

• SIMBRAH NEWS •

Brought to you by American Simbrah Breeders

Simbrahs working in Kansas

By Martha Hollida Garrett

Cattle have been a part of the Stenstrom family history for several generations. This central Kansas family operation has seen their cattle herd follow along the lines of the industry over the decades from an Angus based herd, to incorporation of Hereford genetics to Black Baldys and then when the continental breeds arrived, they added Simmental genetics. Then in 2004, they didn't follow the same route as their peers in the Sunflower state, as they pur-

chased Simbrah bulls.

"By this time our commercial cowherd had evolved to pretty much an unregistered Simmental program. We felt we needed to bring in another breed to capitalize on heterosis and we began evaluating our options," described Dr. Mike Stenstrom, who along with his wife, Kristol, their three children and his parents run Stenstrom Cattle Company in White City, 40 miles south of Manhattan, Kansas.

Their search led them to the Simbrah breed and about the same time, a friend told them about a breeder in Texas that he had met at a cattle conference that had a large performance and carcass based program. That breeder was Bill Travis with Pine Ridge Ranch, Athens, Texas.

The Stenstroms visited the East Texas operation and studied their cattle and the selection criteria the Travis' had used to build their program. They were

impressed by the PRR cattle and excited about the opportunity to add bulls from a program that utilized ultrasound, feedlot and harvesting data in their selections of herd sires and donors.

They didn't buy a bull on that first visit, as they were on a fact-finding trip and still trying to decide if Simbrah was the route they wanted to take. At this time, their cowherd was about 100 cows.

"The Travis', both Bill and Jane, were so enthusiastic about their program and the breed that we ultimately reached a decision to try a Simbrah bull. Our first purchase was a bull that Pine Ridge Ranch consigned to the International Simmental/Simbrah Sale at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo," recalls Stenstrom.

That bull made a believer out of the father/son duo and they have purchased additional bulls from Pine Ridge Ranch over the 11 years since that first purchase. They have also started their own registered Simbrah program based on



Drs. Mike and Kristol Stenstrom with their children (l to r) Arik (11), Sofia (14), Kjell (9).



Part of the Stenstrom's registered Simbrah herd in Kansas.



Simbrah bulls are utilized on the Stenstrom commercial cowherd.

how the breed worked in their commercial segment. They have used some of their own bulls on the commercial herd, too. They have made registered female purchases from Buzzard Hollow Ranch, La Munecca Cattle Co., Tom-Lin Ranch, La Negra Cattle Co. and Pine Ridge.

The Simbrah bulls have worked for this operation and contrary to popular thinking, the cold winters of Kansas have not been a factor. They maintain a spring calving herd across both herds.

"We have had no condition issues with the Simbrahs and they grow all the hair they need to withstand winter. Environment is a non-factor in the winter, but it has been beneficial to have them in the summer and in the drought years. We have experienced a lot of interest from our neighbors about Simbrah over the years. It hasn't necessarily resulted in customers, but we sell our calves to a local feedlot and they like the calves---obviously, as every year they want them when we wean," explains Stenstrom, adding

that the Simbrah sired calves have showed a lot of growth.

They do evaluate EPDs and like their bulls to be strong in carcass traits, heavy muscled, moderate in frame size, polled, with a lot of capacity and clean sheaths, but they are not opposed to the bulls having some leather in the neck area.

"The same kind of bulls that are desired in the South are wanted here," he said.

Stenstrom and his wife, Kristol, who are both Kansas State grads, and their three children reside outside of the Kansas City area. They are both small animal vets and she specializes in acupuncture in all species. His parents take care of the cattle on a daily basis and they have been very pleased with the disposition of their Simbrahs.

"My parents are now well into their 80's and dad's health has become an issue. We've cut the commercial herd numbers back to about 40 cows recently just to make things manageable for them and us.

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NEWS

You Can Use...

Feed intake project planned

The American Simmental Association (ASA) aims to collect feed intake data coupled with the carcass merit program and your help is needed. Your gift to the American Simmental-Simbrah Foundation, earmarked for the feed intake project, will help make collecting feed intake data a reality for ASA. For more information contact Fred Schuetze, research fundraising chairman at (817) 894-0563 or bhr@speednet.com.

Simbrah sired steer feed out set for fall

The Simbrah steer feed out will begin with flex time in mid-October at Graham Feeders.

The committee would like to have Spring born steers, branding preferred, tattooed and ear tagged. The cattle health work

should follow the Texas A&M Vac 45 program. Texas A&M will be consulted during this test. Breeders will own their individual cattle while in the feedlot and retain individual risk of death and sickness. Health insurance should be obtainable although seldom utilized due to high success ratio.

The intention is to feed to a large weight without additives to maximize carcass quality. The cattle will be fed to approximately 1,400 lbs. Steers should weigh 550 lbs. or more at shipment. Upon harvest, each breeder will receive all data identified by tattoo numbers and each breeder will be paid based on the result of the individual carcass. Freight to feedlot will be paid by each breeder. Group shipments and loading points will be studied to minimize shipping costs.

There are no scheduling or handling costs associated with this feed out and all risk is maintained by each breeder without recourse.

The goal is to express the carcass quality of the Simbrah breed. For additional information contact Bill Travis at billtravis@bigplanet.com or (214) 850-6308.

Consignor information for all breed events

Fort Worth Commercial Female Sale

Entry forms for nominations will be available mid-September. Contact Robert Schacher at (817) 219-0102 to be placed on the mailing list. Nomination forms are due December 1, 2015 and to be considered as a consignor, you must advise Schacher of your intent to participate at the sale and inform him on the number of heifers that

will be entered. Heifers will be screened for the sale around mid to late October.

San Antonio All Breed Bull Sale and All Breed Heifer Sale

Entry forms for nominations are available from October 1-15, 2015 for the sale at the San Antonio Livestock Show in February, 2016. Evaluation committee will view all possible candidates prior to acceptance into the sale. Previous consignors have first choice to participate in sale.

Contact Jim Banner or Michael Sturgess at (210) 524-9697 for all the specifics and nomination forms.

Houston Livestock Show All Breed Bull Sale and Commercial Sale

For information regarding the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, contact Gulf Tex Livestock at (979) 482-2018 or gulftexlivestock@gmail.com.

Simbrah bull takes top honor

Congratulations to Shallow Water Ranch, Rising Star, Texas for having the high grading American breed bull at the Houston All Breed Bull Sale. He was a percentage Simbrah and sold for \$4,250.

Fall Fest Sale set for September

The Heart of Texas Simmental/Simbrah Association will team up with the East Texas Simmen-

tal/Simbrah Association to host the annual Fall Fest Sale on September 17-19, which will be an online sale. It will be carried on (Continued on page 3)



New Simbrah promotional items

The American Simmental Association (ASA) recently unveiled new marketing materials for the Simbrah breed. There is a new brochure, as well as signs promoting Simbrahs as the cross-breeding choice. The materials include all new photos recently taken by Hannah Wine, ASA junior director. For details on how to get copies of the brochure for distribution and have the sign at events in your area, contact the ASA at (406) 587-4531.

Alamo City Online Simbrah Sale

September 21-23

Sale will feature top quality show prospects from these San Antonio area Simbrah breeders and friends. Programs featured from the Alamo group include La Morra Ranch, Baring Cattle Co., Freasier Ranch, Boening Bros. and BETM Ranch.

Sale will be carried on:
www.cattleinmotion.com

La Morra Ranch 210/275-0839

Baring Cattle Co 210/867-6651

Boening Bros. 830/391-3173

BETM Ranch 956/607-5515

Freasier Ranch 830/216-7171



News...

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DVAuction.com. Cattle will be available for viewing at JHC Ranch's Buckholts, Texas, location on September 19th. The location for the sale viewing is 5276 FM 485, Buckholts, Texas, 76518. For additional information contact Jim Carter, president, at (254) 697-1078 or jhcranch@sbcglobal.net or Jim Ethridge at (979) 255-2882.

Alamo City Simbrah Sale schedules fall event

The members of the Alamo City Simbrah Sale group have scheduled an online sale, September 21-23rd. The sale will be carried on www.cattleinmotion.com. In addition to members, La Morra Ranch, Freasier Ranch, BETM Ranch, Baring Cattle Co., and Boening Bros, there will be select lots from other breeding programs. For additional information contact Joe B. Rodriguez at (210) 275-0839 or joeb@lamorracattle.com.

La Muneca to Host 28th Annual Jr. Round Up & Futurity

Linn, TX – "On Saturday, October 3rd, starting at 9:00 a.m., La Muneca

Cattle Co. will proudly be hosting our 28th Annual Jr. Round Up & LMC Futurity. This is a fun-filled, educational, family oriented event that anyone interested in is invited to attend. There will be some awesome speakers on many topics related to the beef industry, showmanship, leadership, motivation, fertilizer, judging and ag opportunities," announced LMC owner, Carlos X. Guerra.

Adults and three age groups of juniors will have the opportunity to judge four classes of Simbrah, Brahman and Simbravieh cattle, two classes of hay plus a weight-guessing contest. Seventy-five juniors will win \$750 in premiums sponsored by the Darryl Raub Family. They will also be in the drawing for over 100 door prizes donated by many local businesses including Martin's Farm & Ranch, Farm & Ranch in San Isidro-Kito Saenz, Hidalgo County Farm Bureau, Mueller Inc.-Frank Trevino, Chorizo de San Manuel, Creative Awards, San Isidro FFA-Raul Hinojosa, Rio Grande City FFA-Randy Lee Lara, Tandy's, La Muneca, and the families of Dr. Oscar

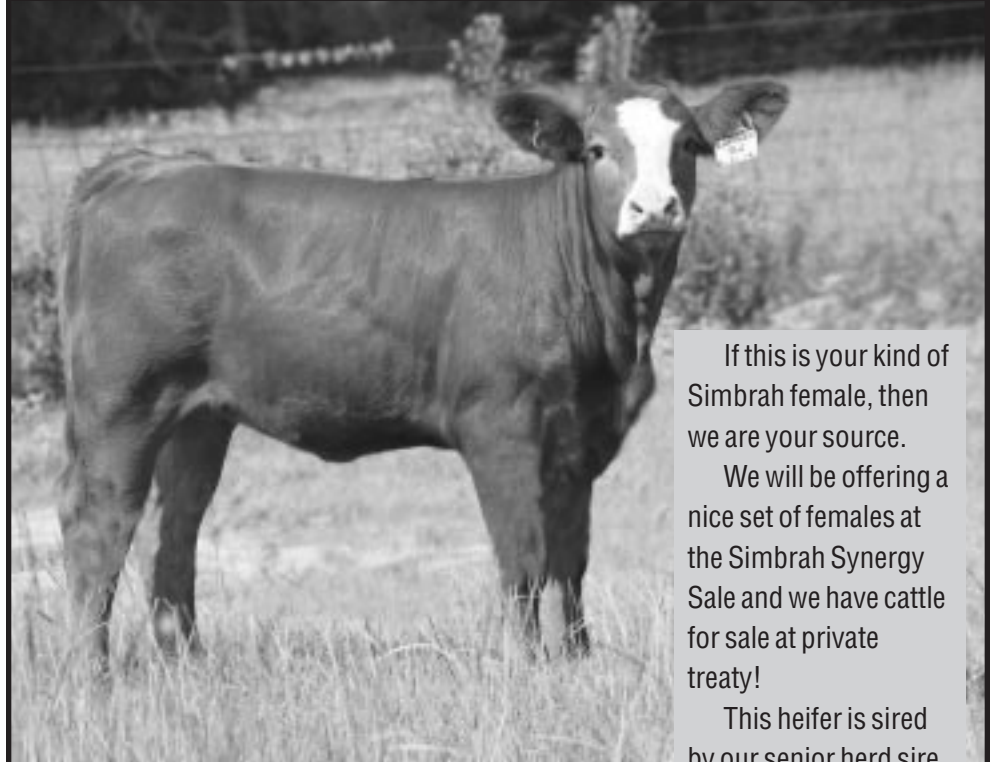
Alvarez, Benny and James Cano, Benjamin Hill, Doug Lightfoot, Curtis Gruetzmacher, Norberto Lopez, Tucker Tanner and Buck Rhyner. The average attendance through the years has been over 300 kids, parents and leaders. The LMC Special Awards of Volunteer, Booster and Educators of the Year will be awarded at the event.

The Annual La Muneca Futurity will conclude the day's events with over \$7,500 in prize money and buckles. Half of this money will be awarded in showmanship. The RGV Brahman & F-1 Association will also be sponsoring a registered Brahman steer show at this event.

Food and refreshments will be served all day by the Edinburg FFA Booster Club. The tenth annual LMC Customer Appreciation Dinner will be held at the conclusion of the LMC Futurity. Other upcoming LMC events this fall include the LMC GenePLUS Online Sale X on August 29th - September 1 and the LMC GIVING THANKS Online Sale II on November 21-24, where 100% of every lot will be donated to Junior Scholarship Funds

(Continued on page 4)

We've Got More Just Like Her!



If this is your kind of Simbrah female, then we are your source.

We will be offering a nice set of females at the Simbrah Synergy Sale and we have cattle for sale at private treaty!

This heifer is sired by our senior herd sire, Mr. Strack 254Y. We have semen for sale on him at \$25 per straw. Call for details.

October 24th
Giddings, Texas



NH

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HOMOZYGOUS POLLED. NON-DILUTER. Sired by SMITH SATISFIES AND OUT OF SMITH MCCRARY HIGH PRICE. CURRENTLY RANKS IN THE TOP 1% OF THE BREED FOR ALL PURPOSE INDEX AND TOP 2% FOR TERMINAL INDEX.

SMITH DETONATOR 321A

HOMOZYGOUS POLLED. NON-DILUTER. Sired by SMITH SATISFIES AND OUT OF SMITH CIAO BELLA. CURRENTLY RANKS IN THE TOP 5% OF THE BREED FOR ALL PURPOSE INDEX AND TOP 3% FOR TERMINAL INDEX.



LMC WFC WAVE AMIGO

POLLED. Sired by SMITH NU WAVE II AND OUT OF LMC DIVA. HE CURRENTLY RANKS IN THE TOP 15% OF THE BREED FOR ALL PURPOSE INDEX AND TOP 2% FOR TERMINAL INDEX.

7N Ranch is not just raising Simbrah cattle, we're raising them with quality at the forefront of every decision we make. In this day and time, it's imperative that our capital be spent on quality genetics that can improve our program and produce offspring that will meet demand.

We've made substantial additions to our program in the past couple of years and we're pumped about the calves we have on the ground and coming.

We invite you to visit and see what our vision of quality looks like!



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Pete Nieschwietz

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Falls City, Texas 78113

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pjnieschwietz@sbcglobal.net

www.7NRANCH.net

News...

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and other charities. Sign up at www.cattleinmotion.com.

La Muneca is located three miles south of Linn on the west side of Highway 281. For more information, please call Carlos or Sister Guerra at (956) 383-7566 or (956) 802-1641 or email them at lamunecacattle@aol.com, or call Brad Cowan, Hidalgo County Agent at (956) 383-1026 or b-cowan

@tamu.edu

Synergy VIII Set For October 23-25th

Simbrah Synergy VIII will be held October 23-25th at Smith Genetics, Giddings, Texas. The weekend event includes an educational skill-a-thon and sales talk competition for juniors, a sale and the \$15,000 Synergy Showcase junior show.

The sale will be the evening of Saturday, October 24th, and includes over 100 lots of cattle. The lots are predominately Sim-

brah. Bulls, embryos, donors, pairs, breds and some fancy show prospects will sell.

The skill-a-thon, sales talk and showmanship competition will be held Saturday afternoon. The Synergy Showcase will award \$15,000 to junior exhibitors of cattle purchased from the Synergy participants and/or purchased in the sale on Sunday, the 25th. The Showcase includes five divisions of showmanship in addition to the Simbrah,

Percentage and Simmental shows. Those wishing to participate must pre-enter.

Participants in this year's sale include Burch Farms, Hempstead, Texas; Diamond RF Farms, Wallis, Texas; Hagan Cattle Company, Yoakum, Texas; Hallak Ranch, Athens, Texas; Honeycutt Ranch Co., Mabank, Texas; McCrary Farms, DeKalb, Texas; Monte Christo Cattle Co., Edinburg, Texas; Pine Ridge Ranch, Dallas, Texas; Reavis Farms, Mission, Texas; Smith Genetics, Giddings, Texas; Triple J Ranch, Sour Lake, Texas; Triple P Ranch, Pearland, Texas; Southwestern Farms, Kirbyville, Texas; 7N Ranch, Falls City, Texas and Smith Farms, Denton, Texas.

For additional details,

entry forms, rules and sale accommodations, visit www.smithgenetics.com or call (512) 587-7896. You can also follow the event on Facebook.

Twin Nickels Bull Sale, November 14th

Simbrah bulls will be in the sale pen at the Twin Nickels Private Treaty Bull Sale, November 14th. The sale will be held at Black Oak Ranch, Mineola, Texas and will include Simmental and Simbrah bulls from a select group of breeders. For additional information contact Kenneth Airheart at (903) 539-1666.

Dr. Temple Grandin coming to the Rio Grande Valley

Team Mario, an autism awareness organization, University of Texas Rio

Grande Valley (UTRGV) and the Rio Grande Valley Brahman and F-1 Association are co-hosting Dr. Temple Grandin, a recognized authority on autism and cattle handling on October 26 and 27, 2015, at UTRGV. On October 26, 2015, at 9 a.m., Dr. Grandin's presentation will take place at the UTRGV Performing Arts Center. Her speech title will be "My Experience with Autism," states Christine Clifford, marketing director for Team Mario.

"Dr. Grandin will speak on October 27th, at 9 a.m. on "Understanding Cattle Behavior". She will have a meet and greet book signing session after each presentation. Sponsorships are available from \$500 to

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Working...

(Continued from page 1)

We do have a few regis-

tered Simbrahs here where we live as our daughter is showing a registered Simbrah female we purchased

from Tom-Lin Ranch.

Stenstrom continues to be excited about Simbrah and feels that in time, the breed will be more popular in the Midwest.

"People just have a lot of pre-conceived ideas about their dispositions and that they are a hot weather only breed, but over time and as our cattle continue to work, I think Simbrah and other eared breeds will be more accepted. The performance of the cattle is good and we just have to get people to look at that over the negative perceptions," he concludes.



This is a Simbrah bull bred in the Stenstrom's registered program that will be used on their commercial herd. He is a son of LMC Johnnie Walker and carries all Pine Ridge breeding maternally.



La Muneca Cattle Co. will host it's 28th Annual Roundup on October 3rd. The event is geared for families and includes a show for juniors. Past participants are pictured here.

BULL POWER We've Got IT

We've invested heavily in this breed with some of the most proven cow families and we have acquired some of the most exciting young sires in the breed to lead the program as well. Bulls with genetic greatness, strong EPDs, and powerful phenotypes are part of the Southwestern Farms program. In addition, to the bulls pictured, we have interests in Smith Xtra Ordinary, Smith RFI MCCR Gangster, Smith Fierce N Black, Smith McCrary Fireball and Smith Wentz Blackfoot.

We are a young program, but we think the potential for greatness is unlimited!
Come visit us and see the progeny we are putting on the ground!



RFI Real Deal-A son of Smith Evan and out of an Also N Red bred dam. Real Deal is just what his name implies. His first calves were impressive and loaded with muscle and power. Real Deal ranks in the top 2% of the breed for All Purpose Index and 1% for Terminal Index. He is a real curve bender when it comes to EPDs—as he ranks in the top 3% of the breed for Calving Ease and 5% for Birth Weight, plus he's in the top 2% for Weaning Weight and 4% for Yearling Weight. His sons are the kind that can make a commercial program money!



Smith Detonator-Another young son of Smith Satisfies, who goes back to Smith Bella Bella, one of the most proven and popular females in the breed. Detonator also brings desired traits across the board as he is in top 10% of the breed for Calving Ease, Birth Weight and Yearling Weight; top 4% for Weaning Weight; top 15% for Maternal Weaning Weight and top 25% for carcass. Those rankings combined with the other traits evaluated by the American Simmental Association give him a combined top 5% ranking for All Purpose Index and top 3% for Terminal Index.



Smith SWFS Divas Nu Mark-This herd sire is a son of Smith Satisfies and his dam is Smith Wentz Diamond Diva. He ranks in the top 15% of the breed for All Purpose Index and top 1% for Terminal Index. The cattle business is still about pounds and Nu Mark brings a top 1% and 2% ranking in the breed for weaning and yearling respectively!

We will have select lots selling in



October 24th

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Evaluation of beef carcass merit with ultrasound

By Dr. Denny Crews, Research Scientist, Beef Quantitative Genetics, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Research Centre. Provided by the CUP Lab

Carcass EPDs are becoming common in this era when more economically important traits are being added to national cattle evaluation programs. Traditionally, carcass traits were evaluated solely using progeny tests. One limitation to progeny testing is, of course, cost. Also, for bulls to be evaluated in such a

program, he must produce progeny on which carcass data are collected. This is a process that typically requires about two years, beginning at the point when a bull is at a minimum of 13 to 15 months of age. Bulls are typically at least 3 to 4 years of age before carcass data are available from his progeny that can be used

for national cattle evaluation. A more efficient method would provide carcass EPD on bulls at younger ages.

Accuracy of Ultrasound:

Real time ultrasound (RTU) has been used in the beef industry for several decades as a non-invasive method to determine body composition by measuring

relevant characteristics such as ribeye area, fat thickness and intramuscular fat percentage (i.e., marbling). Research has shown that RTU can be used to predict carcass data within 0.75 in for ribeye area, and within 0.10 in for fat thickness. RTU images taken on the live animal as early as weaning can be used to predict carcass traits.

Ultrasound and Genetic Improvement:

Although it has been clearly shown that RTU can be used to predict carcass traits for live animals, taking RTU measurements on steers in the feedlot is insufficient for use in genetic evaluation. To be of use in genetic improvement, RTU measurements from yearling cattle must: 1) have at least moderate heritability (i.e., respond to selection), 2) exhibit adequate genetic variation to allow for change in genetic value, and 3) have sufficient genetic correlation with carcass traits of proge-



ny to be useful as indicator traits.

Heritability of Ultrasound:

There have been numerous studies to estimate the heritability of RTU traits. In one recent review, more than ten heritability estimates were summarized for age-adjusted RTU ribeye area and fat thickness. Most of the estimates ranged from about 0.15 to higher than 0.50. It can be concluded, therefore, that indeed RTU measurements of muscling and fatness from yearling cattle have heritability in the moderate to high range.

Fewer studies have estimated heritability for RTU measures of intramuscular fat percentage, because the technology to make these measurements is newer to the industry. The average heritability from four recent studies was 0.31, which is in the moderate range. Traits such as carcass weight, ribeye area, fat thickness and marbling score also have heritability estimates in the moderate to high range.

Genetic Variance of Ultrasound and Carcass Traits:

Equations to predict (Continued on page 6)

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\$5,000. With increased levels of sponsorship, sponsors are provided additional recognition, additional tickets to the presentation and tickets for a private ranch dinner at La Muñeca Ranch. All of the proceeds will be invested with UTRGV's Human Development & School Services to assist Team Mario's efforts with autism camps and awareness," explained Mike England, RGV Brahman & F-1 Association president.

For more information on becoming a sponsor,

please contact sponsorship chairman Carlos X. Guerra at lamunecacattle@aol.com or at (956) 802-1641, or UTRGV's Dr. John Lowdermilk at john.lowdermilk@utrgv.edu or (859) 536-9857.

New EPD added in fall evaluation

EPDs from the recently completed genetic evaluation are now in place. New EPDs are displayed on the website and will print on registration certificates and other reports. (Effective 7/21/2015). Breeders will notice a new EPD in this evaluation, the post weaning Average Daily Gain (ADG) EPD. The ADG

EPD is expressed as the difference in pounds of daily gain expected between animals' progeny during the post weaning feeding period. It is an economically relevant trait in the feedlot.

Locator map available

The American Simmental Association now has a locator map that makes it as easy as clicking a button to locate Simbrah members. The map can be found at www.simmental.org and it allows you to click on a location and find ASA and AJSA members in that area.

SLS

The Business of PRODUCING BEEF.



Reavis Farms is a multi-generation family operation that is involved in farming and beef production.

We raise registered Simbrahs for these reasons: they are efficient, good foragers, withstand the heat and humidity, disease resistant, low maintenance and most of all they contribute to our bottom line and that of our customers. We emphasize cattle with strong EPDs that add predictability to the performance traits we want in our cattle.

We invite you to consider adding Simbrah genetics to your operation.



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We will be selling cattle in
Simbrah Synergy, October 24th

Ultrasound...

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response in one trait due to selection for an indicator trait involve estimated genetic variance. In effect, traits under selection must have genetic variance in

order to respond to selection. This is partially explained by heritability, but traits with similar heritability can have very different estimates of genetic variance. Comparison of RTU traits of yearling cattle with carcass traits of

slaughter cattle shows that RTU traits have lower estimates of genetic variance. Simple ratio calculations show that for ribeye area, genetic values for yearling RTU measures are about 75% as variable as genetic values for carcass ribeye area. For fat thickness and marbling score, RTU measures on yearling cattle have only 25% to 35% the genetic variability of carcass traits. However, variances are related to the average, and if variances are adjusted for the average, it can be concluded that RTU and carcass measurements have just about equal relative variability.

Genetic Correlation Between Ultrasound and Carcass Traits:

To be useful as indicator traits, RTU measurements on yearling breeding cattle need to be highly correlated with carcass measurements on their progeny. In practice, the genetic correlation between two traits should be between 0.90 and 1.00 for them to be considered equivalent traits. Most estimates of the genetic correlation between carcass traits and their RTU indicators have been remarkably similar, with

values for ribeye area, fat thickness and marbling score ranging between 0.70 and 0.80. This means, as expected, that yearling RTU measurements are not simple proxies for carcass traits. In other words, selection based on ultrasound EPD is not the same as selection for carcass traits. However, the genetic correlations are high and positive, and the recommendation would be to run national cattle evaluations for carcass traits by using RTU measurements on yearling bulls and heifers as separate but correlated traits.

Collecting Ultrasound Data:

One of the advantages of ultrasound is that data collection can be incorporated into the normal management program. A logical time to collect RTU data on bulls and heifers is at yearling. Most research is based on RTU data taken when yearlings are between about 300 and 500 days of age. It is important, however, to note that post-weaning management of bulls and heifers is often different. The predictive ability of RTU, especially fat thickness, can be affect-

ed by the amount of fat expressed by yearling cattle. Research shows that bull RTU contemporary groups need to have an average of at least 0.15 inches of fat so that variation is expressed and genetic potential for fat deposition can be evaluated. Severely limiting fat deposition in bulls can not only reduce fertility, but also decrease the value of RTU fat measurements. To account for differences between bulls and heifers, some researchers in the U.S., Canada and Australia have opted to treat RTU measurements on bulls and heifers as separate but correlated traits. With this approach, bull RTU, heifer RTU and progeny carcass measurements are used in the genetic evaluation model.

Increasing Accuracy of Evaluation with Ultrasound:

In a traditional progeny test, bulls are evaluated based on carcass data from progeny. These tests are designed to maximize accuracy of sire EPD by production of relatively large half-sib contemporary groups. Increasing the amount of information

available on a sire will lead to increased accuracy of EPD. There are several ways to increase accuracy. One direct way to increase accuracy of carcass EPD is to increase the number of progeny per sire with carcass data. But, because RTU data is a good indicator of carcass traits, ultrasound data on related animals will also increase the accuracy of carcass EPD. Compared to a progeny test, one study showed that the addition of RTU data on yearling bulls and heifers increased the accuracy of carcass EPD by an average of 75% for ribeye area and 51% for fat thickness. For example, the addition of RTU data increased average accuracy of ribeye area EPD based only on carcass data from 0.32 to 0.56. Other studies have also shown significant increases in expected genetic gains due to adding RTU data to traditional performance data. Current genetic evaluation procedures estimate EPD for all animals related through pedigree. Collecting RTU data on entire yearling contemporary groups not only increases the numbers of

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QUALITY *at its best!*

Mr. Creamy's first offspring are here. He's a 3/4 blood Simbrah sired by CNS Dream On out of the Cookies N Cream cow, who is a Johnnie Walker bred female. Mr. Creamy is a rare combination of top-tier calving ease with herd changing muscling/REA and strong API and TI numbers. He ranks in the top 1% of the breed for calving ease, 15% for birthweight, 5% for yield grade, 1% for marbling, 3% for REA and overall he ranks in the top 1% of the breed for All Purpose Index and 4% for Terminal Index.



Purebred Simbrah heifer sired by Mr. Creamy

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We Breed The Kind Of Simbrah You Want And The Kind That Will Work



"Nothing has a bigger influence on your bottom line than Fertility-No calf, no profit. Next biggest influence is Performance-More pounds and more money per pound. We produce replacement heifers that make a profit..."

Jud Flowers

When you are in the market for registered Simbrah replacement females and bulls, we invite you to come to Monte Christo!

We are excited to be participating in:

We will be selling a number of top females in the sale.



Monte Christo Ranch

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After all these years... We're still raisin' Simbrahs!

For 30 plus years we have been raising Simbrahs and the reason is very simple. They work for us. They work in our environment. They work for our customers. We utilize top genetics from some of the best programs in the breed and having strong herd sires is a must for our program.

At the helm of our program right now are two sires, LMC Superstar and Hagan's Rejuvenator 51U.



LMC Superstar 5Y/165, one of our powerful herd sires

Superstar brings a quite a pedigree to our place. His paternal granddam is LMC Miss Diva and his maternal granddam is LM She Moves---these are two of the elite cows in the Simbrah breed. In addition, he is a son of LMC WFC Moose, which means his paternal grandsire is Smith Nu Wave II—a bull that has stood at the top of the EPD rankings for several years. Superstar's dam is the PRR Morning Star donor, who is a daughter of HR Power House I.

Rejuvenator also has one of the elite females of the breed in his pedigree—MS 4G N50, a donor in the Hagan program. He is a son of NF Smith Sargeant, a bull who is widely recognized as one of, if not the strongest maternal sire in the breed.

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Bovine Trichomoniasis information

By: Tom Hairgrove, Extension Program Coordinator for Livestock and Animal Systems, and Ron Gill, Professor and Extension Livestock Specialist, Texas AgriLife Extension, Texas A&M System.

Bovine trichomoniasis (Trich) is a venereal disease of cattle caused by the protozoan *Tritrichomonas foetus*. This disease causes early pregnancy loss and occasional late-term abor-

tions; it may also extend the breeding/calving season.

Although losses are observed in the cow, *T. foetus* lives on the surface of the penis and prepuce of the bull and in the repro-

ductive tract of the cow. Trich prefers a reduced oxygen environment, and it multiplies in the small folds of tissue (crypts) on the bull's penis. Because older bulls have more numerous

and deeper crypts and are more easily infected, using young bulls is part of a disease management strategy. There are no obvious signs of Trich in the male, and pregnancy loss is the only sign of the disease in the female.

Transmission of the disease occurs during natural breeding. A bull can infect a cow and a cow can infect a bull. However, most infected cows eventually clear the infection. Once a bull is infected, it remains so for life. Therefore, most control programs focus primarily on the detection and elimination of infected bulls.

During breeding, organisms from the surface of the penis are left in the vagina where they multiply and invade the uterus to create an infection. Cows can still conceive during the few weeks it takes for the uterine infection to develop. Once the organism causes sufficient dam-

age to the lining of the reproductive tract, the cow miscarries or aborts. Cows will naturally clear the infection within a few weeks to a few months and experience a brief period of immunity to the disease. After clearing the infection, cows can rebreed and carry a fetus to term. The period of immunity, though, is short and will not protect subsequent pregnancies if the cow is re-exposed to an infected bull.

Cows exposed to Trich cannot be considered safe in calf until they are at least 120 days pregnant; open cows cannot be considered free of infection until they have had at least 90 days of sexual rest and are examined and cleared by a veterinarian. Only then should they be placed back into the breeding herd. All newly acquired cows that are less than 120 days pregnant should be isolated from the breeding herd. They may be placed in the breeding herd once they are four months pregnant.

Because approximately 2 percent of infected cows will have a swollen uterus that contains pus (pyometra) and remain infective, all open cows should be

examined by a veterinarian. Cows with pyometra should be sent to slaughter. There is no treatment for infected bulls; send them to slaughter.

Trich should be suspected in herds with poor conception rates and extended calving seasons. Infected herds can produce conception rates that range from slightly subnormal to 50 percent or lower, depending on the length of time the disease is in the herd and the number of animals that are infected. Conception rates in herds with controlled breeding seasons of 90 days or less will be even poorer. Shorter breeding seasons expose the problem more dramatically and can actually reduce the long-term production and economic losses caused by herd infection.

Because Trich develops gradually and is not readily apparent, it is better to prevent exposing the herd to the disease rather than trying to control or eradicate it. Trich enters a herd or ranch only via infected bulls, cows or heifers. Again, transmission is from infected bulls to cows or from infected cows to bulls.

(Continued on page 10)

Ultrasound...

(Continued from page 6)

animals with data that directly contribute to carcass evaluation, but also decreases selection bias associated with traditional progeny tests. In the few national carcass progeny tests that exist, bulls nominated to the program are generally highly selected, which is to say they are not, generally, a random sample of the breed as a whole. Carcass EPDs are potentially less biased when RTU data are available.

Carcass EPD versus Ultrasound EPD:

It is important to remember that the objective of selection is to improve carcass traits. The

potential for carcass EPDs to be improved in some ways by the use of RTU data does not change the breeding objective. In simpler terms, it is not optimal to select for indicator traits (even using EPDs) when EPDs are available for the economic trait of interest. Although it is possible to produce so-called ultrasound EPDs, all of the information of value in the RTU data is incorporated into the carcass EPDs. Some breeds, therefore, do not publish ultrasound EPDs but rather only carcass EPDs that are estimated by inclusion of RTU data. This is a simple matter of remembering which is the economic trait and which is the indicator.

Summary:

Ultrasound offers the opportunity to enhance carcass EPDs so that effective selection and marketing decisions can be made with regard to improving carcass merit. Several breeds have already begun building carcass and ultrasound databases and plan to implement national or even North American carcass evaluation programs. It is important for breeders to understand the benefits of ultrasound data and national cattle evaluation for carcass traits. Producers are encouraged to contact their respective breed associations or beef improvement groups for more information.

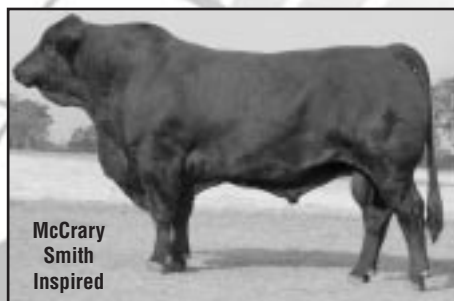
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If you are wanting to add Simbrah genetics to your program, we want you to consider ours. We stress a number of traits, geared to the real world of beef production and have selected cattle over the years to be efficient and profitable.

McCrary Smith Inspired-His calves have generated lots of excitement on our place and they are loaded with performance. Inspired, is a three-quarter Simbrah and he ranks in the top 1% of the breed in All Purpose Index and top 15% for Terminal Index, add to that a top 3% and 5% in calving ease and birth weight! He's sired by Smith Matt N Black. Inspired has worked across a number of cows and his calves express a lot of power.

Smith RFI MCCR Gangster-His first calves are arriving and we are very pleased! He ranks in the top 2% of the breed for API and 10% for TI, while posting a top 3% ranking for calving ease and birth weight. He's a son of Smith Satisfies, one of the most popular bulls in the breed currently and we think Gangster may rival that level in the market in the future.



McCrary Smith Inspired



Smith RFI MCCR Gangster



We will be selling a set of Inspired sired calves and a group of bred heifers carrying the service of Gangster in the upcoming Synergy Sale October 24, 2015.

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Photo @ 10 mos. of age

Our first MM LMC Dr. Red Duke semen package sells. He is a 6GLMC Rajin Cajun out of Mia Barba's 2015 San Antonio & Houston Jr. Show Champion sired by LMC Rhino. He is THE COWMAN'S KIND and is a POPULAR CHAMPION!! Semen packages on LMC Rhino, 6G LMC Rajin Cajun and BETM LMC Rafa also sell!!



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LMC Arcadia is a fancy baby doll sired by our National Champion LMC Arcadio that qualifies for the LMC \$100,000 Jr. Benefits. 6G, BETM, Boening Bros. and Louie Flores/La Morra also are selling some very competitive LMC 6G Red Rock and LMC Rhino show and donor prospects.



Photo @ 15 mos. of age

LMC LF Making Dreams sells and can put your herd on the map. He is a 3/4 x 1/4 sired by the popular AI Simmy Sire WS Beefmaker and the famous National and International Champion LMC WFC Dream Girl - the best of both worlds. HE NEARS PERFECTION IN THE FLESH. Do not miss him!!



Photo @ 5 years of age

LMC Polled Rock is a sale feature. He is proven and has some awesome calves on the ground and a great pedigree. We have a great POLLED Brahman offering in this sale that includes three POLLED Baby Dolls, three POLLED bulls, a herd bull pair and semen from 4 of our best POLLED Sires.

Upcoming Events

- August 29-Sept. 1st - LMC GenePLUS Online Sale X
- Oct. 3rd - 28th Annual LMC Jr. Round Up & LMC Futurity
- Oct. 27th - Dr. Temple Grandin's Presentation at UTRGV
- Nov. 21 - 24 - LMC & Friends GIVING THANKS Online Sale II. 100% of the proceeds will be donated to junior scholarship funds & other charities.

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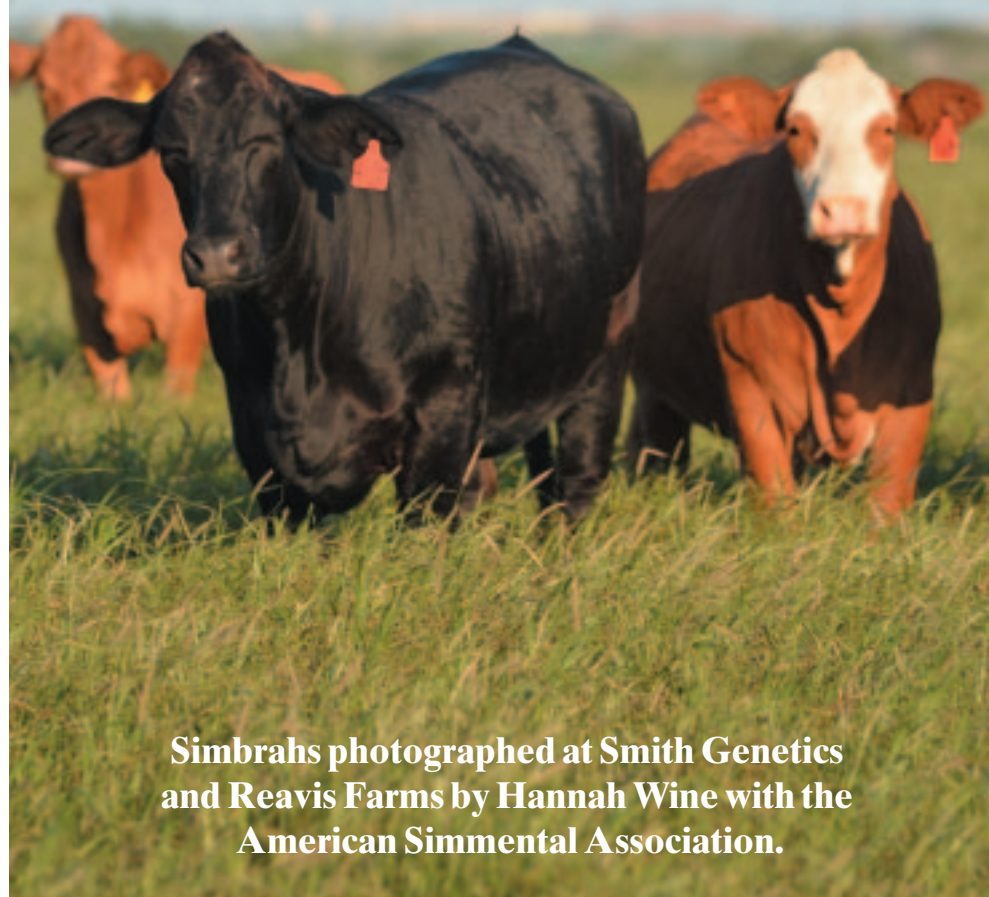
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Development of the Simbrah breed

Source: American Simmental Association's website



Simbrahs photographed at Smith Genetics and Reavis Farms by Hannah Wine with the American Simmental Association.

What began as little more than an idea in the late 1960's on the part of a few cattlemen has now emerged as a viable beef breed in the United States. The concept of combining two of the most populous breeds of cattle in the world, Brahman, which ranks number one in the numbers, and Simmental, which ranks number two, resulted in the development of a breed known as Simbrah. Although a number of American beef breeds have been developed using Brahman blood including Santa Gertrudis, Brangus and Beefmaster, the success of the Simbrah breed has been startling.

Using two distinctly different breeds of cattle utilizes the strengths of both breeds and because of the genetically divergent background, maximizes hybrid vigor. Combining the strengths of the Brahman breed, which include longevity, heat tolerance, disease and insect resistance, durability, grazing ability and calving ease with excellent traits from the Simmental, such as fertility, milking ability, rapid growth and early sexual maturity gives an excellent opportunity to produce a superior breed. The fact that the combination works and is, in fact, highly advantageous is illustrated by the

rapid rise in popularity and acceptance of the Simbrah cattle in the beef cattle industry.

Although the experimentation of combining Simmental and Brahman began on the part of the breeders in the late 1960's, the actual first registration of a Simbrah animal occurred in 1977. Simbrah registration was approved by the two categories of Simbrah admitted to the registry. A purebred animal consists of 5/8 Simmental and 3/8 Brahman breeding. Any other combination with a minimum of 1/8 Simmental and 1/8 Brahman with as much as 3/8 of one or more other



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breeds can be recorded as a percentage Simbrah.

The basic requirements for Simbrah cattle are as follows:

1. Every Simbrah animal must contain

- minimum of 1/8 Simmental
- minimum of 1/8 Brahman
- maximum of 3/8 combination of other breeds

Examples of acceptable combinations could range from: 3/8 SM-1/4 BR-3/8 (maximum portion of other breeds allowed) to 3/4 SM 1/8 BR (maximum portion of Simmental allowed) to 1/8 SM - 7/8 BM (minimum Simmental allowed).

2. The following criteria must be met to qualify as a purebred Simbrah:

- Simmental = 5/8
- Brahman = 3/8
- Both parents must be ASA registered membership of the American Simmental Association in 1977, with breeders registering 700 animals the first year of existence. The next year an additional 1,100 were regis-

tered and added to the herdbook, and in the first five years of growth, over 3,000 animals were being registered, and the herdbook approached 10,000 animals.

3. Additional requirements:

a. Sire of any Simbrah must be registered with ASA under one of three categories:

- Non-Simmental — registered as a Foundation Brahman. Certificate of registration from recognized breed registry is required.

Examples: 100% Brahman bull or Brangus bull.

- Simmental — registered as either a percentage or purebred Simmental bull.

- Simbrah — registered as either a purebred (5/8 SM 3/8 BR) or percentage Simbrah.

b. For determining the percent Simmental in any Simbrah animal, only the amount contributed from ASA-registered parents will be considered. For example: If a registered 3/4 SM 1/4 XX bull is crossed with a 1/2 SM 1/2 BR registered cow, the progeny will be recognized as 5/8 SM 1/4 BR 1/8 XX. If that same

registered 3/4 SM 1/4 XX bull is crossed with an unregistered 1/2 SM 1/2 BR commercial cow, the progeny will be recognized as 3/8 SM 1/4 BR 3/8 XX because the dam is not registered

c. A dam does not necessarily have to be registered with ASA to be able to register her progeny as Simbrah (except for the limitation outlined in b). Progeny from Foundation Brahman females unregistered with ASA are eligible for Simbrah certificates in certain cases.

Examples:

- A registered purebred Simmental bull bred to a 100% Brahman cow (not registered) results in a 1/2 SM 1/2 BR progeny that can be registered as a Simbrah.

- A registered 3/4 SM 1/4 XX bull bred to a 1/2 BR 1/2 XX unregistered cow will result in a 3/8 SM 1/4 BR 3/8 XX offspring that can be registered as a Simbrah.

d. The Simbrah herdbook is maintained within the Simmental records and all procedures and performance requirements applying to Simmental also apply to Simbrah cattle.

By allowing a wide

range of crosses, from 1/8 to 3/4 Simmental and 1/8 to 7/8 Brahman, breeders can select for the optimum combination that is best suited for their own herd. They can select for percentages that will perform in the climatic conditions and satisfy market trends in their area.

By allowing up to 3/8 of other breeds in Simbrah cattle, breeders can also introduce other valuable genetics into their herds, such as the polled trait. In

the purebred Simbrah, the 5/8 and 3/8 is an approximation allowing for a total of 1/16 outside blood which is then dropped by the computer and automatically rounded off to a 5/8 - 3/8, where possible.

Affiliation with the Simmental Association has offered Simbrah breeders many advantages over the other Brahman-based American breeds. This includes required collection and reporting of performance data for every

animal that enters the herdbook. Using this information, breeders are then provided with performance pedigrees, estimated breeding values, within-herd summaries, and cow productivity reports. Performance data collected includes birth weight and calving-ease scores as well as the required weaning and yearling weights for bulls to be registered and weaning weights for females to be registered. This

(Continued on page 11)



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A large photograph of three Simbrah cattle standing in a grassy field. On the left is a black Simbrah with a white face. In the center is a red Simbrah with a white face. On the right is a white Simbrah with a red face. They are all looking towards the camera. In the background, there are trees and a fence.

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MR

Trich...

(Continued from page 7)

To eliminate Trich from a herd, allow infected cows to clear the infection and eliminate infected bulls altogether.

A vaccine is available for healthy cattle to aid in the prevention of disease caused by T. foetus. Use of this vaccine in herds with high risk of exposure has been shown to help reduce the economic impact of Trich when administered properly and in exact accordance to the label. It has also been shown to help infected cows recover more rapidly. This vaccine does not prevent all abortions; however using it in addition to other best management practices will minimize reproductive losses.

Economic losses caused by bovine trichomoniasis can be avoided or minimized by practicing sound biosecurity principles:

1. Maintain good perimeter fences to segregate cattle of unknown status. Fences are the first line of defense in preventing the introduction of Trich in the herd.

2. Keep the bull battery as young as possible. Buy

only virgin bulls and heifers, preferably from the original breeder. Unless the virginity of bulls can be positively confirmed, test all bulls before adding them to the herd. All bulls of unknown status should have three negative tests

using PCR or culture. These tests should be administered at least one week apart, and bulls should have no contact with cows within one week of the initial test.

3. Implement a defined (Continued on page 15)

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Development...

(Continued from page 9)

strong emphasis on performance will only enhance the role of Simbrah cattle as an American cattle breed in the future.

Although the initial development of the Simbrah breed occurred predominantly in the Southern part of the United States, with a high percentage of initial Simbrah cattle being bred in Texas, the growth of the breed throughout the United States has continued. Notably, a dramatic increase in Simbrah numbers has occurred in the northwestern part of the United States. A northern movement of the Simbrah breed into the states in the central part and the eastern part of the United States has occurred in recent years. The acceptance of the Simbrah breed throughout the cattle industry in the United States continues to be more evident every year. Commercial producers are utilizing Simbrah breeds in large numbers and feedlot operators like the feed conversion, rate of gain, and carcass results they've been getting from the Simbrah and Simbrah-cross cattle.

Overall, the growth of the Simbrah breed has been solid, steady and well planned. The future appears to be very promising with unlimited potential. Further details about Simbrah can be obtained from ASA, which keeps the herdbook and provides the support and membership services to this breed along with Simmental cattle.

SimAngus™ HT

In 2012, the American Simmental Association added SimAngus™ HT (heat tolerance).

The function of crossbreeding is to maximize heterosis, or hybrid vigor, but it is important to utilize breeds whose genetics will compliment each other. SimAngus™ HT is the convenient way to capture heterosis and value. This crossbreeding system has the ideal balance of maternal and carcass traits. No two breeds offer more commitment to profitability. SimAngus™ HT refers to cattle with the following characteristics: the animal is at least 1/4 Simmental and 1/4 Angus or Red Angus and no more than 3/4 Simmental or no more than 3/4 Angus or Red Angus; the animal's parents are both registered in

the database of the American Simmental Association; and the sum of Simmental and Angus or Red Angus blood in the animal is at least 3/4. The Board approved ASA's designation on registration certificates SimAngus™ HT for animals that meet ASA's SimAngus™ requirements and have a minimum of 1/8 Bos indicus.

Simbravieh

This is a new American breed being developed at La Muneca Cattle and other ranches by crossing two functional breeds of beef cattle, Braunvieh and Simbrah. They complement each other very well. Both breeds offer plenty of fertility, milk, growth, carcass merit, docility, heat resistance and longevity. Simbravieh cattle can be any color, polled, polled/scurred or horned and must be out of registered parents. Simbravieh must contain a minimum of 1/4 Braunvieh, 1/8 Simmental, and 1/8 Brahman, and no more than 1/4 combination of other breeds. This allows for a range of 3/4 to 1/4 Braunvieh, 5/8 to 1/8 Simmental, 5/8 to 1/8 Brahman, and 1/4 to 0 of any other breeds.

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Predictability Is Important

We feel predictability is important—in fact we believe it is key to our success. We have selected daughters of some of the most proven cow families in Simbrah to have as our donor nucleus in our purebred herd. We have daughters out of Smith Priceless, LM She Moves, Smith Annie Lou and a maternal sister to Smith Bella Bella all working in ET now.

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Smith Priceless-We have a daughter sired by Dream On in our embryo transfer program. One of the most proven genetic lines in the cattle industry.



LM She Moves-We have a Hide-N-Seek sired daughter of her in our embryo transfer program. She Moves is one of the top cows in the breed.



Smith Bella Bella-Known as the matriarch of the breed, we have a maternal sister working in our ET program.



Smith Annie Lou-Another female that is recognized for her greatness and we have a daughter of her and Sargeant in our program!



SMITH SATISFIES -
A semen package sells in this sire from Smith Genetics/Burch Farms. His females were some of the most sought after in last year's sale and his calves have been in the winner's circle all year—in fact 8 of the 12 champions in the purebred show at Roundup, were sired by him. He ranks in the top 2% of the breed for API and top 1% for TI. **FIRST TIME SEMEN HAS BEEN OFFERED!**



RFI DEBUTANTE -
She is out of the donor, LMC Topanga and NF Smith Simply Great. Topanga is making a name for herself, as her granddaughter, Smith RFI Sweet Deb was the 2015 National Champion Female. You will have the opportunity to add Topanga's influence to your herd at Synergy VIII.



SMITH PRICELESS -
The influence of this matriarch will sell in Synergy VIII. Her daughters and sons have excelled in pastures and show rings, and her second generation of calves are doing the same. **If you want predictability, then you will want to add her genetics.**

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For additional information:

Contact Tim Smith, 512-587-7896 • smithgenetics1@gmail.com

For updates follow our **facebook** page or click on the Synergy tab at www.smithgenetics.com.

Facts about antibiotic use in beef cattle

Antibiotic use in cattle continues to be in the news as consumers question practices. In addition, government policies and discussions directed toward the industry are growing. Following are key points producers can share with consumers about this issue:

- Cattle ranchers are committed to producing safe, abundant and affordable beef products of the highest quality. Healthy animals make for safe food,

and disease prevention is the key to keeping cattle healthy. Antibiotics are sometimes necessary to help prevent, control and treat diseases in cattle.

- The Federal Drug Administration (FDA) regulations that govern the use of antibiotics in cattle feed are stricter than most other uses in animals or people.

- Cattle ranchers have gone beyond the legal requirements of safe antibiotic use and created The

Beef Quality Assurance Program (BQA). BQA has been in place for almost 25 years and contains guidelines for cattlemen to minimize the use of antibiotics as well as use them properly only when they are needed so that consumers can have confidence in the safety and quality of beef.

- Veterinarians work with ranchers to keep animals healthy with vaccinations, good nutrition and good management so

antibiotic use is minimized. Veterinarians and ranchers also work with the FDA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to make sure that when needed, antibiotics are used responsibly so that beef products remain safe.

- Many of the antibiotics used in cattle feed are not important in human medicine. Banning the use of antibiotics in animal feeds can cause increased suffering in animals and may

necessitate the increased use of antibiotics that are important for use in people.

- Based on scientific studies, there is not clear evidence that the consumption of animal products is related to the development of the vast majority of antibiotic resistance in humans. However, several layers of safety protection are in place to make sure antimicrobial resistance does not become a prob-

lem.

- The FDA process for evaluating antibiotics used in cattle is more stringent than the process for human antibiotics. The approval process ensures human food safety by evaluating the antibiotic's risk to people, including minimizing the potential for developing antibiotic resistance and ensuring that no violative residues are in beef.

- Once approved, animal medication uses are carefully monitored by FDA and the USDA's Food Safety Inspection Service for safety in animals as well as safety of food produced from animals. FDA has the authority to immediately remove any drug from the market if there are imminent animal or human health concerns.

- Farmers are required by law to adhere to label instructions and instructions from their veterinarian when using any animal medication. Cattle organizations, veterinarians and the FDA have collaborated to produce guidelines for safe and responsible use of antibiotics to safeguard public health.

- Several surveillance systems are in place to monitor the possible emergence of antibiotic resistance. For example, The National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System is a multi-agency program, including USDA, FDA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which monitors for resistant bacteria in people, animals and retail meats.


- Pathogen reduction programs at harvest and processing facilities are in place to reduce overall foodborne illness. Should antibiotic resistance occur, these programs would have a direct effect on reducing these bacteria in food products.



- Proper handling, preparation and storage of food is the final step in preventing food-borne illness.


For More Information: frequently Asked Questions about Antimicrobial Use and Antimicrobial Resistance http://www.avma.org/issues/antimicrobial_use_resistance.asp


Source: Bayou Beef Tips, Louisiana State University Ag Center Research & Extension.


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VFD Rule finalized: insights on changes in feed-grade antibiotic use

By Russ Daly, DVM

The FDA's Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) ruling will change the classification of "medically important" feed-grade antibiotics from their current over-the-counter status to the VFD designation.

Livestock producers and veterinarians recently gained a bit more insight into the changes they'll be facing in the way antibiotics are used in food animals. Back in December 2013, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) published "guidance for industry" documents that outlined, among other changes, how the Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) will become a critical component of food animal feed-grade antibiotic use. This June, the FDA came out with their "final rule" regarding how the VFD will be used – providing more detail about this classification of feed-grade antibiotics.

Label changes coming

The changes outlined in 2013 will remove the labeled indications for the use of feed-grade antibiotics for growth promotion and feed efficiency. Each manufacturer of these products has agreed to

make these label changes before the full implementation date of December 2016. Since extra-label use of feed-grade antibiotics in food animals is illegal, these uses will no longer be allowed.

Medically-Important classification set to change

Another huge change outlined earlier will change the classification of "medically important" feed-grade antibiotics from their current over-the-counter status to the VFD designation. The list of what FDA considers "medically important" antibiotics is pretty long. It contains common drugs like tetracyclines and penicillin along with classes of drugs more critical to human medicine, such as cephalosporins and fluoroquinolones. Producers and veterinarians can still use these medications, but they will be limited to uses for prevention, control, and treatment of illnesses in food animals –

and they will require a VFD form prior to their use.

Having been around since the late 1990's, the VFD is not a new concept. Any new feed-grade antibiotic preparation approved for use since then has carried this designation. In order to use these products, such as Pulmotil® for pigs and cattle and Nuflor® for pigs and fish, producers have needed to get a VFD form (similar to a prescription) from a veterinarian prior to use of the drugs. The changes proposed by the FDA will expand the use of the VFD to many common feed-grade antibiotics currently used by food animal producers.

The VFD final rule recently released spells out the VFD in more detail. The veterinarian will fill out the form, specifying the farm and animals to be treated, the drug to be used, its feeding rate, and the duration of treatment.

The FDA has made allowances for a VFD to apply to groups of animals that may be moved to different locations, such as weaned pigs moved from a

nursery to a grower, as long as the different locations are listed by the veterinarian on the VFD.

The veterinarian will consult the antibiotic label to list feeding instructions on the VFD in terms of the inclusion rate and duration of feeding – for example, "feed at a rate of 500 mg [of drug] per head daily for 14 days." The veterinarian will also indicate an expiration date on the VFD. This will typically be spelled out on the product label, but can't exceed 6 months. The expiration date can be thought of as an "authorization" to feed the drug. For the example given above, once a producer procures the VFD, he would have 6 months to complete the 14 day course of treatment. Some drug labels may allow for a number of "refills," which (in this example) means the producer might be able to obtain feed for more 14-day course(s) of treatment if the VFD hasn't expired. Once a VFD expires, that authorization is gone, and a new VFD must be procured.

The feed mill or distrib-

utor is required to have a properly completed VFD form on hand before they can supply the feed. The final rule indicates that the VFD form could be sent electronically from the veterinarian to the feed mill via e-mail or an internet service, but it can't be simply "phoned in" by the veterinarian. The feed mill, veterinarian, and producer will all need to keep a copy of the VFD on file for two years.

In the case of drugs fed in approved combinations, if any of the drugs in that combination are VFD drugs, a VFD will be required for that feed.

The VFD won't be able to be written by just any veterinarian. Only a veterinarian – licensed in the state where the animals are present – with a valid veterinary-client-patient relationship (VCPR) with the operation and animals is allowed to write a VFD. The FDA will defer to each individual state's definition of the VCPR, as long as it meets some basic criteria. In cases where states do not have their own definition, the federal VCPR defini-

tion will come into play. The fact that the FDA does not define the VCPR in terms of specific number of farm visits or patient examinations may frustrate some, but allows for the flexibility necessary to serve the wide variety of today's food animal operations.

The VFD final rule will be implemented on October 1, 2015, but manufacturers of feed grade medications will not change the labels on these products to VFD status until right before the implementation date of December 31, 2016. Having all label changes update at the same time will avert the marketing disparities caused by some product brands remaining over-the-counter while others are under VFD status.

As a reminder, some livestock medication practices won't change at all in light of these regulations. The use of non-"medically important" feed-grade products are an example. Obtaining and using ionophores like Rumensin®, Bovatec®, most coccidiosis

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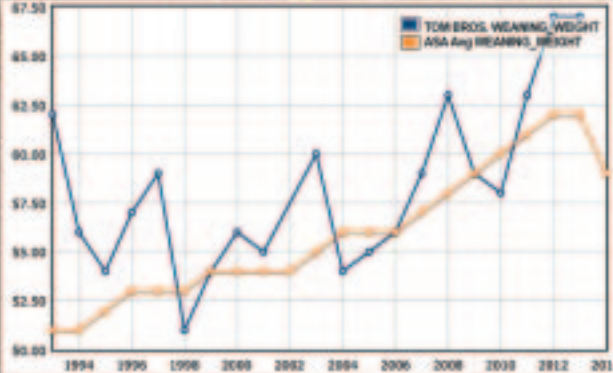

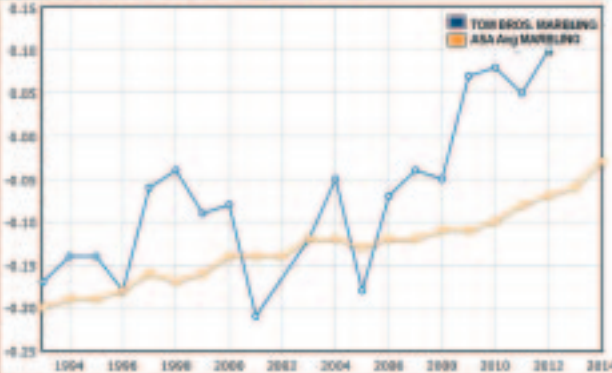
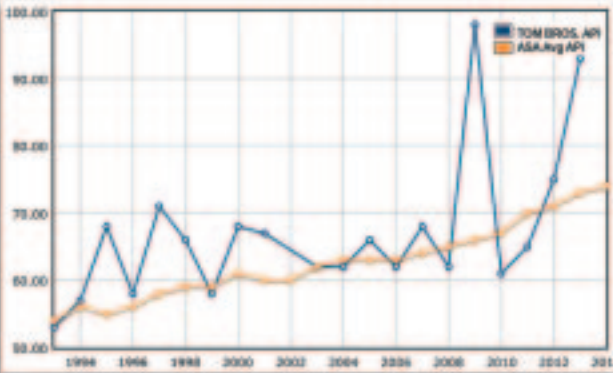
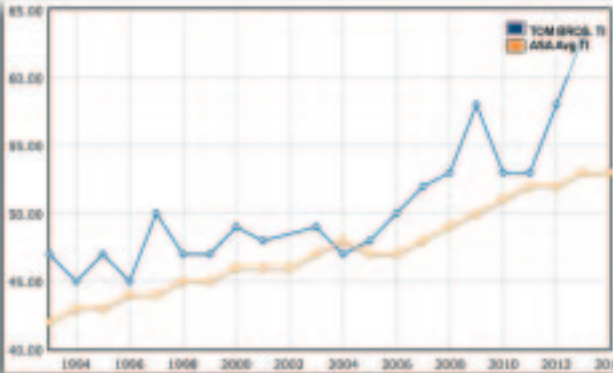
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Genetic data site founded

Beef herd owners facing genetic data overload at breeding time can find help in a new website, eBEEF.org, says Jared Decker, University of Missouri Extension beef geneticist. Useful information is put in terms cattle-men understand. It's all in

one easy-to-use spot on the Internet.

Decker says, "Genomic-assisted selection is a fast-growing part of beef production. The eBEEF.org site highlights usable information. If you run a web search for EPDs (expected progeny differences), you get thousands of hits. Most people can't tell what is good, or not. We sort articles and post only the most helpful for cattle breeders."

On the team with Decker are Megan Rolf, Oklahoma State University; Matt Spangler, University of Nebraska; Bob Weaver, Kansas State University; Darrh Bullock, University of Kentucky; and Alison Van Eenennaam, University of California, Davis.

The group showed the one-stop site at the recent Beef Improvement Federation meeting in Biloxi,

Mississippi. The group uses peer-reviewed scientific studies for the site, which shows more than articles and fact sheets. A FAQ page with video and text answers provides a starting point. It describes geno-

mics, EPDs, indexes and crossbreeding. An interactive "Ask an Expert" section gives answers about production not given in the fact sheets or FAQs.

The site archives YouTube videos, meeting recordings and webinars. Though Extension educators use it as a teaching resource, the prime audi-

ence remains cattlemen.

All six team members are scientists in two or more of three grants funded by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture. They create new genetic information as well as extend it to breeders.

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VFD...

(Continued from page 13)

medications, and certain growth-promoting medications such as bacitracin (BMD®) will not change, since they're not used very often if at all in human medicine. As has always been the case, extra label uses of feed-grade medications are illegal, and they will remain so.

Uses of injectable antibiotics are not slated for change. However, the changes outlined in 2013 will also move over-the-counter medically-important water medications to "prescription" status like many injectable antibiotics.

Current distributors and feed mills will retain the ability to supply these products to producers. Of course there will be more

paperwork because there will be more VFD forms to keep track of, but these changes do not limit these businesses in what they can carry or manufacture.

One aspect of food animal production was important prior to these changes and will remain important afterwards -- the need for veterinarians to be involved in decisions about feed-grade antibiotics. There is no better source of information about the proper uses of these products in livestock populations than the herd veterinarian. A close relationship with a veterinarian means less time and money wasted on ineffective uses of these products, and more practical advice to help prevent the illnesses that require antibiotic use in the first place.

Antibiotic resistance is a complex and sometimes contentious topic among animal and human health professionals. The complexity of the issue means that a "silver bullet" solution is not going to present itself any time soon. All of us involved in using these products—in animals and people alike—play a role in ensuring that they continue to work for the sake of our animals and our family members. Understanding these proposed changes and proactively deciding how they will work into your operation is a great first step that we can all take.

Disclaimer: Product trade names are used for purposes of illustration only and do not constitute an endorsement of those products.

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Trich...

(Continued from page 10)

breeding season. Trich can go undetected in continuous-breeding herds.

4. Identify herd sires and record the breeding group of each bull. If the herd becomes infected, this will make it easier to isolate the problem and start management protocols to eliminate the disease.

5. Consider keeping bulls in the same breeding groups for several breeding seasons. Should there be a false negative bull in the battery, this will keep uninfected cattle from being exposed.

6. Consider small sire groups (but not necessarily single-sire), versus large sire herds, to avoid infecting many bulls in a single season. Monitor pregnancy closely in one-herd grazing systems and implement an annual bull testing program to detect introduction of Trich during the first breeding season.

7. Consider artificial insemination to avoid introducing Trich or to help break the cycle of infection in a herd. Reputable semen companies repeatedly test bulls for many diseases including Trich, to ensure the semen is not contaminated.

8. Avoid buying open or short-bred (less than 120 days) cows. Open or short bred cows from unknown sources are particularly risky and must be quarantined and examined before they are added to the herd.

9. If you buy replacement cows, isolate them from the existing herd during the first breeding season.

10. If biosecurity measures cannot be adequately implemented or other risk factors exist for the introduction of Trich into the herd vaccinating the cow herd can be utilized to help mitigate economic losses.

SLS

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- October 23-25-Simbrah Synergy VIII, Giddings, Texas
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