail expects his females to produce a quality calf each year, and has a strict culling protocol.

Dail's longtime relationship with SimGenetics seedstock breeder, Gibbs Farms, has also been important in improving and growing the cow herd. Located near Ranburne, Alabama, Gibbs Farms has a long history with the breed, and is a trusted source for top-producing SimGenetics bulls.

In addition to non-negotiable phenotypic traits, like foot structure and soundness, Dail relies on the All Purpose Index ($API) when choosing herd bulls. The $API index balances a number of traits, which works well both for the terminal side of the business and for keeping back replacement heifers.

Having a good relationship with a seedstock provider is extremely important for commercial producers, and Dail has pointed to the quality of Gibbs bulls, as well as their customer service. "When you spend the kind of money we do on bulls I like to know that they believe in their product enough that they're going to stand behind it," he shares.

Yon Family Farms, located near Ridge Spring, South Carolina, is the Dail family's go-to source for quality Angus genetics.

Triple D Farms also participates in other value-added programs, including Global Animal Partnership (GAP) certification. This program involves periodic visits to the farm by third-party auditors to assess pasture access, the health of pastures, the age calves are castrated and weaned, and more. This certification allows the Dail family to receive a premium per head each year.

A Family Affair

The entire Dail family is involved with the cow herd. Their oldest daughter, Fallon, lives close to the farm, and is frequently there to help work cows. She and her husband, Nolan, have two young children named Ansley and Noah.

Son Cody and his fiance, Grace Russ, are also extremely involved in the family business. "My son lives and breathes cattle," Dail shares.

Youngest daughter, Taylor, recently graduated from North Carolina State with a degree in agricultural business and is now working for AgCarolina Farm Credit.

Dail's wife, Maria, has been there from the beginning, and is in charge of collecting, tracking, and submitting data. "She's probably more into the paperwork than I am," he shares.

Maria has also implemented several practices important to the success of the farm, including keeping several milk cows around to nurse orphan calves. Calving season always presents challenges, and from twins to cows that have difficulty calving, orphaned calves are unavoidable. By having several Jersey milk cows on hand, these calves that would otherwise need to be bottle fed and weaned early are able to nurse and grow like normal. As Dail explains, the price of a Jersey milk cow far outweighs the cost of milk replacer and lost profit from an underperforming calf. "These calves can be just as good as they'd be on their mama," he explains.

Having his family involved makes the challenge and daily work involved with being in the cattle business worth it. "My family seems to love it," Dail concludes. "We have a barn where the horses are in front of our house, with a big room inside. All of my kids and grandkids show up there every afternoon to eat. As long as they keep wanting to do that every day, I'm a rich man."

Dail speaks with ASA's Chip Kemp during the National Cattlemen's Beef Association conference. Scan the code to watch an interview with Dail for the International Genetic Solutions Targeting the End Point feature.

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Taking Care:

Why Our Mental Health Should Be *a* Priority

by Lilly Platts

Stress is an unavoidable part of making a living in the beef industry. Knowing how to take care of mental health and curb the negative effects of stress are critical.

Mental health, and overall well-being, affects everyone in the beef industry. Whether agriculture is a full-time occupation or a side business, the daily stress of keeping animals alive and healthy, making sound financial decisions, navigating family relationships, and more can place an unhealthy amount of stress on a person's life. An "old school" mentality used to prevail in the agricultural community, equating mental health struggles to weakness. Fortunately, this attitude has been shifting over time with the realization that caring for mental health is just as important as physical well-being. Many organizations and institutions now offer free or low-cost counseling, online resources, workshops, helplines, and more with the support of USDA grants. Montana State University (MSU) has created one of the most comprehensive, easy to navigate resources available. MSU's Dr. Michelle Grocke-Dewey shared about the creation of this resource, why mental health in agriculture matters, and what can be done to further support one another and the industry as a whole.

> The most recent statistic is that farmers and ranchers are three and a half times more likely to die by suicide than the general population.

The Montana Ag Producer Stress Resources Clearinghouse

MSU has taken advantage of USDA grant funds to create the Montana Ag Producer Stress Resources Clearinghouse. The program is led by Dr. Michelle Grocke-Dewey, department head for Human Development and Community Health at MSU. A medical anthropologist by training, Dr. Grocke-Dewey started working as the MSU Extension Health and Wellness Specialist in 2018. In this role, she identifies health-related needs in the state. Early on, she could see that mental health in agriculture was an underserved area. "The numbers clearly told me this area needed focus. The most recent statistic is that farmers and ranchers are three and a half times more likely to die by suicide than the general population," she explained.

Grocke-Dewey also believed that the agricultural community deserved support. "They're the ones working around the clock making strategic decisions in the face of all of these external stressors, like weather, commodity prices, or international trade agreements — many things outside of their control — to be able to feed people like us," she shared. "I have so much respect for that, and I'm grateful for people working in agriculture who are planting, nurturing, and harvesting the food we eat, and I wanted to do something to support them."

With the support of MSU Extension, Grocke-Dewey helped create the Montana Ag Producer Stress Resources Clearinghouse. This free online space includes everything from informational articles to help-line numbers and a stress level test. The resources are categorized, including: What is Stress?; Measure Your Stress; Manage Your Stress; What is Mental Health?; Learn More about your Stressors; Help a Friend or Family Member; Online Educational Opportunities; and Ag Producer Stress in the News.

Each category explores different areas of mental health, offering digestible, relatable resources. Putting this information online was intentional, as it allows people to take in the information privately. When the Clearinghouse was being planned, several people advised Grocke-Dewey that farmers and ranchers are often concerned about privacy. One man in particular stands out in her memory, who explained that if a workshop on stress was being held where he lived he wouldn't go, for fear that his friends and neighbors would see his truck parked there and conclude that he needed help. However, he said he would be comfortable seeking this information online.

Putting the Clearinghouse online — as opposed to holding in-person workshops or some other format — also means it fits into anyone's schedule. "People can access it any time, and also anonymously," Grocke-Dewey said.

The relationship between the mind and body is especially important for agricultural professionals. Stress, whether it builds over time or due to one big event, causes measurable, significant physical symptoms.

Whole Body Health

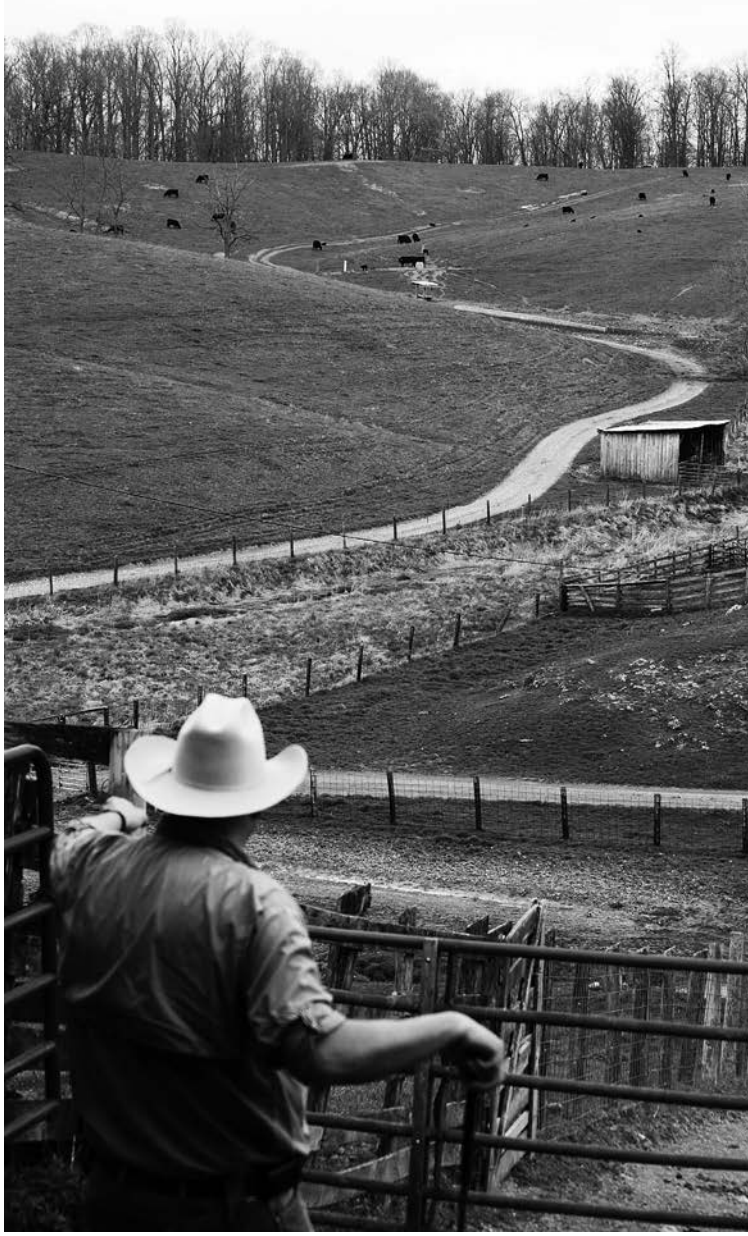
The relationship between the mind and body is especially important for agricultural professionals. Stress, whether it builds over time or due to one big event, causes measurable, significant physical symptoms. Grocke-Dewey explained the biology of this connection. "When you're faced with a stressor — it doesn't matter if it's something out of your control like the weather, or something you have more control over, like an argument with a spouse or a truck breaking down — what matters is the physiological stress response that comes after that," she shared. "Any time you're stressed, your physiological stress response is activated and your body starts producing stress hormones like cortisol and adrenaline, which leaves the sympathetic nervous system activated."

Known as "fight or flight," when the autonomic nervous system is engaged and not deactivated, the biological response to stress will continue affecting the body. "We are designed to operate at really high performance with our sympathetic nervous system engaged, but only in the short term for really small periods of time," Grocke-Dewey said. "We are not designed to operate with our sympathetic nervous system engaged for longer periods of time. So even days on end, or weeks on end, can be detrimental to our health."

This can manifest in a number of serious health issues, like hypertension, digestive issues, heart disease, obesity and metabolic syndrome, Type II diabetes, and arthritis. Stress can even lower white blood cell count, making a person more susceptible to illness.

Worrying about the unknown can have the same biological effect. "Even if it's a perceived threat, our bodies respond the same," Grocke-Dewey explained. "Our hearts beat faster to pump more blood through our system, and our blood actually clots a lot easier because we're ready to be wounded. Our vision gets better, our hearing perks up, and we're able to run faster. But we can't operate in that state for very long."

Grocke-Dewey added, "Sometimes people don't realize that stress is actually causing a lot of their physical ailments. The majority of doctor's visits have a stress-related component."



People are our industry's greatest asset, and taking care of our mental health is important for the future. Photo by Hannah Wine.

Stress is an unavoidable part of making a living in agriculture, so knowing how to combat it and calm the nervous system is critical. "It's more about whether someone has the ability and the tools to activate their parasympathetic nervous system in order to slow down, let their bodies recuperate, and reach equilibrium," Grocke-Dewey shared.

Calming practices activate the parasympathetic nervous system, which might look like going for a walk, controlled breathing, or riding a horse. For someone who has been in a heightened state for some time, learning how to activate the parasympathetic nervous system can take time. For example, sitting down to do breathing exercises may initially make a person feel restless, but over time, the body will learn to relax with deep breaths; eventually, just taking a few deep breaths during a stressful situation can have a positive physical effect on the body.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 18)

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Taking Care: Why Our Mental Health Should Be a Priority

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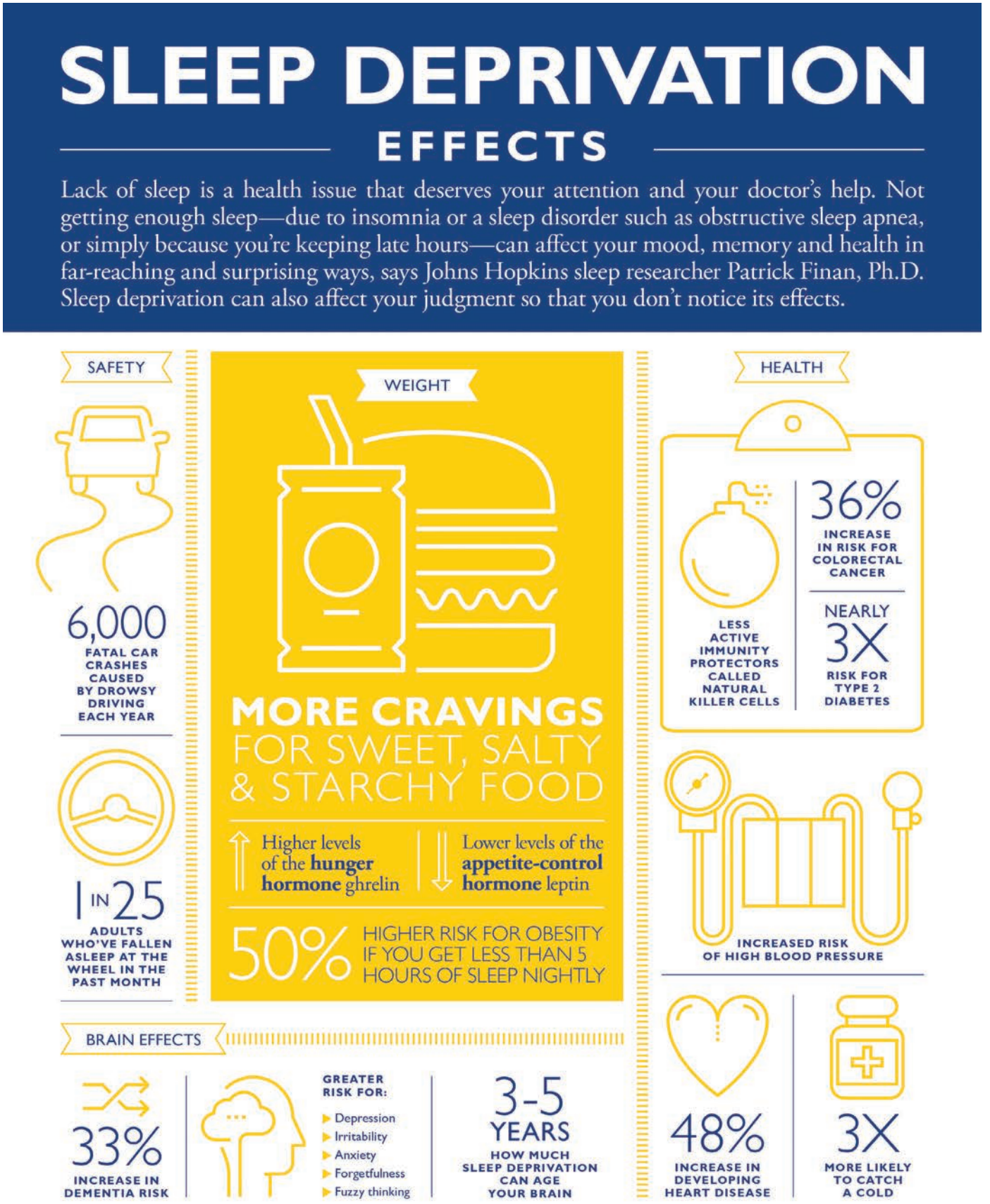


Research has shown that poor sleep can have a wide range of negative effects on overall health. Image courtesy of John Hopkins University.

The Clearinghouse also shares more general information about health, from nutrition to sleep, which are ultimately linked to mental health. "All components of our health are inextricably linked. We cannot isolate just one," Grocke-Dewey said.

While agriculture can be physically demanding, exercise may still be beneficial because of the positive effects it has on the body. "You'll release endorphins whether you're going for a hike, running, or doing whatever you enjoy that helps you relax your muscles and relieve tension in your body. You'll start experiencing lower rates of anxiety, improved mood, and less irritability," Grocke-Dewey shared.

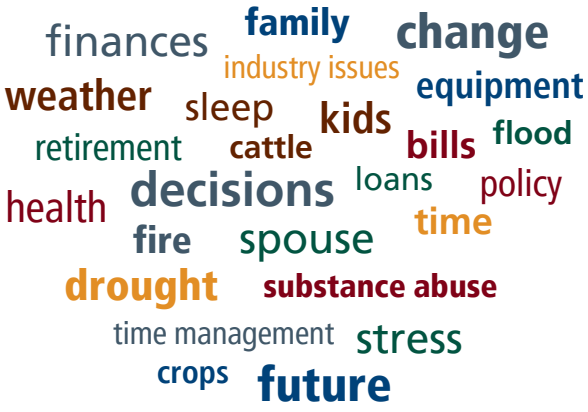
Nutrition is similarly important, and especially during busy spells, farmers and ranchers may fall short. Certain deficiencies manifest in negative mental health outcomes. Grocke-Dewey explained, "I like to point out several nutritional deficiencies. If you have a vitamin B12 or B9 deficiency, that can directly cause symptoms of depression and dementia, such as low mood, fatigue, cognitive decline, or irritability, which will likely cause strain on social relationships."

Not getting enough sleep — which happens to every farmer and rancher during calving season, planting, and harvest — can be extremely detrimental to health. While it may be unavoidable, it is critical to know when to ask for help. Sleep deprivation is equivalent to having a high blood alcohol level, and operating equipment or working with animals may be dangerous. Investing in one more employee, or asking a family member to help during these busy times, can make all the difference.

Reaching Out

Grocke-Dewey has received positive feedback about the Clearinghouse, and the numbers show that people are seeking out the resources available there. From the launch in 2020 through the end of last year, 21,175 people have visited the site. Approximately 300 people have completed the stress level test. If someone decides to seek therapy, funding from the Montana State Department of Agriculture allows them to seek free care through Frontier Psychiatry. This service is only available to Montanans, but other states have similar programs.

Watching a family member struggle is extremely difficult, and knowing how to help often feels overwhelming. Grocke-Dewey shared that educating yourself can be the first step. Resources like AgriSafe are a good place to start. AgriSafe was formed by rural nurses who wanted to help improve the safety of farmers and ranchers. Their 24/7 helpline is free, available in 160 languages, and operated by trained counselors who are familiar with agriculture. They can offer advice and resources for helping a friend or family member, and their services are completely free.



Stressors are many and varied, and different for everyone. Identifying those that affect you is a critical first step in taking charge of your well-being.

Asking someone if they are contemplating suicide is uncomfortable, but as Grocke-Dewey emphasizes, asking that question is not going to plant a seed or push someone to consider ending their life. If someone is displaying concerning signs of contemplating suicide, like no longer attending community events, or withdrawing from family and friends, asking that question could save their life. Having resources readily available to share with someone who decides to open up can also be critical.

Mental health care will look different for everyone. Many high-performing athletes and businesspeople make mental health care a normal part of their routine, which should be standard for everyone. For those who are generally in good mental health it may be as simple as reading about self care or taking a ten-minute walk after a stressful day. For those who feel the need to seek more help, the Clearinghouse and other resources have direct links to helplines. To learn more and explore the Clearinghouse, visit https://www.montana.edu/extension/wellness/stress-management/mt_farm_stress_clearing_house.

Scan this QR code to explore the Montana Ag Producer Stress Resources Clearinghouse website.

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Taking Care: Why Our Mental Health Should Be a Priority

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Photo by Jade LeDoux.

Please check out these services for mental health care in agriculture. Note that this list is not comprehensive, but a sample of what is available to farmers and ranchers across the country.

AgriSafe

agrisafe.org

The AgriSafe Network, a nonprofit organization, represents health professionals and educators who strive to reduce health disparities found among the agricultural community. Services include everything from mental health care to pesticide and chemical safety. The AgriSafe Learning Lab includes webinars and a long list of courses on a variety of farm and ranch safety topics. Their 24/7 hotline is 833-897-2474.

American Farm Bureau Farm State of Mind

fb.org/initiative/farm-state-of-mind

The American Farm Bureau Farm State of Mind campaign builds awareness to reduce stigma and provides access to information and resources that promote farmer and rancher mental health wellness. Their directory includes an in-depth list of resources across the country, which can be sorted by state. The site also includes valuable resources, including warning signs of suicide, research, and more.

Farm Aid

farmaid.org

Farm Aid maintains a mental health care hotline — 1-800-FARM-AID (1-800-327-6243) — which can be reached Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 9 PM Eastern time, and 6 AM to 6 PM Pacific time. The Spanish hotline is available Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 5 PM Eastern time, and 6 AM to 2 PM Pacific time.

Rural Health Information Hub

ruralhealthinfo.org/topics/farmer-mental-health

The Rural Health Information Hub shares a number of resources, as well as helpful explanations about the stressors farmers and ranchers face. Their site also provides several options for call in helplines, programs, and examples of successful programs across the country.

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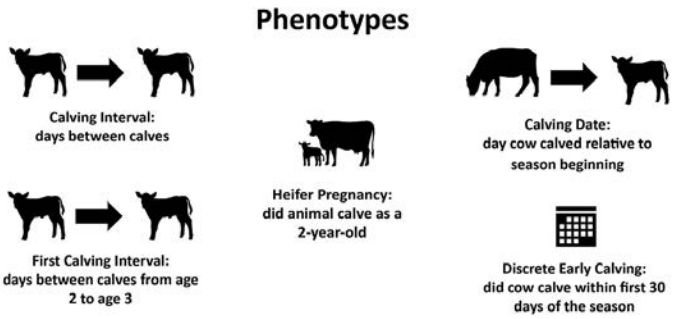
Female Fertility *and* Culling Decisions

by Cassidy Catrett and Dr. Troy Rowan, University of Tennessee

Recent research funded by the Walton-Berry Graduate Student Support Grant used Total Herd Enrollment data to explore fertility and trends in culling decisions.

Cow longevity is the chief driver of economic success in cow-calf operations. An inability to rebreed is the most common reason that beef cows are prematurely culled from herds. Phenotypes associated with increased cow fertility and longevity are known to be under lower levels of genetic control. However, selection tools in the form of EPD can help accelerate progress on cow fertility by focusing selection on the modest genetic variation that controls these traits. Measuring these phenotypes at the population level is challenging with conventional data recording schemes. Further, many of these phenotypes take multiple years to be fully expressed, making phenotypic selection ineffective at generating rapid genetic improvement. Inventory-based reporting systems require production records on all females in a herd, regardless of calf survival or registration. This type of reporting framework has allowed breed associations to collect complete and unbiased reproductive and performance phenotypes from entire herds.

As a part of an ASA Walton-Berry Award, our group at the University of Tennessee has used ASA's Total Herd Enrollment (THE) records to explore the phenotypic and genetic variation of multiple traits related to heifer and cow fertility. We calculated five traits associated with early and sustained cow fertility: calving interval (days between calves), first calving interval (days between a cow's first and second calves), calving date (when, relative to contemporaries, did a cow calve), discrete early calving (did a cow calve within the first 30 days of contemporary group), and heifer pregnancy (did a female conceive during first breeding season) (Figure 1). We found that most animals in ASA's THE herds maintain a calving interval of less than 400 days. However, there was a slight increase in observations around the two-year, or 730-day mark, indicating that a non-negligible number of females are retained after a missed calving opportunity. The mean calving date for heifers in the data set was day 19, while it was day 32 for mature cows. This discrepancy in values is likely due to increased use of estrus synchronization and advanced reproductive management in heifer contemporary groups. We know that the first calving season is essential for setting up an animal for reproductive successes later in life, and this showed up clearly in the THE dataset. We found that heifers that calved in the first 30 days of their contemporary group's calving season calved an average of ten days earlier than those that calved outside of the first 30 days (average calving date = 29.9 days vs. 40.2 days).



Definitions for cow fertility phenotypes.

THE data also allowed us to better understand how attrition occurs in this population. As expected, we observed a steady decline in the number of animals over the course of their lifetimes. Most records in the dataset were from females less than seven years old. Only 25% of eligible cows in the dataset had reached their age seven enrollment without missing a calf. Using the THE disposal codes, we found that the largest culling happened at two years of age due to heifers being open. Beyond this time point, rebreeding failure remained the most common reason for removal from the herd.

The unbiased reporting required in THE allowed us to understand culling decisions and cow attrition at the population level. Most seedstock Simmental producers maintain close to a 365-day calving interval on average, but it'll take work to maintain that. Calving date for heifers was predictive of future reproductive performance. Each of these phenotypes was lowly to moderately heritable, ranging from about 0.05 to 0.15. These phenotypes also showed low-to-moderate phenotypic and genetic correlations with one another. This suggests that genetic improvement is possible for these traits if breed associations develop genetic evaluations and genetic selection tools for them. We are continuing work with this dataset to identify associated markers with these fertility traits through sequence-imputed genome-wide association studies.

Cassidy Catrett grew up on her family's farm in Luverne, Alabama, where they raise Shorthorn cattle alongside a crossbred commercial herd. She received dual bachelor's degrees from Mississippi State University in animal science and poultry science. She recently completed a MS in animal science at the University of Tennessee, and remains there today as a Graduate Research Assistant while pursuing a PhD in animal science.

Dr. Troy Rowan is an assistant professor and state Extension specialist at the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture Genomics Center for the Advancement of Agriculture. His research uses genomic and computational approaches to understand the biology that underlies a wide range of complex traits in beef cattle. He is particularly interested in local adaptation, heterosis, novel phenotype creation, and genomic approaches to increasing beef cattle sustainability.

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2024 Beef Improvement Federation Symposium • Knoxville, Tennessee

by Jackie Atkins, director of Science and IGS Operations

Volunteers, *Shark Tank*-inspired innovators, technology enthusiasts, lots of International Genetic Solutions (IGS) representation and love, and a magnetic comradery among beef cattle enthusiasts peppered the Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) meetings this summer.

We were hosted on-campus at the University of Tennessee's brand-new Energy & Environmental Science Research Building and Brehm Animal Science Building. Dr. Rowan and the University of Tennessee faculty, staff, and students gave a warm welcome to a large crowd of approximately 500 BIF attendees. This year marked a new BIF program that encouraged graduate students to put together an innovative sales pitch to improve beef cattle genetics, similar to the popular TV show *Shark Tank*. There was also the addition of poster presentations, which was a great way to see several graduate student research programs highlighted. These additions drew more grad student participation and added a lively feeling to the packed BIF schedule.

Ryan Boldt, IGS Lead Geneticist, presenting at the 2024 BIF Conference.

The Red Hill Farms operation of Lafayette, Tennessee, with the Jones family, was honored as 2024 Seedstock Producer of the Year. A much-deserved honor to a data-centric and science-focused seedstock operation. Congratulations to the Jones family! The commercial producer of the year went to Fenco Farms of Floral City, Florida. The Pioneer Award went to Dr. Jon Beever, fitting as he is on faculty at the University of Tennessee. Dr. Beever has had a long history serving the beef industry through molecular genomics and reducing deleterious genetic mutations in beef cattle. Dr. Darrh Bullock also received the Pioneer Award this year. Dr. Bullock has had a large impact developing extension education programs and material to further genetic improvement for beef cattle. Tommy Clark, Joe Mushrush, Dr. Andra Nelson, Dr. Justin Rhinehart, and Dr. Todd Thrift were recognized with the Continuing Service Award this year. Scarlett Hagins Madinger with Kansas Livestock Association was honored with the Beef Ambassador Award.

IGS was well represented throughout the week at BIF. We had a bursting-at-the-seems IGS social, which is always such a great feeling to bond with the staff, breeders, and industry allies supporting the various organizations in the IGS collaboration. Two new BIF board members are from associations in the IGS evaluation. Bruce Holmquist with the Canadian Simmental Association and Lindsay Upperman with the Red Angus Association of America were elected to the BIF Board of Directors to serve as breed association representatives. Several of the presentations were tied to IGS as well. Lane Giess and Lindsay Upperman joined a panel discussion on the importance of whole-herd reporting for improvement of beef cattle genetics. Ryan Boldt presented on using commercial or non-traditional data sources like beef/dairy cross calves in a genetic evaluation, and Dr. Dan Garrick presented BOLT and Helical tools to advance beef cattle genetic technology. These talks were well attended and well received. If you missed seeing the talks live, I highly recommend watching the videos. Head to beefimprovement.org and click on the Symposium tab to find this year's presentations.

As always, I walked away overfed, sleep-deprived, with a mind full of new ideas, and a heart happy to have had the time to see old friends and meet new ones. I hope you can join me at the next BIF meeting in Amarillo, Texas, in 2025.

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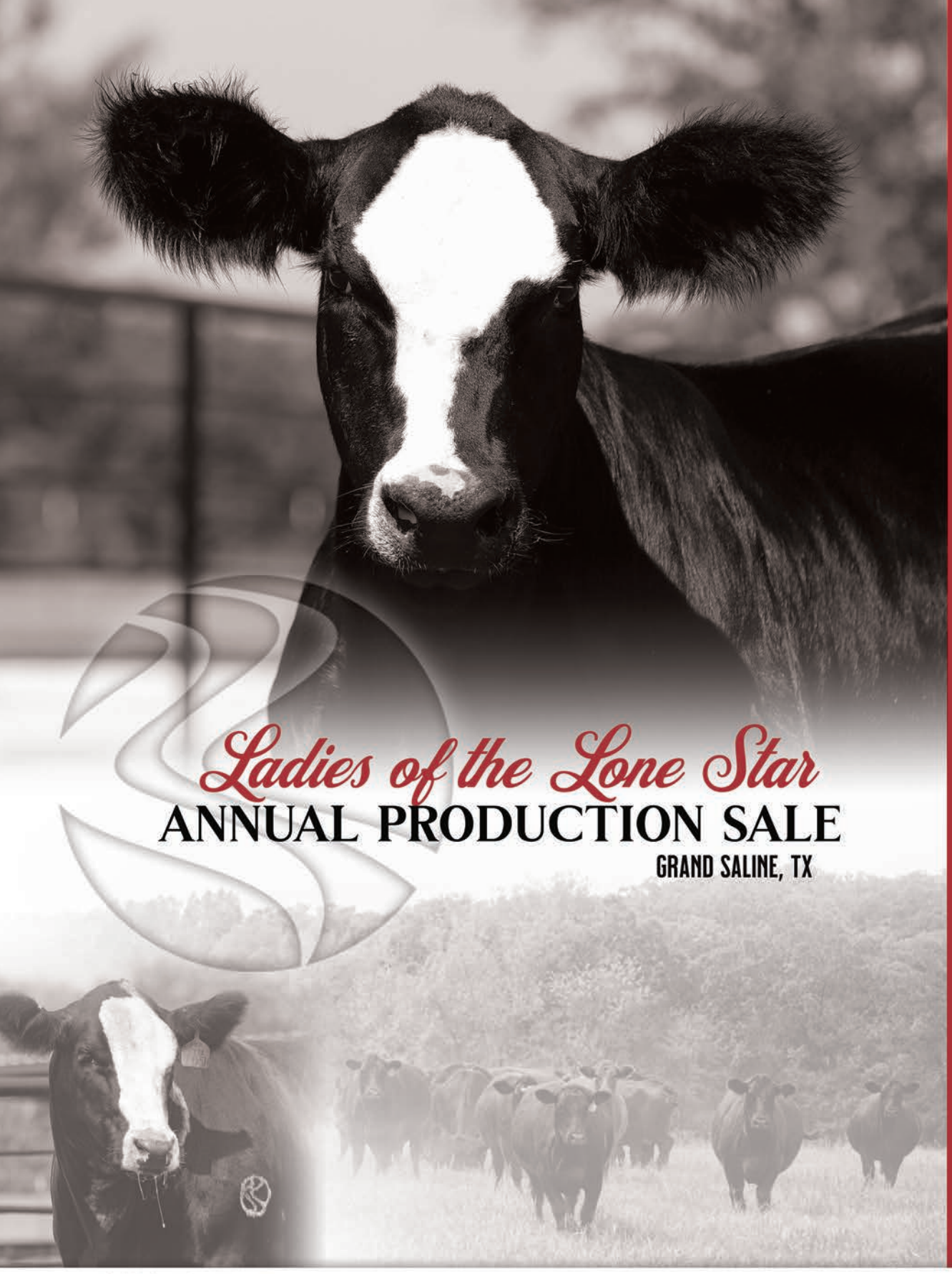

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BIF Brief

by ASA Staff

The Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) held their annual symposium June 10–13 in Knoxville, Tennessee. Several beef industry professionals and breeders in the SimGenetics community were recognized.

BIF Seedstock Producer of the Year

Red Hill Farms

Red Hill Farms, Lafayette, Tennessee, was recognized as the BIF Seedstock Producer of the Year. This national award is presented annually to a producer to recognize their dedication to improving the beef industry at the seedstock level.

As a seventh-generation family operation, Red Hill Farms has focused on incorporating technology that allows them to produce quality livestock and provide the best selection tools to their customers. Their extensive data collection practices have enhanced genetic evaluations across multiple breeds, enabling them to meet the needs of their customers.

Red Hill Farms started as a successful swine seedstock operation, adding beef cattle in 2002, initially with Red Angus cows. They have since incorporated Simmental, Angus, and Charolais to develop a herd of 500 mature cows. Their commitment to maintaining extensive performance records has ensured the production of quality bulls and females for their annual sales.

Red Hills Farms' emphasis on data collection has allowed them to focus on improving economically relevant traits and utilizing economic selection indexes to expedite genetic progress in their herd. This focus on both genetic and phenotypic traits has been crucial to their success and contributions to the beef industry. Their willingness to adopt new technologies has allowed them to continually improve and provide high quality genetics to their customers. Red Hill Farms was nominated by the Red Angus Association of America.

"Red Hill Farms is a shining example of a seedstock provider whose extensive data collection practices will enhance genetic evaluations across multiple breeds," says Katie Martin, director of communications for the Red Angus Association of America. "Their tremendous record-keeping, and organizational skills have been paramount to maintain the volume of data they've compiled over the years."

Dedicated to giving back to the agricultural community, Red Hill Farms hosts educational seminars to share their knowledge of animal breeding with their customers. Held prior to their spring and fall sales, these seminars aim to educate their customers on industry-leading technologies and best management practices. Their goal is not only to educate their customers, but also provide them superior genetics that will help increase profitability and enhance consumer appeal for US beef and pork.

Red Hill Farms receiving the 2024 BIF Seedstock Producer of the Year Award. Pictured left, presenting the award is Robert Williams representing Drovers, sponsor of the award, and far right Kevin Schultz, 2023–24 BIF president. Accepting the award are Susan, Gordon, Bart, and Sarah Jones.

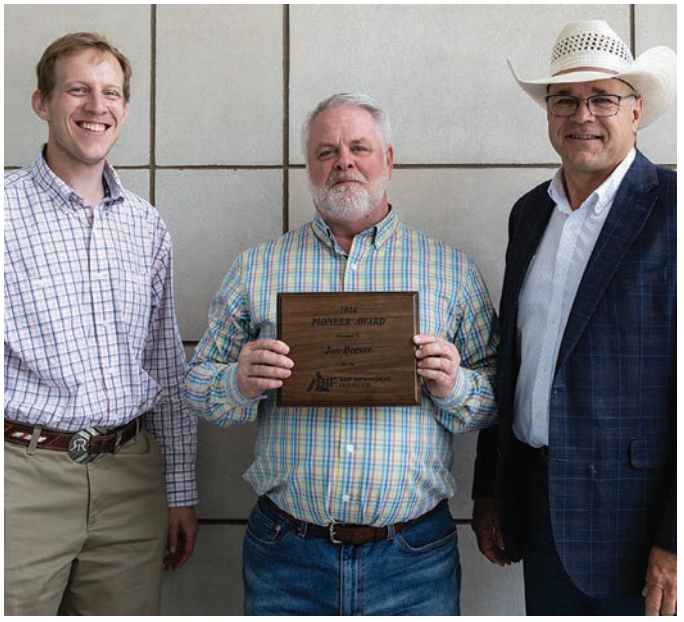
BIF Pioneer Award

The BIF Pioneer Award recognizes individuals who have made lasting contributions to the improvement of beef cattle, honoring those who have had a major role in acceptance of performance reporting and documentation as the primary means to make genetic change in beef cattle.

Jon Beever — BIF Pioneer Award

Beever has spent his nearly 30-year career pioneering the use of molecular genetic technologies in beef cattle and other livestock species. He spent 20 years on faculty at the University of Illinois before moving to the University of Tennessee in 2019 to help found its Genomics Center for the Advancement of Agriculture, where he is responsible for catalyzing and coordinating genomics research across the university while maintaining his own research. While at Illinois, Beever became a leading authority on mapping genetic abnormalities in livestock and developing diagnostic tests that have become essential tools for the beef industry. Most recently, his research has focused on applying genome editing to large-effect growth genes in cattle.

Throughout his career, Beever has been a mentor to numerous students and faculty as well as an invaluable collaborator to many in the beef industry. Beever's career has been focused on advancing livestock genetics and enhancing genomics research, while mentoring the next generation. He is a longtime collaborator with the American Simmental Association and International Genetic Solutions.



BIF Pioneer Award recipient Jon Beever, pictured with (L–R) Dr. Troy Rowan and Kevin Schultz, BIF past president.

Darrh Bullock — BIF Pioneer Award

Bullock is a pioneer in developing programs and educational concepts that have led to the betterment of beef breeding programs nationally. Serving as an Extension professor at the University of Kentucky since 1992, he has made an impact on both students and faculty involved in beef cattle breeding and genetics. Beyond his role as a professor, Bullock has brought transformational in-state programming to the state of Kentucky. He developed a genetic session for the Master Cattleman program and was a founding member of Kentucky's integrated resource management committee.

Bullock has a long-standing record of service to BIF, having served as the Eastern Region Secretary, chair of the multi-trait selection committee, and chair of the guidelines committee. Bullock's career has been focused on educating those around him and advancing the beef industry. He has worked with the American Simmental Association and International Genetic Solutions on many research projects.

BIF Pioneer Award recipient Darrh Bullock, pictured with (L–R) Gordon Jones, president, and Kevin Schultz, BIF past president.

SimGenetics producer Roth Farm and Ranch of Sterling, Kansas, was nominated for the BIF Commercial Producer of the Year Award. To read more about them, please scan the QR code below, or find the July/August 2022 edition of *the Register*.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 28)

BIF Brief

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27)

The newly elected BIF Board of Directors includes a number of ASA and IGS staff, breeders, and other industry partners. **Seated, L–R:** Gordon Jones, Lafayette, Tennessee, president; Gordon Hodges, Hamptonville, North Carolina, vice president; Kevin Schultz, Haviland, Kansas, past president; Bob Weaber, Kansas State University, BIF executive director; Matt Spangler, University of Nebraska–Lincoln, USDA Extension Service representative; Megan Rolf, Kansas State University, BIF central region secretary; Troy Rowan, University of Tennessee, BIF eastern region secretary; and Michaela Clowser, National Cattlemen's Beef Association. **Back row, L–R:** Joe Epperly, Wamego, Kansas; Lindsay Upperman, Red Angus Association of America; Johnny Rogers, Roxboro, North Carolina; Ken Odde, Pollock, South Dakota; Bruce Holmquist, Canadian Simmental Association; Shane Bedwell, American Hereford Association; Casey Worrell, Harper, Texas; Craig Hays, Pierce, Colorado; Warren Snelling, USDA Ag Research Service representative; Robert Williams, Kansas City, Missouri, historian; John Irvine, Manhattan, Kansas; Matt Woolfolk, American Shorthorn Association; and Kelli Retallick-Riley, American Angus Association. **Not pictured:** Mark Enns, Colorado State University, BIF western region secretary; Lorna Marshall, NAAB representative; and Jackie Atkins, American Simmental Association.

ST

Industry Update

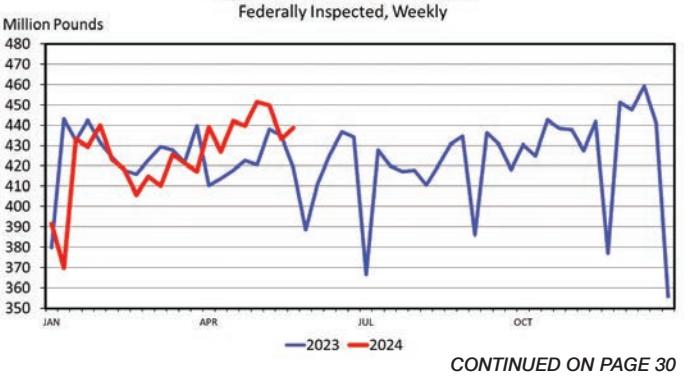
Fed Beef Production Steady; Nonfed Beef Production Down in 2024

by Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension

Total beef production in the first half of 2024 is at 10.6 billion pounds, down 2% year-over-year. This follows a 4.7% year-over-year reduction in beef production in 2023, from record levels in 2022. Cattle slaughter in the first 21 weeks of 2024 is down 4.5% year-over-year but cattle carcass weights have averaged 21.8 pounds higher than last year thus far. Beef production will be down year-over-year in 2024 but by less than previously forecast. There are also some interesting dynamics across types of beef production.

Steer slaughter is down 2.1% in the first 21 weeks of the year compared to one year ago. Heifer slaughter is down 1.6% year-over-year thus far in 2024. Total fed (steer plus heifer) slaughter is down 1.9% from last year. However, steer carcass weights have averaged 920 pounds, up 20.4 pounds this year and heifer carcasses are averaging 843 pounds, 15.9 pounds heavier year-over-year. Carcass weights have not shown the typical seasonal decline in the first half of the year resulting in even greater year-over-year discrepancies in recent weeks. Weekly data from late May shows steer carcass weights 37 pounds (heifers, 29 pounds) heavier than last year. Total fed beef production for the year to date is 8.92 billion pounds, up 0.2% from one year ago. Increased steer and heifer carcass weights are offsetting decreased slaughter to result in a fractional increase in fed beef production for the year to date with significant increases in recent weeks (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Fed Beef Production
Federally Inspected, Weekly



CONTINUED ON PAGE 30

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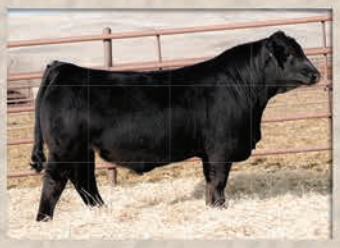

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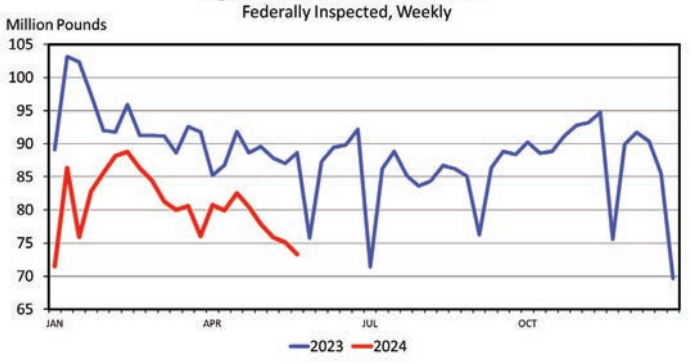
By contrast, nonfed (cattle that are generally not fed feedlot rations) beef production is down sharply in 2024. Nonfed beef makes up 20% of total beef production on average. Total cow slaughter is down 14.1% year-over-year through the first 21 weeks of the year, with dairy cow slaughter down 13.4% and beef cow slaughter down 14.8% from last year. Cow carcass weights are averaging 646.8 pounds, up ten pounds over one year ago. Bull slaughter is down 7.0% year-over-year, with bull carcass weights up 28.7 pounds year-over-year and averaging 892 pounds. Total nonfed slaughter through May is down 13.6% and total nonfed beef production is 1.69 billion pounds, down 12.0% compared to last year (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Nonfed Beef Production
Federally Inspected, Weekly



Fed beef will likely decline in the second half of the year. Fed slaughter is expected to decrease more in late 2024, though carcass weights will likely remain elevated. Heifer retention may be starting, which would lead to a larger decline in heifer slaughter by the end of the year. Beef cow slaughter may also drop more sharply in the last part of the year. Herd rebuilding typically results in decreased heifer and beef cow slaughter. Moisture conditions through the summer and into the fall will be critical to determine if, and how much, herd rebuilding gets started and the impact on 2024 beef production.

Time to Check Livestock's Trace Mineral Levels

by Mallory Pfeifer, Bovine Veterinarian

Trace minerals play an important role in livestock health. They aid in bodily functions, production of offspring, and an animal's overall wellbeing. A Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL) expert said despite their importance, trace mineral imbalances are easy to overlook — at least until a health issue occurs.

As Texas transitions into the summer season, the available nutrition and supplementation that was sufficient for livestock a few months ago may now be lacking. Brandon Dominguez, DVM, veterinary services section head at TVMDL, shares the importance of nutritional assessments and how livestock producers can mitigate future issues through diagnostic testing.

What are Trace Minerals?

As the name suggests, trace minerals are elements the body needs in small amounts. The trace minerals most nutritionally essential for livestock are copper, cobalt, iron, manganese, molybdenum, selenium, and zinc.

Animals cannot naturally synthesize trace minerals and must receive them from their diets. In the case of livestock, nutrient quality and availability may vary depending on the season, environment, and access to supplementation.

"Often, the diseases and problems we see are related to nutrition," Dominguez said. "Animals can look like they are in good condition and growing well, but they may actually have an imbalance of important trace minerals affecting their health and production."

Signs of a Mineral Imbalance

Producers should consider testing animals for trace mineral imbalances if they begin to experience production problems, such as poor reproductive performance. Testing may also be considered when animals display clinical signs with no obvious infectious cause or if signs start after a change in feed.

"These minerals are parts of enzymes and molecules that the body needs. They help with oxygen transport and activate various metabolic pathways," Dominguez said. "When there is an imbalance, you can see a variety of symptoms. With a copper deficiency, for example, we may see a lightening or graying of the hair coat in cattle. Low copper levels can affect immunity and cause poor growth and reproductive performance. In sheep, low copper levels can cause lambs to experience spinal development issues and ultimately swayback, where the hind legs are paralyzed or limited in motion."

Though many health conditions are associated with a deficiency in trace minerals, he said some can also be caused by an excess. "Molybdenum doesn't have any known effects when it's deficient. However, in excess, it can cause diarrhea, decreased growth, anemia, and stiff-gaited lameness," Dominguez said. "It also affects the hair, causing a loss of pigmentation; in wool sheep, it may cause a steely-feeling wool."

Testing for Mineral Imbalances

TVMDL can perform a panel test for all seven minerals at once or test for each mineral individually. "The benefit of testing through the panel is that the minerals interact with each other," Dominguez said. "If one is out of the normal range, it could be causing signs as if another mineral is out of range."

TVMDL accepts various sample types, such as blood and serum, liver biopsies, and feed. Testing can also be

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32

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$API 152 | $TI 90

New Day 002L ASA 4334547

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CE	WW	YW	STAY	MARB	RE
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performed for a herd or an individual animal. For herd testing, Dominguez recommends sampling at least ten to 15 animals to represent the herd's overall status.

Livestock producers interested in testing for mineral imbalances should consult their local veterinarian first. Veterinarians can provide additional insight and treatment options if a mineral imbalance isn't the cause of clinical signs.

The Impact of Management on the Carbon Footprint of Beef Production

by Mark Z. Johnson, Oklahoma State University Extension

It is possible that Oklahoma farm and ranch operations may someday pay attention to the price of carbon in the same way they track market reports of commodities and input costs. At present we do not because the price of carbon is low. That being said, in voluntary carbon markets, where buyers can choose to pay people to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, agricultural producers can earn money by participating. Even with currently low prices for carbon, the reality is that operations are playing a role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. How? Production practices such as no-till or reduced tillage, climate-friendly grazing practices, such as rotational grazing or adaptive multi-paddock grazing (AMP), as well as breeding programs utilizing cows with smaller mature size, are examples of effectively lowering the carbon footprint of beef production.

From 2011 to 2018, researchers at Michigan State University utilized AMP while examining the weaning weight of calves relative to the mature weight of cows and determined that cows of smaller mature weight were more efficient. At equal body condition scores, smaller cows weaned off a higher percentage of their mature body weight. They also found that smaller cows (closer to 950-pound mature weight) had a higher net present value than larger cows (closer to 1,450-pound mature weight).

The smaller, more biologically efficient cows were responsible for producing less methane per unit of land. They concluded that AMP led to grazing forages in the green, vegetative state, and at low levels of lignin, resulting in higher-energy diets for the cattle, increased digestibility, and reduced enteric methane production, all of which worked together to increase soil carbon sequestration.

Management does play a role in the carbon footprint of beef production. There is still much to sort out in terms of carbon markets for land stewards and beef producers. Long-term, the metrics, management, and monitoring of pasture and rangeland soil health has the potential to add an additional revenue stream to cow-calf producers' earnings.

Veterinary Researcher Studies Transmission of Arboviruses to Mitigate their Spread

by Joe Montgomery, Bovine Veterinarian

It's all in the genes for Jayme Souza-Neto, assistant professor in Kansas State University's College of Veterinary Medicine. His expertise in next-generation sequencing and functional genomics is part of a collaborative research project with researchers at the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) in the US Department of Agriculture.

Souza-Neto is working with William Wilson, Dana Mitzel, and other USDA researchers through a non-assistance cooperative agreement to look at the transmission of arboviruses that cause diseases in livestock.

"Dr. Wilson and ARS colleagues are interested in studying transboundary animal diseases like Rift Valley fever and Japanese encephalitis — very relevant diseases with significant economic impact that can affect spread through multiple countries through vectors such as mosquitoes," Souza-Neto said. "Those viruses typically trigger the host immune responses, which may involve multiple genes that start or stop certain defense functions in response to an infection."

Souza-Neto uses next-generation sequencing coupled with modern gene silencing/knockout technologies to learn more about the genes found to be responsive to these types of viruses and how each one functions. With more knowledge, researchers can then find ways to mitigate the spread of these diseases.

"Scientists understand only a small fraction of how arboviruses emerge, are maintained, replicate inside a host, transmit between vectors and hosts, and spread across a population," Wilson said. He is the principal investigator for the project "Host and Vector Transcriptional Responses for Transboundary Arboviral Disease of Livestock."

"Our goal is to develop analysis tools that can be used to characterize and compare viruses' genetic material and determine the factors and paths that these viruses use to infect a host," Wilson said.

Souza-Neto is the head of the next-generation sequencing section of the Kansas State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and assistant director of the Molecular and Cell Biology Core in the College of Veterinary Medicine's Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases, or CEZID.

Souza-Neto came to K-State from Brazil, where he was an assistant professor at Sao Paulo State University and coordinated a research program on vector-borne diseases. He also held leadership roles on diverse national and international initiatives focused on preparedness and response to infectious disease outbreaks.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 36

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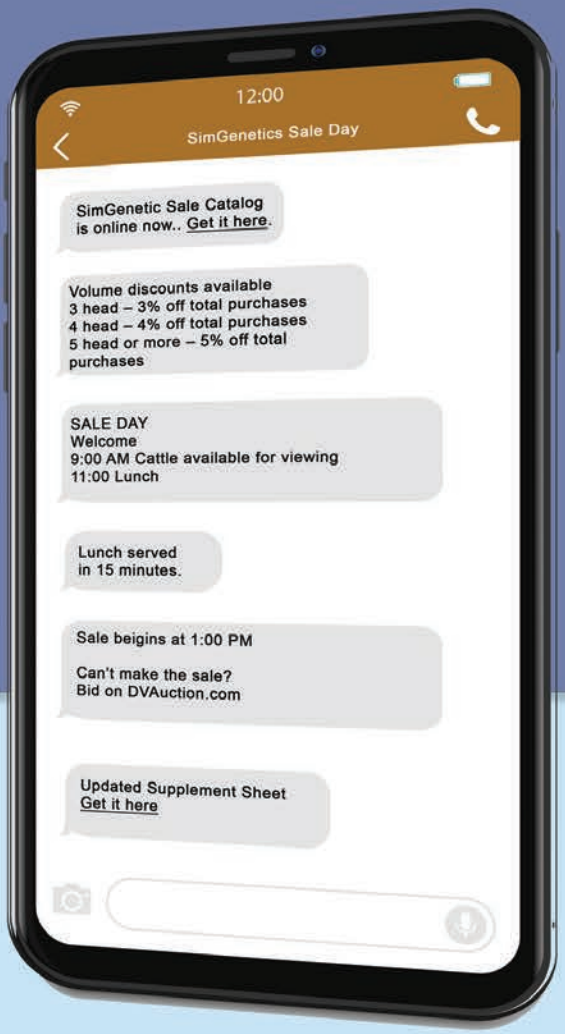

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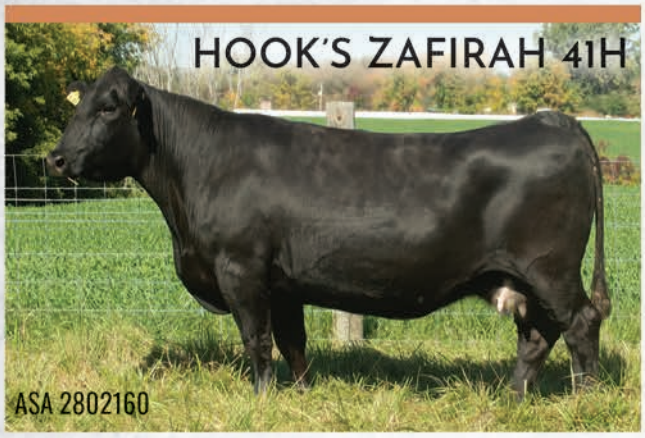

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"This is my first time working in a veterinary college," Souza-Neto said. "However, I started collaborating with the USDA and CEZID researchers when I was in Brazil, before coming to K-State. We started cooperating on emerging arboviruses and looking for these viruses in the field by collecting mosquitoes and investigating their virome."

Once samples are collected, the researchers can use next-generation sequencing and bioinformatics tools to look at the virus species in the samples.

"I'm bringing my vector/host-pathogen interaction and functional genomics background into the research so we can work on identifying genes from an animal — the host, such as cattle — or through the mosquito vectors carrying the viruses, to learn how virus infects and replicates within those models," Souza-Neto said.

"Those are important targets if you want to develop new mosquito/transmission control tools, therapies or vaccines."

The current research project is funded through August 2025.

Filling the Summer Forage Gap

University of Missouri Extension

Gaps in summer forages for livestock producers can be challenging. University of Missouri Extension agronomy field specialist Valerie Tate in Linn County shares management solutions, including planting warm-season annual forages such as pearl millet and sorghum-sudangrass to fill a void in summer forage production or when renovating forage stands.

"When moisture and soil nutrients are readily available, sorghum-sudangrass and pearl millet can produce up to six tons of forage per acre during the growing season," Tate said.

Crops such as foxtail millet, Japanese millet, or improved crabgrass can also be used but are not as productive, she said.

When to Plant

Plant sorghum-sudangrass in mid-May to late June when soil temperatures reach 60 degrees. Drill sorghum-sudangrass at a rate of 20–25 pounds per acre, or broadcast it at a rate of 30–35 pounds per acre. For successful establishment, plant at a depth of ½ to 1 inch into a firm tilled seedbed, or control weeds with a burndown herbicide when using no-till. Drill pearl millet at a depth of three-quarters to one inch deep at a rate of 15 pounds per acre or broadcast at a rate of 20–30 pounds per acre in mid-May through mid-June. Sorghum-sudangrass prefers a soil pH above 5.5. Pearl millet is more tolerant of acidic soils than sorghum-sudangrass.

How to Maintain

The key to maintaining high-quality summer annual forage throughout the growing season is to keep the plants from becoming too mature. The first harvest can occur 45 to 60 days after planting. Harvest or graze sorghum-sudangrass and pearl millet when the plants reach 24 to 36 inches in height, leaving a ten-inch stubble to promote regrowth. If the plants are allowed to grow beyond 36 inches in height, forage quality drops dramatically. To maximize production, apply 60 pounds of nitrogen fertilizer at establishment and 40 to 60 pounds after each harvest.

Be Careful with Grazing

Use caution when harvesting or grazing summer annual forages during periods of prolonged drought since nitrates can accumulate in the lower stems, resulting in nitrate poisoning. To minimize the risk of nitrate poisoning when conditions are dry and forage growth is slow, delay additional applications of nitrogen fertilizer until adequate moisture is available for rapid plant growth.

Prussic acid poisoning is also a concern with sorghum-sudangrass following frost injury or drought stress. Do not graze sorghum species before they reach 24 inches in height, and do not graze plants for 14 days after they have been stressed or damaged by drought, frost, or hail.

Making Bales

It can be difficult to get the coarse stems of sorghums and millets to the 18% dry matter necessary to prevent spoilage of dry hay. Making baleage by wrapping bales with plastic at a high moisture content is an alternative. Forage can be mowed and allowed to wilt to 45% to 60% moisture. This may take six to 24 hours, depending upon the crop, yield, swath density, and weather. After it is baled, it should be wrapped in plastic within four hours, if possible. The bales will undergo the ensiling process, which might take up to six weeks.

The keys to making high-quality baleage are:

- Make tight, dense bales to eliminate as much oxygen as possible.
- Make wet bales smaller than dry hay bales for ease of handling.
- Use plastic twine or net wrap rather than treated sisal twine, which can break down the plastic.
- Wrap with six layers of one-mil white plastic.
- Store bales in a well-drained area near where they will be fed.
- Repair tears in the plastic with silage tape to avoid spoilage.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 40

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[a]USMARC, Zimmerman, M., et al., "Breed and heterotic effects for mature weight in beef cattle," *J. of Anim. Sci.*, Vol. 99, 2021. [b]Adjusted for sire sampling, Angus was the heaviest at maturity among the 16 breeds evaluated. Solutions are deviations from Angus. YW EPDs were extracted from genetic evaluations conducted in 2019. [c]Estimate of MWT differences at 6 years of age. [d]The study considered 108,857 weight records from 5,156 crossbred cows sired by 787 bulls.

Theileria orientalis Ikeda: An Emerging Risk in Cattle

by Rosslyn Biggs, DVM, Oklahoma State University Extension

Cattle producers and veterinarians continue to fight anaplasmosis in herds across the United States. However, a new emerging infection may pose a similar if not greater threat. *Theileria orientalis Ikeda* is a tick-borne infection, and when identified in United States herds has been associated with the Asian longhorned tick, *Haemaphysalis longicornis*, a relatively new tick species for the United States. *T. orientalis Ikeda* has caused major economic losses in Asia, New Zealand, and Australia, primarily as a result of deaths or illness in beef and dairy cattle and other associated production losses. Fortunately, *T. orientalis Ikeda* poses no known human health risks.

As *T. orientalis Ikeda* invades the red and white blood cells of cattle, it creates clinical signs of disease like those of anaplasmosis, including anemia, jaundice, weakness, and even death. Cattle are believed to become infected within three weeks after turnout in pastures with ticks carrying the agent. Signs as previously mentioned appear similarly to those of anaplasmosis including fever, anemia, pale mucous membranes, weakness, and loss of appetite. As the disease progresses, excitement, jaundice, incoordination, and death may be seen. Abortions and retained placentas may also increase. Unlike anaplasmosis, which is most often seen in older cattle, *T. orientalis Ikeda* is seen in both young and adult animals, with death rates of 5%, especially in calves and pregnant heifers.

Diagnosis of *T. orientalis Ikeda* typically involves blood testing. At this time, there is no approved treatment for the agent. Prevention of infection focuses on tick and other vector control on cattle and in the environment. Additionally, the organism has the potential to be spread through the use of contaminated needles, so appropriate biosecurity measures should be taken.

Producers and veterinarians should monitor cattle closely for ticks and signs consistent with *T. orientalis Ikeda* infection. As this is an emerging disease, producers and their veterinarians are encouraged to report any unusual species of ticks or signs of disease in cattle to their state veterinarian.

The Importance of Cull Cow Values

by Scott Clawson, Oklahoma State University Extension

As I roam the two-lane highways in eastern Oklahoma going to producer meetings, cull cow prices and the decision to rebuild the cow herd are common points of discussion. In fact, if I ask who has sold some cull cows lately, more smiles show up thinking about that check than anything else. The story behind the great cull cow prices has been discussed. That leaves the expansion discussion up for grabs, and exactly what do cull cow prices have to do with it?

Much of the unease of the expansion decision is tied to the sheer size of the investment. If we decide to retain our own heifers, we will turn down a price that we have rarely seen for a weaning age heifer. Additionally, producers have reported that private treaty and special sales are fetching strong prices for bred females.

One of the most common ways to analyze an investment is to use a net present value (NPV) analysis. That is just a fancy way to say that we are going to invest in something (cow), and we expect it to generate cash (calf sales minus expenses) for a certain number of years (cow longevity), then we will salvage it (cull the cow). NPV guides us in answering the question: What is that investment worth or what should we pay for that replacement? While we process that, there are several issues to unpack. Calf prices, annual cost to run the cow, and longevity usually see the most focus and they are all important.

However, in which year of the cow's productive life will she return the most cash to our investment? Most commonly, that will be the year she is culled. In that year, she will likely calve for the last time in the spring, and in the fall we will sell her and her calf. This highlights the impact that cull values can have on the math of this investment. On average, we tend to run a cow to failure. More specifically, we will keep them around until she comes up open, has a bad bag, comes up lame, etc. In those instances, we usually get the worst of what the market has to offer.

My speculation is that our current cull cow markets have changed the math from the red to the black on some cattle that we retained over the past decade while prices were more moderate, and expenses increased. Going forward, are there things that we can do to avoid getting the worst of the market? Selling a cow when she is bred, improving body condition, selling younger females, etc., are all factors that we can manipulate in our culling decision and maximize the cash returned in the final year.

Can You Smell How Meat Tastes?

by Kay Ledbetter, Bovine Veterinarian

The aroma of grilled meat wafting across the backyard can make your mouth water as you seem to almost taste the steak from the grill. Did you know there is an actual science behind why that happens?

Chris Kerth, PhD, associate professor of meat science and muscle biology in the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Department of Animal Science, has spent more than 12 years researching flavor aromas and how good and bad odors correlate with our perception of flavors.

For example, when you smell a steak cooking, Kerth explains how you are smelling the volatile chemical compounds that it emits in reaction to the heat. It is those

CONTINUED ON PAGE 44

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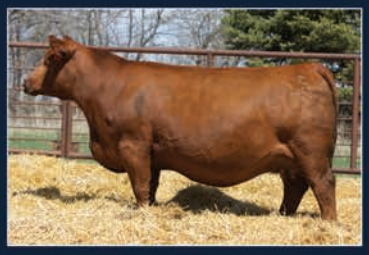

BCLR MISS YANKEE F870
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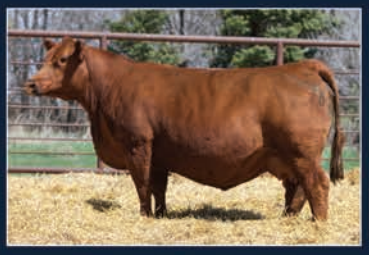

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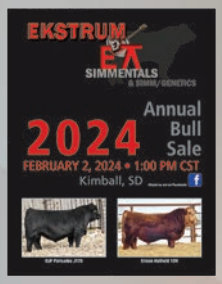

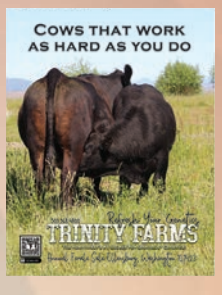

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chemical compounds he detects and quantitates in his scientific research.

Some of those smells and odors, like grilled flavor, result in positive responses like "I am hungry, and I want to eat this." There are also odors like soured milk that result in negative responses. If you smell those odors, then you likely will not want to eat the product as they tend to be indicators of poor quality.

The Science Behind the Smell

Kerth's research interests are primarily animal nutrition, management, and genetic factors related to flavor chemistry, and the development of aromas that impact the sensory and quality traits in meat, food, and beverage products.

By sticking a specialized needle into a container with a food or beverage and allowing it to absorb the aromas before putting it into a gas chromatograph, he can capture the aroma compounds or chemicals from the meat or beverage to be separated, identified, and quantified.

When it is done, Kerth knows which chemical is responsible for which aroma. "Often when we talk about food and how it tastes, we mostly talk about tenderness or texture," he said. "But about 12 years ago, I became interested in determining how to objectively measure flavor."

The concept of measuring the flavor of food is extraordinarily more complex than simply measuring tenderness or juiciness, and requires very specialized equipment.

Being able to characterize the differences is important, Kerth said. For instance, chemicals containing sulfur compounds can be associated with a bad smell like rotten eggs. But, in really small quantities, sulfur actually has a pleasant odor to it, contributing to the meat flavor.

"Once we were able to identify and quantify the different chemicals, we started working with the meat itself to find ways to increase the good aromas and decrease the bad aromas," he said.

Kerth began working with Rhonda Miller, PhD, Texas A&M AgriLife Research Faculty Fellow and meat science professor in the department, on the sensory side of food tastes. She would conduct expert, trained sensory panels and consumer panels to identify factors that influence their evaluations of taste based on mouthfeel.

Then, after evaluating those results, they could both specifically tell the volatile aroma chemicals that consumers did and didn't like.

A Little Fat Reverse Engineering

From a chemistry standpoint, Kerth said much of the aroma comes from either the breakdown of fat or the surface browning, which requires protein and sugars naturally found in meat. And that is determined by the cooking method and how much heat is involved.

"The more heat we apply, the more those flavors will be generated," he said. "Bacon out of the package doesn't smell like much, but once it starts cooking, the whole house smells like bacon. So, cookery is hugely important in generating the aromas and flavors we want."

Kerth went a step further, concentrating on the grill temperature. "When you put that piece of meat on the grill, whether it is a gas grill or charcoal grill or flat top in a commercial kitchen, the temperature of that grill is very important because we want that sear on the outside," he said. "Imagine the difference in flavor between a pot roast from a Crock-Pot with no browning and a steak with a nice sear from a hot grill."

While it is important the meat be cooked to the internal doneness level the consumer is seeking, controlling how much browning is on the outside is also important — and challenging. Getting that nice sear without overcooking is both an art and a science.

"Whenever we've done these studies where we've changed the grill temperature, the more char we get, the better — up to a certain point," Kerth said. "If you have really thick steaks, you can actually overdo it and get too much browning, which can turn consumers off. So, there's a window in there you want to hit."

In the end, he said, it's the combination of our senses — taste, texture, and aroma — that when brought together in the right combination helps you have an even greater eating experience.

The Five Cow Transportation Tips You Need to Know During Hot Weather

by Taylor Leach, Bovine Veterinarian

The scorching hot temperatures of summer have arrived. While it's easy to crank up the A/C at home, it's not so easy to keep cows cool and comfortable. Though dairy farmers have become much more efficient at mitigating heat stress, cows still need to be handled during the hottest days of the year. Thus, taking the time to conduct a quick refresher on animal handling during hot weather is a necessary practice for you and your team.

The Beef Quality Assurance guidelines suggest the following tips to help keep cattle cool and calm during the heat of the day.

Extreme heat conditions exist when the temperature and humidity are at levels in which they create a heat index greater than or equal to 100°F. Heat index levels of 100°F or greater pose a significant health risk to stressed cattle. Avoid transporting cattle in extreme heat conditions, and follow the guidelines below:

- Avoid hauling and handling cattle between 11:00 AM and 4:00 PM, which is most often the hottest time of the day.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 48

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- If cattle must be hauled at times of high temperature and humidity, avoid stopping. If stopping along the way is absolutely necessary, make stop durations as short as possible. Stop during cooler parts of the day, if possible. Pick shaded areas to park if you have to stop.
- Consider placing fewer cattle on the trailer during hot weather.
- Handle cattle gently and patiently during extreme heat conditions. When cattle are stressed in extreme heat conditions, they are more likely to become non-ambulatory, sick, and possibly die.

Only haul animals fit to transport. Fitness for transport is determined by multiple considerations including the health, mobility, and body condition score (BCS) of the animal. Do not transfer cattle with BCS of less than two for non-ambulatory animals, or those with severe mobility issues, and animals appearing exhausted, dehydrated, or otherwise health-impaired.

New MSU Research to Explore H5N1 in Dairy Cattle

Michigan State University

New research from Michigan State University (MSU) will study the effects of a recent highly pathogenic avian influenza A virus (H5N1) outbreak on dairy cattle reproduction and milk production, as well as transmission of the disease and ways to mitigate it.

Support for the new project has been provided through two sources, each covering half of the $168,000 total:

- Annual capacity funding through MSU AgBioResearch from the US Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture.
- Capacity funding through the Michigan Alliance for Animal Agriculture, a partnership among MSU, Michigan animal agriculture industries, and the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD).

The project is co-led by Catalina Picasso, Zelmar Rodriguez, and Annette O'Connor, faculty members in the College of Veterinary Medicine's Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences (LCS). Picasso is a veterinarian and epidemiologist, specializing in transboundary infectious diseases in both livestock and wildlife animal populations.

Rodriguez is a dairy health epidemiologist and dairy Extension faculty member. O'Connor is a world-renowned veterinarian and expert in the application of quantitative epidemiology to improve policy on food safety, animal health and welfare, and veterinary practices.

According to the USDA, as of mid-May, H5N1 infections have been detected in dozens of dairy herds across Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Michigan, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, South Dakota, and Texas. The virus, which was first detected in domestic birds in the US in 2022 but not until recently in cattle, has been identified in unpasteurized milk, as well as swabs and tissue samples from sick cattle.

Symptoms may include reduced milk production, decreased appetite, and changes in milk color and consistency.

"Immediately upon the onset of the H5N1 outbreak in Michigan dairy cattle, MSU AgBioResearch, the College of Veterinary Medicine, and MDARD began conversations about research questions that when answered could inform policy and management strategies to help prevent transmission within and across dairy herds," said James Averill, assistant director of MSU AgBioResearch and leader of the organization's animal agriculture initiatives. "This research will enable the dairy industry to better understand H5N1 and the impacts on dairy herds over time."

The research team will seek to answer several key questions, such as:

- Impact: What are the short- and long-term effects of the disease on reproduction and milk production?
- At the herd level: What factors influence the likelihood of herds becoming infected?
- At the cow level: What increases or decreases the likelihood of cows becoming infected?
- Transmission: How is the virus spreading within and between herds?

"There's still an enormous amount of information we don't know," O'Connor said. "This outbreak underscored the critical need to understand the dynamics, impact, and prevention of H5N1 among the cattle population. We are fortunate to be able to ground this research in on-farm studies, working closely with MDARD to access farms that have had herds test positive for the virus."

The team plans to conduct five studies on farms with H5N1-positive animals. They will study lactating cows, dry cows, and calves, collecting blood, nasal swabs, and milk samples to be tested. All H5N1 testing is being performed by the MSU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, the only laboratory in Michigan approved by the USDA to test for highly pathogenic avian influenza in any species.

Additionally, researchers will examine milking equipment for H5N1 presence and compare testing accuracy between pooled and individual samples.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 52

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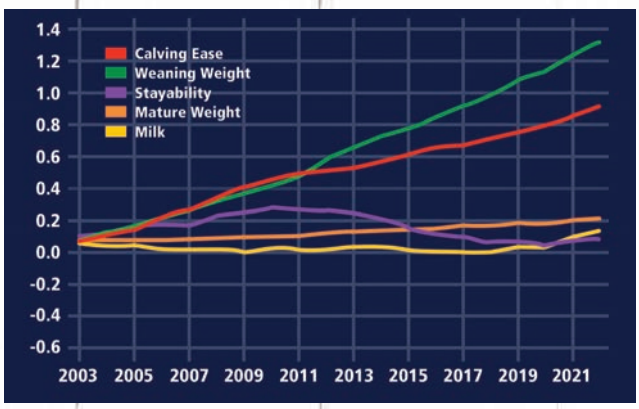
Maternal Trait Genetic Trends

Purebred Simmental in past 20 years



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Breed	Mature Cow Wt.
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Angus	1,410
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Simmental	1,404

Source: USDA MARC

$All Purpose Index ($API)

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Compare the profit potential of two Simmental bulls using $API

1. Bull A's $API = $120 and Bull B's $API = $180
2. Breeding 25 females/year
3. Used for 5 years

Bull	1 $API		2 # Females per year		3 # years using the bull		Profit Potential
A	$120	X	25	X	5	=	$15,000
B	$180	X	25	X	5	=	$22,500
					Difference	=	$7,500

Just like an EPD, compare two bulls to see the expected difference in profit. Bull B is likely to result in direct revenue and expense savings of an additional $7,500 over the course of five years. Plug in your numbers for 1, 2, and 3 to compare your potential earnings.

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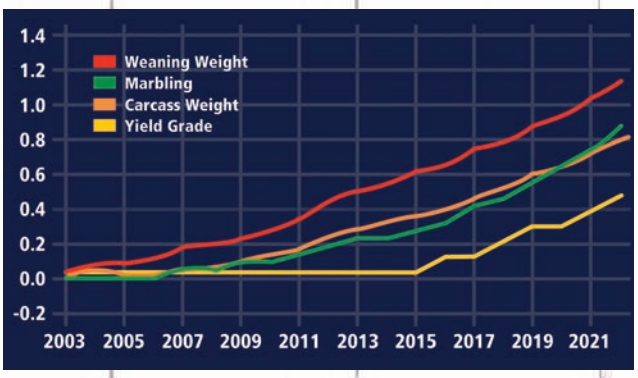
Terminal Trait Genetic Trends

Purebred Simmental in past 20 years



$Terminal Index ($TI)

predicts profitability when all calves are harvested.

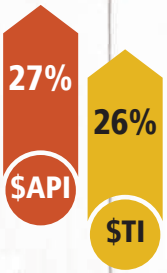
Trait	Simmental rank compared to other Continental breeds
Marbling	First
Carcass Weight	Second
Back Fat	Second
Post Weaning Gain	First

Source: USDA MARC

Simmental cattle bring marbling and growth without too much fat. Simmental genetics perfectly complement British strengths and weaknesses for an ideal carcass.

Did You Know?

- According to the National Association of Animal Breeders, Simmental ranks second for semen sales compared to all other beef breeds, and in recent years, the percentage of semen sold in the US from Simmental bulls has grown by 35%.



- $API increased 27% and $TI increased 26% in the last 20 years. This translates to an average increased profit of $3,375 per bull when used to sire replacement heifers and harvesting remaining calves or $2,000 when all calves are harvested.

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Data from Michigan farms will be combined with findings from other universities nationwide for a comprehensive analysis.

"We're trying to understand how long animals are shedding the virus and how long the virus stays active," O'Connor said. "For example, if we were to find that cattle are often positive on nasal swabs, we might conclude that nose-to-nose contact is a common route of transmission. Likewise, we may see that some samples come back negative quite often and show that those routes are much less likely. The overall goal is to equip our producers with the information needed to make informed decisions on how to best protect their cattle — and by extension, animal safety — more broadly."

Grant Awarded to K-State Veterinarian to Address Antimicrobial Stewardship for BRD

To prevent late-day pulmonary disease from developing in cattle with bovine respiratory disease (BRD), and to promote antimicrobial stewardship, the International Consortium for Antimicrobial Stewardship in Agriculture (ICASA) awarded Dr. Brad White, Kansas State University (K-State) production medicine professor and director of the Beef Cattle Institute, a $1,223,474 research grant.

An additional $1,223,474 in matching funds were provided by Colorado State University, Innovative Livestock Services, Five Rivers Cattle Feeding K-State, Mississippi State University, Nanostring, Texas A&M University, and Veterinary Research & Consulting Services for a $2,446,948 total research investment.

Bovine respiratory disease costs ranchers in the United States about $900 million annually. The disease is commonly treated with antibiotics.

To address concerns of antimicrobial resistance, White is building a multi-disciplinary team to research how the secondary diseases form in cattle infected with BRD. The team is sampling over 2,400 cattle in Kansas and Texas to assess mortalities in feedlots, where many deaths from late-day pulmonary disease occur. The research aims to provide veterinarians and producers with the necessary information to make informed prevention and treatment decisions.

The team is creating a set of late-day pulmonary disease uniform criteria, or surveillance case definitions, to enable stakeholders across geographies to classify and count cases consistently, which is a priority for the cattle industry. The team is also employing late-day pulmonary disease predictive analytics, or historical data, to forecast potential scenarios to identify high-risk cattle pens. Additionally, economic data collected as part of this grant will help determine optimal diagnostic intervention plans.

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February 11, 2025

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March 21, 2025 · Wessington, SD
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Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER

7 50th Annual NCSA Fall Harvest Sale — Union Grove, NC
14 ETSSA and HOTSSA Fall Fest Sale — Henderson, TX
15 Illini Elite Simmental Sale — Shelbyville, IL *(pg. 7)*
19 Werning Cattle Company's Pasture Sale — Emery, SD
24–10/5 Triple A Farms and Friends Online Auction — www.taysauctions.com *(pg. 52)*
26 Circle Ranch Beef Solutions Bull Sale — Ione, CA *(pg. 21)*
28 The Seedstock Connection Sale — Nolensville, TN *(pg. 65)*
28 Kentucky Simmental Fall Sale — Lexington, KY
28–29 Simbrah Synergy Sale — Giddings, TX

OCTOBER

4 Mississippi State Elite Heifer and Bull Sale — Jackson, MS
5 Horstman Cattle Company's Factory Direct Sale — West Lafayette, IN
5 Lucas Cattle Company's Fall Bull Sale — Cross Timbers, MO *(pg. 61)*
11 Red River Farms' Ladies of the Lone Star Annual Production Sale — Grand Saline, TX *(pg. 25)*
12 The Black Label Sale — Grandview, TX
12 Little Creek Cattle's Magnolia Classic — Starkville, MS *(pg. 13)*
12 Madluke Cattle Company's Sale — Arcadia, IN
12 New Day Genetics' Fall Bull Sale — Salem, MO *(pg. 31)*
12 Trinity Farms' Fall Female Sale — Ellensburg, WA
19 Fred Smith Company's Extra Effort Sale — Clayton, NC *(pgs. 47, 58)*
19 MN Beef Expo All Breeds Sale — Minneapolis, MN
19 New Direction Sale — Seward, NE *(pg. 58)*
25 30th Annual Hokie Harvest Sale — Blacksburg, VA
26 7P Ranch's 49th Annual Production Sale — Winona, TX *(pg. 5)*
26 The Blue Ridge Classic, Fall Edition — Edinburg, VA
26 Clear Choice Female Sale — Milan, IN
26 PSA's Fall Classic Sale — Waynesburg, PA
26 Red Hill Farms' Bulls and Females of Fall Sale X — Lafayette, TN *(pgs. 59, 66)*

NOVEMBER

2 28th Annual Southern Showcase Sale — Rome, GA
2 Cason's Pride & Joy Elite Female Sale — Russell, IA
2 Irvine Ranch's 20th Annual Production Sale — Manhattan, KS *(pg. 68)*
2 Missouri Simmental Association's "Fall Harvest" Sale — Springfield, MO
3 Triangle J Ranch's Female Sale — Miller, NE *(pgs. 37, 58)*
9 Gibbs Farms' 19th Annual Bull & Replacement Female Sale — Ranburne, AL *(pg. 67)*
13 Prickly Pear Simmental Ranch's Female Sale — Helena, MT
16 Next Step Cattle Co.'s Annual Sale — Livingston, AL
16 Strickland Cattle and Guest Simmental, SimAngus and Angus Bull and Female Sale — Glennville, GA
18 Bichler Simmentals' 20th Annual Production Sale — Linton, ND *(pg. 41)*
22 The Event Vol. X — Pleasant Dale, NE
23 Great Lakes Beef Connection Female Sale — Clare, MI *(pg. 35)*
23 Stanley Martins Farms' Fleckvieh Female Sale — Decorah, IA *(pg. 4)*
23 Yardley Cattle Company's Focus on the Female Sale — Beaver, UT
30 Clear Springs Cattle Company's Mature Cowherd and Red Dispersal — Starbuck, MN *(pg. 29)*
30 Trennepohl Farms' Right By Design Sale — Middletown, IN

DECEMBER

7 Hoosier Beef Congress Sale — Indianapolis, IN
7 Jewels of the Northland Sale — Clara City, MN
7 T-Heart Ranch and L-Cross Ranch High Altitude Female Sale — La Garita, CO *(pg. 33)*
7 Western Choice Simmental Sale — Billings, MT
13 JS Simmentals' "Midwest Made" Female Sale — Prairie City, IA
14 NDSA's Classic Sale — Mandan, ND
14 North Alabama Bull Evaluation Sale — Cullman, AL
15 Trauernicht Simmentals' Nebraska Platinum Standard Sale — Beatrice, NE
20 The Grand Event Vol. 5 at Buck Creek Ranch — Yale, OK *(pg. 25)*
21 Griswold Cattle Company's "The Classic" Sale — Stillwater, OK

JANUARY 2025

10 Diamond Bar S's Annual Bull Sale — Great Falls, MT
18 Cow Camp Ranch's Annual Spring Bull Sale — Lost Springs, KS *(pg. 57)*
21 Cattle Connect at Franzen Simmentals — Leigh, NE
24 Double J Farms' 51st Annual Bull and Female Sale — Garretson, SD *(pg. 59)*
24 Ellingson Simmentals' Annual Production Sale — Dahlen, ND *(pg. 58)*
25 J&C Simmentals' Annual Bull Sale — Arlington, NE *(pg. 58)*
26 Triangle J Ranch's Bull Sale — Miller, NE *(pg. 58)*
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 Springer Simmental's Sale of Value Based Genetics — Decorah, IA
3 44th Annual Gateway "Breeding Value" Bull Sale — Lewistown, MT *(pg. IBC)*
4 Koepplin's Black Simmental's 37th Annual Bull Sale — Mandan, ND
4 Little Bitterroot Ranch and Laird Simmental's Joint Sale — Ramsay, MT *(pg. 57)*
5 Begger's Diamond V Big Sky Genetic Source Bull Sale — Wibaux, MT
6 Stavick Simmental's Annual Sale — Veblen, SD *(pg. 59)*
7 Kunkel Simmentals' Annual Production Sale — New Salem, ND
7 Silver Dollar Simmentals' 1st Annual Production Sale — Rubgy, ND *(pg. 45)*
8 Dixie National Simmental Sale — Jackson, MS
8 Kenner Simmentals' 29th Annual Production Sale — Leeds, ND
8 Rydeen Farms 27th Annual "Vision" Sale — Clearbrook, MN *(pg. 57)*
10 Dakota Power Bull and Female Sale — Hannaford, ND
10 Nelson Livestock Company's Annual Sale — Wibaux, MT *(pg. 57)*
10 Prickly Pear Simmental Ranch's Bull Sale — Helena, MT
11 Edge of the West Production Sale — Mandan, ND *(pg. 58)*
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 *(pg. 59)*
12 Traxinger Simmental's Annual Bull Sale — Hougton, SD
13 Lassle Ranch Simmentals' 32nd Annual Bull Sale — Glendive, MT

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October 5, 2024

707L ASA# 4343973 3/8 SM

SIRE: GW HILGER ONE

CE	BW	WW	YW	MILK	SAPI	STI
10	3	106	171	30	146	100

210L ASA# 4297867 1/2 SM

SIRE: 4M ACE

CE	BW	WW	YW	MILK	SAPI	STI
13	1	92	155	26	130	88

716L ASA# 4343976 1/2 SM

SIRE: KBHR HONOR

CE	BW	WW	YW	MILK	SAPI	STI
16	-2	82	135	27	176	97

719L ASA# 4343981 1/2 SM

SIRE: LBRS GENESIS

CE	BW	WW	YW	MILK	SAPI	STI
13	0	93	148	24	183	105

5L ASA# 4297759 1/2 SM

SIRE: TEHAMA PATRIARCH

CE	BW	WW	YW	MILK	SAPI	STI
14	0	95	161	30	142	95

703L ASA# 4343964 1/2 SM

SIRE: KBHR DUALLY

CE	BW	WW	YW	MILK	SAPI	STI
14	-1	89	143	28	168	103

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Early Fall 2025	July 18	July 24	Aug 1	Sept 8

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Ad Index

CONTINUED ON PAGE 66

The Seedstock CONNECTION Sale

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1:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 28, 2024

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Hook's Eagle x Bold Future
Selling a flush opportunity!

MF London L708
She and a flush sister sell representing the TJ 2B cow family and both safe in calf to Hilljack.

Strong group of breds like this daughter of MF/BMF Hilljack daughter from Running Springs due around sale day to Essential.

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MF Memphis Blues M08D
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Offering 3 purebred Simmental blue roans including a flush sister to this herd favorite + embryo packages from her dam and sister.

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Special Pick Lot from Toy Hill Farm
Three bulls and five heifers sired by HA Justice 30J, the high-selling bull from the 2022 Bred For Balance Sale with a $200 API that ranks #12 in the ASA database.

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Ad Index

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13	109	181	17	1.15	1.05	195	120

3125L ASA# 4284283 PB SM

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CE	WW	YW	STAY	MARB	RE	$API	$TI
12	91	146	17	0.71	0.86	176	103

3152L ASA# 4284158 SIMANGUS

KENNY ROGERS x CLRS GUARDIAN 317G

CE	WW	YW	STAY	MARB	RE	$API	$TI
13	107	174	17	0.75	1.00	169	108

3363L ASA# 4284531 SIMANGUS

TJ STONE COLD 336G x TJ FIRST CUT 1109C

CE	WW	YW	STAY	MARB	RE	$API	$TI
18	84	143	19	0.82	0.51	182	100

3427L ASA# 4284775 PB SM

WS ENHANCEMENT 25H x HOOK * S EAGLE 6E

CE	WW	YW	STAY	MARB	RE	$API	$TI
17	89	143	18	0.49	1.04	173	100

3L02 ASA# 4284862 SIMANGUS

KBHR HOMELANDER J071 x BALDRIDGE COLONEL C251

CE	WW	YW	STAY	MARB	RE	$API	$TI
12	98	164	17	0.86	1.06	173	106

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GW JAILBREAK 555J ASA 3877088


GW HIGH BALL 102H ASA 3704533


GW SPARKY 369E ASA 3242849


SOUTHERN FORTUNE TELLER ASA 3382993

Fundamentally making better cattle through

CONVENIENCE - CONSISTENCY
BREED COMPLEMENTARITY - GENETIC IMPROVEMENT
HETEROSIS - DOCUMENTATION - COMMON SENSE

The tools and the genetics are more available today than ever to make cattle better and life easier.

45TH Annual Gateway "Breeding Value" Bull Sale

Monday, February 3, 2025 at Noon, MST

Offering 250 Bulls at the Ranch near Lewistown, MT

Why sacrifice anything, when you can have it all?

It's not just a bull or a breed - it's a PROGRAM.

GATEWAY SIMMENTAL & LUCKY CROSS

Jim and Tom Butcher
Jim 406-350-0467 • Tom 406-350-0979
jimbutcher58@gmail.com
2109 Joyland Road, Lewistown, MT 59457
www.gatewaysimmental.com
Chris Miller, Larry Hagenbuch, Logan Butcher, Brock Butcher

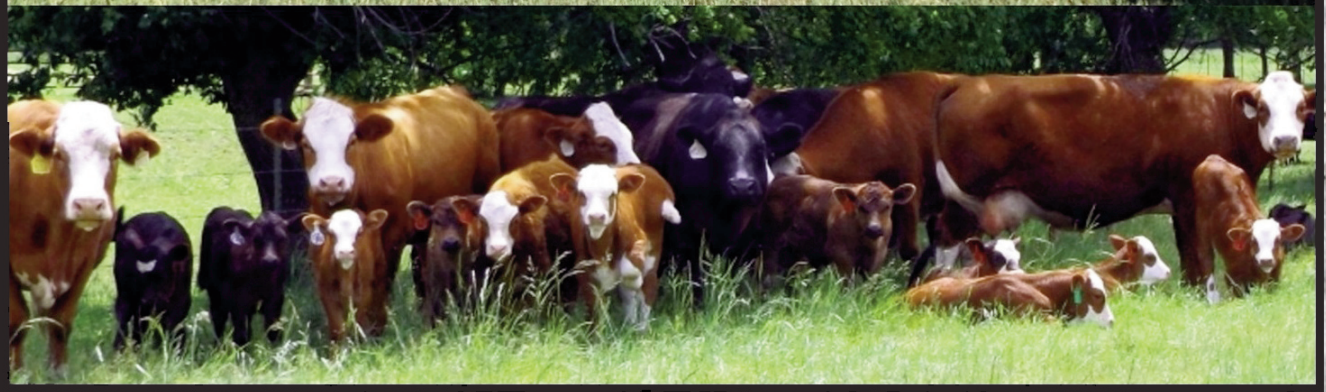
FOR SALE FALL 2024 - 400 Commercial Bred Heifers

LUCKY CROSS English OPTIMUM Continental

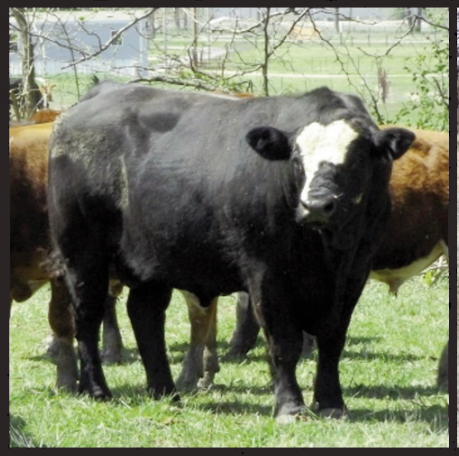
Whichever direction you are going, they cross.

ALLIED GENETIC RESOURCES

SUPERIOR Livestock Auction
ALL NEW PUREBRED PLATFORM
Bid.SuperiorLivestock.com



Good Looks, Good Genes,
Good Attitudes, Great
Choices for Pairs, Fall
Breds, Heifers and Bulls



Steaks Alive

John and Jeanne Scorse

417-437-0911 or 417-437-4434

PO Box 3832 Joplin Mo 64803

jscorse@steaksalive.com

We've spent 40 years
mixing genetics that
will work for you