

# TEXAS SIMMENTAL/SIMBRAH NEWS

## TSSA meets in San Antonio

Simmental and Simbrah breeders from Texas convened in San Antonio mid-August for the annual Texas Simmental/Simbrah Association (TSSA) Annual Meeting.

In addition to social and fundraising events, the business of the association was conducted.

New officers elected for the coming year include:

Greg Burden-President  
Casey Buzzard-Vice President

David Grimes-Treasurer  
Diane Jolly-Secretary/Reporter

Lance Seamans was elected to the TSSA Board of Directors.

Luke Bowman with the American Simmental Association (ASA) addressed the crowd, as well as speak-

ers representing companies who sponsored the meeting. Sponsors included Purina, Merck, Stock Show Pro and ADM, 44 Farms, Vigortone and Zoetis.

Following the presentations, the general membership meeting was held and following are the minutes of the annual meeting from Diane Jolly, secretary/reporter:

### Texas Simmental Simbrah Association Annual Meeting Meeting Minutes • Aug. 11, 2018

The general meeting of TSSA was called to order by Greg Burden. Diane Jolly read the meeting minutes from the 2017 Annual TSSA meeting. The minutes were accepted by Robert Piper and seconded by Fred Schuetze. Greg Burden read the financial report, which showed a balance of \$10,734.14 in the TSSA account as of July 2018. The proceeds from the National Show in Ft Worth were a major source of this income. Annual meeting expenses will be charged in August. The TSSA received about \$1,100 from the ASA for the checkoff program. TSSA can receive \$1.00 for every animal with data turned in from the Total Herd Enrollment (THE) program, even if the animal is not registered later. Members are encouraged to learn and utilize THE.

Tim Smith, ASA chairman of the board, led a discussion of ASA activities. He invited everyone to attend the Fall Focus in Bozeman to celebrate the ASA's 50th Anniversary. He encouraged everyone to get familiar with the website.

Amelia Stavinoha, TJSSA president, reported on the junior association. The State Futurity had 144 participants and 226 head of cattle. They added new contests and awarded six scholarships, plus 10 juniors attended Nationals.

Burden started a discussion about the new TJSSA Genetic Evaluation competition and study materials available, which the board thought was a success and is planned again for next year at Nationals. Leoma Wells is now in charge of education for the ASA.

Jim Ethridge discussed the Educational Trust scholarships and financial report.

The rebate program for the DNA Roundup, which can reduce test costs and discount future animal registration costs, was discussed. The HD test should be used on all sires and donors and the LD test on the cows. The data is due Dec. 10th.

As a carry-over from the Simbrah Summit, the Graham Feedlot presentation was discussed concerning the ability and benefit to feedlot your own steers and to participate in a program with other TSSA members. This will yield more money for the steer for you than market prices and provide us with vital carcass data to improve EPDs. Please reach out to the board if you have any interest in feedlot participation, so we can help you even if you have as few as one or two steers. This carcass data will provide great information for future breeding decisions.

The next discussion encouraged members to have active participation in ASA Board Elections and Bylaw changes this year. If you have any questions please reach out to our ASA representatives- Tim Smith and Fred Schuetze. Please encourage everyone you know to participate this year and send in your suggestions and questions to the staff and board representatives. The ASA Bylaw Structure is a staff led organization. The impact is the ASA Board has limited transparency and a long cycle time to request changes of ASA operations as compare to other non-profit board structures.

Fred Schuetze, president of World Simmental Fleckvieh Federation (WSFF), discussed the 2018 World Simmental Fleckvieh Congress to be held in Fort Worth, Texas, Sept. 24-28th.

Next the group received a presentation given by Jeff Sarchet from Zoetis Beef on post weaning herd health. Tim Smith for Vigertone Ag Products discussed animal nutrition and minerals and Tracy Woods from 44 Farms presented an overview of the company, its values and natural beef programs.

Committee meetings were then held. The annual meeting committee recommended moving the 2019 Annual meeting to Buzzard Hollow next August. The marketing committee discussed advertising and that

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Amelia Stavinoha, Texas Junior Simmental/Simbrah Association president spoke at the annual meeting.

## HOTSSA/ETSSA to hold Fall Fest Sale

The Heart of Texas Simmental/Simbrah Association (HOTSSA) and East Texas Simmental/Simbrah Association (ET

SSA) will hold their Fall Fest Sale, Sept. 15th. The sale will be held at Buzzard Hollow Ranch, Granbury, Texas and will be on

DVAuction.com. For additional information contact Robert Piper at 830/305-4550 or Jim Carter at 254/697-1078.

## Alamo City to host sale

The Alamo City group has announced that their fall sale will be held Sept.

17-19th The sale will be online through www.cattleinmotion.com. For addi-

tional information contact Joe B. Rodriguez, 210/275-0839.

## Synergy XI set for September

Sale host, Tim Smith announced that Synergy XI will be held Sept. 21-23rd.

It will include a sale of approximately 100 lots of Simbrah, Simmental and percentage cattle, a junior

show for qualifying heifers, showmanship and educational contests. For additional information contact Smith at 512/587-7896 or smithgenetics1@gmail.com. You may also visit the

Synergy Facebook page or their page on www.smithgenetics.com. The sale will be broadcast on DVAuction.com

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## La Muneca announces event/sale dates

La Muneca Cattle Co., Linn, Texas, has announced that their annual LMC Roundup & Futurity will

be held at the ranch Oct. 6th, Linn, Texas. In addition, they will host their annual LMC & Friends

Giving THANKS Online Sale, Nov. 17-20 on www.cattleinmotion.com.

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## 7P Ranch to host 43rd annual sale

The Joe Prud'homme Family will host their 43rd Annual Production Sale at the ranch, outside of Tyler, Texas on Oct. 27th. The sale offering will include 60 Simmental and SimAngus bull, 70 Simmental and

SimAngus bred females, 22 Golden Certified Simbrah F-1 open heifers and 18 commercial F-1 Brahman x Hereford bred heifers. Cattle can be viewed on Friday, Oct. 26th from noon to dark and Saturday

before the sale. The sale will be broadcast on www.cattleinmotion.com. For more information visit their website, www.7p-ranch.com.

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## Red River Sale set for Oct. 14

Red River Farms will hold their inaugural sale on Sunday, Oct. 14th at their ranch in Grand Saline, Texas. The offering will include a high-quality set of

Simmental show heifers and bred heifers. The Mullion family, owners of Red River Farms, have been in the SimGenetic industry since 1976 in

California. They recently purchased the Circle M property and the GB cattle herd. For additional information contact Greg Burden at 405/780-0372.

## World Simmental Fleckvieh Federation Congress

The World Simmental Fleckvieh Federation Congress will be held in Fort Worth, Texas, Sept. 24-28th. The week-long event will include meetings, social occasions, touring and on Sept. 28th, cattle shows

and a sale will be held. The show and sale will include a diverse offering of Sim Genetics. The Congress will be held in the historic Fort Worth Stockyards area. For more information on the show and entries,

contact Fred Schuetze at 817/573-0957. For more information and deadlines on the entire event visit www.worldsimmental-congress.org.

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## An inexpensive, but effective method for weaning more total pounds

**Dr. Justin Rhinehart, University of Tennessee  
Department of Animal Science**

Since all food production is based on reproduction of the commodity, it stands to reason that a technology which positively impacts reproduction would be widely adopted. One of the major benefits of crossbreeding is realized through improved reproductive function. In fact, nearly all modern plant and livestock commodity production relies on heterosis (trait improvement better than the average of the two parents) from crossbreeding as one of their primary reproductive management technologies. But, for various market and convenience reasons, crossbreeding is not as widely used in commercial cow/calf production.

There seems to be several misconceptions about

implementing a crossbreeding system in commercial cow herds. To dispel a couple of the major misconceptions before going further, it is important to note that crossbreeding does not necessarily mean introducing bos indicus ("eared") genetics, although that

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### Minutes...

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ASA did not run any ads in our region last year. We have a great need to pull together to advertise the breed locally. We discussed the changes in ASA advertising reimbursements experienced this year. The membership committee had several ideas on improving participation.

TSSA membership increased in 2017 by almost 25%. The participants like having the annual meeting in a hotel and suggested including a social activity as well.

The TSSA accepted the nomination of Lance Seamans to the board. The nomination was made by Casey Buzzard and seconded by David Berry.

Jim Ethridge made the motion to close the annual meeting and Robert Piper seconded the motion.



**602 FM 1652  
Grand Saline, Texas 75140  
(405) 780-0372  
txsim@aol.com**

**www.texassimmentalsimbrah.com**

**BOARD MEMBERS**  
Greg Burden, President  
Casey Buzzard, Vice President  
David Grimes, Finance  
Diane Jolly, Secretary

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Lance Seamans    Louis Langford  
Brian Franks     Jered Shipman  
Dr. Marty  
Tanner-DVM

# • CALENDAR •

Sept. 15-Heart of Texas and East Texas Simmental/Simbrah Associations Fall Fest Sale, Granbury, Texas  
 Sept. 17-19- Alamo City Fall Online Sale  
 Sept. 18-R.A. Brown Ranch SimGenetic Field Day, Throckmorton, Texas  
 Sept. 21-23-Synergy XI, Giddings, Texas  
 Sept. 24-28-World Simmental Fleckvieh Federation Congress, Fort Worth, Texas  
 Oct. 6--Annual La Muneca Jr. Roundup & Futurity, Linn, Texas  
 Oct. 12-State Fair of Texas Open Simmental & Simbrah Shows, Dallas, Texas  
 Oct. 13-State Fair of Texas Junior Simmental & Simbrah Shows, Dallas Texas  
 Oct. 14-Red River Farms Inaugural Production Sale, Grand Saline, Texas  
 Oct. 27-7P Ranch 43rd Annual Production Sale, Tyler, Texas  
 Nov. 17-20-LMC & Friends Giving THANKS Online Sale  
 Dec. 1st-Louisiana Simmental/Simbrah Association Sponsored All Breed Junior Cattle Show, Lake Charles, Louisiana

**2019**

Jan. 22-Junior Simmental and Simbrah Shows, Fort Worth Livestock Show, Fort Worth, Texas  
 Jan. 28-Open Simmental and Simbrah Shows, Fort Worth Livestock Show, Fort Worth, Texas  
 Feb. 11-National Simbrah and National Percentage Simbrah Shows, San Antonio Livestock Show, San Antonio, Texas  
 Feb. 11-Open Simmental Show, San Antonio Livestock Show, San Antonio, Texas.  
 Feb. 13-Simbrah-Simmental Superbowl, San Antonio Livestock Show, San Antonio, Texas  
 Feb. 14-Junior Simbrah & Simmental Shows, San Antonio Livestock Show, San Antonio, Texas  
 Feb. 27-International Simmental & Simbrah Shows, Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo, Houston, 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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 smithgenetics1@gmail.com • www.smithgenetics.com



**Greg Burden 405-780-0372**  
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**Robert Piper, President**  
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Method...

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might be a good option in several scenarios. Predominantly black hided feeder calves can be uniformly maintained in crossbreeding systems.

The "no such thing as a free lunch" principle still applies in this situation and, depending on the starting point, tradeoffs for some individual traits might have to be made when switching from a straightbred to crossbreeding approach. More intensive management of sire selection and/or rotation is

necessary. Also, purchasing bulls from breeds with smaller registries can make competition for a smaller population of high-quality sires more intense.

Heterosis can be broken down into three mating situations: individual, maternal and paternal. Individual heterosis is the advantage of the crossbred individual in relationship to the average of the purebred individuals. Maternal heterosis is expressed for traits measured on crossbred cows and is the advantage of the crossbred dam over the average of purebred dams. For example, a

two-way-cross dam may wean heavier calves than the average of purebred dams from those two breeds. Paternal heterosis is the advantage of a crossbred sire over the average of the purebred sires; generally, as an improvement in bull fertility.

Many studies have shown that traits high in heritability respond well to selection for improvement, but show little response in heterosis. Traits that are lowly heritable show little response to selection for improvement but respond well in heterosis. Fortunately for the commercial

cow-calf producer, those traits that respond well to crossbreeding are reproductive traits (fertility, ability to recycle after calving, settling on first service, mothering ability, etc.).

Individual heterosis: Using the results of crossbreeding, the cost of production could be lowered by a simple crossbreeding program of using a bull of a different breed than the cows. If a typical producer in a straightbred operation was producing 408 pounds of calf per cow exposed, an 8.5 percent increase from individual heterosis of crossbred calves over

straightbred calves would be worth an extra 34 pounds of calf weaned per cow exposed (408 lb. x .085 = 34.6 lb.) It is important to remember that indiscriminately selecting a bull based only on color or breed will not guarantee an improvement in production from crossbreeding. Selecting superior bulls in any system is still important.

Maternal heterosis: Research has shown that crossbred cows have a higher conception rate at first service than straightbreds. All of these traits affect pounds of calf

weaned per cow exposed in the herd. In a classic experiment involving three British breeds (Angus, Hereford and Shorthorn) conducted by USDA and Nebraska researchers, crossbred cows were compared to straightbred cows to determine the impact of heterosis on fertility. Crossbred cows were compared to straightbred cows when both were bred to produce crossbred calves by the same bulls of different breeds. Crossbred cows produced three-way-cross calves (no more than 50 percent breed makeup of any breed) and straightbred cows produced two-way-cross calves. The crossbred cows weaned a 6.5 percent larger calf crop that was 4.1 percent heavier than crossbred calves from straightbred cows. Combining these traits gave an advantage of 14.8 percent more pounds of calf weaned per cow exposed from crossbred cows over straightbred cows.

Since both types of cows were producing crossbred calves, this did not include the advantage of individual heterosis. Combining the advantage of crossbred calves (8.5 percent) over straightbred calves and the advantage of crossbred cows over straightbred cows (14.8 percent) would yield a 23.3 percent increase in pounds of calf weaned per cow exposed for crossbred cows producing crossbred calves over straightbred cows producing straightbred calves. More than one half of the advantage in a crossbreeding program is derived from the heterosis in the crossbred cow.

Summary

A well-designed crossbreeding system can result in improved reproductive performance and heavier calves from both improved genetic potential and increased age at weaning. Crossbreeding is not a cure-all for poor management, herd health and nutrition and will not respond to the same degree in all situations at all times. Response is highly dependent on the quality of bulls selected to use in the program and how well a systematic plan is followed. Crossbreeding is a tool that, if properly used under good management with thoughtful sire selection, can significantly increase the efficiency of production in commercial cow herds.

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