



October 2009

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BREED IMPROVEMENT INFORMATION

Ultrasound rebate program still in effect: Funds are still available under the CSA ultrasound rebate program. Members are encouraged to book scan sessions early to ensure they have access to a technician. Scans collected under the UGC protocol are included in the CSA genetic evaluation for carcass merit. Technicians can be found at www.ultrasoundbeef.com.

Importance of Complete Reporting: Let's look at a simple example where a producer doesn't report the bottom 20% of the weaning weights on his calves.

WWT	Full	Partial
Top 20%	750	750
60-80%	700	700
40-60%	650	650
20-40%	600	600
Bottom 20%	550	
Avg	650	675

This simple change drags the index down on the top 20% of calves from 115 to 111, and more importantly it pulls their contemporary group deviation down by 25 pounds. The contemporary group deviation is the weaning weight – the group average weaning weight, and it is a key component of EPD calculation. The top 20% of the calves go from a WWT deviation of +100 (750 – 650) down to +75 (750 – 675). Perhaps even more importantly is that the calves in the middle of the pack (40-60%) now go from a deviation of 0 down to -25. Not reporting the bottom of the pack has dragged down the EPD of the better calves in the herd.)

The final and most important part of the equation is that this can really change how sires rank in the herd. Let's build on our previous example. Let's say that this whole herd consists of 50 calves and that one sire produced all of the calves in the bottom 20% of the herd (10 calves). He is obviously not doing a very good job. That same sire produced 1 calf in the top 20%. If we figure out his progeny's average deviation across the whole herd it is -82 pounds. Self explanatory that this bull will not be used again, but... If the producer doesn't report the bottom 20% that same sire now has a progeny performance of +75 and he looks pretty good.

This is an extreme case, however work shows dramatic re-ranking of sires and unpredictable effects on EPDs by failing to report on every cow. The more selective the reporting, the larger the effect may be.

Heifer Pregnancy Data: The CSA appreciates that members may choose not to register or enrol a replacement heifer until she has completed a breeding season and had the opportunity to conceive. With this in mind and recognizing the importance of fertility and heifer pregnancy rates to our commercial customer's profitability, enrolment forms now print with unregistered yearling females at the end of the list. These are printed solely for the collection of heifer pregnancy data. Please take the time to advise if any of these heifers were exposed to a sire or AI, and if they subsequently came up bred or open at pregnancy checking. This data is extremely important and useful to showcase the inherent fertility of the Simmental breed and also for selection decisions and genetic evaluation. Building the female trait dataset is important as it helps to build on the recognized natural maternal strengths of the Simmental breed.

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Please take some time to review our [privacy policy](#) so you can rest assured that we will only ever use your information for member-related communications to benefit you and your fellow members.

If you wish to unsubscribe, please [e-mail us](mailto:e-mail_us)

Breed Improvement Committee Meeting: The Breed Improvement Committee will be meeting October 22nd, prior to the CSA board meetings. The committee is responsible for developing and reviewing technical programs of the association and providing recommendations to the CSA board of directors. Under the guidance of the committee such programs as the Cow Herd DNA collection program, Ultrasound and Carcass rebate program, Progeny Test program, Calving books and advancement of the genetic evaluation have all occurred. A breed improvement committee report will be provided after the meetings.

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REGISTRY INFORMATION

CSA MAILOUT:

Member packages were recently mailed out to all active CSA members. Included in the package are 2010 female enrollment forms for THE participants, online enrollment instructions for online Simmental.com users, and application for registration forms for non-THE (registration only) members. Please note, online Simmental.com users will not receive female enrollment forms in this package. THE participants using the online system are required to submit enrollments through the online program. Deadline for 2010 female enrollment submission at the regular fee is December 15, 2009.

If you have any questions once receiving your package, please contact the CSA office at (403) 250-7979 or toll free 1-866-860-6051.

Genetic Evaluation Deadline for Total Herd Enrollment (THE) herds:

In order for data to be included in CSA genetic EPD evaluations, it must be received by the CSA office no later than JUNE 1st for the Fall Evaluation and NOVEMBER 1st for the Spring Evaluation!!!

Online Simmental.com Users - 2010 Total Herd Enrollment (THE) Instructions:

The Online system now allows you to start culling/disposing your females prior to enrolling the active females for the 2010 assessment year. Please follow the steps below to ensure that your females are enrolled prior to the deadline date of December 15, 2009.

Step 1 – Disposing/Culling Females

- Go into My Herd, My Inventory
- Change the Display Year to 2010 & click the “Change” button
- This will display a My Pre-Posting Inventory listing with the word “Dispose” beside each active female in your herd
- This allows you to cull/dispose any females that you do not want enrolled for the 2010 assessment year

Step 2 – Enrolling the Active Females in your herd

- Ensure that you go through each page of females before clicking the POST button at the bottom of the last page. Note: only click it once. You will notice the page numbers are shown at the bottom of the screen.
- This process will enroll the remaining active females on the My Pre-Posting Inventory list.

Step 3 – Entering Breeding

- You can now enter your 2009 breeding dates under each enrolled female as you will now see the word “Update” displayed to the right of each female on the My Posted Inventory – 2010 listing.

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YCSA NEWS

YCSA Calendar Fundraiser

Thank you to [those who have purchased](#) pages, advertisements and dates in the 2010 YCSA calendar. The Calendar Fundraiser has been a huge success. Your support is greatly appreciated. The funds raised will go toward growing the YCSA program. Be sure to look for the calendar in your mailbox with the November/December Simmental Country.

CSA Foundation Auction

The YCSA would like to thank the CSA and its members for their support of the 2009 CSA Foundation Auction that will be held on November 7th, in Toronto, at the Royal Winter Fair. A portion of the funds from this auction will go towards the YCSA and Dr. Dixon Scholarship programs, again supporting the youth in the Simmental industry.

YCSA News Makers

The CSA is proud to share the accomplishments of our YCSA members. Youth members learn a great many developmental skills through their involvement with this program and credit their success to the lessons

they've learned through the YCSA and the experiences they have had. If you have a story that you would like to share, please send it to [Emily Grey](#) or [Margo Cartwright](#). We know there are more stories out there, and would like to feature as many as possible.

New Members

If you are at all interested in becoming a YCSA member, please contact [Emily Grey](#) at 819-875-3205 or refer to the registration form online.

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SIMMENTAL COUNTRY NEWS

October Simmental Country Online

The first online issue of the Simmental County magazine is now available on the Simmental Country website www.simmentalcountry.com. Check it out. Also the hard copies of this magazine will be arriving in mailboxes across the country in the next few days.

Please make sure to note the following deadlines!

ISSUE	DEADLINE
January Commercial Country	December 1s
February Herdsire Simmental Country Issue	January 1st
March/April/May Spring Simmental Country Issue	April 1st
June/July/August Queens of the Pasture Simmental Country Issue	July 1st
September Commercial Country	August 1st
October Simmental Country	September 1st
November/December Simmental Country	October 1st

Should you have any questions regarding the new online version of the magazine, or the new electronic options for advertising please do not hesitate to contact [Margo](#), [Darryl](#) or [Bruce](#). We would be happy to hear from you.

CSA FOUNDATION AUCTION

This year we will be holding the National Simmental Show in Toronto, ON, on November 7th at the Royal Winter Fair. As part of the festivities surrounding the National Show, the CSA will be holding their annual Foundation Auction. The funds raised in this auction will be used for various CSA projects, with the main beneficiary being the YCSA.

This year we are going to start the CSA Foundation Auction with an online bidding auction. Your Next Calf.com has generously donated their services for this online auction portion. Just register with www.yournextcalf.com, and you will be ready for when the bidding starts on November 1st at 4:00 pm. Online bidding will close on Thursday, November 5th at 9:00 pm, with live bidding to commence again at the Royal Winter Fair.

The online bidder with the highest online bid will receive a call from one of our Foundation Auction committee members, so they can continue to participate in the live bidding. Any other bidders who wish to participate, please contact one of the following committee members and we will ensure that you are involved in all of the action at the Royal.

- i. Andrew Godfrey (613) 355-0743
- ii. Ron Nolan (905) 330-5299
- iii. Emily Grey (819-674-1024
- iv. Everett Hall (519) 372-7877
- v. Bruce Holmquist (403) 988-8676.

Items that have been generously donated are:

Canvas Artwork & Art Prints
 Sporting Events Tickets
 Gift Baskets
 Jewelry & Figurines
 Embryos & Flushes
 Semen Packages
 Weekend packages & Travel vouchers

The official Foundation Auction catalogue will be available soon, so please visit the CSA website regularly for updates.

Thank you to the companies, breeders and individuals who have donated items to this great event. Your continued supports is greatly appreciated.

Donation items are always welcome. If you have an item you would like to donate, please contact Emily Grey at (819) 875-3205.

The schedule of events:

November 6th: 3:00 pm Simmental Futurity

November 7th:

8:00 am YCSA Show

9:30 am National Simmental Show

4:00 - 6:00 pm Foundation Auction & Simmental Social

6:00 pm National Simmental Sale

SIMMENTAL EVENTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

The Fall season, along with its beautiful colors brings with it the fall shows and sales. These are excellent opportunities to showcase the Simmental breed, so hopefully everyone will be able to take some time to either participate or show their support with their attendance. For a complete list of events please see our Events Calendar on our website <http://www.simmental.com/simmentalcountry/events.htm>

NATIONAL SIMMENTAL SHOW: The CSA and the OSA invite all Simmental enthusiasts to the National Show and Sale being held on November 7th, at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto, ON. This day will prove be an excellent representation of Simmental Cattle and full of Simmental hospitality. The annual CSA Foundation Auction will be held during this event. The Ontario Simmental Association will also host their Futurity Show on Friday, November 6th. Stay tuned to the [CSA](#) and [OSA](#) websites for more updates and entry forms. We look forward to seeing you there.

ASA DOUBLE CROWN: The Alberta Simmental Association is hosting the Simmental Show and Sale, as well as the Double Crown Bull & Female Futurities at Farmfair International in Edmonton on November 11 & 12th, 2009. You are invited to attend two days packed full of exciting events, great prizes and lots of Simmental hospitality. This [letter](#) is your invitation to join the ASA as an ASA Double Crown member. For further information please contact Gaylene Groeneveld (403) 248-8289 evenings or g5cattle@telus.net.

FAIRFAIR INTERNATIONAL: Farmfair International entertains, educates and engages visitors with our beefed-up cattle shows and events, world class equine sales, competitions, and clinics, as well as variety of small and specialty livestock programs. After 36 years, Farmfair International continues to be a top business destination for the global livestock industry. Each year, over 100,000 guests come together to see, show and sell top quality livestock in Edmonton, Alberta.

Farmfair International welcomes international guests and local ranchers to come together to experience country life first hand and enjoy some great western hospitality, November 6 – 15, 2009.

For further information visit www.farmfairinternational.com

CSA MEMBERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

[Jenna \(Holmquist\) & Darrel Timm](#)

Congratulations to Jenna & Darrel who were married on September 19th. Best wishes to them in their new life together.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

[Click here](#) for complete calendar of events

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"He has achieved success who has lived well, laughed often and loved much."

... Bessie A. Stanley www.inspirational-quotations.com

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