

TEXAS SIMMENTAL/SIMBRAH NEWS

TSSA plans convention

We would like to extend a warm invitation to join us at TSSA Annual Membership Meeting and Convention Aug. 10-12, 2018 in beautiful San Antonio, Texas at the Marriott Plaza Hotel. Founded as the Texas Simmental Association on Feb. 14, 1970, the TSSA is the oldest and largest state Simmental association in the United States. Today, the TSSA is made up of dedicated men, women and juniors whose goal is to actively improve the position of Simmental and Simbrah cattle in Texas through aggressive marketing and merchandising. Our network consists of over 800 breed enthusiasts

from across the state of Texas and Louisiana. In order to ensure that we provide a successful and educational event for our members, we are seeking monetary, tax deductible sponsorships. We would also like to extend the opportunity for you to speak to our membership audience and promote your product or service. Sponsorship levels include:

- \$250 Bronze Level Sponsorship-Company name listed on sponsorship banner
- \$750 Silver Level Sponsorship-Company name listed on sponsorship banner and booth
- \$1,000 Gold Level

Sponsorship-Company name listed on sponsorship banner, booth, 30-minute presentation during membership meeting and business card advertisement in 2019 TSSA Annual Directory.

- \$1,500 Diamond Level Sponsorship-Sponsors lunch and provides opportunity to speak during the meal; company name listed on sponsorship banner and booth, plus half page advertisement in 2019 TSSA Annual Directory.

- \$2,500 Platinum Level Sponsorship-Sponsors dinner and provides opportunity to speak during the meal; company name listed on sponsorship banner and



booth, plus one page advertisement in 2019 TSSA Annual Directory.

We thank you for your consideration and look forward to seeing you in August in San Antonio! For additional information

on the sponsorships, contact Casey Buzzard, TSSA vice-president at (979) 215-6349. Sponsorships can be mailed to the TSSA c/o Greg Burden, TSSA president 602 FM 1652, Grand Saline, Texas 75140.

For hotel reservations, please contact the Marriott directly at 210/229-1000 and ask for the TSSA Block or refer to our website and Facebook page for direct link and additional information on the event.

Junior events scheduled for June IGS releases Multi-breed Genetic

The Texas Junior Simmental-Simbrah Association Futurity will be held in Bryan, Texas June 7-10 at the Brazos County Expo.

For a complete schedule of events, visit www.tjssa.com. The American Junior Simbrah Roundup will be held June 20-23 at the

Wharton County Fairgrounds, in Crescent, Texas. Please visit www.SimbrahRoundup.com for details.

Evaluation powered by BOLT™

Bozeman, MT — International Genetic Solutions (IGS) is an unprecedented collaboration between progressive breed associations fervently committed to enhancing commercial profitability. The collaboration has yielded the world's largest genetic evaluation of beef cattle with over 17 million animals and 120,000+ genotypes.

In keeping with our commitment to the cattle industry, IGS is pleased to announce the IGS Multi-breed Genetic Evaluation powered by BOLT™. The new genetic evaluation provides more predictive EPDs, better use of genomics, more accurate accuracy reported with EPDs, all with weekly evaluations. The announcement ushers in a new era in genetic evaluation — an era made possible by a genetic evaluation system dubbed BOLT (Biometric Open Language Tools, owned by Theta Solutions, LLC).

The concept for BOLT started in 2014 as a research endeavor between the American Simmental

Association (ASA) and Drs. Bruce Golden and Dorian Garrick. BOLT is, quite simply, the most revolutionary and powerful genetic evaluation system in existence. Its power allows IGS to leverage genetic evaluation methodology that was once thought to be untenable on large databases — methodology that significantly improves genetic prediction.

In December of 2016, IGS published a multi-breed stayability, the industry's first EPD using BOLT and the first single-step methodology applied to a large beef cattle database. Since that time, the IGS genetic evaluation team has worked toward fully implementing BOLT with an automated system that enables weekly evaluations for an entire suite of EPDs. As of May 4, 2018, ASA is the first of the IGS partners to publish a full suite of EPDs generated by the IGS Multi-breed Genetic Evaluation powered by BOLT. Each IGS partner has complete autonomy to determine the release date

that best fits their organization. As such, the release of EPDs by the other IGS partners is likely to be staggered over the next several weeks. As always, we look forward to your questions and comments about what you see.

Here are the notable changes in the evaluation:

Movement of EPDs and reranking. EPDs and indexes will change. These changes will be more dramatic for younger, lower accuracy cattle. The IGS team has tested the changes and proven the new EPDs result in superior predictions of genetic merit.

Shrinking of EPD range. You will notice a reduction in the range of EPDs for most traits. The IGS evaluation team tested the statistical veracity of the reduction and it has proven to be in line with expectations based on the genetic variation in the population.

Improved use of genomics. With the switch to the BOLT software, IGS will use single-step genom-

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MAS Showdown set for June 23

The annual MAS Showdown, sponsored by the MAS group, will be held on June 23rd at the Wharton County Fairgrounds, Crescent, Texas. It will follow the Simbrah Roundup

Banquet. Junior Simbrah exhibitors with heifers from participating sponsors may compete for the large monetary prizes and buckles. Entries are being accepted online at www.simbrahroundup.com.

For additional information contact Carlos X. Guerra, Jr at 956/330-1963 or Javier Moreno 956/607-7408.

American Simmental Association announces DNA invoicing changes

Starting Sept. 1, 2018, DNA invoicing will be done at the time of requesting the tests (instead of when results are received) at the American Simmental Association. This will increase efficiencies and

reduce the number of invoices you currently receive. This is the first step to automate DNA kit requests - in the future you'll be able to order kits online. Since there is a time element from order-

ing the kits to the completion of the testing - other type processing (registrations, THE enrollment, transfers) will not be delayed pending DNA payment for a period of time (to be determined).

We ask that if members have requested DNA kits in the past, or are requesting kits throughout the summer, that they please send the kits to the lab before Sept 1, 2018, so that the DNA invoicing transition is made as seamless as possible.

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Releases...

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ic evaluation on all EPDs. Single-step uses DNA markers, pedigree information, and phenotypic data simultaneously in the prediction of EPDs. Previously, molecular breeding values (MBVs) were calculated from the genomic information and those MBVs were blended in a separate procedure into the EPD predictions. The single-step method squeezes more information from the DNA markers than the previous approach allowed. Additionally, with single-step, the genomic information will not only enhance each EPD for the genotyped animals but also will be used in the EPD estimates of relatives.

It is well established that DNA markers vary greatly in their effect on traits — ranging from large to virtually no impact. To leverage this biological fact in a statistically advantageous manner, the BOLT single-step method only uses markers that have a meaningful impact on the traits of interest, while ignoring those that have little to no effect. Research has shown that by using this approach, BOLT reduces statistical “noise” and thereby increases the accuracy of the EPD prediction compared to other single-step methods.

It is important to note; continued collection of phenotypic records remains a vital part of genetic predictions. DNA testing will never replace the need to record and submit phenotypes.

More accurate accuracy. In the previous IGS evaluation platform, and all others in existence other than BOLT, the calculation of the accuracy associated with each EPD is achieved through “approximation” methods. It has long been known these methods are a less than optimal approach to the calculation of accuracy — tending to overestimate accuracy. By employing unique computing strategies that leverage both software and hardware efficiencies, BOLT performs what was previously unthinkable — utilizing a sampling methodology to calculate what is essentially true accuracy. Unlike approximated accuracies, BOLT-derived accu-

racies will result in predicted movements associated with possible change holding true over time. This is not the case with the previous IGS software or any other system currently in existence.

While the IGS evaluation team and partners are excited to release this new chapter in genetic evaluation, the new genetic evaluation system will only realize its true potential if selection is made using its EPD and index values. Hands down, there is no better (more accurate) way to select for quantitative

traits than an EPD. Economic indexes predict net profit by weighing the EPD for economically relevant traits coupled with economic estimates. To compete with other protein sources, it is imperative that the beef industry adopt the best science and technology to make better breeding selection decisions.

For more information about the IGS Multi-breed Genetic Evaluation powered by BOLT, go to www.internationalgeneticsolutions.com.

CALENDAR

June 7-10-TJSSA Futurity, Bryan, Texas

June 13-16-AJSA South Central Regional Classic, Fayetteville, Arkansas

June 20-23-American Junior Simbrah Roundup, Crescent, Texas

June 23-MAS Showdown, Crescent, Texas

June 23-26-LMC GenePLUS XIII Online Sale

July 2-7-AJSA National Classic, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Aug. 6-8-TAM Beef Cattle Short Course, College Station, Texas

Aug. 25-28-LMC GenePLUS XXIV Online Sale

Sept. 15-Heart of Texas Simmental/Simbrah Association Sale, Granbury, Texas

Sept. 21-23-Synergy XI, Giddings, Texas

Sept. 24-28-World Simmental Fleckvieh Federation Congress, Fort Worth, Texas

Oct. 6th-Annual La Muneca Jr. Roundup & Futurity, Linn, Texas

Texas Simmental/Simbrah Association Please Contact These Progressive Breeders



**Simbrah and Simmental
Bulls For Sale**

Tim Smith, Joel Isgrig, and Haley Smith
P.O. Box 330 • 1316 PR 2231 • Giddings, Texas 78942
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