



# Welt-Simmental-Fleckvieh Federation

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### 1974 - 2024

24<sup>th</sup> Regular members meeting

July, 29<sup>th</sup> 2024

Calgary, CANADA

**FLECKVIEH  
CHANGES**

Richard Pichler  
Georg Röhrmoser  
Josef Kucera

**Robust  
Efficient  
Sustainable**

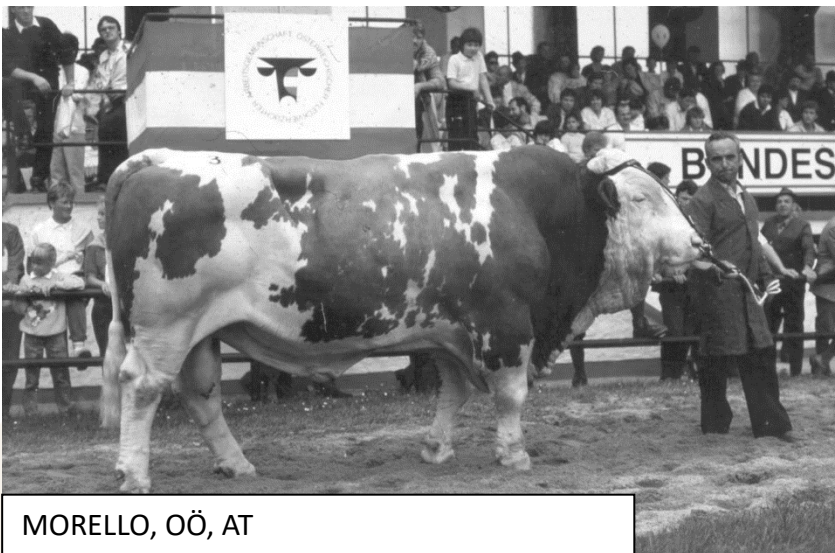




# Let's look back



1. 1962 - Foundation of the European Simmental Cattle Association in Munich
2. 1968 - First discussions on the foundation of a world association
3. 1972 - 10<sup>th</sup> EVF Congress in Munich - Decision to form a world association



MORELLO, OÖ, AT  
GZW. 111, MW. 101, FW. 104, FIT. 115, MB .93



Breeder Josef Kirschsteiger and his Viktoria, the first winner of the Dr. Anton Pohl Prize (lifetime yield 104,854 kg milk, 4,465 kg fat)



# 1974 Zagreb, Yugoslavia 11<sup>th</sup> ESF General Assembl



Representatives from 20 countries were present:

*Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Iraq, Iran, Italy, Yugoslavia, New Zealand, South Africa, Switzerland, Uruguay, USA*





# The most important objectives according to the Statutes

- Cooperation between the breeders' organizations
- Development of common breeding rules
- Exchange of information
- Making pedigree certificates and performance results comparable
- Guidelines for the recognition of pedigree certificates
- Promotion & publicity



# 1976: 1<sup>st</sup> World Congress Pretoria, South Africa

16 countries from Africa, Europe, Oceania

Presidency: Ernst Senckenberg, DE (left)  
Jerry Moore, USA Richard Vincent, AUS  
Secretary General: Dr. Ernst Jenni, CH (right)



## Topic:

Simmental-Fleckvieh (Si-Fv) in  
extensive use for prairie and  
scrubland and in intensive farms  
with dual use





# 1978: 2<sup>nd</sup> World Congress Calgary, Canada

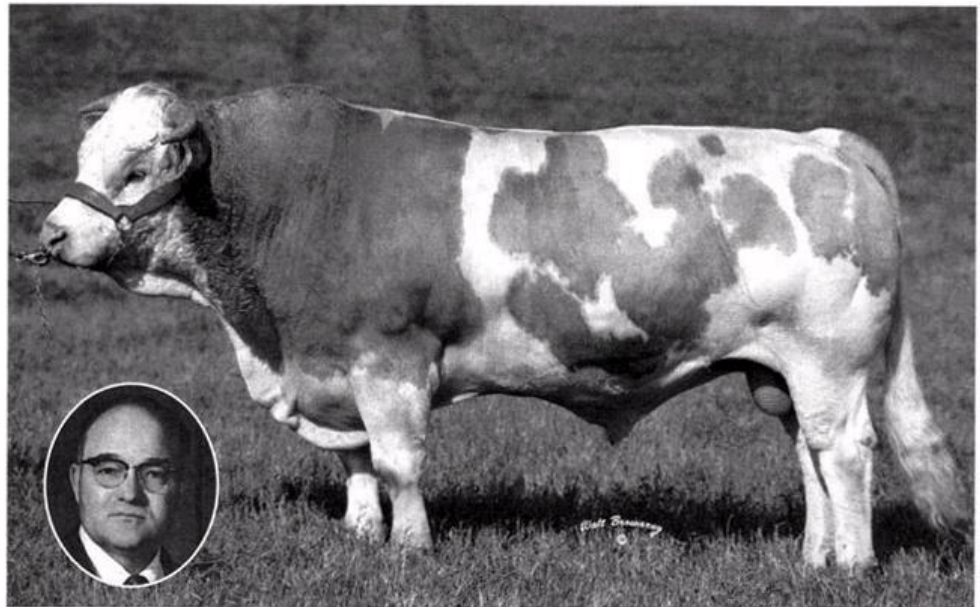
## Participation 19 of 20 members

New Secretary General: Alfred Rügsegger, CH

### Topics:

- Setting up the working groups on finance, polled cattle breeding, conformation defects
- Large-scale beef cattle breeding
- World market for beef

In 1967 Canada imported the Si-Fv bull PARISIEN No. 1 from France.





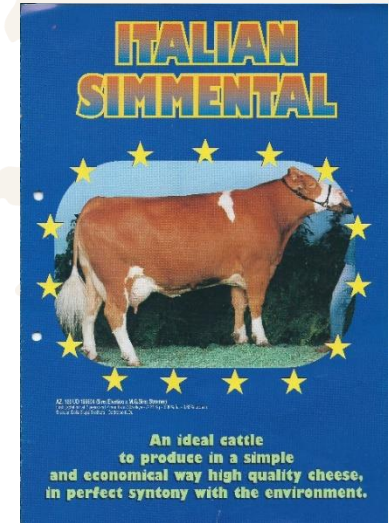
# 1980: 3<sup>rd</sup> World Congress Venice, Italy

## 18 member countries

*20 years of the Italian national association A.N.A.P.R.I.*

### Topics:

- Fattening performance experiments with purebred and crossbred animals in Italy



*Villa del Doge Manin, Friaul*



# 1982: 4<sup>th</sup> World Congress, Edinburgh, UK

## 15 member countries

### Topics:

- Embryo transfer, cloning
- best suitability for crossbreeding in suckler cow herds
- excellent showmanship





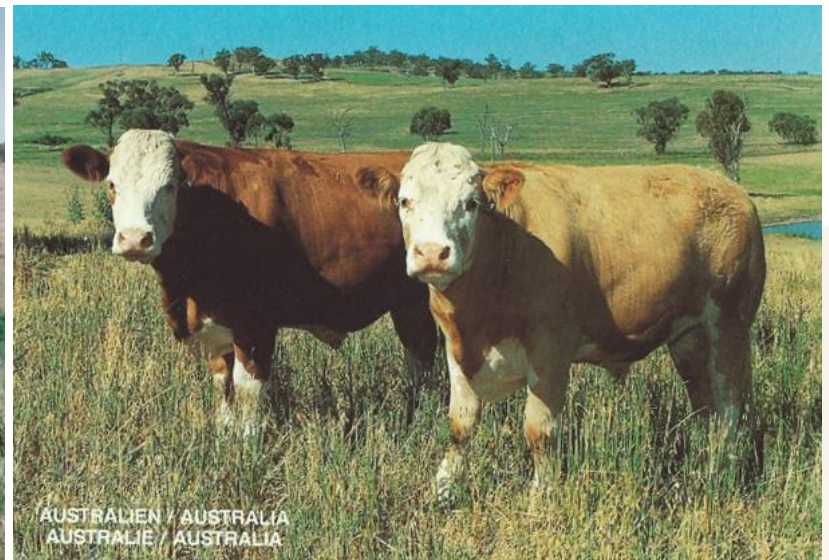
# 1984: 5th World Congress Sydney, Australia

12 of 19 countries present



## Topics:

- Extensive working group meetings
  - Si-Fv ideally suited for forage conversion and grassland use
- 700 herdbook breeders with 80,000 animals in Australia*





# 1986: 6<sup>th</sup> World Congress Buenos Aires, Argentina

## New Presidency:

Pedro de Ocampo, ARG

Dr. Otmar Föger, AT

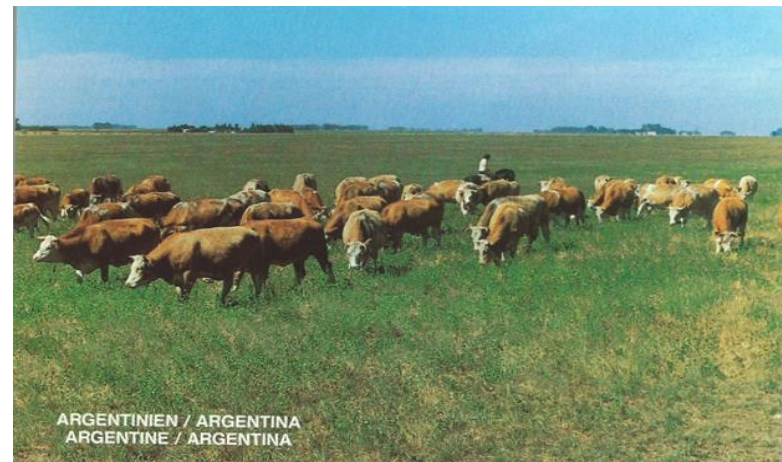
Lloyd Powell, USA

## Topics:

- Selection measures against parasites and heavy births
- Commercial crossbreeding farms

## Importance of the Si-Fv in South America

- 1922 first imports of Si-Fv animals
- from 1967 larger imports





# 1988: 7<sup>th</sup> World Congress Munich, Germany

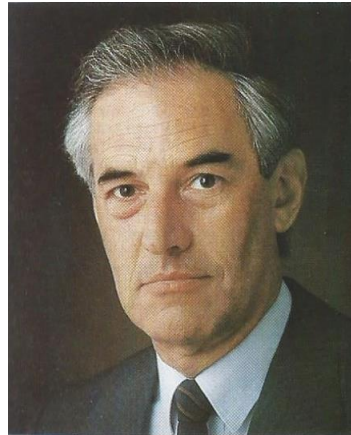
20 member countries Greetings from China

## New Presidency:

Dr. Föger, AT

Lloyd Powell, USA

Peter Massmann, RSA



## Topics:

- Breed development and promotion
- Breeding technique
- Linear type description with color description



# 1990: 8<sup>th</sup> World Congress Lausanne, Switzerland

20 member countries 5 new countries join

New Secretary General:  
Niklaus Flückiger

The now 4 working groups meet

- Finances and membership
- Breed development and promotion
- Breeding technology
- Beef production



The Swiss Simmental Cattle Breeders' Association celebrates 100 years of existence.



# 1992: 9<sup>th</sup> World Congress Dallas, Texas

4 new member countries, bringing the total to 29

## New Presidency:

George Anderson, UK; Hugo Valentin, IT; Brian Kitchen, US

- Spanish becomes 4th congress language
- Survey results: 105,862 farms, 18 million Simmental cattle in the 25 member countries
- Importance of crossbreeding SIMBRA = Simmental x Brahman
- Si-Fv x Angus - black color in Si-Fv breeding





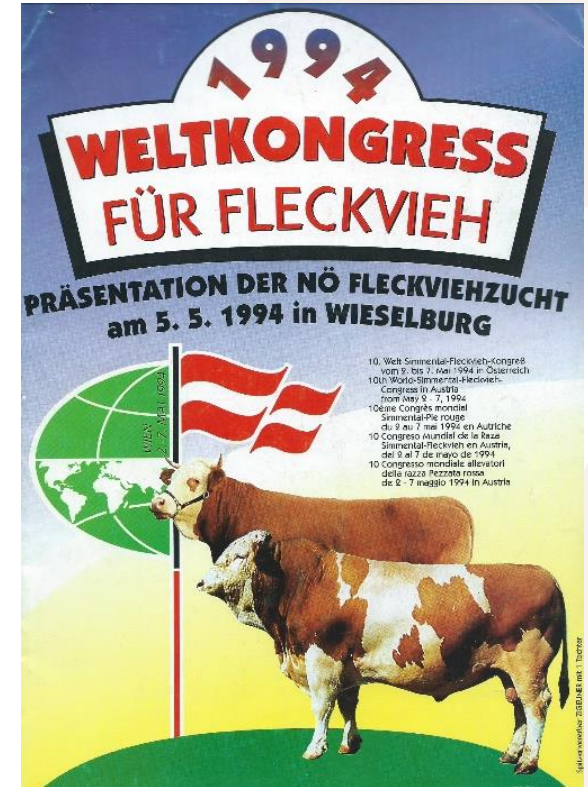
# 1994: 10<sup>th</sup> World Congress Austria

25 of 29 countries take part

New 2nd Vice-president: Andreas Weil, ARG

## Topics:

- Breed standard must be documented for Si-Fv: origin, basic coloration, color distribution, secondary performance traits, polledness
- Dual purpose in family farms
- Cooperation between science and practice: e.g. localization of the marbling gene



With 31 member countries and 3.5 million animals in its herd books, the WSFF is the largest global breeders' association.



# 1996: 11<sup>th</sup> World Congress South Africa and Namibia

New Presidency Dr. Hugo Valentin, IT;  
Andreas Weil, RSA; Hans Häckel, DE  
Best-attended congress with 500  
guests from 24 countries (*Roe Wiid,  
Peter Massmann*)



*Legendary statement: “You can produce milk without meat  
but not meat without milk” (Peter Massmann)*



## Topics:

- The focus is on Si-Fv in pure breeding and crossbreeding with Brahman under extensive conditions
- “Simmental World News” (June 1996)
- Presentation of the SIMDEX system (reproduction index)



# 1998: 12<sup>th</sup> World Congress

## Brazil - Goiania, Uberlandia

### New Presidency

Dr. Hugo Valentin, IT;

Hans Häckel, DE

*new:* Robert Haralson, USA

New Secretary General:

Yves Schleppi, CH

### Topics:

- DNA marker for polledness and parentage control
- internal meat quality
- Comparable breeding values for beef traits
- Application of an overall breeding value (GZW) with the breeding values for milk, beef and fitness
- SIMBRA breeders join the WSFV
- Discussion Internet homepage



**XII CONGRESSO MUNDIAL DA RAÇA SIMENTAL**  
**WORLD SIMMENTAL FEDERATION**  
**ASSOCIAÇÃO BRASILEIRA DE CRIADORES DA RAÇA SIMENTAL**  
UBERLÂNDIA - MG - GOIÂNIA - GO - BRASIL - DE 03 A 12 DE SETEMBRO DE 1998







# 2000: 13<sup>th</sup> World Congress Kildare, Ireland

250 participants from 22 countries

## New Presidency:

Hans Häckel, DE

Robert Haralson, USA

Eduardo Rosenberg, ARG



Franz Traxler, Alice Mullen

## Topics:

- New animal identification EU-wide
- DNA markers
- Lectures on beef performance testing according to ICAR
- Advantages of Irish Simmental: calving ease, muscle development
- Problems Si-Fv recognition in new countries
- Practice exchange program for young Simmental/Simbra breeders



# 2002: 14<sup>th</sup> World Congress South Africa and Namibia

worldwide animal disease crisis (BSE, FMD)

## New Presidency:

Robert Haralson, US

Franz Stürzer, DE

Peter Speers, AUS

New Secretary General:

Andreas Bigler, CH



## Topics:

- “The dual purpose of the Si-Fv in European countries”
- The beef utilization of the Si-Fv
- **New total breeding value (GZW) in DE+AT: 39:17:44 = milk : beef : fitness**
- Ecological benefits - less methane per kg milk and beef (Kräußlich)
- 4 presentations: Performance of Simmental in SA and NAM
- Discussion marker-assisted selection (MAS)



# 2004: 15<sup>th</sup> World Congress Aarhus, Denmark+ Tour to Sweden

New Presidency: Franz Stürzer, DE; Josef Kucera, CZ; Bruce Holmquist, CAN



## Topics:

- Linear type description in beef cattle breeding
- Breeding technique: recording of hereditary defects, crossbreeding with Holstein
- Purebred Si-Fv: maximum 12.5 % foreign blood
- ZWS model “Breedplan” - 17 traits, worldwide application (Speers, AUS)



# 2006: 16<sup>th</sup> World Congress Calgary, Canada (for the 2nd time)

## New Presidency:

Franz Stürzer, DE

Josef Kucera, CZ

Bruce Holmquist, CAN



2005: committee meeting in Guadalajara,  
MEXICO

## Topics:

- New developments in DNA technology
- Beef production and the importance of Simmental cattle
- Global agriculture and livestock farming in transition
- First international young breeder program went well





# 2007: Committee meeting in the Czech Republic

Hosted: R. Sustacek (died 2016)  
and Josef Kucera

## Topics:

- Budget for research projects
- Health monitoring and breeding for fitness (Egger-Danner, AT),
- SIM-FV under extensive conditions (Massmann, SA)

Fleckvieh-Past-Present-Vision (Grupp, DE)

Simmental cattle in China - officially recognized as a breed (Yachun Wang)

Netherlands: Fleckvieh-Stamboek founded - 100 members





# 2008: 17<sup>th</sup> World Congress Huntingdon, Great Britain

New Presidency: Bruce Holmquist,  
CAN; Josef Kucera, CZ; Bill Almond, AUS

Czech Republic takes over the General  
Secretariat (Kristýna Skopalova)

## Topics:

- Beef tenderness as a quality characteristic
- DNA - use in breeding programs
- Hereditary defect spider limb (arachnomelia)
- The WSFF invites the young breeders' associations to participate.



H.E. Prinz Harry with Dan Evans,  
Georg Röhrmoser, Franz Stürzer





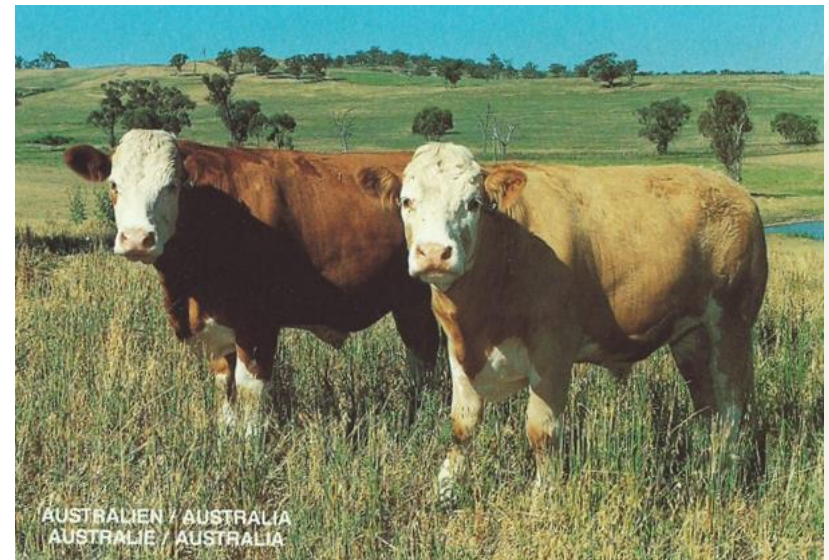
# 2010: 18<sup>th</sup> World Congress Melbourne, Australia



Hosts: Bill Almond and  
Peter Speers

Topics:

- SIMBRA Breeding
- Harmonization of conformation
- Genome projects in North America and Europe
- Interbeef breeding value estimation





# 2012: 19<sup>th</sup> World Congress Germany

28 member countries,

350 participants from 28 countries



New Presidency: Johann Kluyts, SA;

President: Josef Kucera, CZ; Fred Schütze, USA;



## Topics:

- Genomic selection in DE+AT+CZ
- Beef performance in dual purpose and suckler cow breeding
- The robust Simmental cow - fitness and health
- SIMBRA - The best of 2 breeds (Reini Rush, NAM)





# 2014: 20<sup>th</sup> World Congress Cartagena, Colombia

## Topics:

- Scientific developments, ICAR, standardization of breed codes and codes for hereditary defects
- Genomic selection project Gene2Farm
- Conformation classification “System 1997” to „FleckScore“ in 10 European countries
- Discussions on better integration of WSFF with EVF and ASA

## 2013: Croatia celebrates 100 years of Simmental





# 2016: 21<sup>st</sup> Weltkongress Krakau, Rzeszow, Rudawka Rymanowska, Polen

## New Presidency:

Fred Schütze, USA; Sebastian Auernig, AT; Peter Wenn, AUS

**2015 in CH: Adoption of a decision to reform the WSFF statutes**

## Topics:

- SIM-FV breeding in Poland
- Dual purpose always modern
- Use of genomic information





# 2017: WSFF conference in the new member country Turkey

## Topics:

- “Simmental Fleckvieh in Turkey” (Celik, TK)
- The breed has been around since 1925. 70,000 Si-Fv imports in recent years
- Tracking down the efficient Simmental cow (Steininger, AT)
- Developments and successes of the Simmental in Canada (Holmquist)





# 2018: 22<sup>nd</sup> World Congress Texas, USA



## Topics:

- Design of BOLT for Multi-Breed
- SINGLE STEP methods and evaluation
- Searching for cows for consistent production assurance  
“Make Money for Ranger”
- Genomic tests on embryos
- ET and IVF on young cattle on nucleus stations
- Development of local and global databases for genetic evaluation



# 2019: WSFF Board of Directors in Costa Rica

As part of the 3rd SIM Congress of the Americas



## Topics:

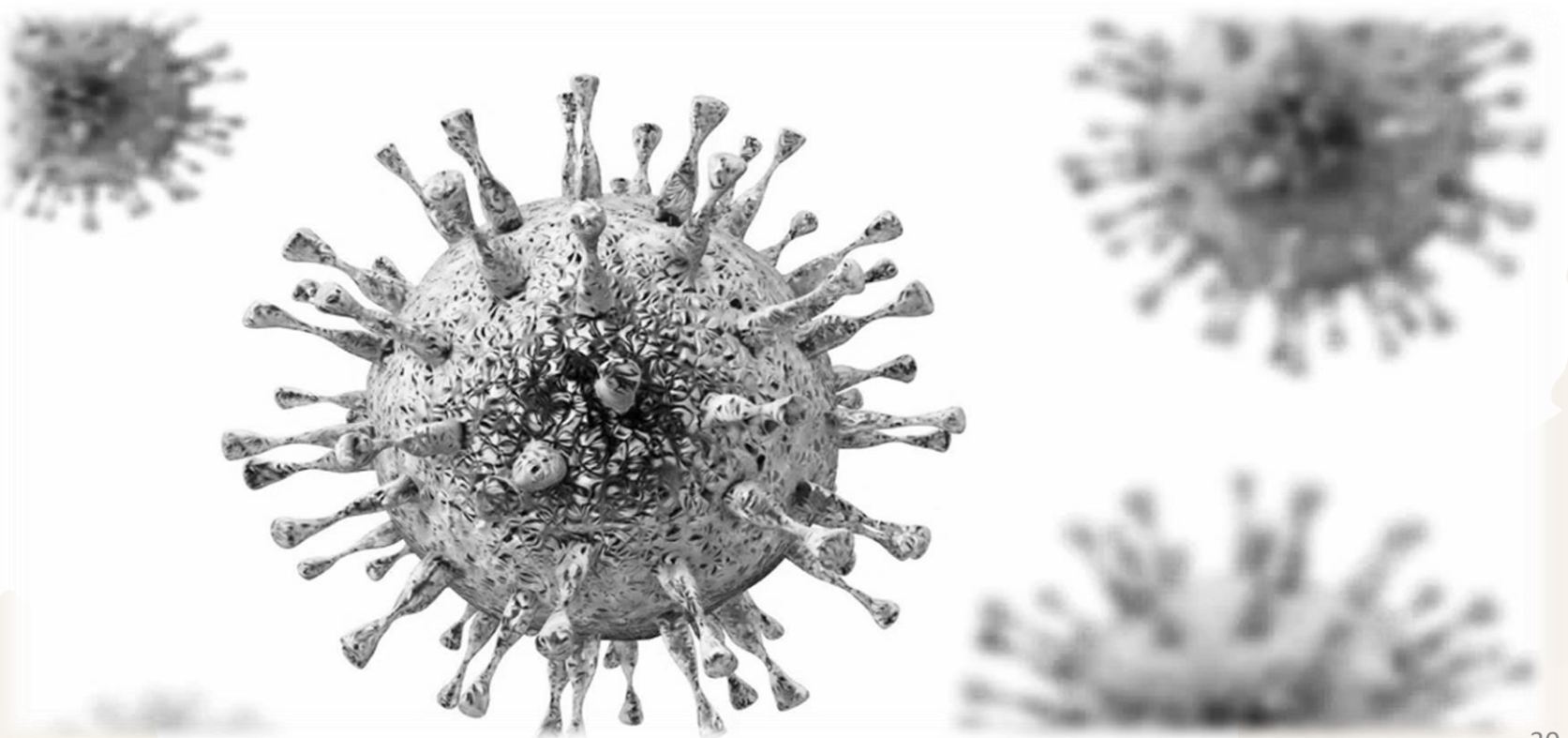
- Communication and breed promotion
- Improvement of online information
- Homepage and WSFV/EVF newsletter updates



# 2020/2021

## Worldwide corona pandemic

The 23rd World Congress in Austria first had to be postponed to 2021 and then again to 2022.





# 2022: 23<sup>rd</sup> World Congress in Austria



## New Presidency:

Peter Wenn, AUS; Sebastian Auernig, AT; New Secretary General: Blanka Dřízhalová, CZ; Daniel Espinosa, COLUMBIEN

Bulgaria rejoins the WSFF  
after many years

## Topics :

- Simmental cattle of the future - from traditional breeding to genome editing
- Modern breeding programs for the future
- Producing milk and beef sustainably with Simmental cattle
- International developments in the breeding of Simmental cattle for beef production
- The FV cow - (not) a climate killer?!





# 2024: 24<sup>th</sup> World Congress Calgary 50 years WSFF

# DANKE – THANK YOU

- Breeders, young breeders, breeding associations, working groups, insemination, testing and research institutes, veterinary experts, authorities, funding agencies and legislative bodies, both nationally and internationally.
- Science and research for their irreplaceable work, e.g. genomics - a new era in animal breeding. High breeding progress, fitness and health. Selection simpler, faster, more cost-effective. Generation interval significantly shortened.
- Export and import companies confronted with ever stricter animal transportation and animal welfare requirements.





# 2024: 24<sup>th</sup> World Congress 50 years WSFF

Young Breeders' Delegations  
Round Table in Calgary -  
WSFF sponsors the meeting





## Let's look to the future:

Simmental Fleckvieh  
cattle are simply great



© Elly Geverink

We breeders love this  
cattle - the best breed  
of cattle worldwide



**Welt-Simmental-Fleckviehvereinigung**

**50. Geburtstag**

**World Simmental Simmental Cattle Association**

**50th anniversary**

**Danke für ihre  
Aufmerksamkeit!  
Thank you for your  
attention!**