



**November 2023**

### ***Fall Harvest Sale Results***

The 2023 Fall Harvest Sale sponsored by the Missouri Simmental Association was held on November 4th at the Springfield Livestock Marketing Center. Over 100 people attended and over 80 buyers bidding online through the DVAuction broadcast. We'd like to give a big thank you to all our Fall Harvest buyers and 30+ consignors. The cow-calf pairs was the strongest category of the sale – 21 pairs averaging \$3779.

Here are some highlights:

Open Heifer Lot 13 - \$13,000 (consigned by CAT Cattle Co.– Fair Grove, MO)

Open Heifer Lot 4 - \$6,200 (consigned by RS&T Simmentals LLC—Savannah, MO)

Cow Calf Pair Lot 63 - \$5,300 (consigned by Oval F Simmental— St. Joseph, MO)

Bred Cow Lot 51 - \$4,100 (consigned by White Wing Simmentals— Huntington, AR)

Bull Lot 81 - \$4,250 (consigned by Williams Brothers Simmentals– Milan, MO)

Sold cattle to 8 states

At least 6 Juniors purchased females that are eligible for the VitaFerm Heifer Extravaganza in August. We raised an additional \$800 to go towards the premium thanks to Vytelle's donation of IVF services which was purchased by White Wing Simmentals.

Live lot average \$3,277

### ***Missouri Simmental Association Launches Heifer Extravaganza Program***

The MSA kicked-off the Heifer Extravaganza at the recent Fall Harvest Sale. The purpose is to encourage our consignors/members to continue to bring quality cattle to our annual state sales, and to reward the junior members that buy them.

Partnering with VitaFerm, through Missouri Area Sales Manager, Morgan Weinrich, VitaFerm will be the title sponsor of the program by donating \$2000 for premiums.

To be eligible a Junior member must have purchased a female at the Fall Harvest Sale in November or from the MSA's Spring 2024 Online Sale. They must exhibit their purchase at the Missouri State Fair Open Show in August 2024 where they will compete with other Extravaganza entries. The top percentage and purebred female will each win \$500++. Sale consignors of the winning heifers will also receive \$500++.

Note that ongoing fundraising efforts are increasing these premiums. For more information, program updates, or donations, contact Jim Puyear, Rocking P Ranch at 660-537-0174

## ***Missouri Breeder Matt Fischer is a Candidate for the ASA Board of Trustees***

Dear Fellow Missouri Simmental Breeders,

I believe in the future of the Simmental breed and the beef industry.

Oval F Ranch is in northwest Missouri, where we operate a diversified farming and seedstock operation. We currently run approximately seventy registered females and market bulls and females via private treaty. In addition, I have been actively involved in acquisition and sales roles with two A.I. organizations and held various leadership positions in local and state breed and beef organizations. Collectively, these roles have given me insight and understanding of every segment of our business from conception to harvest. Our ranch, like many, is truly a multi-generational family operation. It is a true pleasure getting to work beside my wife, Andrea, two daughters Ella and Kate, and my parents, Don and Marilyn Fischer. I was active in the junior Simmental association in my youth and am proud to say that both of my daughters have actively participated in the junior program as well. There is little doubt the American Junior Simmental Association is the best, most well-rounded youth program in the country. Upholding its excellence and growing its influence would be a key priority of mine as a trustee. The youth are a key component of our breed's and the industry's future.



Our breeding program is straightforward -- our focus has always been on the female. We believe strongly in cow families and producing fertile, functional cows. Our program is a balanced trait approach focused on the economically relevant traits of commercial beef production. Animal breeding is both an art and a science. When your goal is to produce fault free females and maximize profitability you must combine science and common sense, that is why we rely heavily on EPDs, genomics, and data collection through programs like Total Herd Enrollment (THE). Simmental must maintain its focus on the success of commercial cattlemen and having the most robust and impactful genetic evaluation in the industry.

I am proud of the legacy of our family and of the Simmental breed, and I am running for the position of ASA Trustee to play a role in preserving and strengthening that legacy and positioning our breed for a successful future. Our industry is rapidly changing and ever evolving. It is vital that Simmental maintains its leadership position in an environment that poses both great opportunities and some significant challenges going forward. I believe that Simmental will continue to play a vital role in every segment of our business, but to maximize our impact we will have to be aggressive, balancing out of the box thinking with respecting the traditions that have made this breed so strong. After spending my entire life in the seedstock and AI industry, I have learned that those who benefit most from the future are those who work hard to create it. My only campaign promise is that I will work tirelessly on behalf of the membership to help create the environment and the tools for Simmental breeders to succeed. I would greatly appreciate your vote on the ballot due in early December.

Sincerely,

Matt Fischer

## Missouri State Fair and Annual Meeting Activities



### MSA Board of Directors

Barry Holst, President	
Ed Vest, Past President	Kris Callison, Secretary
Bill Graebe	Adam Owen
Jeremy Steele	Wayne Vanderwert
Morgan Hawley	Kara Cloud, Junior Advisor



Amanda Kagarice, President Elect

Devin Sonnenfelt, Treasurer

Joe Garretson

Dexter McIntyre

For the first time this year at the Missouri State Fair the State Breed Associations were offered booth space in the Coliseum. The MSA took advantage of the opportunity by setting up a display and holding a \$500 sale credit drawing. We did the same thing at the Ozark Farm Fest in Springfield.

The drawing was for \$500 in sale credits from 6 different Simmental Breeders.

Lee Simmental Farms, Columbia, MO; Lucas Cattle Co., Cross Timbers, MO; RS&T Simmentals, Savannah, MO; Schupback Farms, Keytesville, MO; Shoal Creek Land & Cattle, Excelsior Springs, MO; and MSA Fall Harvest Sale, Ruble Cattle Services

The 6 winners were; Allison Coats, Richmond, MO; Luke Pyle, Pilot Grove, MO; Clane Mahar, Frankford, MO; Carol Hartman, Marshfield, MO; John Clemons II, Fairplay, MO; and Baylor Trickey, Adrian, MO



## ***Missouri Simmental Juniors Enjoyed a BUSY Summer***

### **Missouri Cattlemen's All-Breeds Junior Show**

The 40<sup>th</sup> Annual All-Breeds Junior Show was held June 11-13 at the Missouri State Fairgrounds in Sedalia. Simmental Juniors were part of the over 300 youth and 600 cattle entries in this event that includes all the major breeds of beef cattle.

### **American Junior Simmental Association South Central Regional**

The Missouri Junior Simmental Association hosted the South Central Regional Classic in Springfield, Missouri at the Ozark Empire Fairgrounds on June 21-24, 2023. There were 110 juniors in attendance from twelve different states! Missouri was proudly represented with 75 juniors in attendance. There were over 200 head of cattle there as well! The juniors competed in different educational contests - livestock judging, cattlemen's quiz, genetic evaluation, public speaking, and sales talk - in order to exhibit their cattle on Saturday. The competition was fierce and all juniors did great! We are so proud of everyone and want to congratulate them on all their accolades. Events like this are not possible without the help of numerous volunteers and sponsors. The MJSA is very thankful to all that donated money and their time in order to make it a beyond successful event for the kids. These are the memories and lessons that they will carry with them forever! Thank you just doesn't suffice.

### **Junior National Classic**

The 2023 American Junior Simmental National Classic was held July 7<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> in Des Moines, Iowa. There were 912 head of cattle and 561 exhibitors (201 juniors, 218 intermediates, and 142 seniors) from all over the country in attendance! Missouri alone had 44 contestants and 93 head of cattle! Not only was this a great week of fellowship, but the lessons learned and memories made were what truly makes the AJSA and MJSA the absolute best! Not only did AJSA staff members, AJSA Board of Trustees, and the Iowa Simmental Association go above and beyond to put on a world class event but parents/friends/family members from Missouri made the week one to remember! The juniors can never thank those behind the scenes nearly enough. Specifically, big THANK YOU's go out to those who sponsored our state t-shirts, helped with fundraising year-round, and cheered on each and every member. Throughout the week, three ladies helped keep our whole entire state fed with lunch. Susan Coats, Andrea Fischer, and Tiffany Walker put in countless hours of prep to put together different meals to accommodate everyone. Our state is blessed to have many people who volunteer, give donations/sponsorships, and rally behind the juniors of this program.

### **Missouri State Fair**

Juniors all across the state traveled to Sedalia, Missouri on August 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> in order to compete at the Missouri State Fair. Not only does this give the juniors to exhibit their cattle one last time before the school year kicks off, but it's a great time to have fellowships with friends and other breeders. The show sure wasn't a slouch in terms of quality, the Champion females in each division (4-H and FFA) went head to head in order to compete in the Show-Me Shootout. The champion percentage heifer that was exhibited by Cealy Bedwell was named the Supreme Champion Female!

During the State Fair, the juniors and adult association host their general annual meetings. There were over 50 juniors in attendance for the meeting - over half of them being new members! During that time, juniors elected board members and a princess and queen to serve for the next year. Those juniors elected are as follows:

Junior Board members elected - Paisley Nelson (President), Ella Fischer (President - Elect), Claire McIntyre (Treasurer), Rhett Keaton (Secretary), Kallie Cloud, Colin McIntyre, Allison Coats, Kenzie Milligan, Sophie Easley, Braydon Cull, Christian Siegel, and Ethan Vanderwert.

Queen - Kenzie Milligan and Princess - Paige Alpers

Kara Cloud, Junior Advisor

## **What is "Maternal"?**

Lots of talk in beef breeding these days about maternal vs. terminal as it pertains to breeds, lines within breeds and individual sires.

Is Simmental a maternal breed? Most of us would say YES! But it hasn't always been that way and may not be totally true today.

Most would define maternal cattle as good milking, highly fertile cattle with good mothering ability. Terminal cattle, on the other hand, would be superior in traits important for those cattle bound for the feedyard and eventually the food chain. Rapid growth and end product merit come to mind.

The concept had its roots in the late 1960's and early 70's. The US cowherd was predominantly Angus, Hereford and Shorthorn. Cow mature weights were not very big. Crossbreeding wasn't even very popular, farmer-feeders sought straight bred cattle or they'd face a critical look from their neighbor who also fed cattle. Hereford and Angus crossed cattle, black baldies, might have some Holstein it was feared.

Then the wave hit, big framed, high growth Simmental, Charolais, Limousin, Gelbvieh and a host of other breeds became available through artificial insemination. The Meat Animal Research Center (MARC) was quickly tasked with evaluating the merits of each of these breeds along with Hereford and Angus as the benchmark.

As the data base grew, so did the understanding of the contribution of different breed types and the concept of maternal and terminal breeds started to evolve. It made sense, Angus and Hereford became the maternal breeds, smaller cows meant higher stocking rates and output could be improved by using a terminal sire breed.

A good concept, but the waters quickly became muddy...

The popular continental breeds were collectively grouped in the terminal column, despite their differences. Historically Simmental and Gelbvieh were much more maternally focused, being dual purpose cattle in their homeland, they were bred for meat and milk. While Charolais and Limousin were selected to maximize end product yield.

Angus and Hereford breeders took it as a wake-up call, they needed to improve growth. Sire Summaries emerged and the race began. Yearling weight increased along with mature size. Terminal breeds used the genetic tools to moderate birth weight and reduce calving problems which reduced growth and mature weight.

In recent years MARC has published mature cow weight data by breed, the Direct Breed Effect on Mature Cow Weight using Angus as the benchmark.

<b>Breed</b>	<b>Direct Breed Effect</b>
Angus	0 (benchmark)
Hereford	-38.5
Charolais	-19.6
Simmental	-73.5
Limousin	-95.3
Gelbvieh	-145.4

Angus now have the largest mature cow weights, the four continental breeds are all more moderate. Who fits the original maternal definition now?

Can Simmental and SimAngus cattle (or any breed) be both maternal and terminal? In the last couple years, one of the major bull studs has divided its lengthy Angus offering into categories based on intended use, a soft approach to terminal vs. maternal.

Continued...

Chip Kemp of the American Simmental Association points out that the breeding cattle industry has responded to the demand for heavier carcass weights by selecting for higher Yearling Weight EPDs. He is also quick to point out that the heifer mates of those steers would not be candidates for the cowherd.

If you look at the Genetic Trend charts for weaning and yearling performance in any major breed, you'll quickly conclude that we are all in a race to become more terminal. We have a "more is better" philosophy when it comes to selection and the genetic trend charts seem to always flash a green signal, never a caution yellow or red light.

It is also a lot easier to breed for terminal cattle, the traits of importance are all covered with an EPD and have moderate to high heritability, so they readily respond to selection. Select for Yearling Weight and Carcass Weight, Marbling and Rib Eye Area and have enough calving ease to assure a live calf.

Breeding for maternal doesn't have the immediate gratification of seeing genetic improvement with each calf crop...in fact if you're starting with a good cowherd, protecting the status quo is the challenge. EPDs to use include Calving Ease, Direct and Maternal, Milk at a level appropriate for your environment and keeping Yearling Weight within a working range for moderate cow size.

Other maternal traits like udder quality, calving interval, feet and longevity take more time to evaluate and measure success. Breeder experience and patience are required when genetic measures are not available.

Can we have both maternal and terminal cattle in one breed? Certainly, but it will require breeders putting effort in different directions. We can develop maternal lines and terminal lines within a breed.

Just my thoughts...

Wayne Vanderwert