

SIMMENTAL HIGH PERFORMERS IN FEEDLOT STUDY

by Peter Speers

Australian Simmental Breeders Association

A comparison of Simmental and Simmental infused steers was undertaken recently Mr Lloyd Bailey, Old Talgai, Simmentals, in AMH's Beef City Feedlot, Toowoomba Qld.

The objective was to determine how different Simmental crosses performed relative to AMH's market specifications for Japanese B2 graded product.

The steers were fed for 192 days, a little longer than the average 150 days, and averaged 1.5kgs/day gain. 58 steers were measured after slaughter, and averaged 57% dressing % with a HSCW of 431 kgs. 60% were 4 tooth, 22% were 2 tooth. All had suitable meat and fat cover.

Their average EMA was a high 99.6sq cm and their P8 fat averaged 16.6 mm. Average Marble score was 1.6, with 52% marbling 2 and several marbling 3 score.

All Simmental infused steers had good weight gains, averaging 1.5kgs/day. They also expressed excellent muscling, with pure Simmentals averaging 105sq cms EMA. The best steer was 125sq cms, a Simmental.

The AMH requirement is for a steer to gain 1.5kgs/day or higher, have a dressing percent of 56% or higher, a P8 fat depth of 7 to 10mm (up to 28mm accepted but expensive trimming necessary) and as high an EMA as possible.

Importantly, a minimum marble score of 2 is needed to fit Japanese B2 grade, Steers with a marble score 1 fall into the lower Japanese B1 grade, valued at 40c/kg HDCW less. Steers with a marble score 3 or higher enjoy a 20c/kg HDCW premium. Consequently, a key requirement is for a high percentage of finished steers to Marble 2 or higher. Generally 70% of steers should meet this requirement.

Some observations on the performance of each of these breed crosses relative to these requirement is given. Probably the most interesting is the Simmental X Shorthorn, which demonstrated when these breeds are crossed they combine the growth, dressing percentage, muscling and lower fat advantages of the Simmental with the high marbling ability of the Shorthorn to produce a more desirable combination.

While Shorthorns were not included in this comparison, other AMH trials comparing Shorthorns and various crosses is reported in the table.

WEIGHT GAIN

Simmentals gained an average of 1.51kg/day, with the best steer gaining 1.97kg/day. When crossed with the Shorthorn, hybrid vigour resulted in these crosses averaging 1.57kg/day (1.7to 1.26). The two Red Angus crosses averaged 1.24kg/day (1.62 to 1.38), and with only two steers it is difficult to draw conclusions. Similarly, the small numbers of Simbrah steers (6) limits drawing conclusions. They averaged 1.24kg/day (1.56 to 1.0), reflecting the lower weight gaining trait of the Brahman.

DRESSING PERCENTAGE

The average performance of all steers (57.2%) was above the AMH benchmark, with some steers dressing as high as 59.4%. Simbrahs had the most impressive average at 57.9% (59.3% to 56.5%). There was little difference between the other breeds.

MARBLING

As expected under a high grain feeding regime, Shorthorns have a reputation for high marbling levels. In other AMH trials, (see below), Shorthorns average 2.24 marble score, with 85.4% scoring Marble Score 2 or higher.

In this comparison, Simmentals averaged 1.5 with 54.5% scoring 2 or higher. But when crossed with the Shorthorn, the Simmental X Shorthorns averaged 2.0 score and a high 81.3% met this marbling requirement.

FAT DEPTH (P8)

The leanness of the Simmental combined with the overfat tendency of the Shorthorn to produce trimmer crossbred carcasses. Simmentals averaged 14.5mm while Simmental X Shorthorn averaged 19.9mm. Simbrahs averaged 17.5mm

EYE MUSCLE AREA

The better muscling of the Simmental, (av 105sq cms, range 125 to 75), boosted the muscling of the Shorthorn, with the crossbreds averaging 92.6sq cms (117 to 81). Due to the lower muscling of the Brahman, the Simbrahs averaged a lower , but very acceptable 89sq cm.

CONCLUSION

In this comparison, as in other feedlot trials, marbling levels can be virtually maintained when Shorthorns are crossed with Simmentals. The big benefits from this cross are increased weight gain, improved muscling, trimmer fat cover and higher carcass yield.

Simmental is the ideal European breed to cross with Shorthorn to generated these boosts in performance. The added advantages for the crossbreeder are quiet temperament and in the crossbred female, superior maternal traits.

Summary Results - L Bailey Steers (Average Values) (192 days Feeding)

Breed	No.	LWG DAY	Dress %	P8 Fat	Marble Score	EMA	% Marble > 1
Simmental	33	1.51	57.0%	14.5	1.5	105.0	54.5%
Simmental/ Shorthorn	16	1.57	57.2%	19.9	2.0	92.6	81.3%
Simmental/ Red Angus	2	1.50	57.4%	29.0	1.5	95.0	50.0%
Simbrah	6	1.24	57.9%	17.5	1.2	89.0	16.7%
TOTAL	58	1.49	57.2%	16.7	1.6	99.6	56.9%
AMH Preferred Specification		Min 1.5	Min 56%	7 to 28 preferred 7 to 10	Min 2.0	Higher the better	Over 70%

Other AMH Trial Results

Shorthorn	3171	1.48	56.0%	26.0	2.24	81.3	85.4%
Limousin/ Shorthorn	496	1.45	58.0%	19.9	1.78	91.8	62.2%
Charolais/ Shorthorn	531	1.56	57.9%	16.9	1.68	92.8	58.3%

Maine Anjou/ Shorthorn	262	1.49	57.2%	21.0	1.49	83.8	44.6%
Santa/ Shorthorn	1738	1.54	57.3%	22.5	1.95	81.8	70.9%
D'mstr/ Shorthorn	438	1.49	56.7%	23.9	1.85	83.8	67.3%
Hereford/ Shorthorn	205	1.38	56.7%	26.1	1.64	81.3	55.4%

USA Feedlot Report

Simmental-sired Calves Post Positive Data, Cashflow

Feeding Simmental-sired steers posted a profit during one of the lowest slumps in the cattle market in years. According to data reported by AzTx Feeders, Hereford Feedyards in Hereford, Texas, a set of steers sired by fullblood Simmental bulls, which were fed from January through July, gained an average 651 pounds and made money for retained owner, Buzzard Hollow Ranch, Granbury, Texas.

The steers were purchased from Dwight Nieschwitz of Pleasanton, Texas through the Buzzard Hollow buy-back program. They posted an average daily gain of 3.55 pounds, converted feed as fed at a ratio of 1 to 7.43 pounds, and posted a 100% dry matter feed conversion ratio of 1 to 5.88 pounds, making their total cost of gain just over 62 cents per pound.

The results of the carcass evaluation were favorable, as well. Nearly 36% of the steers graded choice and 62% graded select, with only 2% grading standard. The average fat thickness was .3768 and the average ribeye was 15.1 square inches. The yield grade was 2.2846 and the dressing percentage was nearly 63%. They were slaughtered at an average age of 14 months and weighed an average 1289 pounds. Medicine costs computed to \$2.20 per head and there was a 0% death loss.

Buzzard Hollow Ranch Livestock Operations Director, Fred Schuetze, said that this was not the only set of Simmental-sired steers that he made money with. He indicated that the program also made money with straight-bred fullblood Simmental steers.

The Simmental-sired steers mentioned previously in this article were out of Angus-cross cows and made about \$6.49 per head. The lot average lost over \$20.00 per head.

For more information on Simmental-sired steers, contact AgWorks, Inc.
or visit the site of the American Simmental Association.
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