

Simmental - the No1 Performer

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Australian Simmental Breeders Association 1997

Every breed claims to be the "best" for the beef industry. The truth is that some breeds have strong performance in some traits and weaknesses in others. The trick is to select a breed that contributes the best mix of traits needed for a specific breeding program.

Simmental is a breed that excels in both growth, muscle and maternal traits - the keys to increased profit for most breeding programs.

The table below provides a useful tool in comparing the performance of different breeds for important production traits. It was produced by the USDA Meat Animal Research Centre, Clay Centre, Nebraska and compares each breed's average EPDs (equivalent to EBVs) in kg to that of Simmental. The calculations were made after adjusting each breed's EPDs to a common base year, 1992.

Examples:

- An average Simmental produces 29.5 kg more yearling weight than an average Limousin.
- An average Simmental produces 11.8 kg more weaning weight than an average Hereford.
- An average Simmental produces daughters with more milk and growth than an average Charolais, with their calves weighing 13.6 kg more at weaning.

Of course, by selecting a Simmental with EPDs (or EBVs) above the breed average, even greater improvements in progeny performance can be achieved.

BREED COMPARISON CHART

Adjusted to a 1992 Base with Simmental as Base Breed (0)

Breed	Birth Weight	(kg)	Weaning Weight	Yearling Weight	Maternal Weaning	Maternal Milk
European Breeds						
Simmental	0.0	(39.1)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Charolais	0.1	(39.5)	-5.9	-13.2	-13.6	-10.5
Gelbvieh	-0.5	(39.1)	-6.8	-19.5	-2.3	-1.4
Limousin	-1.7	(37.7)	-11.4	-29.5	-20.9	-15.5
Salers	-1.5	(36.8)	-9.1	-22.7	-9.5	-5.0
British Breeds						
Angus	-3.5	(36.4)	-15.9	-24.5	-15.5	-7.7
Hereford	-1.2	(37.7)	-11.8	-20.5	-15.9	-10.0
P.Hereford	-0.7	(37.7)	-11.4	-22.7	-29.1	-23.6
Shorthorn	-0.1	(37.3)	-9.5	-19.1	-10.5	-5.5
Bos Indicus						
Brahman	1.7	(36.8)	-10.0	-46.4	0.5	5.5

Based on research at U.S.D.A. Meat Animal Research Centre, Clay Centre, Nebraska.