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Allowing Time for the Registry Process

At the time of writing this it is early January and we have turned the calendar to a new decade. We are in the midst of a flurry of winter activity as female sales have wrapped up and calving is well under way for many seed-stock producers. Along with the new calves being born, the regular chores must be done along with bull sale preparations for breeders who sell their bulls by auction. Ringmen, the auctioneer, and a sale manager or consultants, have been booked for months as well as the auction mart if it is an off-farm sale. Bulls are being clipped and pictured as weather permits so pictures showing the bulls at their very best can be sent to catalogue design crews in order to be sure that they are mailed out in time before the sale. Many of you may also go through a videoing process to supply as much visual information as possible to prospective buyers in order to secure their interest for your big day. The weeks before a bull sale are a hectic time that is full of pressure and activity leading to what is the biggest pay-day of the year for many Simmental producers. It is also a very busy time of year for breed association offices including Simmental.

The Canadian Simmental Association (CSA) is responsible for the registry services for the Simmental breed in Canada, and along with that responsibility comes the obligation of completeness and integrity of the data and information we provide through the pedigrees of the cattle we register. The by-laws of the CSA guide the registry process and are approved by Agriculture and Agrifood Canada and require that animals that are promoted as Simmental and sold as such must be registered in the CSA herd-book. That does not mean “applied for” or sold “registration pending” but carrying a Canadian Simmental Association issued registration number. Fortunately most of the bulls sold in Simmental sales do carry a CSA number however every year there are instances where this is not the case, and more often than not it is because the CSA office is waiting on parentage verification results to be received from the lab. The reason for this is usually that the breeder did not start the registration and lab process soon enough.

The lab used by most beef breed associations in Canada is Neogen based in Edmonton, Alberta. This lab does a tremendous amount of work leading into the busy bull sale season and does its utmost to complete the testing process as quickly as possible. Some of the realities of the testing process include the need to allow one month for turn-around time from when the lab receives your samples! You need to allow the appropriate time for your samples to reach the lab and then add approximately twenty business days minimum! While this has been messaged to CSA members many times, we still receive last minute rush requests which is a service that the CSA simply cannot provide.

All tests must be ordered through the CSA office. Our staff processes the billing through your CSA account and is prepared to answer any of your questions, however you need to contact the CSA office for your test kits AFTER you have provided the required information for the animals you are testing. Ensuring that this is completed before contacting the office for your test kit will allow the process to flow much more smoothly. There is no rush or priority given to any members as everyone needs their work done yesterday.

Through the sire or parentage verification process we occasionally identify animals that may be sired by a different bull or who are out of a different dam than first thought. The lab is the final judge on the validation of the ancestry and in the case of all calves born by embryo transplant (ET) we need the parentage verified to us before the animal can be registered. Simmental has no higher incidences of error than other breeds and we should all take pride in that.

The CSA office staff, and the staff we work with at Neogen, play a very important role in providing as accurate information as possible to you and your customers. Completing your registry work well in advance, like you do with other areas of your bull sale, will allow time to deal with the unexpected should it arise, and for everyone to do their job properly.

Best of luck with your bull sales!