



New York **Simmental** Assn. Newsletter

VOL 4

September – October 2021

NYSA@NewYorkSimmental.com

607-423-4888

www.NewYorkSimmental.com

COMING EVENTS & DEADLINES

Oct. 1 – 3 Cattle Battle
Fonda Fairgrounds

Oct. 23 – 24 NYJBPA Farm Tour

January, 2022 - Annual Meeting
Date TBA

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- Pg. 2 – Meeting minutes
- Pg. 4- NYSF SimSol results
- Pg. 5 ,6 – NYSF Simmental result
- Pg. 7 – ASA Announcement
- Pg. 8, 9 – Feet & Legs
- Pg. 11, 15, & 16 – Vaccinations
- Pg. 12-14 – Members Out & About
- Pg. 18 – 21 – Weaning

Cattle Battle

October 1 – 3, 2021

Fonda Fairgrounds – 21 South Bridge Street Fonda, NY

Schedule

October 1 – Cattle Begin to Arrive after Noon.

- Check in 2:00 pm-8:00 pm and weigh in of market cattle

October 2-

- 7:30 am Coffee and Donuts Sponsored by Merck Animal Health
- 6:30am-9:00am – Cattle check in & weigh in of market cattle
- 10:00 am – Youth Showmanship (Under 21 as of 1/1/21)
- Jackpot Heifer/ Steer Show 30 minutes following conclusion of Showmanship (order TBD)
- 12:00pm – 6:00pm QuizBowl & Skill-a-Thon Open to Youth
- 7:00pm – Youth Livestock Judging

October 3-

- 7:30 am – Coffee and Donuts Sponsored by Merck Animal Health
- 8:30 am – Youth Stockman Award Presentation and Junior Show Commence

MINUTES of the NEW YORK SIMMENTAL ASSOCIATION

1. President Darryl Bunal called the meeting to order at 2pm. He had everyone introduce themselves.
2. Phil Paradis made a motion to accept the minutes as printed in the last newsletter. Jeremy Bear 2nd. Passed
3. Shawn Murphy gave a Treasurer's Report. We have \$9,376 in the checking account and \$7,471 in the junior checking account. Bryan Stocks made a motion to accept the report, Phil 2nd, passed.
4. Committee Reports:
 - A. NYSF – In the absence of Art Reynolds, Darryl Bunal will attend the meeting. Let them know we really like the new tie outs. It was nice arriving and the barn was in great condition ready for us – thank the barn crew/staff.
 - B. Promotion
 - C. Nomination Chair Person Art Reynolds – Expiring terms – Directors: Phil Paradis, Lonny Schaefer, Matt Wilks. Nick Bear said he was interested in being a director. President and Vice-President both agreed to stay the same for the next 2 years. Bryan Stocks made a motion to have Darryl Bunal, President and Jeremy Bear, Vice-President slate of Officers. Russ Bunal 2nd, passed.
 - D. NYJSA Advisors – Bryan Stocks volunteered to work with the juniors and be an advisor.
 - E. NYSF Donations – great support. Asked for \$1690 to cover all awards, \$1570 committed.
5. Correspondence/Announcements
6. Old Business:
 - A. EFD – Simme Valley organized a tent at EFD. Invited Hereford and Angus to share tent. Both paid their share (\$400/each). Tullyfergus Angus displayed cattle for the Angus. Hereford did not have a display. Simme Valley Feed also paid (\$100) for a table and Simme Valley displayed 2 heifers.
 - B. NYSF Fun auction – will be held after our dinner on Sunday. Money raised last year paid for all the awards for the Junior Youth Show (replaced the 4-H show that was canceled) and the All Breeds Youth Showmanship.
7. New Business:
 - A. NYSF Supreme Show – Bozeman Farm was Reserve Supreme Heifer, Simme Valley had Supreme Cow/Calf, and Bozeman Farm had Res. Supreme Cow/Calf. (3 out of 4 winners)
 - B. NYSA Web site – Taylor Hoelscher maintains & makes changes as we need them. It was suggested to have a membership application posted on the site.
 - C. NYSF Awards – discussed what we wanted next year. We talked about bringing back the stones we used to have. Bryan Stocks is checking to see if they can be made again. Barry Wood will check with Harry Triebe about making blue stone awards also.
 - D. Next Meeting – Annual – Russ Bunal will check Theodores Restuarant, same as last year. Possible 1-8-22
 - E. Adjourn at 3pm – Bryan Stocks made a motion to adjourn, Julie Murphy 2nd, passed.

Mini Hides used for our awards, printed by Koty Darnell. Also had nice wooden cutting boards.



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Simme Valley Fre-Anna Supreme Winner at

NY All Breeds Supreme Show - NYSF Simmental Show
Jersey Fresh – Allegany Fair – Erie County Fair
Tioga County Fair – and Grand Champ at Big E National Show

Jeanne White, Owner
Phil Paradis, Manager
Groton, NY



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Jeanne@SimmeValley.com
www.SimmeValley.com

New York State Fair

SimAngus/SimSolution Show

FEMALE DIVISION:

Res. Supreme, Champion Cow/Calf

Red Hot Nikki w/ Fiddy Cent

Dylan Bozeman

Jr Calf Champion

DHB Miss Fiddy

Dylan Bozeman

Res Jr Calf Champion

BPF SheDaisy

Premier Farms

Senior Calf Champion

BPF Frenzy

Premier Farms

Res. Grand Champion and Intermediate Champ

SNRS Butterfly

Sunrise Farm

Res. Intermediate Champ

JMP Black Diamond

JMP Farm

Jr. Heifer Champ

AHTH Keep it Classy

Evan Kingdon

Supreme, Grand Champion Female and Sr. Heifer Champ

Miss CCF Jestress

Dylan Bozeman

Res. Sr. Heifer Champ

RS/BR Hairietta

Ruganstein Family Farm

Bull Division:

Grand Champion Bull and

Senior Bull Champion;

JMP Perseus - JMP Farm

Group Classes:

Produce of Dam &

Pair of Yearlings;

JMP Farm

Pair of Calves & NY Special;

Premier Farm

Premier Breeder;

JMP Farm

Premier Exhibitor;

Bozeman Farm

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New York State Fair

SIMMENTAL SHOW



FEMALE DIVISION:

Champion 2-yr old Cow/Calf	Clarks Gloria	Travis Clark
Supreme Champ, Grand Champ Cow/Calf and Champion Aged Cow/Calf		
	Simme Valley Fre-Anna/Jilli-Anna	Simme Valley
Res. Supreme Champ, Res. Grand Champion, and Res. Aged Cow/Calf Champion		
	TX Yolanda/	Joshua Pyscher, PA
Grand Champion and Heifer Calf Champion		
	Simme Valley Jillie-Anna	Simme Valley
Res. Grand Champion and Res. Heifer Calf Champ		
	Simme Valley Java	Simme Valley
Senior Calf Champion	Kade Earley	Snyder Cattle
Res. Sr. Calf Champ	Bunal's Fire Break	The Bunal Farm
Intermediate Champ	WPCC Shining Star	Bryan Stocks
Res. Intermediate Champ	Rugensteins Hazel	Rugenstein Family Farm
Jr. Heifer Champ	YNOT Mia's Hattie	Bryan Stocks
Res. Jr. Heifer Champ	H201 Trippys Bliss	Travis Clark
Sr. Heifer Champ	Bunal's Dream Ranch	The Bunal Farm
Res. Sr. Heifer Champ	CLO Gretchen 62G	Sunrise Farm

BULL DIVISION:

Grand Champion Bull and Bull Calf Champion		
	BPF Load Out J05	Premier Farm
Res. Grand Champ Bull and Res. Bull Calf Champ		
	BPF Payed in Full J03	Premier Farm
Sr. Bull Calf Champ	Bunal's Regarding Soda	The Bunal Farm

STEER DIVISION:

Champion Steer	LKF Hank H11	Ledge Knoll Farm
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GROUP CLASSES:

Simme Valley won Pair of Calves, Breeders Herd, Best 4 Head, Best 5 Head, and NY Special.

Bryan Stocks won Pair of Yearlings. **Premier Farm** won Produce of Dam and Get of Sire.

Judge was **Greg McCurry**, Ks

PREMIER BREEDER AND PREMIER EXHIBITOR was Simme Valley.

NYSF Youth Show: Kelsey Broughton was Master Showman. **Dylan Bozeman** was Res. Master Showman and had Supreme Champion SimAng/SimSol Female with his cow/calf and Res. Supreme with his yearling. **Gavin Murphy** had Supreme Simmental Female and Grand Champion Simmental Heifer. **Molly SanEmerterio** had Res. Supreme Simmental Female and Res. Grand Champion Simmental Heifer. **Travis Clark** had Grand Champion Cow/Calf. Other Junior Simmental members participating: **Kylie Murphy, Annika Donlick, Elsie Donlick, Eli Donlick,**

NYSF All Breeds Showmanship: **Molly SanEmeterio** was Master Showman and Evan Kingdon was Reserve Master Showman. Kylie Murphy & Addy Rae Bozeman won their division. Grant Pyra and Eli Donlick were 2nd in their division.

SPONSORS for both Youth Shows: Fun Auction and Twist of Fate



Supreme Champion in Supreme Show and NYSF Simmental Show
 Simme Valley with:
 Simme Valley Fre-Anna, an Executive Order 3 yr old cow w/ heifer calf Jill-Anna



NY All Breeds Supreme Show:
Res Supreme Champion Heifer
 Grand Champion in the SimAng/SimSol Show
 Dylan Bozeman with
 Miss CCF Jestress G106



Grand Champion Female
 Simme Valley with
 Simme Valley Jill-Anna, Mr CCF 20-20



Res. Grand Champion Female
 Simme Valley with
 Simme Valley Java, W/C Loaded Up



Grand Champion Bull
 Premier Farms with
 BPF Load Out J05, W/C Loaded Up



Res. Grand Champion Bull
 Premier Farms with
 BPF Payed In Full, LLSF Pays to Believe

ASA Announcements and Events:



Trustee Elections Underway –

Board and Membership Nomination Ballot

This ballot announces the board nominations for the open seats on the ASA Board and allows the membership to write-in one or two (if there are two open seats in one region) member(s) whom they feel should be nominated to serve on the ASA Board of Trustees.

Deadline: Must reach the Chairman of the Tellers before midnight, October 7, 2021.

Reminder – not postmarked, the ballot must arrive at the Chairman of the Tellers' office on or before October 7, 2021, or if voting electronically, the vote must be completed and submitted before 11:59 pm Mountain on October 7, 2021.

No open seats in the Eastern Region

Vote Electronically!! Electronic Voting will open on September 7, 2021.

Vote electronically, it is easy and ensures that your vote will arrive on time to be counted. When you submit your ballot, you will receive an acknowledgment that your vote has been placed.

Membership Memo

Please assure that your membership information is current in Herdbook Services. This includes your address, phone number, and email address.

Industry News:

Simmental Provides Open-Breed Registration Promotion

Knowledge is a powerful tool for success. The American Simmental Association (ASA) recognizes that informed, data-driven decisions improve the bottom line for both seedstock and commercial producers. Making access to complete herd data easier, the ASA Board of Trustees recently passed an open-breed promotion to dual-register cows that are registered with another breed association at the nominal rate of \$5.00 per head for the fiscal year 2022. As the ASA runs an open herdbook to any breed and believes strongly in the benefits of crossbreeding, many members of the ASA raise a variety of breeds of seedstock. The dual registry enables breeders to garner EPD from the largest multi-breed beef cattle genetic evaluation with the International Genetics Solutions (IGS), opens opportunities with other programs available from the ASA, and paints a more complete picture of the herd when all cows are in the database.

“We are taking away that cost-based hurdle for any person who wants access to the IGS Multi-breed Genetic Evaluation to receive a multi-breed, directly comparable EPD,” shares Chip Kemp, ASA director of Commercial and Industry Operations. “If someone has been intrigued by our database but was holding out, this is the opportunity to invest, and bring a large group of females into the IGS database for a credible multi-breed EPD.”

Starting in July 2021, the ASA will reduce the rate to register a cow already registered in another recognized breed association from \$17.00 to \$5.00 for the 2022 fiscal year (July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022).

ASA's director of Performance Data Programs, Jannine Story, shares that by dual-registering females, cattle producers take advantage of more meaningful data by creating ties to other offspring and animals in the genetic evaluation.

“Not only is this a clear advantage for current members to receive a more complete picture of their herd's performance through fuller pedigrees,” she says, “but also, this open-breed registration promotion coupled with our various Total Herd Enrollment options provide any producer, who may have not had access to a multi-breed evaluation before, timely access to weekly updated, low-cost, cross-breed directly comparable EPD on cows and calves.”

Any person can apply for registration on an animal registered with another breed association. To take advantage of ASA's open-breed registration promotion, all dual-registration requests must be received or postmarked during the 2022 fiscal year. To get started, email a list of the other breed association numbers with tattoos to simmental@simmgene.com.

The Benefit of Sound Decisions

Feet and Leg 2021 SimTalk Early Fall

by Lane Giess



Editor's note: ASA Director Lane Giess spent significant time researching the genetic control of feet and legs in beef cattle during his master's thesis and time at ASA. Giess has individually scored over 6,000 cattle for numerous feet and leg observations.

You care about soundness in your cow herd, right? Of course, you do; it is a trait many in the beef industry today care deeply about. Whether it is in the form of bull returns and guarantees, early culling of replacement heifers and developing bulls, or using an AI sire sight unseen, soundness plays a critical role in your reputation and the success of your enterprise.

Soundness by itself is a complex trait controlled by many skeletal and environmental factors. Fortunately, we know soundness traits such as the curvature of claws, the angle of the hoof, or even the angularity of the hock and skeleton can be improved through genetic selection and appropriate culling practices. The heritability of these traits range from 0.10 to 0.40, meaning approximately 10% to 40% of the variation for soundness traits in our cattle populations can be directly associated with genetics.

Seedstock producers have the responsibility of not only improving the functionality and performance of beef production on a global scale but also improving the profitability of our commercial customers. Given feet and leg soundness issues can present themselves early in an animal's lifetime, commercial cattlemen can experience major financial losses if whole sire groups of replacement females go lame, or the new bull they bought this spring breaks down while breeding cows. The duty of seedstock producers is to not only remove bad-footed animals from their annual offerings but to also select for genetic improvement in this area.

The best and most effective way to accomplish selecting for genetic improvement is through the use of genetic tools such as Expected Progeny Difference (EPD) predictions and economic selection indexes. However, as many know, these tools are only available if an appropriate amount of data on the trait of interest is supplied to the genetic evaluation.

As with any new or novel trait development, the production of these genetic predictions is entirely dependent upon a steady stream of data coming in from you, the membership. Much like docility EPD, feet and leg data collection relies on members to submit their own subjective observations on three traits: hoof angle, claw shape, and rear leg side view (hock angle). These three traits have shown to be lowly genetically correlated with each other, have moderate heritability, and appear to have the strongest relationship of feet and leg indicator traits with longevity.

1. Hoof Angle a description of the angularity that exists between the base of the hoof to the pastern. Can describe steepness, shallowness, and length of toe.
2. Claw Shape a description of the digital confirmation with regard to shape, size, and symmetry. Can describe divergence and openness, or curling/crossing of claws.
3. Rear Leg Side View a description of the angularity that exists in the hock joint in relation to movement. Can describe straightness and rigidness, or overflexion of the hock joint

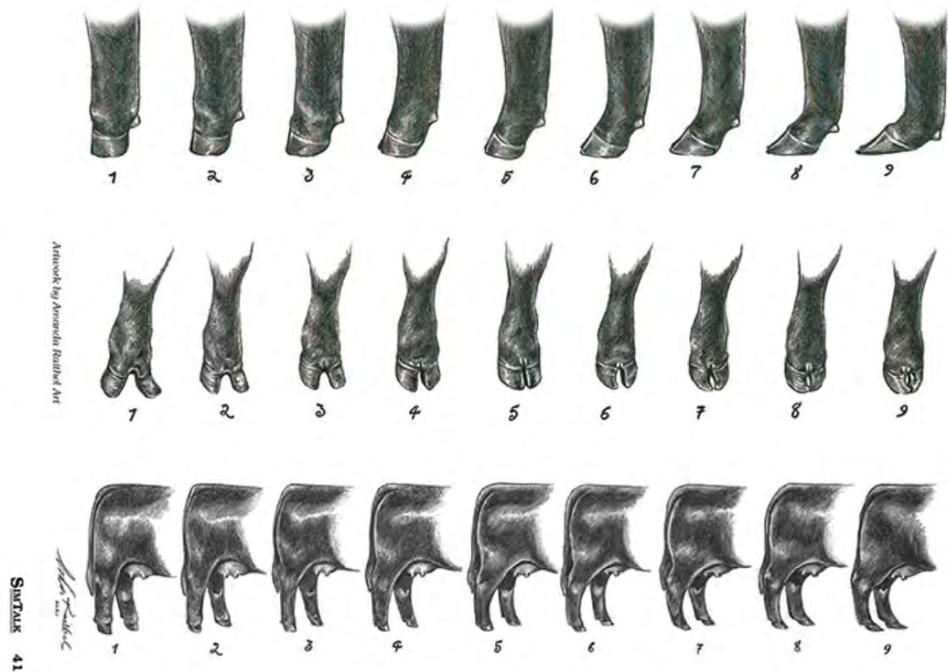
The American Simmental Association has invested in new and more comprehensive visual rubrics to aid producers in their efforts to classify feet and leg traits in their cow herds. These new rubrics are available in print, as well as on the web, and can be implemented during semi-annual processing to gather data on whole contemporary groups.

A useful way to gather large amounts of feet and leg data is to develop a web-based survey (Google survey works great), and attach the visual rubrics to each question so data can be gathered electronically and with quick access to visual aids.

The most effective and fair assessment should be done when cattle do not have their heads caught in a head-catch, as this leads to uneven weight distribution across all four limbs. Rather, score animals in small groups as they leave the chute, in alleys with an entry gate and separate exit gate to ensure whole contemporary group reporting and accuracy of data collection.

Current feet and leg data counts in Herdbook

- 53 member accounts
- 3,182 distinct animals
- 3,215 claw set
- 3,214 hoof angle
- 2,089 rear leg side view.



Guidelines recommended for feet and leg data collection:

- Score the three traits (Hoof Angle, Claw Shape, and Rear Leg Side View) on a 1 to 9 scale using the above rubrics.
- If there is variation in the conformation of hoof traits between front/rear or left/right, score the worst hoof.
- Scores should be collected on all yearling bulls and heifers up to 18 months of age to capture whole contemporary groups. Reminder: animals that are contemporary by themselves will not have their scores included in the evaluation.
- Scores may be evaluated annually on mature cows (taken in conjunction with mature weights and body condition scores)
- Score all animals prior to any hoof trimming.
- Score animals on a level and hard surface, devoid of mud or grass to ensure an accurate appraisal.
- Score all animals on the same day, from the same evaluator.

Ultimately, feet and leg appraisal and data collection has a range of benefits, including training membership to become more aware of conformational differences and characteristics in the soundness of their cow herd and annual seedstock offering, building a more robust understanding of feet and leg traits as direct indicators of soundness and longevity, and building a data set for EPD development so all can benefit from more precise genetic selection.



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Cattle vaccine basics

Quick facts:

- *The goal of vaccination is to provide protection from disease through immune system memory.
- *There are two main types of vaccine: modified live vaccine (MLV) and killed vaccines.
- *The “core” vaccinations are determined by the impact of the diseases, the likelihood of exposure, and the risk of unprotected exposure.

Why do we give vaccines?

Vaccines are given to mitigate risk. Vaccines provide added insurance for cattle producers to protect their herds from many different diseases. The factors that warrant vaccination are:

- *The likelihood of disease exposure is high, or the risk of unprotected exposure to a disease is high.
- *The vaccine is effective.
- *The cost of the vaccine is justified.

Goal of vaccination

The purpose of vaccinating is to protect the herd from harmful diseases for health, economic and welfare reasons. To provide protection, the immune system must develop memory. With each vaccination and booster, the goal is to provide the protection needed by triggering the immune system to recognize the disease.

Vaccines do not provide absolute protection

Most vaccines do not prevent infection; instead, they prevent or aid in the prevention of clinical disease. Important to note, vaccines are not absolute protection. The immune system can be overwhelmed even if a vaccine is in place. If cattle become immune-compromised or exposed to an extremely high number of pathogens (disease-causing organisms), the vaccine may fail to protect from clinical disease.

VACCINE TYPES:

In general, there are three types of vaccines. Modified live, killed/inactivated or a combination of both.

Modified live vaccine (MLV)

- *MLV's are non-disease causing versions of a virus or bacteria.
- *The live virus or bacteria replicate in the animal similar to how the actual disease would, but does not cause the disease itself.
- *The replication of the vaccine organism allows the immune system to develop a full response and create protective immunity with only one dose of the vaccine.
- *Many protocols recommend revaccination because not all animals respond to each vaccination.

Killed vaccines

- *Killed vaccines do not contain a live virus or bacteria.
- *Killed vaccines contain a dead organism or a specific piece of an organism that is critical to the function of the disease-causing virus or bacteria.
- *The crucial difference between killed and modified live vaccines is there is no replication with a killed product.
- *For most vaccines, the lack of replication means the immune system does not develop the protective memory with just one dose and requires a booster.

Combination vaccines

- *Some vaccines contain both modified live and killed products.
- *These vaccines can protect against the live portions with one dose.
- *The killed portion requires a booster to provide protection.

(continue on page 15)

MEMBERS OUT AND ABOUT



Tioga Co Supreme
Simme Valley with Simme Valley Fre-Anna
And Simme Valley Jill-Anna



Tioga Co Res Supreme Chair Winner
Tuckaway Farm – Bryan & Sarah Stocks
WPCC Shining Star (Relentless)



Orleans County - Samantha Basinait
with Simme Valley Hubba-Hubba



Orleans County
Kaitlyn Basinait with Simme Valley Honeybee



NYSF All Breeds Supreme Cow/Calf
Simme Valley w/ SV Fre-Anna & Jill-Anna
Supreme winners of 6 shows



NYSF All Breeds Res. Supreme Cow/Calf
Bozeman Farm – Dylan Bozeman
Red Hot Nikki w/ DHB Miss Fiddy Cent



Premier had a great day at the Altamont Fair. Bull BPF Payerd In Full J03 won Supreme Champion, and heifer Calf BPF Peekaboo J08 was Grand Champion Female.

Supreme Champion and Grand Champion in SimAng/SimSol Show
Dylan Bozeman with Miss CCF Jestress G106



NYSF ALL BREEDS SUPREME SHOW
There were 32 shows represented at the Supreme Show
Simmental-SimAngus-SimSolution had 12 out of the 32 Supremes

County Fair Winners	Name	Animal	Birthdate	Breed
Albany/Altamont	Jeremy Bear	BPF Peekaboo J08	2/6/21	Simm
Allegany	Simme Valley	SV Fre-Anna & SV Jilli-Anna	1/28 & 1/1/21	Simm
Cattaraugus	Bond, Big Apple Cattle Co	LPA Everleigh	3/3/20	SimAng
Cortland	Eli Donlick	Simme Valley Hot Tamale	2/1/20	Simm
Female Cash Showdn Jackpot Heifer Show	Addy Rae Bozeman	Miss Halle Berry H108	12/10/20	SimSol
Genesee	Dylan Bozeman	Miss CCF Jestress G106	11/15/19	SimAng
Hemlock/Livingston Co	Clark Family Farm	Rugensteins Eliza & Clarks Josephine	3/17 & 5/12/21	Simm
Orleans	Samantha Basinait	Simme Valley Hubba-Hubba	3/7/20	Simm
Otsego	Trent DeBoer	HBF1 Miss Gracie & HBF1 Blaze	11/18 & 3/17/21	Simm
Steuben	Dylan Bozeman	Red Hot Nikki & DHB Miss Fiddy Cent	8/17 & 3/24/21	SimSol
Tioga	Bryan Stocks	WPCC Shining Star H235	5/10/20	Simm
Wayne County Fair	Rugenstein Family Farm	RS/BR Hairietta 223H	2/17/20	SimSol



Elsie Donlick (center)



Annika Donlick (center)

The Donlick family has been coming to my farm(Simme Valley) for 4 years now. Prior to that, the girls were sponsored by a dairy farm (and still are). **They don't live on a farm.** They have 2 dogs & a cat. Annika & Elsie both qualified for the NY Dairy Team for the National All American Dairy Show in Harrisburg where each state can send a team and both 4-H and FFA compete together.

Elsie was in the All American Invitational Youth Dairy Judging Contest where she was **FIRST** in reasons and 8th individual for judging and reasons combined, and her team was 6th in the nation. The kids had to be at least 15 by the end of this year. Elsie turns 15 on 12-5, so she was probably the youngest competitor.

Annika was in the Junior Dairy Management Contest and she was **FIRST** individual in the nation and her NY team was **FIRST** for team scores in the nation.



Eli Donlick
Supreme Champion
Cortland County Fair

NYSF - Big SHOUT OUT to Julie Murphy. She took entries and organized the All Breeds Showmanship Show on Friday and did the same for the All Breeds Youth Show on Monday. She and hubby Shawn Murphy (our New York Simmental Association Treasurer) organized and provided awards and cash prizes for all the kids for the two shows out of our funds from the Fun Auction account. Julie also did our points for NYSF

REVACCINATION and BOOSTERING:

Revaccinating and boosting are often used interchangeably but technically are different. Clearing up the definitions will help everyone be on the same page. As a general rule, give vaccines three weeks apart, whether revaccinating or boosting.

Revaccination

A term used almost exclusively with MLV, revaccination is giving a vaccine more than once to try to reduce the total number of non-responders in a group. Not every animal mounts an immune response to every vaccination. To create a comfortably low proportion of non-responders in a group, give a MLV more than once.

*Even in the best-managed herd, the percent responders in one round of vaccination are likely no more than 90%. This leaves 10% of the herd unprotected.

*Revaccination with the same efficacy would then leave only 1% of the herd unprotected (10% first vac x 10% 2nd vac = 1% probability in the non-responder group both times).

Booster

This term refers to giving a vaccine more than once to create protective immunity that cannot be achieved with only one dose. With killed vaccines, the first dose presents the antigen to the immune system, resulting in a small immune response, but little to no memory. The second dose presents the antigen again, resulting in a more substantial response from the immune system. The second dose provides protective immunity through memory.

What are the common diseases the cattle industry vaccinates for?

Both beef and dairy operations have the same fundamental diseases that are a concern. The diseases are usually categorized by the system they affect.

Respiratory viruses and bacteria:

Respiratory viruses

*IBR - Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis - often referred to as “red-nose,” this virus causes massive upper respiratory inflammation. The virus also causes reproductive issues.

*PI3 - Parainfluenza 3 - this common disease causes an upper respiratory infection and leads to secondary infections from other viruses and bacteria.

*BRV - Bovine Respiratory Syncytial Virus - This virus causes disease in the lower respiratory tract and can cause viral pneumonia or secondary bacterial pneumonia.

*BVD - Bovine Viral Diarrhea - BVD causes generalized immune suppression and leads to secondary infections from other viruses and bacteria. In addition to immune suppression, BVD can cause reproductive issues.

Respiratory bacteria

*Mannheimia haemolytica - this bacteria is often a secondary infection caused by either a primary viral infection or immunosuppression from stress. The bacteria has a unique leukotoxin, which can kill white blood cells and lead to massive inflammation in the lungs.

*Pasteurella multocida - this bacteria is often the cause of “summer pneumonia” in our pre-weaned beef calves, but can affect all cattle. Like M. haemolytica, the initial infection is usually secondary to primary viral infection, stress, or previous lung damage.

*Histophilus somni - like the other bacteria on this list, H. somni is mostly a secondary pathogen to primary viral infection or stress. The bacteria travel through the bloodstream to affect mainly the lungs but can be a significant concern in other areas of the body, especially the brain.

Reproductive viruses and bacteria:

Reproductive viruses

*IBR - Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis - IBR can cause infertility, abortions, and birth defects.

*BVD - Bovine Viral Diarrhea - BVD virus can cause abortions and birth defects. Most importantly, the

*BVD virus can create persistently infected calves if the cow is exposed to BVD in a specific time of pregnancy.

Reproductive bacteria

*Leptospirosis - Commonly referred to as “Lepto,” this bacteria causes abortions. Both deer and rodents harbor the bacteria.

*Brucella abortus (Brucellosis) - The vaccine for this disease is commonly referred to as “bangs vaccination.” This bacteria causes abortions. The wild reservoir is bison and elk in the western portions of the US.

Clostridial Bacteria

*Clostridium chauvoei (Blackleg) - One of the most common vaccinations given, Blackleg refers to a disease caused by this bacteria. Many other clostridium organisms are common and often included in the vaccines.

*Clostridium haemolyticum (Redwater) - This bacteria causes massive kidney and liver damage by releasing a potent toxin. A liver fluke infestation often facilitates the infection.

*Clostridium tetani (Tetanus) - Tetanus is an incredibly deadly disease. The bacteria grows in areas where oxygen is scarce. The disease is a concern with specific management procedures such as banding castration.

The “core” vaccinations for cattle

The “core” of any vaccination protocol is determined by the likelihood of exposure and the risk of unprotected exposure. When diseases impact productivity, health, or welfare, and exposure is frequent or unprotected exposure is potentially disastrous, the disease is included in the “core.” Generally, the core vaccines are thought of as the minimum protection needed.

Respiratory core - modified live vaccine - “5-way.”

*IBR

*I3

*RSV

*BVD Types I and II

*Reproductive core

*IBR

*BVD Types I and II

*Leptospirosis

Clostridium core

*Blackleg

*Add Redwater (C. haemolyticum), and/or Tetanus (C. tetani) depending on location and management system.

With clostridium vaccines, Redwater and Tetanus are not included in every available vaccine. Often the standard 7-way clostridial vaccine does not include coverage for Redwater or Tetanus. Consult your veterinarian if you have questions about what is included in each vaccine.

What should you vaccinate for and what products should you use?

Ideally, each system would include coverage for at least the core diseases. No “cookie-cutter” protocol will fit every cattle system.

To produce an effective protocol that matches your system’s risks and logistics, consult with your veterinarian.

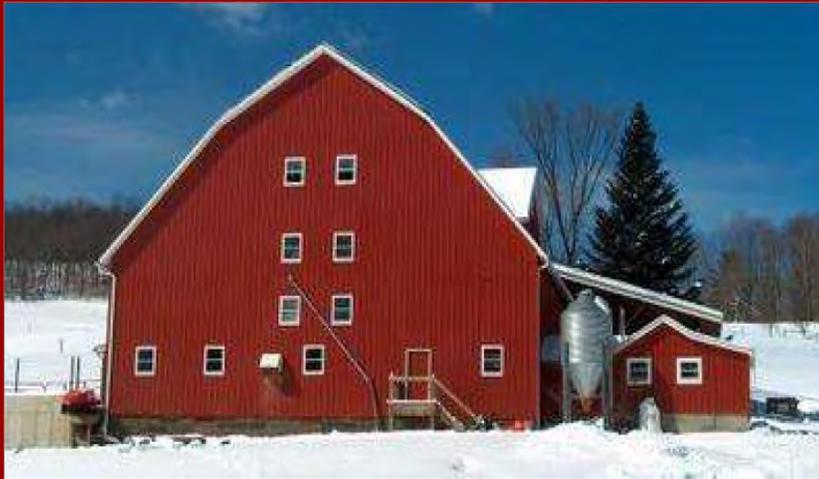
There are many different products available, and ultimately the choice of what to use will come down to efficacy, price, and personal preference. Knowing what products will fit your system best is also a question to ask your veterinarian.

Joe Armstrong, DVM, Extension educator, cattle production systems

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Weaning Management of Beef Calves

2021 SimTalk Early Fall weaning management
by former Oregon State University faculty, Reinaldo Cooke,
PhD, and Barbi Riggs, and current Senior Instructor,
Chad Mueller, PhD |



Weaning is considered one of the most stressful periods in the productive life of a beef calf. During the weaning process, calves are exposed to various stressors that include removal from their dam, physiological changes (actively developing lean tissue or muscle), castration, vaccination, dehorning, exposure to a novel pen or pasture environments, possible changes in feed and water sources, and, for many spring-born calves, exposure to seasonal climate changes. These various stressors (individually or in various combinations) can result in tremendous challenges to the calf's short-term and long-term health, gain performance, and economic viability. Calves that are sick or become sick during the first 30 days at the feedlot typically have lower daily gains, increased costs of gain, and reduced carcass quality and tenderness (Fulton et al., 2002; Gardner et al., 1999; McNeill, 1999).

Depending on how cow-calf producers market their calves, the aforementioned challenges can vary in their impact on the producer. Producers that retain ownership of their calves through the feedlot until slaughter are directly affected by all health and gain variables, whereas producers that market calves at weaning may not see the post-weaning impacts, but their reputation as a source of feeder calves may diminish, resulting in reduced future weaning prices. From an industry perspective, how we manage our calf crop — pre-weaning, at weaning, and post-weaning — can have dramatic effects on economic viability, consumer acceptance, and end-product quality.

Pre-Weaning Management

Pre-weaning management is important to ensure that calves have the ability to perform and function when exposed to the stressors associated with weaning. The nutritional status of the calf determines how well the calf will mount an immune response to vaccination and the challenges associated with the stress of weaning. Pre-weaning diets should be balanced in protein, energy, minerals, and vitamins to ensure calves' health, welfare, and performance.

Further, immune responses to vaccination are not immediate; therefore, it is suggested that ranchers vaccinate calves 2–3 weeks prior to weaning in order for the calf to be immunologically prepared for the stress of the weaning process. Accordingly, the Superior Livestock Vaccination Program, with the objective of promoting value addition to the calf crop, recommends two preweaning protocols (VAC 24 and VAC 34). All calves should also be castrated, dehorned, and branded prior to weaning to alleviate as much as possible the stress associated with the weaning process.

Weaning Strategies Calf stress can also be minimized by implementing strategies that modulate the degree of separation from the dam, incorporate slow changes in diet, and capitalize on the familiarity of the environment. There are several different weaning strategies or combinations of strategies that can be used, and examples are described in Table 1.

Fenceline Weaning

Studies demonstrated that fenceline weaning alleviates calf stress while improving weight gain over other strategies. As an example, Pierce, et al. (2003) reported that fenceline-weaned calves have decreased signs of stress, spent less time bawling and walking, and more time eating and lying down than calves assigned to traditional weaning (Table 2). Total weight gain was greater for fenceline-weaned calves as early as two weeks following weaning, compared to traditionally weaned calves. Furthermore, fencelineweaned calves were heavier ten weeks post-weaning (up to 30 pounds) compared to calves that underwent total separation (Figure 1).

Table 1: Different weaning strategies for beef calves

Strategy	Description	Pros	Cons
Total Separation	Abrupt separation of cow and calf without physical contact. 1. Removal of calf to a new environment (i.e., sold, pasture, or drylot). OR 2. Removal of cow to a new area, thus leaving the calf in the pasture or rangeland.	Will allow a ranch the option to sell the calf right off the cow. Decreases the need to reserve forage or purchase feed for calves. Can also eliminate the need to have special facilities to handle bawling calves.	High stress. Calves are typically transported, exposed to a new environment, new diet, and not allowed adaptation period to separation from dam.
Fenceline Weaning	Cow and calf have nose-to-nose contact through a fenceline for a period of time. Preferred method allows both cow and calf access to forage. A drylot can be incorporated.	Decreased stress. Calf remains in a familiar environment and diet, and allows adaptation to separation.	Unique fenceline may need to be constructed to adequately contain calves and/or cows. Grazing management will need to be carefully thought out to accommodate cows and calves.
Two-Stage Weaning	A device is used to prevent a calf from suckling the cow, such as a specially designed nose ring. Stage 1: Calf is fitted with nose ring for 4-14 days. Calf remains with the cow. Stage 2: Nose ring is removed, and cow and calf are physically separated.	Less stress than abrupt separation. Calf is allowed a period of adaptation to restricted suckling prior to total separation. During this time they remain in a familiar environment and diet.	Cost and labor. Low risk of lesions or abscess from nose ring. Calves must be run through a chute twice during the weaning phase; 1) Insertion of ring 2) Removal of ring. However, calves can be processed during one of these times. Devices cost \$2.00 (reusable). Retention rate reported 64-98%. May not be suitable for calves less than 425 pounds

Two-Stage Weaning The two-stage weaning method uses a device to prevent the calf from suckling the cow, such as rings attached to the calf's nose. This method has been shown to reduce behavioral signs of calf stress after weaning compared to traditional weaning methods; however, subsequent beneficial effects on calf performance are still questionable. As an example, Haley et al. (2005) reported that calves assigned to the two-stage weaning strategy:

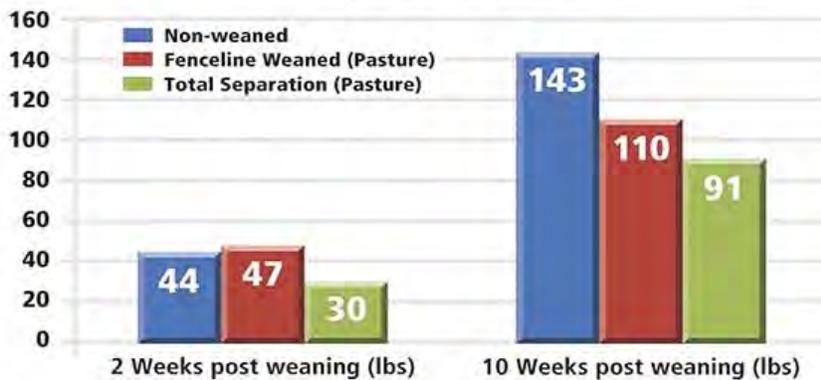
- 96.6% vocalized less
 - 78.0% spent less time walking
 - 23.0% spent more time eating and
 - 24.1% spent more time resting
- This is after complete separation from the dams and compared to calves assigned to traditional weaning.

While wearing the nose ring, two-stage calves walked 15% more than the calves that were allowed to nurse. However, after separation, the traditionally weaned calves walked twice as much and bawled 20 times more often than two-stage calves.

Figure 1

Effect of weaning strategy on total weight gain of calves 2 weeks and 10 weeks after weaning.

Adapted from Price et al. 2003.



Strategy:	Non-weaned	Fenceline Weaned (Pasture)	Total Separation (Pasture)	Total Separation (Drylot with hay adaptation)	Total Separation (Drylot without hay adaptation)
Eating	41.1	37.3	23.7	28.9	21.5
Walking	8.6	10.1	28.1	9.6	14.8
Lying Down	22.9	23.3	16	21.9	20.6
Vocalization (s/hr/10-calf group)	0.1	216.7	434.6	371.2	518.2

In terms of performance, Haley et al. (2005) also reported that pre-weaning average daily gain (ADG) was often reduced in calves wearing nose rings compared to calves allowed to nurse. After weaning and subsequent nose ring removal and total separation from the dam, ADG was either greater or similar for two-stage weaned calves compared to traditionally weaned calves.

However, overall calf ADG (pre- and post-weaning) was not improved by the two-stage weaning method. These inconsistent benefits of the two-stage weaning method on calf performance were attributed by

the authors to the poor quality of the forages available for calf consumption, which greatly affected the calves that were not allowed to nurse. Therefore, the nutritional value of diets offered during the period in which calves receive the nose clips should be taken into consideration before implementing the two-stage weaning method.

Timing of Weaning

Weaning calves reduces the nutrient requirements of the cow. It will allow the cow to transfer nutrients previously going to milk production to her own body function, improving her own condition and preparing for the next calving. Cows that calve in moderate body condition score (BCS) (5 or 6) are able to recover, cycle, and become pregnant sooner than cows that come through the winter in poor condition (less than 4). This is particularly important in young cows that have additional requirements of growth.

Weaning calves also reduce the amount of forage the herd will consume. For example:

A nursing calf that is four months old or older normally consumes 1.4%-2% of its body weight (BW) in forage

The lactating cow can consume 2.5% of her BW or more

A dry cow often will consume only 1.8%-2.0% of her BW of forage

Considering a 1,200-pound cow and a 350-pound calf, forage consumed prior to weaning is around 37 pounds of total forage per cow-calf pair, compared to 24 pounds of total forage consumed by the weaned cow (assuming calves are sold or managed in a drylot). Consequently, profit generated by the ranch system as it relates to the weaning strategy adopted must include breeding efficiency, feed utilization (including grazed pasture/rangeland and winter harvested forage), calf performance, and marketability.

Early Weaning

Beef calves are traditionally weaned between six and eight months of age. However, cattle can be reared on forages and concentrates as early as 90 days of age. In fact, weaning at 90–120 days of age can be accomplished with proper nutritional management of the calf.

Early weaning (EW) calves can be a tool to increase the breeding efficiency of the cow herd by improving BCS, particularly during a time of forage shortage and/or poor condition of the cow herd. Research conducted at the Eastern Oregon Agriculture Research Center in Burns demonstrated that:

Cows assigned to EW (calves were 130 days old) maintained BCS from time of EW until traditional weaning (TW; calves were 207 days old)

Cows assigned to TW lost almost a full BCS (Merrill et al., 2008; Figure 2).

Cows assigned to EW gained 18 pounds

Cows assigned to TW lost 88 pounds during this period

This weight difference resulted in a subsequent reduction in winter feeding costs of roughly \$29.00/head in EW cows compared to that of TW cows. Early weaned calves fed concentrate diets beginning at time of weaning have comparable weight gains to those of nursing cohorts.

Feedlot performance of EW calves, however, has been variable and highly dependent on the age at weaning, as well as the nutritional and management background of the calf prior to and after EW.

Nevertheless, the profit of a cow-calf operation is highly influenced by the management and marketing of the calf crop. The EW calves must be fed a nutrient-dense diet that almost always includes some sort of concentrate, and requires increased labor. Typically, if EW calves are not retained for a period of time, EW reduces the gross income of the ranch. However, in situations where the reproductive performance of the cow herd is enhanced, and/or feed utilization and costs are improved, the cost of EW may be justified.

Post-Weaning Management

Management of the post-weaned calf will vary depending on the marketing program adopted by the cow-calf producer. Regardless of the marketing option, there are a couple of management aspects that must be evaluated to ensure maximal return on investment.

The Superior Livestock Vaccination Program also recommends specific vaccination protocols for calves that are weaned and then maintained at the cow-calf ranch for a preconditioning period before shipping to the feedlot (VAC 45 and VAC Precon). Basic nutritional management should be followed to ensure that calves receive adequate nutrition and will respond efficiently if a preconditioning approach is adopted.

Depending on the weaning strategy incorporated, the level of stress should dictate the type of nutritional management. Typically, a higher level of stress increases the need for energy, protein, and minerals. Unfortunately, stress causes depression in intake; therefore, a highly palatable and digestible feed source is preferred.

1. Use of high-starch feedstuffs (corn, barley, etc.) provide highly digestible energy, but can also result in rumen disorders (bloat, acidosis) if calves are not properly acclimated to these feedstuffs.
2. Forages (grass hays, alfalfa, etc.) can provide adequate levels of protein but can be marginal in the quantity of digestible energy (especially in highly stressed calves). Calves typically prefer digestible forages over grains, so palatability and intake are usually not a major issue with these feedstuffs. Also, high levels of dietary roughages will typically help maintain stable rumen fermentation, thus reducing the chances of digestive disorders.
3. The third feedstuff source would be non-forage fiber sources, such as soybean hulls, distillers grains, or beet pulp. These sources are typically rich in digestible energy and contain decent quantities of digestible protein.

Most non-forage fiber sources are highly palatable, and complement forage and grain sources that may also be fed. Recently weaned calves also need to have unrestricted access to a clean, abundant water source at all times. From a mineral standpoint, calves that are highly stressed (and may show signs of dehydration or scours) may require specific macro- and micromineral nutrition to ensure water retention and proper immune function, depending on the mineral content of forages and feedstuffs being offered.

Conclusions

Weaning is one of the most stressful periods in the productive life of a beef calf, and directly impacts the calf's short-term and long-term health, gain performance, and economic viability.

Management alternatives to alleviate stress — and ensure that the calf's immune system is prepared to cope with the challenges associated with weaning — benefit the welfare and productivity of the calf crop.

Currently, there are several options for pre-weaning, weaning, and post-weaning management of calves, each one with its specific advantages and disadvantages. Therefore, cow-calf producers should examine carefully the available options, and determine which one to use, if any, based on the needs and particularities of their production systems.

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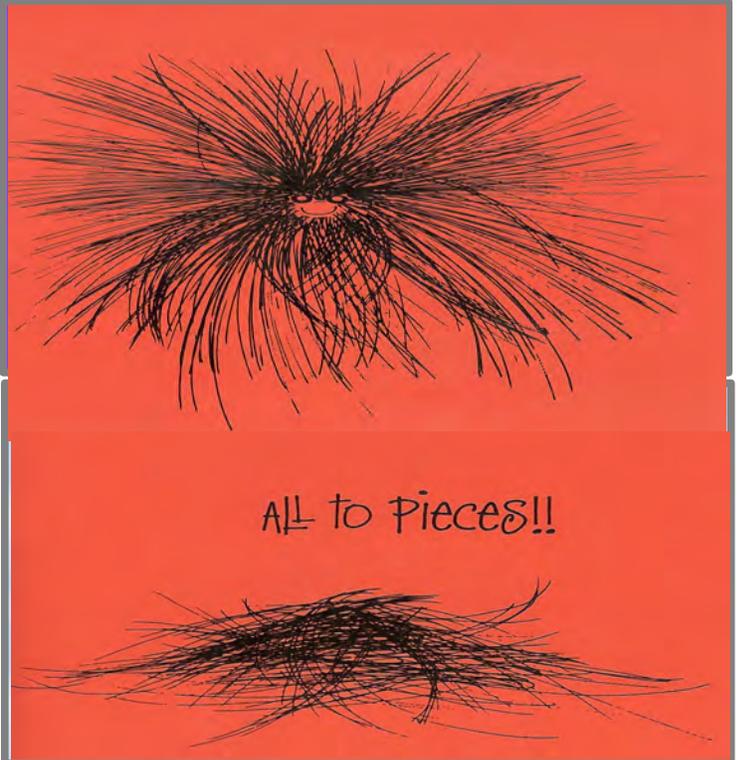
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