

• SIMBRAH NEWS •

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Simbrahs playing major role in Mississippi State University's cattle program



These are some of the 13 SimAngus HT heifers that Mississippi State University has retained for their program.

By Martha Hollida Garrett

Simbrah, a breed perfectly suited for the southeastern part of the country, is playing a vital role in the beef cattle program at Mississippi State University (MSU), Starkville, Mississippi, while simultaneously increasing their exposure to students and growing in popularity with cattle producers throughout the region.

The breed was added in 2012 as part of the SimAngus HT™ program, meaning the SimAngus are heat tolerant. Fast forward four years and MSU now has the second set of calves on the ground and heifers from the first calf crop are entering the program as bred heifers.

"Three years ago, the

staff was challenged to develop a five year program for the beef center. At the time, we had purebred herds of Angus, Hereford and Charolais. We also had graduate students wanting to do research work in the stocker segment. As part of the long range plan, we felt we needed to include a commercial herd, so that we could supply our own stocker cattle," explains Dr. Brandi Karisch, MSU Extension beef cattle specialist.

Karisch, who grew up raising and showing SimGenetics in Louisiana, campaigned for a Bos indicus influence in the commercial herd and Cody Glenn, farm manager, stressed the need for

Simmental influence. Since the university already had an established Angus program, it seemed only fitting to introduce a SimAngus HT program from a financial, teaching, production and geographical viewpoint.

Of the existing Angus herd, 50 of the females were moved to the SimAngus HT program to calve in February and

March with the calves weaned in mid-September they will then placed on winter ryegrass as stockers and marketed as yearlings the following spring dependent upon research needs.

The plan is to have 50-75 purebred Angus and 25 purebred Hereford cows to calve each fall and eventually 100-125 SimAngus HT females calving in the spring. Due to the expected

growth of the SimAngus HT program, the Charolais cattle were sold to make room for them and the resulting stocker operation.

Glenn, who was charged with selecting Simbrah bulls to use in the program, included calving ease, balanced growth traits and moderate milk numbers in his selection criteria. The goal was to produce a herd of functional, practical, low-maintenance cows and yet have above average growth numbers, which is important in the stocker equation of the program.

PRR Prevail, a bull bred by Pine Ridge Ranch, Athens, Texas, was chosen as the AI sire for the herd and has been used each year in the program. He is a homozygous polled, red, purebred bull, sired by LM Full House 5L/133 and out of a PRR Pacesetter bred dam. He boasts breed rankings in the top 10% for All Purpose Index and Terminal Index and is laying a great foundation for the herd, Glenn noted.

Then cleanup bulls were selected from two southeast programs, Ishee Bred

Simmentals, Laurel, Mississippi and Mossy Creek Ranch, Cleveland, Georgia. These bulls include Mr. Ishee Black Bear HT, a three-quarter, polled, black bull carrying La Muneca Ranch breeding maternally and the Simmental bloodline, Superior; MCX Mustafa, a red, polled purebred with Pine Ridge Ranch and Smith Genetics breeding and MCX Marshall, a red, polled purebred with Pine Ridge breeding in the pedigree.

With a 45-60 day goal for calving season, the foundation Angus cows are AI'd one time to PRR Prevail, and then 10 days later are turned out with the cleanup bulls.

Today, the program has had two successful calving seasons and all 13 of the heifers from the first crop have been retained. Going forward, MSU plans to breed SimAngus HT heifers to Angus bulls.

"We have been really pleased with the results. These first heifers that we have now bred are generating a lot of excitement. Students and visitors to the

(Continued on page 5)



The Mississippi State University SimAngus HT program selected PRR Prevail 774S from Pine Ridge Ranch as their AI Simbrah sire in developing their herd.



NEWS

You Can Use...

Feed intake project planned

The American Simmental Association (ASA) aims to collect feed intake data coupled with the car-

cass 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. You may also contact ASA staff members Jackie Atkins at jatkins@simmgene.com or

Chip Kemp at ckemp@simmgene.com.

Consignor information for upcoming 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, 2016 however, if you want to be considered as a consignor, you must advise him 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 1st to October 15th for the sale at the San Antonio Livestock Show in February. 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 on the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo sales, contact Gulf Tex Livestock at 979/482-2018 or gulf-texlivestock@gmail.com.

Simbrah promotional items available

The American Simmental Association (ASA) has marketing materials for the Simbrah breed. Available are brochures and signs promoting Simbrahs as the crossbreeding choice. 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.

Fall Fest Sale set for September

The Heart of Texas Simmental/Simbrah Association will team up with the East Texas Simmental/Simbrah Association to host the annual Fall Fest Sale on September 17th

from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. The sale will be online and be carried on DVAuction.com. Cattle will be available for viewing at JHC Ranch's Buckholts, Texas location on September 17th. The location for the sale viewing is 5276 FM 485, Buckholts, Texas 76518. For additional information contact Jim Carter at 254/697-1078 or jhcranch@sbcglobal.net, Robert Piper at 830/305-4559 or 4p ranch@gmail.com, or Lou Langford at 214/801-2966 or louis@commhard.com.

Alamo City Simbrah Sale schedules fall event

The members of the Alamo City Simbrah Sale group have scheduled an online sale, September 19-21st. The sale will be carried on www.cattleinmotion.com. In addition to members La Morra Ranch, Freasier Ranch and Baring Cattle Co., there will be select lots from other breeding programs. For additional information contact Joe B. Rodriguez, 210/275-0839 or joe@lamorracattle.com.

(Continued on page 3)



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Alamo City Simbrah Online Sale September 19-21

Sale will feature top quality show prospects from these San Antonio area breeders La Morra Ranch, Freasier Ranch and Baring Cattle Co., as well as select lots from friends. These programs have bred many cattle that have stood at the backdrop in the purple. We will be offering that caliber of cattle in this sale.

Sale will be conducted on
www.cattleinmotion.com

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Freasier Ranch
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Baring Cattle Company
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Show prospects like these sell!



Show prospects like these sell!



Show prospects like these sell!

News...

(Continued from page 2)

Synergy IX Set For September 23-25th

Simbrah Synergy IX will be held September 23-25th at Smith Genetics, Giddings, Texas. The weekend event includes an educational skill-a-thon and sales talk competition for juniors, sale and the \$15,000 Synergy Showcase junior show. This date reflects a move, as previously the event was held in October.

The sale will be the evening of Saturday, September 24th and includes over 100 lots of cattle. The lots are predominately Simbrah. Bulls, embryos, do-nors, pairs, breds and some fancy show prospects 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 and you must pre-empter.

Participants in this year's sale include Burch Farms, Hempstead, Texas; Diamond RF Farms, Floresville, Texas; Hagan Cattle Company, Yoakum, Texas; Hallak Ranch, Athens, Texas; McCrary Farms, DeKalb, Texas; Monte Christo Cattle Co., Edinburg, Texas; Pebble Creek Farms, Cuero, Texas; Reavis Farms, Mission, Texas; Triple J Ranch, Sour Lake, Texas; Triple P Ranch, Pearland, Texas; 7N Ranch, Falls City, Texas; Smith Farms, Denton, Texas and Smith Genetics, Giddings, Texas.

For additional information follow on Facebook, or on twitter at smithgenetics. Details are also available on the synergy tab of www.smithgenetics.com.

La Muneca to host 29th Annual Jr. Round Up & Futurity

Linn, TX – "On Saturday, October 1st, starting at 9:00 a.m., La Muneca

Cattle Co. (LMC) will proudly be hosting our 29th Annual Jr. Round Up & LMC Futurity. This is a fun-filled, educational, family oriented event that everyone is invited to attend. There will be awesome speakers on many topics related to the beef industry, showmanship, leadership, motivation, judging and ag opportunities," states Carlos X. Guerra, LMC owner.

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, plus 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, Rio Grande City FFA-Randy Lee Lara, Tandy's, La Muneca and the families of Dr. Oscar Alvarez, Benny and James Cano,

(Continued on page 6)

Your Opportunity!

Hallak Ranch is proud to be part of the Simbrah Synergy and we are bringing three lots to the sale this year.

These two heifers, who have all the potential to win you banners, will be selling at the sale and they are ready for junior exhibitors to show the next day in the \$15,000 Synergy Showcase—quite an opportunity for a junior buyer. They are also eligible for the Superbowl. One is a purebred and one is a percentage Simbrah—both are sired by LMC Red Alert 5A/25.

The young bull we are selling is a purebred Simmental sired by the popular SVF Allegiance bull and out of our donor Built Like A Diva. He's homozygous polled and confirmed genetics to both parents. He is ready to go to work.

Join us in Giddings, Texas
September 24 for the sale!



Lot 5 - HR Spice Girl, a purebred Simbrah



Lot 6 - HR Cover Girl, a percentage Simbrah



Lot 7 - HR Diva C17, a purebred Simmental

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Billy & Malika Hallak • 1167 Oval Drive • Athens, Texas 75751 • 903/203-8524
Nhallak@hotmail.com • www.hallakranch.com



We're offering herd building opportunities!

At the upcoming Simbrah Synergy Sale, we will be offering females from the heart of our program and loaded with genetic potential for yours.

Here's just a few of the lots we're offering. We hope you will join us and we will have the catalog available on our website, September 1st, so you can study all the lots we have selected.



9.24.16

Smith Genetics
Giddings, Texas • 4 p.m.



153X - A Hide N Seek daughter with a Smith McCrary Fireball sired heifer calf at side.



433Z - A Charismatic daughter with Nu Approach, Trendsetter, Spectrum and Golden Glory breeding. She's bred to Andy N Black for a percentage calf.



155D - An open Simmental female sired by Smith Stout N Black. She's been a standout since she hit the ground.



132C - A Fireball sired heifer with the Priceless cow family on the maternal side.



133C - This fancy Detonator sired heifer sells. She's got a pedigree that includes Satisfies, Smith Ciao Bella, Nu Approach, Bella Bella and Dream On.



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Customer service is important



**By Chip Kemp,
American Simmental Association
director of member and
industry relations**

Those small steps show an honest and humble approach that we are all looking for. Not surprisingly, that grocery store, gas station, and farm store are likely to receive more of our business.

Then, there are the big expenses. You've grown to expect the "extras" when you purchase a tractor, a new truck, or a large feed or mineral purchase. Those extras may come in the form of incentives or discounts. We are often even willing to pay the same, or even a little more, if we are confident that the tractor dealership will be there when we have a breakdown or need a quick part. A few dollars here and there might not decide

our nutrition decisions if our feed supplier evolves from a mere salesperson to a valued nutritional consultant who has proven him or herself over time.

Customer service requires continual education, attention to detail, industry awareness, sound advice from trusted business partners, and a humble, honest approach to go as far as you can on behalf of those who pay your bills – your customers.

The beef business has settled back into a new normal where below average cattle aren't being rewarded with outrageous dollars. No doubt, we enjoyed those big dollars. But we knew the reality -- if we are to move our industry in a

positive direction there has to be price differentiation and rewards for those who are willing to improve genetics, management and herd health. The opposite then must also be true. Price signals have to encourage those who have neglected any (or all) of those things to step up their efforts.

That's where you and your fellow seedstock providers come in view. You must continue to go that extra step on behalf of your customers, or the truth is – they won't be your customers very long. If you aren't willing to advance your genetic offering, if you aren't willing to educate yourself to the issues outside of your fence row, if you aren't willing to help and encourage your customers to evolve, then someone else will.

That is where your relationship with the American Simmental Association (ASA) is helpful. ASA is committed to the most robust genetic evaluation on the planet. ASA, and its

relationship with International Genetic Solutions (internationalgeneticsolutions.com), provides you the capability to get the most powerful and most comparable EPDs and Indexes currently available within our industry.

Additionally, ASA offers a variety of programs that can directly benefit you or your customers. Have you encouraged your clients to look at the new Total Herd Enrollment – Commercial Option? If not, why? The more they learn about their cow herd, the better positioned you are to actually provide them bulls that meet their needs and goals. Have you looked into the Carcass Merit Program? This gives you a platform to put your bulls' progeny to the test in a real world feedlot environment. Your customers believe in your bulls. Shouldn't you? Did you know if you submit feed intake data or carcass data that meets contemporary regrouping guidelines you may be in line to receive a 50% discount on low density genotyping? Genomically enhanced EPDs can help you close the gap and provide higher accuracies

to your young bulls. These are just a few of the services that ASA can help you with.

What is more, many ASA members have taken the initiative themselves to step up their game. Many Texas based ASA members have worked to get SimGenetics represented in the upcoming fall bull test at the Genetic Development Center. Many have asked for this sort of opportunity to put Simmental, SimAngus, Simbrah, and SimAngus HT bulls head to head against other breeds. This offers major exposure of SimGenetics to a wide variety of bull buyers. Have you looked into this opportunity to highlight your genetics? If not, I'd encourage you to reach out to Tim Smith (ASA Trustee) to discuss getting your ranch represented in this fall's test. You can also contact GDC directly at 936-870-3960. Time is short.

Customer service requires a commitment of time and effort. Remember, if you don't have the time or put forth the effort, you can bet that someone else will.

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Annual Bull Sale: Last Friday in January
Annual Production Sale: Third Saturday in May

Major role...

(Continued from page 1)

farm see them and want to know what they are and if they can be purchased," said Karisch.

The majority of the calves have been black with white faces, along with a few grays. The average birth weight on the resulting SimAngus HT calves is 85-95 lbs. and they have weaned in the 550-600 lb.

range (actual weaning weight at 5-6 months of age).

The first set of steers were split into two groups and either marketed in a load of cattle sold through a feeder calf board sale program coordinated by MSU Extension, or retained on a trial evaluating a 300 day grazing program. The steers grew so well on that trial that they had to be removed earlier

than anticipated. These steers will be harvested on campus, and utilized in a meat science course.

The current set of SimAngus HT steers will be sent to Tri County Feeders in Iowa through Mississippi Extension's Farm to Feedlot program that Karisch coordinates.

"We will send the calves there, along with other cattle from producers in the state to be fed out and sent

to harvest. We wanted to capture data on these steers so we can use it to improve the herd and of course use as teaching material. We've talked about possibly enrolling in American Simmental Association's (ASA) Carcass Merit program in the future. Regardless, it is our plan to submit the carcass data we receive to the ASA," said Karisch.

Glenn says it has been a

unique experience to watch the SimAngus HT cattle, as they have experienced no dystocia, the calves hit the ground running, they have a great look and the hybrid vigor creates a lot of growth.

Both Karisch and Glenn are quick to talk about how they like the cattle and the buzz they have created at field days or when cattlemen visit the farm.

"When we tell people

they are Simbrah sired, we often get a puzzling look, as many really don't know about the breed, but then the next question is when are we going to have some of the females for sale. I think the SimAngusHT have real potential for commercial cow/calf producers in our region," says Glenn.

Karisch echoes Glenn, saying, "We get lots of
(Continued on page 15)



SimAngus HT heifers like these have generated positive comments from cattlemen who visit the Mississippi State University Beef Unit.



The Mississippi State University Beef Unit used some of their existing Angus females and crossed them with Simbrah to start their SimAngus HT herd.

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philip@tombrothersranch.com

Bull test slated to start this fall

Genetic Development Center (GDC), Navasota, Texas, is now accepting entry forms for the Fall. There is limited space and this is an all breed test that will include Simbrah, Simmental and SimAngus bulls.

If you have bulls that

you want to be part of the test, you are urged to send the forms now. For additional information contact Luke Bradford GDC beef programs coordinator at 936/870-3960. You may also visit their website, www.geneticdevelopmentcenter.com, to learn more about GDC, their facility, the GrowSafe system and their services. In addition, you may contact Tim Smith, ASA South Central Trustee, who has spearheaded the addition of Simgenetic bulls to the test at 512/587-7896 or smithgenetics1@gmail.com.

ASA is supporting this bull test effort and will be gathering all the data to utilize in the database, as well as doing a cost share on DNA testing of all Simgenetic bulls.

The schedule and entry requirements for the Fall test includes:

- Arrival dates-November 1-4, 2016
- Bulls are required to have TB, Brucellosis and BVD testing prior to entry and unloading
- Eligible calving dates-December 1 2015-March

31, 2016

- Test Ends-March 17

The cost of the test is scheduled to be \$870 per bull and can be paid in four equal monthly payments. There is a potential for a \$50 discount per bull if we get more than 30 Simgenetic bulls on test.

The price includes:

- Booster vaccinations, tagging, weighing, EID tags and equipment
- Free choice feed
- Monthly performance reports to producers, yearling measurements including carcass ultrasound data, hip-height upon request, scrotal circumference measurement and fertility exams.
- Final report will include individual animal weight, average daily gain, daily feed intake, residual feed intake index, feed conversion ratio, carcass measurements, fertility results.
- Price does not include any medicine treatment.

There will be a sale after the conclusion of the test for bulls that meet the requirements.

SLS

News...

(Continued from page 3)

Benjamin Hill, Doug Lightfoot, Curtis Gruetzmacher and Norberto Lopez. 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 Round Up.

The Annual La Muneca Futurity will conclude the day's events with over \$7,500 in prize money, prizes and buckles. Half of this money will be awarded in showmanship. The RGV Brahman & F-1 Association will also be sponsoring its 5th Annual Registered Brahman steer show at this event, where they will award \$1,000 in premiums and prizes.

The Edinburg FFA Booster Club will serve food and refreshments all day. The 11th Annual LMC Customer Appreciation Dinner will be held at the conclusion of the LMC Futurity. 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 802-1641, email them at lamuneca-cattle@aol.com or call Brad Cowan, Hidalgo County Agent at 956-383-1026 or b-cowan@tamu.edu.

Other upcoming LMC events this fall include the LMC GenePLUS Online Sale XIV on August 27th – 30th and the LMC GIVING THANKS Online Sale III on November 19-22. At the November sale, 100% of every lot will be donated to junior scholarship funds and other charities. Both sales will be conducted on www.cattleinmotion.com.

Two Fast Nickels Bull Sale set for November 19th

Simbrah bulls will be in the sale pen at the Two Fast Nickels Private Treaty Bull Sale, November 19th. 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, 903/539-1666.

(Continued on page 7)



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THE PLACE TO BE THIS FALL

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Smith Genetics • Giddings, Texas
9.24.16 • 4 p.m.



McCrary Smith Inspired • 20 units of semen sell in this three-quarter bull. His calves are impressive and there are a number of his daughters included in the offering. He's sired by Andy Black and has a top 1% of the breed ranking for API and top 2% for TI.



Smith McCrary Rose 21C • A daughter of Inspired. She's loaded with femininity, clean lines, length and correctness. Sells open.



McCrary Lil Glory 43DC • Sired by Smith Satisfies, who has been the premier sire of the breed of late and she extends the Golden Glory Cow Family maternally. Sells open.



McCrary Sara Sue 866C • Another Inspired daughter, who sells to Gangster. Top of the breed genetics in this package.



McCrary Smith Lisa 771B • Just look at this Inspired daughter and she has top 15% of the breed rankings for both API and TI. She's bred to Gangster, a Smith Satisfies son.



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Blackleg poses a constant threat

**Heidi Ward, DVM, Ph.D.,
Assistant Professor and Veterinarian**

With the rain ending and the summer heat on full blast, it is time to address Blackleg, the nemesis of all beef cattle. Although the disease is brutal and costly, it is also completely preventable through vaccination.

What is Blackleg?

Blackleg is caused by bacteria called *Clostridium chauvoei* that secrete deadly toxins in the bloodstream of infected animals. This disease progresses very rapidly, and cattle can

die suddenly without any obvious symptoms. Cattle between the ages of six months and two years that are on a high plane of nutrition and rapidly gaining weight are most susceptible to the disease.

How do cattle get Blackleg?

Clostridium chauvoei can be present naturally in the digestive tract of healthy animals with no adverse consequences. The bacteria can also be found in contaminated soil. When

conditions are unfavorable for their growth, the bacteria form spores that are very resistant to heat and cold. *Clostridium* spores can persist in the environment for years and can be spread by the wind when the weather is hot and dry. When cattle ingest the spores while grazing close to the ground, the bacteria become active and grow rapidly. The bacteria then enter the bloodstream through the small intestine.

What exactly does blackleg do to cattle?

Once in the bloodstream, the bacteria travel to the muscle tissue where they produce large amounts of a gas byproduct as they grow and reproduce.

The buildup of gas is a hallmark sign of the disease as the infected area often makes a crackling or popping sound when pressed. The most common areas of infection are the hip, shoulder, chest and back. The muscle typically swells and is hot and painful to the touch in the beginning, but

becomes insensitive and cold as the swelling cuts off blood supply to the area, causing the characteristic black tissue. Once these symptoms occur, the animal usually has only 12 to 49 hours to live before it dies of exposure to the lethal toxins secreted by the bacteria.

Can Blackleg be treated?

Unfortunately, once symptoms are seen, the infection is usually past the point of no return. However, if Blackleg is suspected, cattle should be treated as soon as possible with penicillin G. Suspect cattle should be isolated and susceptible cattle vaccinated and moved to a clean pasture immediately.

How is Blackleg treated?

Vaccination is the best way to combat Blackleg. The clostridial 7-way vaccine is considered a core vaccine for herd health. Calves should be given their first vaccine at two to four months of age. It is extremely important to booster with a second injection three to four

annually, as part of the regular herd health plan. If an outbreak does occur, it is recommended that the producer contact a veterinarian for specific instructions on how to treat the cattle and how to dispose of carcasses appropriately.

News...

(Continued from page 6)

Tom Brothers Ranch schedules sale

Tom Brothers Ranch, Campbellton, Texas will hold a private treaty bid-off bull sale on December 2, 2016. The sale will be held at the ranch and the offering will include 40 Simbrah and Simbrah bulls.

They will sell with complete performance information and interested cowmen are invited to visit their website, www.tombrothersranch.com, for photos and details. For additional information, contact Ellen Tom at 210/313-0020 or ellen@tombrothersranch.com or Philip Tom, 512/296-6845 at Philip@tombrothersranch.com.

SLS

Simbrahs by Choice

We raise Simbrahs by choice and believe they have a lot to offer the industry.

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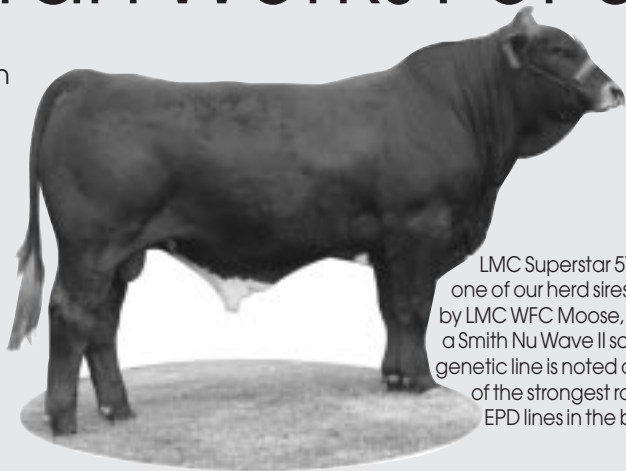
When you're in the market for bulls/replacement females, come to South Texas and visit us. We are conveniently located outside of Floresville and would love to show you our cattle.



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It's Simple... Simbrah Works For Us

Simbrahs have been part of Sklar and Son's operation for more than 30 years. They work—that's the simple, cut and dry, no nonsense reason. They work for us and more importantly, the resulting calves work for our customers.



LMC Superstar 5Y/165, one of our herd sires. Sired by LMC WFC Moose, who is a Smith Nu Wave II son. This genetic line is noted as one of the strongest ranking EPD lines in the breed.

Simbrahs are low maintenance, functional and productive cattle that take the elements of our geographic location in stride. The calves arrive small and start growing the minute they hit the ground.

We are using sire genetics from La Muneca, Smith Genetics and Hagan Cattle Co. including Superstar, who is pictured here.

WE HAVE SIMBRAH BULLS AND SIMBRAH Sired COMMERCIAL FEMALES FOR SALE. COME SEE US, SEE OUR CATTLE AND SEE HOW SIMBRAH WORK!

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Hay, what's in that bale?

By Monte Rouquette, Jr., Forage Quality and Utilization, Texas A&M AgriLife Research, Texas A&M System, Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center Overton

“If I could eliminate the winter season, I think I’d like the cattle business.” Have you ever made that statement? In a state with the climate excitement and diversity like Texas, warm-season perennial grasses are the basic pasture-range unit for livestock. The advantages of these sod or bunch grasses are that they are perennial, productive, vigorous, and resist moderate to extreme levels of defoliation via grazing. The disadvantages are that these grasses don’t grow year-round and the overall nutritive value is the lowest of the other categories of forages. In order to maintain forages at optimum nutritive value levels and reduce risks associated with climatic conditions, hay has been used to buffer these management problems.

The irony of hay making and hay use today is that on one hand, we use computer-driven devices and expensive equipment to make hay, and on the other hand, we generally market hay by the package without much attention to quality or dry weight. The solution is simple ... “put a tag on hay just as we place an ingredient tag on bagged feed.” But, the implementation is nearly impossible to enforce. There are, however, several factors that the producer, the purchaser, and the feeder should keep in mind.

Nutritive value

The first factor has to do with quality or nutritive value. Never was there a statement any more valid than, “Junk in...Junk out,” that is to say, the baling, curing, and storage process does not make hay higher in quality. Therefore, the first management decision should be to harvest forage that has acceptable quality. The term “acceptable” has relevance to various classes of livestock. In general, forages such as Bermuda grass should be harvested at

three to six week intervals to have optimum quality and quantity.

Hay analysis


The second most important factor is for the manager to know the quality (protein, fiber, or digestibility) of the hay. Hay quality can

be good enough to winter first-calf heifers with little to no supplemental protein or energy, and hay quality can be sufficiently low, so that mature, dry cows have difficulty with body maintenance. A significant amount of nutritive value can be lost in the storage of



It’s important to know what is in the bales of hay you are feeding your cows and should be one of the main concerns of hay baled or purchased.

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hay. Certainly, the best method is to store hay in a manner in which spoilage due to rain, soil, etc. is minimized. If barn storage facilities are not available, then the large round bales need to be strategically placed to resist water damage.

Hay package weight

The third factor involved with hay feeding has to do with the weight of the package. It seems as though hay has been sold for “a dollar a bale behind the baler” forever. Is that

too high or too cheap? Only the scales and the quality analyses can verify this. Ever since the large package hay equipment arrived in the early 1970's, large round and square

bales have generally been sold by the package rather than by the ton. Have you ever thought about selling or purchasing your commercial calf crop by the head rather than by the

pound? This is the same scenario that exists in the hay business today, in that the seller and buyer “guess” the weight of the package and agree on a price per bale. Perhaps we ought to “check out” a few random bales to determine the weight of those “1,200-lb” bales. The weight of a package is of equal importance in determining how many bales to feed a group of cattle.

Hay feeding

The next factor of importance is concerned

with the actual feeding of hay. In this area of hay management, the following items should receive attention.

- A 5% to 35% waste during the process of feeding will likely occur. To minimize the amount of waste, one should use either a “hay ring” or some other device to prevent livestock from walking, sleeping, and defecating on the large hay package. Another method of feeding hay is physically unrolling hay so that more animals can have access and that only a daily or 2-day supply

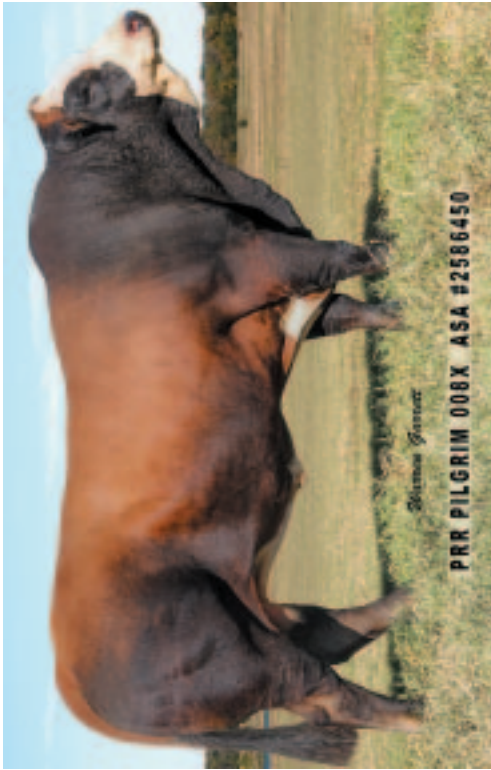
is fed at any one time. Too often hay waste is a product of time and labor concessions by feed management.

- Mature cows will consume about 3% of their body weight as hay. Therefore, a 1,000 lb. cow will consume about 30-lbs. of hay per day if this is the only source of nutrients. The practice of “under-feeding” affects animal function and is as severe an “economic waste” as “over-feeding” of hay.
- “Pick up the string!!” In the event that plastic or “poly” string is used to wrap the bales, these materials should be removed from the pasture area since they do not disintegrate with weathering. The discarded bale wrappings can affect animals if they consume it and can also interfere with mechanical shredding or mowing.
- “Be careful!!” A 50-lb. bale can be tossed from person to person in the act of moving, feeding, etc. without measurable incidence. However, the 1,000- to 1,500-lb. packages, which are handled by front-end and rear-end loaders are potential “crippers” or “killers”. Too often we become rushed or careless with the handling of the large package and accidental injury occurs.

Certainly, there are numerous other factors which could be named on the “to do” list, but the above-mentioned ones are for major concern. Rather than fight the weather, or the traditional aspects of ranching without any supplemental hay, energy, or protein, perhaps the best management decision is to spend time planning for the next forage-animal activity. Hay is often a necessary part of the cattle business whether the operation is pasture-or range-based. The amount of flexibility afforded by hay enables the operator to make more rational decisions in times of climatic stress. And, by insisting on factual information on weight and quality, we can eliminate the age-old question of, “Hay, what's in that bale?”

SLS

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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS FEEDER STEERS-2012								
ANIMALS	SEXES	# of Animals	Marbling	Carcass Weight	Back Fat	REA	EPH	Field Grade
ALCANTARA	MALE	6	415	799	0.17	12.7	1.8	2.1
BURNHAMMER PTYS.	FEMALE	6	402	730	0.46	11.8	1	2.3
CONANT COUNTRY INC.	MALE	7	399	716	0.16	12.7	1.8	2.1
COMFORT MEATS INC.	FEMALE	7	409	772	0.4	12.8	1	2.4
FRICK SPECIALTY	MALE	8	415	757	0.45	12.8	1	2.6
GARRETT	FEMALE	8	343	711	0.55	11	2.2	2.8
HOLOMAN	MALE	10	356	710	0.16	12.5	1	2.3
LOC NEW STANDARD	FEMALE	9	419	738	0.15	12.7	1.8	2.1
LOC NEW STANDARD	MALE	8	384	748	0.46	12.8	1.8	2.6
LOC NEW STANDARD	FEMALE	11	376	717	0.45	12.3	1	2.5
LOC NEW STANDARD	MALE	4	415	750	0.42	12.2	1	2.1
LOC NEW STANDARD	FEMALE	14	384	715	0.19	12.3	1.8	2.5
LOC NEW STANDARD	MALE	5	356	715	0.4	12.4	1	2.4
MEANS	Total: 501	415	713	0.43	12.4	1	2.6	
ANIMALS	SEXES	# of Animals	Marbling	Carcass Weight	Back Fat	REA	EPH	Field Grade
LOC NEW STANDARD	FEMALE	7	399	757	0.17	13.1	1.8	2.1
LOC NEW STANDARD	MALE	1	345	745	0.45	13.9	1	2
MEANS	Total: 18	371	730	0.38	13.3	1.8	1.9	2



Pine Ridge Ranch Graham Feedlot 6-14-2011											
Tag	ASA Number	Carcass Wt. lbs.	Pre-emptory Yield Grade	Fat Thickness	REA	% RPH	Field Grade	Maturity	Marbling Score	Marbling Grade	Final Quality Grade
2824	2,552,982	714.0	2.9	0.56	13.9	2.5	2.4	A	504-50	480	Choice-1.5
2324	2,552,975	875.0	3.0	0.40	14.5	3.5	2.9	A	504-50	480	Choice-2.0
2818	2,552,978	660.3	3.6	0.64	15.1	3.6	3.4	A	504-50	465	Choice-2.0
2304	2,552,973	825.0	3.0	0.40	15.1	2.5	2.3	A	504-50	480	Choice-1.5
2318	2,552,976	846.3	2.8	0.32	15.6	1.5	1.8	A	504-50	480	Choice-2.0
2818	2,552,985	786.3	3.4	0.56	15.4	3.5	3.3	A	504-50	420	Choice-2.0
2714	2,552,980	885.0	3.1	0.44	14.1	2.0	2.9	A	504-50	440	Choice-2.0
2808	2,552,988	660.0	2.9	0.36	15.4	2.5	1.5	A	504-50	390	Choice-1.5
2318	2,552,991	786.0						A	CHOICE		N/A
2804	2,552,987	781.3	3.0	0.40	15.1	2.0	2.0	A	504-50	430	Choice-2.0
2718	2,552,970	881.0	1.2	0.48	16.5	2.0	2.3	A	504-50	480	Choice-2.0
2818	2,552,989	866.3	2.9	0.56	15.9	2.0	2.3	A	504-50	480	Choice-2.0
2304	2,552,972	895.0	3.0	0.40	15.5	3.5	2.3	A	504-50	440	Choice-1.5
2418	2,552,977	770.3	2.8	0.32	14.7	2.5	2.0	A	504-50	430	Choice-2.0
2804	2,552,979	765.0	3.4	0.56	15.9	3.0	3.4	A	504-50	450	Choice-2.5
2318	2,552,971	796.0	3.2	0.48	16.7	2.5	1.9	A	504-50	450	Choice-2.0
2818	2,552,984	768.0	3.0	0.40	18.3	2.0	2.3	A	504-50	430	Choice-2.0
2818	2,552,983	775.0	2.9	0.56	14.9	2.0	2.0	A	504-50	480	Choice-1.5
2818	2,552,981	811.3	2.8	0.32	17.1	2.5	1.4	A	504-50	390	Choice-2.0
2318	2,552,986	755.0	3.1	0.44	15.5	2.0	2.5	A	504-50	420	Choice-1.5
2804	2,552,990	750.0	3.5	0.60	14.3	2.0	2.8	A	504-50	420	Choice-1.5
2804	2,552,981	784.3	3.0	0.40	15.8	2.5	1.9	A	504-50	430	Choice-2.0
2318	2,552,991	780.0	2.8	0.32	18.7	2.0	1.8	A	504-50	430	Choice-2.5
Average		808.4	3.1	0.4	14.9	2.4	2.3	A	504-50	443.2	Choice-1.9

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Pine Ridge Ranch has developed hot weather genetics with a quality carcass.

“All breeds of cattle are capable of marbling and producing tender beef.... We have measured and tested for 35 years..... And bred to the “good” ones to achieve our quality market product.

Packer's data, ultrasound, DNA and EPD's have all been tools relied on to achieve these results.”

Pine Ridge Ranch, Graham Feedlot 11/18/2013											
Tag	ASA Number	LIVE WT	SALE WT	Carcass Wt. lbs.	FAT	REA	NPH	SMAT	LMAT	MMAT	Marbling Score
3162	2,826,988	1520	1459	845	0.40	12.8	2.5	150	150	150	640
9662	2,826,913	1343	1289	835	0.45	14.9	3.5	170	160	165	680
9662	2,826,922	1528	1467	850	0.80	16.5	3.0	160	150	155	600
9662	2,826,914	1368	1314	851	0.35	14.4	2.0	150	160	165	680
9662	2,826,919	1450	1382	802	0.55	16.0	3.0	170	160	165	640
1062	2,826,412	1500	1440	933	0.60	15.7	3.5	190	150	150	660
342	2,826,906	1407	1399	908	0.35	15.5	3.0	190	150	150	734
9672	2,826,916	1476	1417	918	0.30	15.4	3.0	160	150	155	640
9642	2,826,921	1434	1377	892	0.35	16.0	2.5	160	160	160	640
9662	2,826,915	1425	1368	860	0.30	16.4	3.5	160	150	155	660
712	2,826,375	1438	1390	894	0.40	17.4	3.0	160	160	160	620
1062	2,826,378	1406	1428	924	0.40	15.8	3.5	160	160	160	753
412	2,826,916	1448	1398	898	0.30	15.3	2.0	160	160	160	620
9662	2,826,917	1425	1368	860	0.20	15.6	3.5	160	160	160	640
9662	2,826,918	1509	1477	957	0.80	15.8	3.0	160	160	160	680
9912	2,826,920	1507	1446	937	0.40	18.0	4.0	190	150	150	753
2005	2,830,845	1573	1509	978	0.45	18.7	3.0	170	170	170	680
9402	2,826,910	1008	1025	664	0.20	11.0	2.0	190	150	150	660
Average		1439	1382	895	0.42	15.8	3.0	161	155	157	657

Tag	ASA Number	LIVE WT	SALE WT	Carcass Wt. lbs.	FAT	REA	NPH	SMAT	LMAT	MMAT	Marbling Score
3162	2,826,988	1520	1459	845	0.40	12.8	2.5	150	150	150	640
9662	2,826,913	1343	1289	835	0.45	14.9	3.5	170	160	165	680
9662	2,826,922	1528	1467	850	0.80	16.5	3.0	160	150	155	600
9662	2,826,914	1368	1314	851	0.35	14.4	2.0	150	160	165	680
9662	2,826,919	1450	1382	802	0.55	16.0	3.0	170	160	165	640
1062	2,826,412	1500	1440	933	0.60	15.7	3.5	190	150	150	660
342	2,826,906	1407	1399	908	0.35	15.5	3.0	190	150	150	734
9672	2,826,916	1476	1417	918	0.30	15.4	3.0	160	150	155	640
9642	2,826,921	1434	1377	892	0.35	16.0	2.5	160	160	160	640
9662	2,826,915	1425	1368	860	0.30	16.4	3.5	160	150	155	660
712	2,826,375	1438	1390	894	0.40	17.4	3.0	160	160	160	620
1062	2,826,378	1406	1428	924	0.40	15.8	3.5	160	160	160	753
412	2,826,916	1448	1398	898	0.30	15.3	2.0	160	160	160	620
9662	2,826,917	1425	1368	860	0.20	15.6	3.5	160	160	160	640
9662	2,826,918	1509	1477	957	0.80	15.8	3.0	160	160	160	680
9912	2,826,920	1507	1446	937	0.40	18.0	4.0	190	150	150	753
2005	2,830,845	1573	1509	978	0.45	18.7	3.0	170	170	170	680
9402	2,826,910	1008	1025	664	0.20	11.0	2.0	190	150	150	660
Average		1439	1382	895	0.42	15.8	3.0	161	155	157	657

Pine Ridge Ranch, Graham Feedlot 11/18/2013																					
TAG	ASA	Number	LIVE	WT	SALE	WT	Carcass	FAT	REA	NPH	SMAT	LMAT	MMAT	Marbling	QG	USDA	USDA	YQ			
Number														Score		QG	USDA	YQ			
3162	2,826,908	1520	1459	845	0.40	12.8	2.5	150	150	150	150	150	150	640	780	CH	CH	3.0			
9662	2,826,913	1343	1289	835	0.45	14.9	3.5	170	160	165	165	160	165	680	793	PR	PR	3.0			
9662	2,826,922	1528	1467	850	0.80	16.5	3.0	160	150	155	155	160	160	600	767	CH	CH	3.0			
9562	2,826,914	1368	1314	851	0.35	14.4	2.0	150	160	165	165	160	165	480	727	CH	CH	3.0			
9662	2,826,919	1450	1382	802	0.55	16.0	3.0	170	160	165	165	160	165	640	747	CH	CH	3.0			
1062	2,826,412	1500	1440	933	0.60	15.7	3.5	190	150	150	150	150	150	660	753	CH	CH	3.0			
342	2,826,906	1407	1399	808	0.35	15.5	3.0	160	150	160	160	160	160	500	724	CH	CH	2.0			
9672	2,826,916	1476	1417	918	0.30	15.4	3.0	160	150	155	155	160	160	540	747	CH	CH	2.0			
9662	2,826,921	1434	1377	882	0.30	16.0	2.5	160	160	160	160	160	160	440	713	CH	CH	2.0			
9662	2,826,915	1425	1368	860	0.30	16.4	3.5	160	150	155	155	160	160	560	753	CH	CH	3.0			
712	2,826,375	1438	1380	864	0.50	17.4	3.0	160	160	160	160	160	160	520	740	CH	CH	2.0			
1062	2,826,379	1498	1426	924	0.40	15.8	3.5	160	160	160	160	160	160	560	753	CH	CH	3.0			
9672	2,826,916	1446	1388	869	0.30	15.3	2.0	160	160	160	160	160	160	520	740	CH	CH	2.0			
432	2,826,969	1307	1312	850	0.20	15.6	3.5	160	160	160	160	160	160	540	747	CH	CH	2.0			
9662	2,826,917	1425	1368	860	0.30	16.3	3.0	150	140	145	145	140	145	740	813	PR	PR	1.0			
9662	2,826,919	1509	1477	967	0.80	15.8	3.0	160	160	160	160	160	160	680	793	PR	PR	3.0			
9912	2,826,920	1507	1446	937	0.40	18.0	4.0	150	150	150	150	150	150	990	753	SE	SE	2.0			
2895	2,830,845	1573	1539	978	0.45	18.7	3.0	170	170	170	170	170	170	580	760	CH	CH	2.0			
9402	2,826,910	1008	1025	664	0.20	11.0	2.0	150	150	150	150	150	150	350	650	CH	CH	2.0			
Average		1439	1382	895	0.43	15.8	3.8	168	165	167	167	167	167	657	751			2.4			

Diagnosing the failure to breed

By Travis Meteer, extension educator

Open cows are simply a 100% pregnancy rate is fact of the cattle business. simply not cost effective, Managing to achieve a nor should it be your goal.

Having a few open cows every year implies some selection pressure is being put on fertility and animals best-fit for your environment. However, if the number of open cows is excessive (greater than 5%), evaluation of management, nutrition and herd health needs to take place.

“Research illustrates a strong link between body condition score of cows and their ability to breed back”

Research illustrates a strong link between body condition score (BCS) of cows and their ability to breed back. Numerous studies (Selk et al., 1988; Pruitt & Momont, 1990; Houghton et al., 1990) have shown that BCS plays a role in subsequent pregnancy rates. Cows in better condition (BCS >5) have a greater probability of breeding early and a greater chance at becoming pregnant and staying preg-

nant. Thin cows at calving generally do not breed up well. Remember back to calving... were cows thin? This may be the cause of poorer preg-check results and signal to you to increase nutrition, ensuring better cow BCS.

Nutritional plane or the weight gain pattern of females may also be the culprit. Cattle losing weight often do not get pregnant or stay pregnant. Dairy cattle have battled negative energy balance and the subsequent effects on conception rate for years. It makes sense...if your cattle cannot support weight gain or maintenance then why should they support pregnancy? Thus, if cattle were losing weight at time of breeding, then likely they would not conceive in high percentages. Research conducted at the Orr Research Center looked into the effect of supplementing lush, spring pastures. The wet, high protein grass may cause nutritional challenges to high producing

beef cows. Our research showed a numerical benefit of a 4 lb./hd/d supplement on AI conception rates. In summary, preparing cattle to gain weight, or certainly not lose it, during breeding season could benefit your preg rates.

Many producers are forced to haul cows to different pastures. Transporting cows can result in stress that can effect conception. The rule is not to haul cows 4 to 45 days after breeding. This coincides with embryo implantation, a sensitive time when trying to get a cow pregnant. That leaves a couple options. Many cattlemen have gone to timed AI and haul cows to pasture within 3-4 days of breeding. Others may breed and graze pastures for some time before hauling a group to another pasture. Be aware transportation stress may play a role in conception and pregnancy rates.

Drought and high feed costs have enticed producers to feed some questionable feeds in recent years. Feeds containing mycotoxins such as aflatoxin, fusarium, zeralenone, etc. can be responsible for abortion in

a cow if levels are too high. Testing high risk feeds is a must. Eliminating the feed from the ration or addition of a toxin binder may be necessary.

Compromised herd health is many times worthy of investigation. Your veterinarian will have the best ability to diagnose herd health issues. Visual appraisal as well as blood work is usually needed to determine what disease may be causing failure of cattle to breed and hold a pregnancy. Some common diseases that can result in abortion or failed breeding are Anaplasmosis, Bovine Respiratory Disease (BRD), Leptospirosis, Leukosis, and Neospora. Consult your veterinarian for more information on the possibility of these diseases being the culprit of a poor preg-check.

Bred cows are valuable property right now. As cattlemen see economic signals to expand the cowherd, breeding stock and calf prices will continue to remain strong. Proper health and nutrition that leads to desired pregnancy results is a must for cattlemen looking to take advantage of this market.

We're Your SOURCE



Congratulations to Haydon Verrett, who won the American Junior Simbrah Roundup Reserve Division I honors with LSF Cre Carmine, a Mr. Creamy daughter. Creamy is one of our lead sires and has strong EPD rankings as he is ranked in the top 1% of the breed for API and TI. He's a three-quarter son of Dream On and carries LMC Johnnie Walker breeding maternally.

If you need cattle, consider us your source as we raise cattle for the commercial and registered producer. We have bulls, replacement females, and show heifers for sale and we'd love to talk to you about our involvement in Simgenetics.

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Burch Whitney 100C

Sired by Smith Xtra Stretch, which is a Sargeant x Smith Bella Bella. She is bred to Smith McCrary Action, who is a Sargeant out of a Charismatic bred female. The resulting calf will have a double shot of Sargeant!



Burch Morning Glory 104C

Another Smith Xtra Stretch daughter that will sell open. She brings some powerful rankings to the sale ring with her as she is in the top 15% of the breed for API and 10% for TI.



Burch Lucky Lady 106C

A daughter of the great Smith Satisfies, who has dominated sale and show rings, as well as performance arenas! She is ranked in the top 10% of the breed for API and 15% for TI. She is polled and sells open.

We will be offering these females in the upcoming Synergy Sale and they represent our breeding program and our commitment to quality!

Look 'em over and we look forward to seeing you at



**9.24.16
Smith Genetics
Giddings, Texas
4 p.m.**



Burch Wynona 120C

Another daughter of the great Satisfies, who himself ranks in the top 2% and 1% for API and TI, respectively. 120C carries a lot of muscle and sells open.



Burch Reba 105C

This gal brings top 1% EPD rankings for API and TI to the sale and this is your opportunity to add a powerhouse to your program. She's by Satisfies and carries Charismatic breeding maternally. Sells open.

BURCH FARMS

Rickey Burch Family • P.O. Box 755
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We've Picked Out Our Best

This is our first year to be part of the Simbrah Synergy and we've selected 10 lots that represent our best and our many years of involvement in the breed!

We invite you to look at the five lots we've pictured. They are all sired by Smith Unrivaled, a Smith Satisfies x Smith Bella Bella. Study the catalog in early September for the 2016 offering.



**9.24.16
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Lot 29-Barth's Lila Refined- A 3/4 Simmental x 1/4 Brahman. Sired by Smith Unrivaled and out of a Smith Matt N Black bred female. Ranks in top 1% of breed for API and TI. Sells pasture exposed to Smith BSF Watch Me.



Lot 30-Barth's Expression 101B-A 3/4 Simmental x 1/4 Brahman. Sired by Smith Unrivaled and out of a Smith McCrary Andy Black bred dam. Ranks in top 1% of breed for API and TI. Sells pasture exposed to Smith BSF Watch Me.



Lot 32-Barth's Grace N Black- Also a 3/4 Simmental x 1/4 Brahman. Sired by Smith Unrivaled and out of a Smith McCrary Andy Black bred dam. Ranks in top 1% of breed for API and TI. She sells open.



Lot 33-Barth's New Tamara-A purebred Smith Unrivaled daughter with Smith Nu Wave II breeding on the maternal side. Ranks in the top 2% of the breed for API and 1% for TI. Sells open.



Lot 34-Barth's Red Ladybug-A purebred Smith Unrivaled daughter with Smith RFI Trouble Maker on the bottom side of the pedigree. She has rankings of 20% for API and 15% for TI. She sells open.

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BARTH FAMILY

Dr. Robert Barth • P.O. Box 589 • Cuero, Texas 77954
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Ideas on converting to a controlled breeding season

By Dr. Les Anderson, Extension Beef Specialist, University of Kentucky

Maintaining a controlled breeding and calving season can be one of the most important management tools for cow-calf producers. A uniform,

Understanding cattle hormones

By Dr. Justin Rhinehart, University of Tennessee Beef Cattle Extension

The word "hormone" brings different things to mind for different people. Beef consumers might think about advertising they saw on social media while producers might think about how their cattle turn their genetics into phenotype. Some folks immediately think about growth-promotant implants while others think about estrus synchronization protocols.

This article will focus more on the basic nature of hormones, with a few examples, rather than discussing label claims or misperceptions in the marketplace. Leaving aside opinions, it is important to know what the word means on a factual and scientific basis. Knowing that might lead to a better understanding of what hormones

do and how they relate to profitability for producers as well as affordability and safety for consumers.

The basics

There are two ways animals send messages through their bodies. One is through nerves - think of the nervous system as a hard-wire telephone system where the brain can talk to other parts of the body. The other way an animal's body communicates with itself is by sending chemical (hormone) messages - think of hormones like letters sent through the postal system where one part of the body can send a letter to another part telling it to do, or stop doing, something. Hormones are nothing to be scared of, all living organisms make them and they are essential for life.

Two types of hormones get the most attention for cattle management; steroid hormones and protein or peptide hormones. This is the point where discussing hormones could quickly become complicated. But, for the purpose of grasping how cattle produce and use hormones, just realize that steroid hormones move through the body easily and go directly to where they act (where the signal is being sent). Protein hormones take a little longer to move around and do not go directly to where the message is being sent.

How does this relate to cattle production?

Examples of steroid hormones are progesterone, testosterone and estrogen. These are all related primarily to repro-

(Continued on page 14)

heavier, and more valuable calf crop is one key reason for keeping the breeding season short. Plus, more efficient cow supplementation and cow herd health programs are products of a short breeding season. However, converting from a year-long breeding season to a shortened 2 to 3 month breeding season should not be done haphazardly.

A system for converting from year-round to a 75-day controlled calving season over a period of two years would present less loss and fewer problems than to try to convert in one year. The following steps are suggested for getting on a controlled breeding system:

1. Determine the ideal time of year and the length of your new calving season. For example, my cows will calve from February 15th to April 30th (74 days).

2. Determine the reproductive status of each cow in your herd. First, go to your record book to determine the last date each cow calved. If you don't keep records, try to match the cows and calves up and

estimate their age. For example, let's assume we have 30 cows.

Calving dates from fall '08 to spring '09 are as follows:

- Last August '08 = 0 cows calved,
- September = 2 calved,
- October = 2 calved,
- November = 1 calved,
- December = 0 calved,
- January = 0 calved,
- February = 3 calved,
- March = 9 calved,
- April = 5 calved,
- May = 5 calved,
- June = 2 calved,
- July = 1 just calved.

• Keep in mind that the 5 cows that calved in the fall are likely pregnant.

3. Based upon the reproductive status of your herd, determine if you would like one, controlled calving season or two. In our example, 5 cows calving in the fall are likely not worth the hassle so they will be held over and should NOT be exposed to a bull until next spring. If, however, half of your herd calved July-December, it is a better economic decision to make these your fall-calving cows and the ones that calve from January-

June your spring-calving cows.

4. Build a good, strong bull pen or well-fenced bull pasture. An electric fence in addition to the regular fence may be needed.

5. Remove your bull(s) from the herd. Select the removal date to coincide with about a 120 day season for your spring-calving cows. In our example, we would remove the bull(s) near the end of August. He would stay in the bull pen until May 7th of next year.

6. Sixty days after removing the bulls from the herd (or at a convenient time near this date), pregnancy check all cows and cull all non-pregnant dry, breeding-age females that have been running with the bull and all non-pregnant cows with calves 5 months of age or older. Your fall-calving cows have likely either calved or are very close to calving.

7. You may want to consider starting the breeding season of your replacement heifers 20 to 30 days ahead of the final breeding date for your herd. Most

(Continued on page 13)



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The Simbrah bulls offered by Brush Country Bull Group are bred to work in a variety of breeding programs. In our Simbrah and SimAngus HT, both red and black Angus are used to add carcass and convenience traits to complement the maternal and growth traits of Simmental and the heat and insect tolerance of Brahman. Our bulls are bred and developed to add value to any program, both seedstock and commercial. Information on our current offerings are on both of our websites. Bulls and replacement heifers, both bred and open are offered by private treaty.



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CAPITALIZE ON OUR EXPERIENCE

For more than 30 years our family has been raising Simbrah cattle. We are in the seedstock and commercial segments of the industry and we know that profitability is the most important component. Simbrahs offer a lot of traits that contribute to an operation's bottom line!

If you are looking for herd bulls, range bulls, registered or commercial replacement females, then look to us! We have cattle that will work for you and we know that first hand, because they've been working for us for more than three decades.

We will be marketing some of our purebred Simbrahs in the upcoming Synergy Sale and invite you to join us!



We are selling these three heifers in the Simbrah Synergy Sale. They are all sired by Smith Burch Marshall 16Z, who ranks in the top 1% of the breed for API and 2% for TI. All sell open and eligible for the Synergy Showcase and Superbowl.



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Description of a Simbrah

From the American Simmental Association website

Simbrah is a composite breed. Animals containing 5/8 Simmental blood and 3/8 Brahman or Zebu blood are designated as purebred. A sixteenth of other breeds is allowed making it easy to incorporate traits, such as polled or other characteristics, for specific purposes into the purebred.

The flexibility of the “floating sixteenth” also allows for a slight shift in the amount of Simmental and Brahman in the purebred. This enables Simbrah to better adapt to the different environmental conditions in which they are produced. Within this wide genetic pool, the purebred Simbrah breeder can perfect his own type. This standard is not intended to limit the imagination or goals of individual breeders, but is only a guide that has been put together by established breeders to help new

breeders, judges, and others to better define the breed called Simbrah.

The Simbrah has been described as the “All Purpose American Breed”, meaning that it is not only an outstanding choice for maternal and survival characteristics in a hot environment, but it produces a modern, lean, high-quality beef product.

Size

Simbrah is a moderate to large breed with most cows in the range of 1,100-1,500 pounds and bulls in the range of 1,800-2,500 pounds.

Color

Simbrah cattle are widely available in both red and black color, so that cattlemen can choose accordingly for their program needs.

Hair type

Fine, sleek hair is desirable in the summer for its ability to reflect the sun's heat rays. The red color is



also good in this regard. Most Simbrah grow enough hair in winter to thrive up into the central plains of the U.S.

Skin

Simbrah animals usually have more loose skin, in the dewlap and navel area, than Simmentals. This added surface area, in the dewlap, is part of the adaptability to hot climate inherited from the Brahman.

Pendulous sheaths and “lazy prepuce” should be avoided with the sheath not hanging lower than the knees and with a preferred forward angle. Some Simbrah animals are as clean as any Simmental in their underline. The rationale for this is that a pendulous sheath can easily become damaged and the bull can become nonfunctional.

Conformation

The Simbrah is a beef animal and, as such, shows evidence of muscling. Bulls are much more muscular than females. No hump (or very little) is present, but bulls do have a noticeable crest. The topline is long, strong, and muscular, but some slope from hooks to pins is common.

The rump should be long with thickness of mus-

cle evident down into the stifle area. The body should have a large capacity with very good spring to the ribs and adequate depth in both flank and heart-girth. Shoulders should be sloping and neatly laid into the body to help prevent calving difficulty. Legs and feet should be very sound with some angle to the hocks and pasterns allowing for a

(Continued on page 13)

WE HAVE PRIORITIES



Lot 1 MS Cassie Rose A302-A daughter of RSUN Cowboy Casanova. She sells safe in calf to Smith McCrary Fireball.



Lot 2-MCR Esmeralda Fire C422-This purebred heifer brings Filegonia Cattle Co breeding on the topside and she will sell bred to a Full Fleck Simmental.



Lot 3-WJF Light My Fire C424 a Smith Nu Approach sired purebred female that will sell bred to a full Fleck Simmental bull.



Lot 4-MCR Ms Guinevere C430 brings a lot of great traits to the sale ring and is sired by RX Blaze Shiraz. She will sell safe in calf to MCR Suave, our LMC RFI Smith Red Bullet son.

It is our belief that nothing has a bigger influence on your bottom line than fertility, as no calf, no profit. Next biggest influence is performance--more pounds and more money per pound. That is why we produce replacement heifers that are fertile and have the capability to produce pounds.

We have four heifers selling in the Simbrah Synergy that will showcase our priorities and be the kind that perform for your program.

We hope you will join us September 24th at Smith Genetics, Giddings, Texas for the sale and be sure to evaluate our females.

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Bowman joins American Simmental Association

BOZEMAN, Montana - Luke Bowman has recently joined the American Simmental Association (ASA) as Director of Commercial and Industry

Relations. In this position, Bowman will play a major role in furthering ASA's vision, a vision centered on increasing beef industry profitability via science and

technology. Bowman will be based out of his home in Greens Fork, Indiana.

"I have been impressed with Luke Bowman from the first time we met. Though relatively young by beef industry standards, Luke has quickly become one of our industry's most staunch and vocal champions for leveraging science in cattle breeding. Given his extraordinary ability to communicate that philosophy to producers, Luke is tailor made to help ASA advance our vision", said Dr. Wade Shafer, ASA executive vice president. "The many talents Luke brings to bear will significantly complement our already powerful team".

Bowman comes to the ASA following five years as the Beef Public Relation and Communications Coordinator at Select Sires, Inc. In his previous role, he managed the modernization and promotion of the beef program at Select Sires while also directing outreach and image to beef producers around the world. He spent much of his time working side by

side with the national sales force in assisting them in the growth of their business. During his short tenure at Select Sires, Luke helped the company achieve five consecutive years of record sales, where Select Sires enjoyed considerable gains in NAAB market share.

"I feel like I have arrived to the proper place for my career in beef cattle genetics. There is absolutely no other breed association that is more scientifically driven, and I know of no other genetic evaluation institution with more integrity than the ASA. I am excited to work with a group of leaders and independent thinkers in order to assist in making the modern cattleman more profitable," said Bowman.

"I have long admired the team that Dr. Shafer has assembled, and the investments that the ASA Board of Trustees have pursued. Progress is the name of the game in today's beef industry. There is not a more progressive cattle association than the ASA. I am hon-

ored to be part of the ASA family."

A graduate from Purdue University, Luke holds a degree in agricultural education. He and his father raise Shorthorn, Angus and SimAngus™ cattle where their focus is commercially oriented purebred and composite females for the Midwestern cornbelt. He and his wife, Betsy, are the parents of Oscar and Georgia Bowman, both under the age of 3 years old.

SLS



Luke Bowman

Description...

(Continued from page 12)

long, easy stride and cushioning of impact. Hooves should be relatively large in proportion to body size and have two claws of equal size and shape. Feet should be straight, allowing the animal's weight to be carried evenly. Bulls should have well-developed secondary sexual characteristics with large scrotal circumference at sexual maturity. Yearling scrotal circumference has been shown to be associated with early puberty and high fertility in daughters as well as good fertility in bulls. Cows and heifers should appear feminine, with well developed and strongly attached udders and small, evenly spaced teats.

Maturity and longevity

The earlier maturity of the Simmental is desirable

in the Simbrah with animals able to breed by 14-15 months of age and produce progeny by age two. The longevity of the Brahman is advantageous, with many cows able to remain in efficient production to age 15 or older.

Temperament

Simbrah animals are alert and cows are protective of their calves. They should be tractable and able to be worked easily in groups. Animals with dangerous or difficult dispositions should be culled.

Polled or horned

Polled Simbrah are popular and becoming more numerous. The polled gene can come from any polled foundation animal or from either Simmental or Brahman, or both. An additional gene called the African Horn Gene must be considered in breeding polled Simbrah.

Ideas...

(Continued from page 11)




extended calving seasons are the result of failure of young cows to rebreed in a timely fashion. The additional 20-30 days enhances the opportunity for these young cows to rebreed next season. So, your replacement heifer breeding season would start around April 10th and these females would begin calving around January 20th. I realize that this is a bit early for calving and you might

experience 1-2% higher calf death loss. Financially, 1-2% death loss is easier to swallow than a 25% decrease in pregnancy rate the following year.

8. The second year, follow the same system as outlined except remove the bull on the week of July 20th. If you have fall and spring calvers, then put the bull in for the fall cows around November 20th and remove him around January 20th.


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



We will be selling cattle in Simbrah Synergy, September 24.

We encourage you to visit our website and view the catalog and links to the videos between now and sale day. We have several lots in the sale and we've dug deep into our herd to offer our best. Our lineup includes a solid set of bred females, a pair and some fancy show prospects! We think you will be impressed and we are confident that our Simbrahs will work for you!

This pair sells as Lot 52.
Cow is sired by Aliso W Red and heifer calf is by Smith Detonator.



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For more information or sale catalogs contact:

Smith TMP Golden Mist 1443C
Sired by Stout N Black and tracing back to the Golden Glory family. She's a percentage Simbrah female that is very complete.

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Sired by Sargeant and representing the Golden Glory family. She's a percentage Simbrah female that is very complete.

Smith TMP Fiery Sis 943D
Sired by Smith Fireball and she is a member of the Smith Bella Bella Cow Family. She's got a captivating profile to match that impressive pedigree.

Hormones...

(Continued from page 11)

duction but also play many other roles in cattle. They are mostly produced by the ovaries in heifers and cows and testicles in bulls. They all start out as cholesterol and are turned into these specific steroids by tissues in the sex glands. In addition to controlling reproduction (the estrous cycle and sperm production), they are also important for muscle growth and fat deposition.

The most common use of steroids as a management tool is growth promotant implants. These implants, when placed under the skin on the back of the ear, slowly release a small amount of steroid into the blood stream. The additional steroids are either the same or very similar to the steroid naturally made by the calf itself. They are used in very small amounts and, while they can be measured in the blood or meat, are used in concentrations at a fraction of what cattle normally produce themselves.

Another example of using steroids for managing cattle is estrous synchro-

nization – managing the estrous cycle so that heifers or cows come into heat at roughly the same time. This makes artificial insemination more effective and reduces the length of the breeding season for natural service (bull mating). Pro-

gestosterone, a steroid hormone naturally made by a cow or heifer's ovary, can be applied through a vaginal insert to keep cows from coming into standing heat until a specific time.

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Selling in Synergy

We're proud to be offering these three lots in partnership with Smith Genetics in the upcoming Synergy Sale, Sept. 24th. All three can be shown and should be shown. They are eligible for Synergy Showcase, MAS Showdown and Superbowl.



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Cattle will be available for viewing sale day at JHC Ranch's Buckholts, Texas location.

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Jim Carter 254/697-1078 jheranch@sbcglobal.net
Robert Piper 830/305-4550 4pranch@gmail.com
Lou Langford 214/801-2966 louis@commhard.com

Major role...

(Continued from page 5)

questions about Simbrah and find that people have a lot of misconceptions about the breed. They are surprised at how great the genetics are and it gives us an opportunity to talk about what we are doing at MSU and how Simbrah fits in our program and region. Our plan is to offer some of the bred SimAngus HT heifers eventually, but right now we are keeping all of

them that meet our criteria to increase our numbers. So far, we have kept every heifer as they have been that good."

The MSU Beef Unit includes 605 acres on the south side of the campus on land that is used for cattle. The grazing for the cattle is mostly Bermuda grass based, but they also have some fescue pastures, which is another reason Simbrah was added, as they are resistant to fescue toxicity.

A four-lane highway is currently being built through the edge of the farm, which will increase visibility to folks travelling through Starkville. This fall, MSU is set to have 370 students enrolled in its undergraduate animal science program. The MSU cattle program is first and foremost a classroom, but it is also giving the Simbrah breed a platform to perform and gain market share in commercial herds across the southeast.

SLS

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- September 17-HOTSSA/ETSSA Online Sale
- September 19-21-Alamo City Simbrah Online Sale
- September 23-25-Simbrah Synergy IX, Giddings, Texas
- October 1-La Muneca's 29th Annual Junior Roundup & Futurity, Linn, Texas
- October 15-Pan Am Simbrah Show, State Fair of Texas, Dallas, Texas
- October 16-State Fair of Texas Junior Simbrah Show, Dallas, Texas
- November 19-Two Fast Nickels Private Treaty Bull Sale, Mineola, Texas
- November 19-21 La Muneca and Friends GIVING THANKS Online Sale III
- December 2-Tom Brothers Ranch Private Treaty Bid Off Bull Sale, Campbellton, Texas

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BARTH'S NEW TAMARA This purebred Simbrah combines the bloodlines of Satisfies, Bella Bella, and Nu Wave II. She has a ranking of top 1% in the breed for API and TI. Sells open.



SMITH FARMS KISS ME A percentage Simbrah, bred to deliver a Simmental calf by Yardley Red Hawk. This female has Dream On and Charismatic in her pedigree. She ranks in the top 1% of the breed for API and TI.



RFI YU KNOW IT This offering is loaded with top bred females and this one combines Hide N Seek, Spectrum and Sargeant breeding into a very functional package.



7N SWFS 'EM SPECIAL 576C A fancy open heifer with a powerful genetic lineup of Real Deal on the top side and Sargeant on the bottom side. Sells open.



SMITH MCCRARY ROSE 21C Another fancy show prospect sells and she brings the proven lines of Red Ammo and Inspired. She has lots of look, style and substance.



MS CASSIE ROSE A302 This is a very functional, purebred heifer selling in the sale. She sells bred to Smith McCrary Fireball, one of the most exciting sires in the breed.



RFI FOXY LADY 548C A balanced purebred Sargeant daughter that sells bred to Stout N Black to produce a percentage Simbrah.



RFI ALSO VIBRANT 275Z What an opportunity to add this purebred pair to your program. An Also N Red daughter, with a fancy heifer calf by Smith Detonator.



SMITH BURCH CHEERFUL 643D A percentage Simbrah sired by Devil's Cut and is an own daughter of Golden Glory. Qualifies for Superbowl, Synergy and MAS Shows, as well as ARB shows at majors.



SMITH SPECIAL ROSE 43D A fancy, open purebred heifer that is loaded with femininity and extension. She brings a top 2% for API and top 10% for TI with that look.



SMITH HANNA N BLACK This outstanding Simmental pair sells. The cow combines Heat Wave and Red Dash breeding. The bull calf at side is an outcross as he is sired by CCR Wide Range. Opportunities abound with this lot.



SMITH READY 2 WIN A pre-sale favorite. Half interest and possession sell in this Real Deal daughter. She is bred to Smith Satisfies for some of the most powerful genetics in the Simbrah breed.



SMITH CADILLAC Again a lot of bred females in this sale—this one combines Ronen and Nu Wave II breeding, while bred to Smith Possibilities, the 2016 National Champion Percentage Bull, who is a Steel Force son out of Gao Bella, an International Champion.



TRIPLE P RHILEY A flush sells in this maternal sister to Juliet. The Juliet Cow Family already has two International Champions to its credit.



MCCRARY SMITH INSPIRED A semen package of 20 units sells in this three-quarter bull. He's a son of Smith McCrary Andy Black and ranks in the top 1% of the breed for API and top 2% for TI.



BURCH PURE CLASS 112Z A purebred Simbrah female sired by one of the top EPD bulls in the breed, Smith Isgrig Charismatic and bred to Devil's Cut for a percentage Simbrah baby.

Join us for the sale on 9.24.16 and \$15,000 Synergy Showcase on 9.25.16.

This offering has cattle of every category and Synergy is your connection to high quality, herd improving genetics.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE SYNERGY SALE,
CONTACT TIM SMITH, 512-587-7896, smithgenetics1@gmail.com

FOLLOW US ON AND #synergy16
OR VIEW THE SYNERGY TAB AT WWW.SMITHGENETICS.COM

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