



Dear Simmental-Fleckvieh friends,

We would like to share with you some most recent news from the Simmental-Fleckvieh world, point out some upcoming events and inform you about the news from the Simmental-Fleckvieh world.

Milk producers all over the world are faced with a big "milk crisis" where the milk prices dropped down by 20-40 % and in some countries even more and the price is no longer covering the production costs. This situation could have a big impact, unfortunately negative one, on the structure and the size of the Simmental-Fleckvieh population in many countries.

Big attention in Europe, and I am quite convinced not in Europe only, is currently paid to the new breeder's tool: genomic selection. The most recent results confirm how the accuracy of the breeding values could be improved using the information about the genomic selection. Genomic selection will also be one of the topics discussed during the next congress of the European Simmentla-Fleckvieh Federation in Hungary. So let's go to Hungary and get the news about the future of the breeding programs!

Yours sincerely

Josef Kučera

Full report from the Show in German available here:

<http://www.fleckvieh.at/news-ticker/bericht/details/bundesfleckviehschau-09-schauer-superlative.html>

Simmental/Fleckvieh forum on-line!

There is a new discussion forum for Simmental/Fleckvieh breeders and friends all over the world in the internet!

<http://simmentalfleckvieh.fleeforum.com/>

Feel free and discuss some important topics with us! Share some news, thoughts and information with the world!



UPCOMING SIM/FV EVENTS IN 2009

Meat and Wool NZ Beef Expo, New Zealand, (May 9th – May 13th)



The biggest date on the NZ Beef Cattle calendar is the National Bull Sale which is held over 4 days starting Saturday 9th May and culminating on Wednesday 13th May with the Champion of Champions. This is the Supreme Champion of all the breeds. This year there will be Angus, Charolais, Hereford, South Devon, Shorthorn and Simmental represented. Simmental has the most entries with 33 bulls entered from all over NZ.

Progeny Show Radešinská Svratka 2009 Radešinská Svratka, Czech Republic (May 28th)



Presentations of programs of breeding companies active in the Czech Republic (more than 100 FV cows are going to be displayed).

Council Meeting of the World Simmental-Fleckvieh Federation, Windhoek, Namibia (October 11th – October 19th)



African Simmental-Fleckvieh Safari coming soon! Check the details (in English and German) of the meeting here: <http://www.simnamibia.com/>.

NEWS

Bundesfleckviehschau 2009



Greinbach, Austria (May 3rd – May 4th)

An outstanding event – National Fleckvieh Exhibition – was held at the beginning of April 09 in Austria. 25 countries (700 visitors) from the whole world participated. All of them had the possibility to see 170 heads of Fleckvieh cattle including those involved in the European competition (4 cows per country; Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Switzerland)

An interesting video from the exhibition:

<http://www.landwirt.com/Kategorie/491/Bundesfleckviehschau-2009.html>



Sire dam and international winner: BETTY (F: Rau), breeder: Johann Ratzberger, St. Peter Au, NÖ Genetik



28th Congress of the European Simmental - Fleckvieh Federation, Siófok, Hungary (September 22nd – September 27th)



For more information, details of the program and the registration form visit (EN, DE, HU versions available):

<http://www.magyartarka.hu/>.



For more events: www.wsff.info, section calendar.

AUSTRALIA AWAITS THE WORLD

By Sam Norris, The Land



Delegates from Australia and across the world will descend on Melbourne for the 2010 World Simmental Congress.

It will be an opportunity to dissect the latest developments in Simmental cattle breeding and commercial sales, but it will also showcase how the Australian beef cattle industry works. Melbourne will welcome delegates on September 18, but there will be people arriving even earlier to take part in pre-conference tours.

One is of Western Australia and the Northern Territory, from September 11, the other of Victoria, South Australia and the Northern Territory from September 10.

According to 2010 congress chairman, Bill Almond, the idea is to foster a better understanding of Australia's varying and challenging growing seasons and how the continent's seedstock and beef producers have adapted to this.

"It's an educational tour where people can compare how things are done with their own operation. It will be a real eye opener for most," he said.

Mr Almond expected delegates to come from many countries and vastly different production systems.

They will come from the Americas to Europe, including Czech Republic and Slovakia, Germany, Turkey, Ireland, England, the US, and Canada.

Unlike Europe, where 100 hectares can sustain a substantial herd with an abundance of feed, Mr Almond said delegates could be very surprised when they land in Australia.

"I think the thing that is going to amaze them here is the variable conditions. They might go six weeks without rain, which is dry for them, where we've gone six years," he said.

"I think when they see the expanse of what we are doing here, a lot of the delegates are going to be surprised; here we can struggle to run a couple of head on 100ha."

Mr Almond expected the congress would attract between 350 and 400 people, but the experience itself, he said, would be much broader.

"We're going to touch on a few thousand people with these tours," he said.

"Even if people don't make it to Melbourne they will get a lot out of the event."

Indeed, the social aspect of the tours, like lunching at a Margaret River vineyard or seeing Uluru, could be just as important as the technical facets in Melbourne.

"At these functions people will be talking and exchanging ideas," Mr Almond said.

It might be relationships formed in the social setting that could form part of a bigger trade deal with those countries.

"They are going to realise these people have got a pretty good production system down here and we can use a lot more of that."

However, Mr Almond hoped it was the wider cattle beef industry that would benefit from the congress, not just Simmental breeders.

"It's not just an exercise in selling Simmental genetics," he said.

"If people can get more genetics going overseas from a range of different breeds, via the congress, that's great.

We're not a closed society."

The congress will coincide with the Melbourne Royal Show giving delegates the opportunity to see some of the best examples of the breed.

Mr Almond expected a big field and said an international judge would later be announced for the event.

There will be post-congress tours of Queensland from September 28 to October 2, and New Zealand from Auckland to Mt Cook on the South Island, departing September 28 and finishing October 5.

Milk farmers in Europe seek "fair price"



Dairy farmers in 12 European countries held a demonstration on 29th April 2009. Situation in every dairy farm in Europe is unsustainable. The milk price is too low. Dairy farmers receive from purchasers less than how much it costs them to produce a litre of milk.

Countries involved: France, Germany, Spain, Austria, Italy, Czech Republic, Denmark, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxemburg, Scotland, and Switzerland

PRESS RELEASE

Source: www.europeanmilkboard.org

The 29th April more than 25,000 milk producers rallied in Europe for fair milk prices

No end to protests. Fair framework conditions needed.

Hamm, 29 April 2009: More than 25,000 milk producers demonstrated today for fair milk prices in over ten European countries. Uniting under the slogan "Flexible volume regulation for fair milk prices", they urged politicians to create the requisite framework conditions. Milk producers rallied with tractors and dairy cows in front of political institutions and handed over letters of demand to members of parliament, ministers and heads of government.

Romuald Schaber, President of the European Milk Board, commented: *"The excess supply of milk has resulted in existence-threatening milk prices in the whole EU. We urgently need to rebalance supply and demand. For dairy farmers to be able to do so in a coordinated way, politicians are called upon to adapt existing provisions."*

All over Europe, excess supply of milk results in milk prices plummeting in free fall. The wrong decisions taken by politicians in 2008 are destroying one third of the value created on milk. Ernst Halbmayr, EMB Executive Committee member from Austria: *"It is synonymous with destroying 100% of the farmers' income as producer prices of 25 cents leave no room for rewarding the farmers' work. De facto, the families no longer generate any income from producing milk."*

Today's demonstrations were preceded by numerous



protests in the whole of Europe. In early 2009 Greek, Latvian and Bulgarian farmers took to the streets to protest against unfair prices. 8,000 Slovak, Austrian, Polish, German, Hungarian, Slovenian and Lithuanian dairy farmers gathered in the Czech Republic in March. In April, more than 5,000 people rallied in Madrid to draw the public's attention to the disastrous situation in many areas of agriculture and the total lack of perspectives for farmers.

Sieta van Keimpema, member of the EMB Executive Committee from the Netherlands, says: *"Milk requires stable framework conditions. It is a special product, it is available each day, and you cannot just stop production for a few days or weeks. When dairy farmers stop producing, they go out of production for good and the consumers in the respective region are no longer supplied with local milk."*

Romuald Schaber: *"Pursuing the liberalisation strategy means abandoning supply control and external protection. This constitutes a great danger, not only for farms, it also jeopardizes the provision of the population with high-quality products."* The European dairy farmers are calling upon politicians to jointly elaborate a concept to preserve milk production in Europe in future. Other sectors (e.g. fisheries, sugar production or the energy industry) have long realized that certain framework conditions are needed to regulate production. Flexible supply control is necessary to ensure that the market brings about a milk price that is fair for both consumers and producers.

"Flexible volume regulation for fair milk prices"

This is the solution that was demanded by milk producers all over Europe today.

Sydney Royal Show – Bonded by Victory



By Emma Downey, The Land /shortened/

Just like the action-packed James Bond film he was named after, young Simmental bull, Delelvin Casino Royale, is no stranger to the limelight and was a smash hit in the Sydney show ring on 17th April 09.

The senior and grand champion and best exhibit, shown by Clinton and Robert Maxwell, Delelvin stud, Blackville, is just 21 months old, but has already paraded at about 15 shows.

Clinton Maxwell said most of his show ring experience was as a calf at foot.

Simmental judge and the president of the Australian Simmental Breeders Association, Bill Almond, Kensileyre Simmentals, Borambola via Wagga Wagga, described the Maxwells' top bull as smooth and beautifully muscled, carrying good fat cover.

"He's an early maturing bull which will fit the feedlot and carcass trade cattle market," he said.

Casino Royale was sired by a West Australian bull, Lucrana Mortlock, which the Maxwells bought, and which sired the Sydney Royal 2005 senior Simmental champion.

Stuart Moeck's Valley Creek stud, Schofields, exhibited the junior and grand female, Waterfront Dorinda, a rising one-year-old female, which has been bred using an infusion of South African genetics.

Mr Moeck bought Dorinda as a heifer at the Waterfront stud sale in South Australia for \$5250.

Dorinda's sire, Woonallee Kaino, was bred in South Australia using South African genetics and sold for \$21,000 three years ago in a private sale, while her dam, Waterfront Angela, was junior breed champion at Adelaide Royal three years ago.

SIMMENTAL CHAMPIONS – Sydney Royal Show

Senior and grand bull and best exhibit: Delelvin Casino Royale, C. Maxwell, Delelvin stud, Blackville /see photo below/. **Res:** Goonoo Creek Bobcat, B. and M. Schmid.

Junior and grand female: Waterfront Dorinda, S. Moeck, Valley Creek stud, Schofields. **Res:** Yarramore Chianti, W.W. Jordan, Tamworth.

Junior bull: Craven Creek Cessar, N. Middlebrook, Craven Creek Simmentals, Gloucester. **Res:** Tullatoola Big Red, B. and M. Schmid, Tullatoola stud, Molong.

Senior female: Tullatoola Queen Beatrice, B. and M. Schmid. **Res:** Maj Rosemary, K. Nieass, Londonderry.



Mr Almond said Mr Moeck's top young female, also champion female at this year's Bathurst Royal, was "magnificent for her age".

"Structurally she's beautiful, very feminine, and hard to fault – she was a delight to judge," he said.

When it came to choosing his best exhibit, he said there was little between the top Delelvin bull and Valley Creek female.

"In the end, the bull had more maturity on the heifer," he said.

Central West exhibitors, Bruno and Marie Schmid, Tullatoola stud, Molong, paraded the reserve senior bull, Goonoo Creek Bobcat; reserve junior bull, Tullatoola Big Red, and senior female, Tullatoola Queen Beatrice.

Bobcat was reserve senior champion at the NSW Beef Spectacular in Dubbo last month, reserve senior bull at Sydney Royal in 2008, the supreme exhibit at Bendigo Beef Show, and interbreed champion bull at Parkes Show.

Dear colleagues all over the world!

If you had some interesting news from your country I would greatly appreciate your cooperation in creating this newsletter.

You could send me your inputs anytime:

secretary@wsff.info

Thank you very much in advance

Kristýna Skopalová





6. German Fleckvieh Show 13th – 14th November 2009

On 13th and 14th of November 2009 the „6. Deutsche Fleckviehschau“ will take place in the Arena Hohenlohe in Ilshofen, Baden-Württemberg, Germany. The preparations for this top event are in process. In the focus of this event is the competition of round about 120 Fleckvieh cows on Saturday, 14th November. Other highlights are the young-breeders-cup on Friday, the presentation of progenygroups and a top sale on Saturday. The German Fleckviehbreeders are looking forward to meet you in Ilshofen. The detailed program you will find soon on our homepage www.asr-rind.de.

CANADIAN SIMMENTAL ASSOCIATION INFORMATION:

BREED IMPROVEMENT INFORMATION

The last several months have been extremely busy for CSA genetic improvement programs. The following covers many of the topics of discussion at the recent Breed Improvement Committee meetings held in April.

BIC Committee Members: Rick McIntyre (Chair), Stewart Ainsworth, Fraser Redpath, David Erixon, Ian Mitchell, Reanne Sanford, Ron Nolan, Dan Skeels, Everett Hall.

Genetic Evaluation: The genetic evaluation was conducted by AGI in November/ December. Their service was fast, accurate and professional. As

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part of the change to the evaluation extensive work was done on support materials and also several changes to the computer system were made to enable EPD loads. Percentile tables and basic statistics were all updated.

Currently work is being conducted to include the scrotal EPD in the suite of traits regularly evaluated by AGI.

Sire Summary: The Sire Summary was updated and introductory materials developed to support the new genetic evaluation. The new Sire Summary was made available in early January.

Extension and Education: Regular articles have been published in the Country, as well as the e-news. Topics have covered deadlines, ultrasound, data collection and the new genetic evaluation. Regular administrative type updates have also been provided for the regular support materials such as those that accompany THE forms. Support materials for the evaluation have also been posted on the website, circulated via e-news and been featured in the Country.

Member Support: Direct member support has been a key component of breed improvement over the last few months. Member support has ranged from a presentation at the Annual Meeting to answering member queries regarding performance programs, ultrasound and/or carcass data. A lot of the support has centred on investigating and answering questions regarding the use and interpretation of the new genetic evaluation. In all cases investigated the data submitted by CSA members has strongly supported the resulting EPD.

Data Collection: Follow up to the 2007-09 progeny test has been ongoing and we are still waiting for weaning results from some herds so that we can provide a bull owner update. Further carcass and rib samples were collected on 160 head in mid-December. This dataset will be used in the genetic evaluation and is also being used in the detection and development of SNP markers. The data contains information on growth and carcass traits and also on tenderness, cooking loss, protein and fat content and drip loss on the samples.

Garth Sweet Research Project: A research grant application has been reviewed and submitted to NSERC for funding. Dr. Steve Miller at the University of Guelph is taking the lead on this project and it represents an exciting opportunity to investigate Simmental genetics and develop tools for application of new technologies in the Simmental breed and across the commercial industry. Simmental calves from 2008 are currently on feed in Ontario in a feed efficiency facility, and DNA and rib samples have been collected and analysed on another large group of Simmental test cattle. These data sets will help to jump start the research project.

Cow Herd DNA Program: A reminder that while the program is closed the samples must be received by GenServe no later than May 31st.

GenServe Laboratories™
c/o Saskatchewan Research Council
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Source: www.simmental.com

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