



World Simmental Fleckvieh Federation  
[www.wsff.info](http://www.wsff.info)



European Simmental Federation

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## Greetings!

As we close out a year, that none of us could ever imagined, hope is on the way with a new vaccine for COVID19. I do not know if we will ever get back to what we knew as normal. We saw the cancelation of the World Congress and nearly all events, around the world, where crowds gathered due to Covid19. In virtually every country: meetings were cancelled, schools were closed, cattle shows were either postponed or scheduled for the following year and we have become accustomed to VIRTUAL meetings and learning in all aspects of our life.

As most all of you know, the 2020 World Congress, has been rescheduled for August 24th August to September 2nd, 2021 in Austria; thanks to Sebastian Auernig and the Austrian Society for stepping forward to host this event after the cancelation on the 2020 event. Manuel Garzia and the Mexican Simmental/Simbrah association have started plans for the 2022 Congress to be held in Merida, Mexico during the month of November 2022, in order, to get us back on schedule for our Congress dates. The Australian Simmental association is starting to lay plans for the 2024 Congress. Your board of directors have started meeting virtually, thanks to Josef Kucera for allowing us to use his zoom meeting, so that we might stay abreast of what is happening around the world for Fleckvieh and to keep the membership up to date as events happen and maintain the business of the federation.

I want to wish all members and breeders of Fleckvieh cattle a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR and that all stay well and safe until we meet again in Austria of 2021.



Fred Schuetze  
President

World Simmental-Fleckvieh Federation



## Dear Simmental Fleckvieh Friends,

Last year, none of us could imagine that this Christmas would be so different. We have all faced completely new, unexpected challenges as well as our invisible enemy, COVID, which has had a significant influence on our habits and traditions. Due to the COVID situation, many of the events and shows were cancelled this year, even some of the events in spring 2021. All the main activities of the ESF were moved to the "electronic area" including the council meeting 2020. Also, the WSFF board organized videoconferences during the last couple of months.

The COVID situation also has had an impact on the beef and milk market; an unstable market can unfortunately be expected at least in 1Q next year, however, the global production of both main products, beef and milk, will most likely increase.

In its latest quarterly outlook, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) predicts that global beef production in 2021 could rise by 2 % to 61.5 million t. This may sound as good news from the global point of view, however, the USDA prediction is counting with 1 % production drop in the EU27/UK, which is obviously unfavourable for the European cattle breeders. Based on the European Commission statement, the overall EU milk collection should grow by 1.4 % in 2020, thanks to an increase in milk yield. The dairy herd is expected to decrease, mainly due to increased slaughtering in the second half of the year. In 2021, EU milk production could grow by 0.8 %.

My fore-wording last year ended with the information about the WSFF World Congress as well as the technical meeting of the ESF, scheduled for September 2020 in Austria. Unfortunately, this event was one of many cancelled due to the COVID crisis. My special thanks and respect go to our Austrian friends, who had to cancel this meeting but did not give up as the WSFF Congress & ESF technical meetings are rescheduled for August 2021. I am looking forward to it and I believe that in August 2021, we all will be able to meet „An der schönen blauen Donau“.

Dear colleagues and friends, Dear Simmental-Fleckvieh breeders, let me express my thanks and gratitude for your work and support of the WSFF and ESF over the past months and I wish you all Merry Christmas surrounded by your precious family and many blessings for the coming year. May peace, love and prosperity be with you.

Yours sincerely,



Josef Kučera  
President

European Simmental Federation





# State of development of Single-Step breeding Value Estimation

**Arbeitsgemeinschaft Süddeutscher Rinderzucht- und Besamungsorganisationen e.V.**

Both in the ASR General Assembly on October 20 and in the web conference of the Advisory Committee on Breeding Value Estimation in cattle, the development status and the schedule for the introduction of the Single-Step Breeding Value Estimation in Fleckvieh and Brown Swiss was a central topic. The single-step method represents a further improvement of the genomic breeding value estimation and brings decisive advantages especially with the now more abundant female genotypes in the calibration set. The new method results in higher breeding value reliabilities and is the condition both for breeding value estimation for new health traits and for shortening the previous monthly estimation interval. The developments on the part of the breeding value estimation team are so far advanced and matured that already comprehensive analyses of the changes in the results compared to the previous method are available. The implementation of a complete test

estimation with the data status of the December estimation is possible until the end of January 2021. After extensive illumination and discussion of the aspects to be considered in the ASR General Assembly and in the Advisory Committee, the latter has decided that the test run is to be carried out by the end of January. The test run Single-Step breeding values from insemination bulls as well as selected male and female candidates are to be given to the AI stations and breeding associations for testing. The breeding associations organize the distribution down to the breeders. In the middle of February 2021, the Advisory Committee will decide about the official introduction of the Single-Step Breeding Value Estimation in April 2021. Thus we are on the home stretch for the implementation of this important further development, which will be a significant step forward for our dual-purpose breed Fleckvieh. We would like to use this opportunity to thank the breeding value estimation team in Grub, Kornwestheim and Vienna for the done work and energy they put into the development of the new method!

## Entwicklungsstand der Single-Step-Zuchtwertschätzung

**Arbeitsgemeinschaft Süddeutscher Rinderzucht- und Besamungsorganisationen e.V.**

Sowohl in der ASR-Mitgliederversammlung am 20.10. als auch in der Webkonferenz des Beratenden Ausschusses Zuchtwertschätzung beim Rind waren der Entwicklungsstand und der Zeitplan für die Einführung der Single-Step-Zuchtwertschätzung bei Fleckvieh und Braunvieh ein zentrales Thema. Das Single-Step-Verfahren stellt eine weitere Verbesserung des Verfahrens der genomischen Zuchtwertschätzung dar und bringt insbesondere mit den mittlerweile in größerem Umfang vorhandenen weiblichen Genotypen in der Lernstichprobe entscheidende Vorteile. Das neue Verfahren resultiert in höheren Zuchtwert-Sicherheiten und ist die Voraussetzung sowohl für die Zuchtwertschätzung für neue Gesundheitsmerkmale als auch für die Verkürzung des bislang monatlichen Schätzintervalls. Die Entwicklungen seitens des Zuchtwertschätzteams sind so weit fortgeschritten und ausgereift, dass bereits umfangreiche Analysen über die Veränderungen in den Ergebnissen gegenüber dem bisherigen Verfahren vorliegen

und die Durchführung einer kompletten Testschätzung mit dem Datenstand der Dezember-Schätzung bis Ende Januar 2021 möglich ist. Nach umfangreicher Beleuchtung und Diskussion der zu berücksichtigenden Aspekte in der ASR-Mitgliederversammlung und im Beratenden Ausschuss hat letzterer beschlossen, dass bis Ende Januar der Testlauf durchgeführt werden soll, die Testlauf-Single-Step-Zuchtwerte von Besamungsbullen, sowie ausgewählten männlichen und weiblichen Kandidaten zur Prüfung an Besamungsstationen und Zuchtverbände gegeben werden sollen. Die Zuchtverbände organisieren die Verteilung bis auf Züchterebene. Mitte Februar 2021 wird der Beratende Ausschuss über die offizielle Einführung der Single-Step-Zuchtwertschätzung zum April 2021 entscheiden. Damit befinden wir uns auf der Zielgerade für die Implementierung dieser wichtigen Weiterentwicklung, die einen bedeutenden Fortschritt für unsere Doppelnutzungsrasse Fleckvieh darstellen wird. Dem Zuchtwertschätzteam in Grub, Kornwestheim und Wien sei an dieser Stelle sehr herzlich gedankt für die viele Arbeit und Energie, die es in die Entwicklung des neuen Verfahrens gesteckt hat!

# Simmental-Breeder of the year 2020



## Schürer-Hammon GbR for the third time in series

Arbeitsgemeinschaft Süddeutscher Rinderzucht- und Besamungsorganisationen e.V.

With an impressive conclusion, which results from eleven genomic sires sold within one insemination year, the breeder Schürer-Hammon GbR is again at the top in Germany. For the

third time in series the award could be won. This is the result of a consequent genomically oriented breeding strategy, in which extensive genotyping, early selection and strong use via embryo transfer are stringently implemented and thus contribute significantly to breeding success and profit. From the birth cohorts 2014 to 2018 alone, a total of 61 young bulls were sold to AI stations. Congratulations!



# Fleckviehzüchter des Jahres 2020

## Schürer-Hammon GbR zum dritten Mal in Folge

Arbeitsgemeinschaft Süddeutscher Rinderzucht- und Besamungsorganisationen e.V.

Mit einem beeindruckenden Ergebnis, welches sich aus elf in einem Jahr in die Besamung verkauften genomischen Vererbern ergibt, setzte sich auch in diesem Jahr der Betrieb Schürer-Hammon GbR an die Spitze in Deutschland. Zum dritten Mal in Folge konnte

somit die Auszeichnung geholt werden. Das ist das Ergebnis einer konsequent genomisch ausgerichteten Zuchtstrategie, bei der umfangreiche Typisierungen, eine frühe Selektion und starke Nutzung über Embryotransfer stringent umgesetzt werden und dadurch maßgeblich zum Zucht- und Betriebserfolg beitragen. Allein aus den Geburtsjahrgängen 2014 bis 2018 konnten insgesamt 61 Jungbullen in die künstliche Besamung verkauft werden. Herzliche Gratulation!



# Slovak Simmental-Fleckvieh in time of global pandemic



**Matúš Kohút, Ivan Pavlík, Association of Slovak Simmental Breeders**

In spite of very tough situation, Slovak Simmental-Fleckvieh breeders keep hard working. The period of lockdown and releasing of strict restrictions allows very limited organising of breeders' actions, including cattle show. Because of that, the Slovak National Cattle Show in Nitra had to be cancelled.

Fortunately, the situation in September allowed organising of Regional Simmental-Fleckvieh Show in Prešov (Eastern Slovakia). This region has a long tradition of Simmental-Fleckvieh breeding. There is a lot of top farms in this area as well. In total, 22 Simmental cows and 5 heifers were presented in Prešov. Peter Strapák representing Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra was a judge of this show. The first lactation cow from the farm AGRO-LENT, s.r.o., Malý Šariš, has been decorated as Grand Champion. The judge chose her as the best udder cow as well. This young cow (sire: Slovak bull WARANDY - S: Waldbrand, DS: Randy) has been recognised as typical representative of the breed, with perfect feet and legs and excellent udder. The owner of this perfect cow (farm AGRO-LENT) nowadays keeps 270 Simmental-Fleckvieh cows. In 2019 the average milk yield reached 9,279 kg (4.15 % fat, 3.47 % protein). Currently (November 2020) the average milk yield in this farm is 9,721 kg!

Slovak Simmental population is represented by approximately 35,000 recorded cows (30,000 Herd Book cows). The average milk yield was 6,820 kg of milk (3.94 % fat, 3.46 % protein) in 2019. Currently 5 new cows have reached lifetime milk production over 100,000 kg. The best of them (lifetime daily production – from the birth to the end of 9th lactation – 23.14 kg) comes from the PD Smrečany farm (Northern Slovakia).

The results of Slovak breeders have proved that Simmental-Fleckvieh is a great breed for modern farmers in 21st century. We hope that situation in next year will allow us to show the results of our hard-work in more occasions than this year. We wish European breeders all the best. Stay healthy and enjoy your Fleckvieh-Simmental cows.



Picture 1: Champion and best udder cow of the regional cattle show Prešov 2020 (1st lactation: 100 days 3,858 kg milk, 3.99 % fat, 3.40 % protein). Sire: WARANDY. Photo: Marián Dukes



Picture 2: Cows in the ring. Photo: ZCHSSD



Picture 3: The best cow with lifetime production over 100,000 kg (9 lactations: 104,389 kg milk, 4,040 kg fat, 3,396 kg protein, average lifetime daily production 23.14 kg). Sire: WAL, Dam Sire: GS DIONIS



## The WSFF Board met on-line again

The global pandemic situation doesn't support face-to-face meetings, which is why the WSFF Board met again on 19 November using the zoom.us platform. Important points of the meeting were future plans of the meetings, where Sebastian Auernig, Austria, informed about the new date for the congress in Austria: August 24 - September 2, 2021 and the possible range of the congress itself. The final decision will be made in February 2021 and we will of course inform you about it.

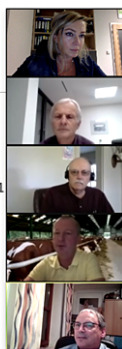


4. WSFF Congress in Austria 2021  
24. 8. – 02. 9. 2021

5. WSFF Congress in Mexico 2022  
(November, Merida, Yucatan)

4. WSVF Kongress in Österreich 2021  
24. 8. – 02. 9. 2021

5. WSVF Kongress in Mexico 2022  
(November, Merida, Yucatan)



Merry Christmas  
and  
a Happy New Year!

PF 2021

on behalf of the  
WSFF & ESF