

## Canadian Simmental Association 2022 Proposed By-law Change

At its November meetings the Canadian Simmental Association (CSA) Board of Directors decided that due to overwhelming support from the CSA membership, combined with numerous requests to revisit the 2021 proposed by-law change, that it was prudent to conduct another vote on this amendment in 2022. As a result the CSA is again proposing the amendment to its by-laws that would recognize a 7/8 male as a Purebred Simmental changing the current requirement of 15/16 for a Simmental male to attain Purebred status. This change was initially proposed in 2021 and after several years of discussion by the CSA board as well as its Breed Improvement Committee, combined with many requests from CSA members. Last year's vote fell just short of the required 2/3 majority with 62 percent of members voting in favor however it is clear that the majority of CSA members want this change.

### **Reasons for this amendment:**

- To more properly recognize the genetic contribution of 7/8 males at an equal level to 7/8 females which have been recognized as Purebreds since 1970.
- The change of Purebred status will facilitate the adjustment to the CSA upgrade table and recognize progeny born from the mating of a 7/8 Simmental male to a 1/2 Simmental female as a 3/4 blood calf.
  - This was originally part of the 2013 by-law and upgrading table changes that received unanimous support through a CSA membership vote held at its Annual General Meeting. While all the other revisions to the upgrading table were accepted by Agriculture and Agrifood Canada (AAFC), this specific mating outcome was not approved and the CSA is currently required to recognize the calves from this mating as a 1/2 blood animal. A 7/8 Simmental female mated to a 1/2 blood male is however recognized as a 3/4 blood calf with the reasoning given to us that a 7/8 female is recognized as a Purebred while as stated above, a 7/8 male currently is not.

### **It is important to note that:**

- This change will not result in the Canadian Simmental upgrade table being the same as the American Simmental upgrade table as the American process has some distinct differences, including recognizing Simmental animals at less than 1/2 blood status.
- These changes will be voted on by active CSA members who are in good standing through a mail-in ballot process in the spring of 2022.
- Support by a 2/3 majority of the vote is still required to move to the next step of sending the revisions to AAFC for final approval from the Federal Minister of Agriculture.
- This change in no way affects the Canadian Simmental Fullblood registry nor does it make any changes to Fullblood status or the calculations within our genetic evaluation.
- Purebred 15/16 status will continue to be calculated and displayed to identify the level of purity, as well as to facilitate the process of developing a 7/8 Purebred Simmental from a recorded 3/4 blood parent. This also addresses the concern of the change affecting export markets to other countries.

We are confident that these by-law changes will influence the Simmental breed in Canada in a positive way as we facilitate growth for our members while allowing us to continue the Simmental breed's contributions to the improvement of the Canadian beef cattle industry.

*Canadian Simmental Association Board of Directors*



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