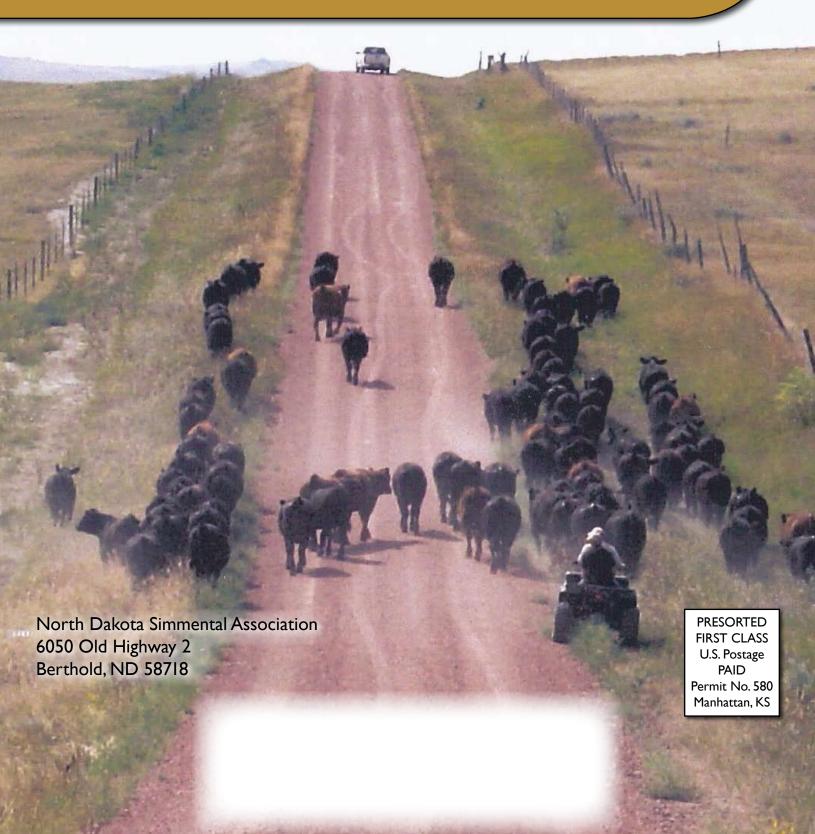
Official Publication of the North Dakota Simmental Association





LaBatte Simmentals

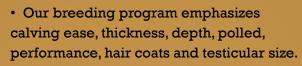
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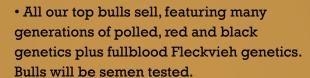
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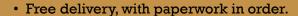
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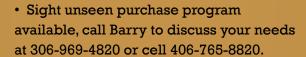
Catalog online at www.transconlivestock.com

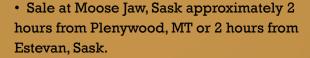
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Editor's Message...

Greetings!

What a wonderful time of year, Bull Sale Season! Everyday we can go to our mailboxes and find at least a few new bull sale catalogs. By the time this issue of the North Dakota Simmental Scene reaches your mailbox, we will be at the beginning of the big February run.

We are currently working on the 2009 North Dakota Simmental Association Directory. The advertising deadline is March 1st, with ad copy due in on March 10th. Please contact me as soon as possible to reserve your ad space. The advertising rates are as follows:

 Size
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 \$300
 \$200

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This will be the last issue of the Scene until November, so have a safe and prosperous year!

Sincerely, Todd Finke

Simmental Scene

— A publication of the North Dakota Simmental Association

Todd Finke, Sales 35500 114th Avenue NW Berthold, ND 58718 701-240-7711 todd@edje.com

The following terms and conditions have been agreed on by the North Dakota Simmental Association Board of Directors and the North Dakota Simmental Scene Committee.

Advertising Space Rates

Size	BW	4C
Full Page	\$400	\$550
1/2 Page	\$300	\$410
1/4 Page	\$200	NA
Business Card	\$150 (p	er year)

Advertising Deadlines

Issue	Deadline	
November	November 1st	
January	December 20th	
February	January 20th	

Terms

All advertising accounts are due and payable as invoiced. Interest charges of 1% per month will be assessed to accounts that are 30 days past due.

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Opinions expressed are those of the writer and not necessarily those of the North Dakota Simmental Association or the North Dakota Simmental Scene. Photographs and manuscripts are welcome, but no responsibility is assumed either while in transit or while in this office.

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Calendar of Events

February 2009

- 3 James Creek Simmentals Private Treaty Bull Sale Heaton, ND
- 4 Begger's Diamond V Ranch Production Sale Wibaux, MT
- 6 4E Simmentals' Uppin' the Ante Bull & Female Sale Bismarck. ND
- 6 Larson's TL Ranch Production Sale Almont. ND
- 7 Klain Simmental Ranch Annual Production Sale Turtle Lake. ND
- 9 Haas Ranch Simmental Bull Sale Mandan. ND
- 10 Bata/Olafson Production Sale Rugby, ND
- II Breeding for the Future Production Sale Napoleon, ND
- II Nelson Livestock Production Sale Baker, MT
- 12 Lassle/Skillestad Ranches Annual Production Sale Glendive, MT
- 12 Hoiby Simmentals Annual Production Sale Rugby, ND
- 13 TNT Simmentals 23rd Annual Genetic Explosion Bull Sale Almont, ND
- 14 Kenner Simmental Ranch 12th Annual Production Sale Bismarck, ND
- 15 Rydeen Farms Vision X Sale Clearbrook, MN
- 15 Northern Plains Simmental Private Treaty Sale Bowbells, ND
- 16 Dakota Power Bull Sale Valley City, ND
- 16 Traxinger Simmentals Private Treaty Bull Sale Claremont. SD

- 17 Keller's Broken Heart Ranch Annual Production Sale Mandan, ND
- 18 Sys Simmentals Limited Auction Bull Sale Douglas, ND
- 18 Hieggelke Simmentals Annual Bull Sale Lisbon, ND
- 19 Bichler Johnson Annual Production Sale Linton, ND
- 20 Dakota Xpress Simmental Sale Bismarck, ND
- 21 Ellingson Simmentals Production Sale Rugby, ND
- 24 Larson's XL Simmental Production Sale Mandan. ND

March 2009

- 3 Doll Ranch Annual Production Sale Mandan, ND
- 6 LaBatte Simmentals 29th Annual Production Sale Moose Jaw, SK
- 7 McMillen Ranching Ltd. Bull Sale Carievale, SK
- 7N Simmental Ranch Annual Production Sale Medina, ND
- 12 Spring Creek Simmentals Production Sale Moosomin. SK
- 14 Northwest Select Sale Stanley, ND
- 15 Rebels of the West Bull and Female Sale Hamiota, MB

April 2009

- 3 Edge of the West Bull Sale Mandan, ND
- 4 Tri E Simmentals Bull Sale Clifford, ND

Dealing With Extreme Winter Weather Conditions

It's wintertime on the northern plains and it's time to think about managing your cattle in an environment that, at times, can be extremely harsh. In this article, I'll give you some recommendations and advice on dealing with extreme winter weather conditions.

During these times, it's important to remember to be sure you remember your own personal safety and the safety of your family and employees is the most important thing. Don't lose sight of that as you attempt to brave extremely hazardous winter weather conditions to take care of your cattle.

Cattle can deal with harsh winter temperatures much easier as long as they remain dry and are sheltered from the wind. Anything you can do which minimizes exposure to freezing rain and wet snow will definitely help your cattle come through these storms in better condition. In addition, provision of a windbreak will also help cattle conserve energy. Providing cattle bedding in the form of straw or crop residues will also help cattle better deal with cold conditions.

In feedlot and drylot feeding operations, removing snow from pens before it melts and causes muddy conditions will also pay dividends. Muddy conditions will result in poor cattle performance, increased feed intakes, and increased disease incidence, especially in young calves.

Cold conditions result in an increase in maintenance energy requirements and as a result, you should focus your attention on providing more energy in the diet during periods of extremely cold weather. This can be in the form of higher quality roughage, supplemental byproducts, or cereal grains.

Extreme cold conditions can also cause frostbite. Especially sensitive areas include the teats of lactating cows and the scrotum and testicles in bulls. In cows, you may not notice the frostbite until calf growth is reduced because the cow refuses to let the calf nurse



By Greg Lardy, NDSU Animal Sciences Department

affected teats. For bulls, frostbite damage of the testicles will result in problems with sperm production 45 to 60 days following the frostbite injury. Be sure to have a breeding soundness exam prior to the breeding season to ensure a successful breeding season.

I hope these tips will help you endure this extremely challenging winter many of you are facing. For more detailed information regarding these topics please see this web site: http://www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu/coping/cattcope.htm



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Advertising Deadline: March 1, 2009

Contact Todd Finke to reserve your ad space today! 701.240.7711 cell or todd@edje.com

Photo Contest

The North Dakota Simmental Association sponsored a photo contest again this year. Pictures were to be color, 8" x 10" and of Simmental cattle. Awards were given for three places in youth and adult divisions. All entered pictures will not be returned and will become the property of NDSA for future use in advertisements.





The winners were announced at the annual banquet held on Friday, December 19, 2008.

To view 2008 entries and winners go to... www.northdakotasimmental.com

Thanks to all those who participated again this year.
The pictures were wonderful. Well done!

Cover photo taken by Darlene Begger, Wibaux, MT for her 1st place entry in the Photo Contest

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Line Drive X TNT Black Shadow Homozygous Polled Homozygous Black



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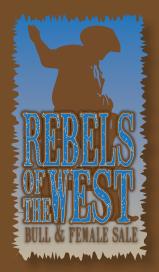
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March 15, 2009 2:00 PM Hamiota, Manitoba Canada





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2 1.0 35 60 0 7 24

Homozygous Polled



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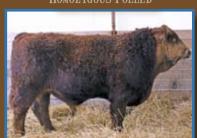
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DYNAMITE BLACK X HAAS RANCH G217
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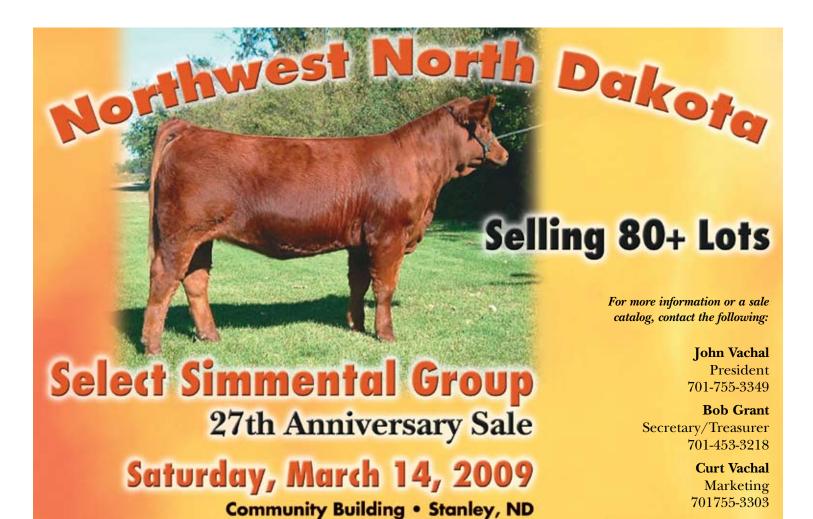
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News from the ${f ASA...}$

Curly Calf Syndrome Discussed By Dr. Wade Shafer

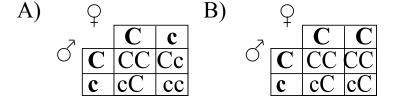
Ph.D., ASA Director of Performance Programs

On September 17, 2008 the American Angus Association (AAA) made an announcement that rattled the seedstock industry. One of the most influential bulls in the Angus breed, G A R Precision 1680, was fingered as a carrier of a lethal genetic abnormality dubbed Curly Calf Syndrome (CCS). Given that Precision 1680 had sired thousands of sons and daughters, that have in turn produced thousands upon thousands more offspring, it is clear that the number of animals carrying the genetic abnormality in this and other countries' beef cattle populations is substantial.

What are the symptoms of CCS? Dr. David Steffen from the University of Nebraska, the scientist who first documented and named the syndrome, provides this description "The spine is bent and twisted in affected calves. The calves are small and appear thin due to limited muscle development. Legs are often rigid and may be hyper extended (common in rear limb) or contracted. In some cases the rigid limbs result in calving difficulties. Additional unique feature are recognized during laboratory examination." It also should be noted that in all cases affected calves are born dead. Below are pictures of affected calves.



What causes CCS? Though the lead scientists studying the syndrome, Dr. Steffen and the University of Illinois' Dr. Jon Beever, have yet to provide a concrete conclusion, they have stated that it is most likely due to a single recessive gene. If that is the case, a 2 x 2 Punnett Square can be used to illustrate the outcome of a particular mating. In the two examples below we have mated a male () carrier (e.g., Precision 1680) to a female () carrier and a non carrier in scenarios A and B, respectively.



In these examples, C is the normal gene while c is the lethal recessive. The cells with single letters contain one copy of each of the sire's (left column) and dam's (top row) genes. Since we have used a male that carries the lethal gene (c) in both examples each Punnett Square has a C and c on the sire side. As explained earlier, in example A we have mated the sire to a carrier female (Cc) while in B he is mated to a non carrier female (CC).

Through the use of Punnett Squares we can readily visualize what the resulting offspring will look like from our example matings. In scenario A we can see that the 4 potential genotypes from the mating are CC, Cc, cC and cc—each with an equal probability (1/4) of occurring. Since the presence of C has complete dominance over the expression of c (i.e., C completely covers up the symptoms of c) we know that only the calf receiving cc will show the symptoms of CCS, the other 3 will appear normal. Because they received the c gene (Cc and cC), however, 2 of the 3 normal calves in appearance will be carriers of CCS. In example B we can see that all of the resulting offspring will appear normal, while half of them (2 of 4) will be carriers. The above examples also work to illustrate other situations where a single recessive is involved, such as polled/horned or red/black.

What are the implications of CCS to ASA members? Obviously, with the heavy usage of Angus genetics by ASA members, we need to be vigilant about addressing this situation in our own population. Fortunately, technology has evolved to the point where the impact of genetic abnormalities like CCS can be largely mitigated. Currently the AAA is working with Drs. Steffen and Beever, two of the industry's leading experts on genetic abnormalities, to develop a test for carriers of CCS. Once the test is developed, carriers can be easily identified making it unnecessary to remove entire lines.

We will keep you abreast of the progress made toward developing a CCS test. We will also be crafting policy over the next few months designed to reduce the influence of CCS on our population. Your can be sure that ASA is committed to using all practical means available to keep our population as free as possible of genetic abnormalities. At the same time, we must recognize that a population the size of ours will never be completely free of genetic defects. Even if we could eliminate all existing abnormalities (and we can't) new ones would crop up via mutation. Nevertheless, given the rapidly evolving technology in this area and recent policy implementations (e.g., we now routinely test our fifty most heavily used bulls for genetic defects where tests are currently available) we are assured to reduce the frequency of genetic abnormalities in our population compared to that of the past.

Finally, if you have an animal that you feel shows signs of having CCS, or any genetic abnormality, please get in contact with Marilyn, Marty, Jerry or me. With the network of experts who advise us in this area, we will guide you through the protocol required in making a determination about the defect. By reporting anything suspicious you are looking out for the welfare of us all-and we appreciate it immensely.

For more information

on Curly Calf Syndrome visit www.simmental.org

Cold Exposure and Bull Fertility

Greg Lardy, Beef Cattle Specialist, NDSU Animal Sciences Department

The extreme combination of cold temperatures and blizzard conditions during winter months is always a concern to cow-calf producers because of the added difficulty in feeding and caring for the cattle herd. First priority for most cattle producers is the well-being of the cow herd. Herdbulls, which are generally kept separate from the cowherd, may experience equal hardship if proper nutrition and shelter are neglected. The future reproductive success of the herd will suffer if herdbulls are not prepared for or protected from winter weather. Like the cowherd, herdbulls need to be maintained in a body condition score of 5 to 6 in order to be in ideal breeding condition. Low temperatures and windy conditions can easily increase feed requirements 25 to 30 percent above normal maintenance requirements. Also, lack of wind protection and lack of bedding will increase the chance of frost damage to the scrotum and testicles. During normal winter conditions frostbite is not a common problem with breeding bulls, but prolonged exposure to extreme cold and wind increases the incidence of frostbite and is a problem that must be considered when planning for the breeding season. Evidence of frostbite to the scrotum is usually apparent a few days after freezing in the form of noticeable inflammation and swelling. The heat generated from the inflammation directly affects the sperm that are maturing and stored in the epididymis, which surrounds the testicle at the lower end of the scrotum. The resulting damage

may cause temporary or, in more severe cases, permanent sterility in the bull. A scab may appear on the lower portion of the scrotum as healing occurs. However, the absence of a scab does not indicate that frostbite injury has not occurred. Severe frost damage to the testicle and epididymis may cause tissue adhesions, affecting mobility and circulation within the scrotum. Evaluation of possible frostbite damage is best accomplished by a trained veterinarian

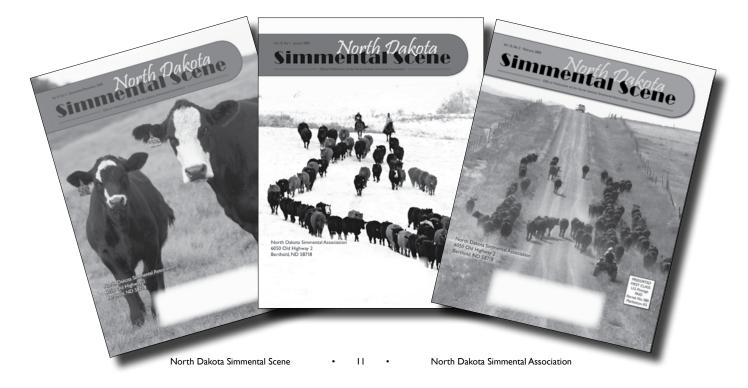


By Greg Lardy, NDSU Animal Sciences Department

performing a breeding soundness examination 45 to 60 days after the injury occurred. A semen evaluation performed earlier than this period will most likely indicate poor semen quality and could result in unnecessarily culling a bull that may produce satisfactory semen after healing has occurred. An examination normally includes a physical evaluation of the entire reproductive tract including the testicles and epididymis, as well as a microscopic semen evaluation recording sperm motility and morphology. The following table illustrates the importance of having a breeding soundness exam completed before the breeding season.

Thank You to all the advertisers of the North Dakota Simmental Scene!

Upcoming Issues November/December 2009 January 2010 February 2010 Advertising Deadline November 1, 2009 December 20, 2009 January 20, 2009



Caring for Your Newly Durchashed Yearling Bull

Greg Lardy, Beef Cattle Specialist, NDSU Animal Sciences Department

In the coming months, many of you will be purchasing yearling bulls (maybe you already have). The purpose of this column is to help you prepare those bulls for the upcoming breeding season. Here are some pointers on nutrition and management to keep in mind as you bring your new bull(s) home.

Nutrition. Yearling bulls have nutrient requirements for both maintenance and growth since they must still grow and mature. A yearling bull will weigh about 60 to 65 percent of his mature body weight as a yearling. Therefore, proper nutrition is important as he needs to continue growing and gaining weight as he develops. Energy, protein, trace minerals, and vitamins are some of the more important nutrients to consider. Consider all bulls, but in particular yearling bulls, similar to athletes in regard to condition. They should not be too fat or too thin when turned out for the breeding season. Either situation will result in bulls that fail to breed cows.

Yearling bulls which have been fed higher concentrate development rations should be gradually adapted to a diet based predominantly on forages. Make diet changes gradually over the course of two to three weeks to allow the rumen microflora and the animal to adapt to the new dietary ingredients. Don't turn yearling bulls directly out to pasture without some dietary adaptation, especially when they have been fed higher concentrate rations during development. Abrupt changes will result in poor performance.

Feed yearling bulls separately from mature bulls if possible. Mature bulls have lower nutrient requirements than yearling bulls. If fed together, mature bulls tend to tend to be more aggressive and get more than their share of feed, resulting in yearling bulls tending to be underfed. Prior to the breeding season, yearling bulls should be fed to gain approximately 1.5 to 2 pounds per day. A yearling bull should be a BCS 5.5 to 6.5 at the beginning of the breeding season. This will require a diet that contains approximately 12 percent crude protein and 65 percent TDN.

With free choice access to medium quality grass hay, about 6 to 10 pounds of grain will be required. In some cases, a protein supplement may be required to adequately meet the bull's protein requirements. If you have better quality hay, less supplementation will be required. A good quality trace mineral and vitamin premix should also be offered as either a free choice salt or block mixture or as a component of a totally mixed ration.

Be sure to provide plenty of bunk space for the bulls to consume feed. As a general rule of thumb, 24 to 30 inches per bull is typically required. Remember that horned bulls will require additional space.

Exercise. Young bulls do not need forced exercise if given a large enough lot or pasture area where they can get adequate exercise on their own. About 2 acres per bull is generally adequate. Exercise prior to the breeding season can reduce the number of fighting- and riding-related injuries that occur during the course of the breeding season.

Management. Spermatogenesis (sperm development and maturation) is a process that takes 60 days. In other words, an injury to a bull on March 20 which hampers spermatogenesis may not cause a problem with semen quality until May 20. Because of the length of time it takes for spermatogenesis to occur, attention to the finer details of bull development need to take place 60 to 90 days prior to the start of the breeding season. In periods of bitterly cold weather like we have experienced in early January, it is important to provide bedding and wind protection for bulls. Failure to do so will result in increased potential for frostbite damage to the testicles.

If bulls will be pastured together to breed a group of cows, it is better to let them establish a pecking order prior to turnout at the beginning of the breeding season rather than during the breeding season. Injuries can and will occur when unfamiliar bulls are pastured together for the first time at the beginning of the breeding season.



By Greg Lardy, NDSU Animal Sciences Department

In much of North Dakota, snowfall has been above average. If possible, snow should be removed or bulls penned in pastures or lots with adequate drainage. Snow melt and spring rains will cause muddy conditions. Mud increases nutrient requirements (wet animals lose the ability to effectively insulate themselves). Mud also increases the chances of injury and the likelihood of hoof and foot related problems.

During the Breeding Season. Observe all bulls often during the breeding season. This is the best way to be sure they are free of injury and are finding and breeding cows in heat. The greater the number of cows per bull, the more important it is to observe them frequently. Increased observation is especially important in single sire pastures and in large, rough pastures where the bulls are expected to cover large acreages.

Be sure to have a contingency plan in case a bull becomes injured, lame, or otherwise incapacitated during the breeding season. On large ranches, you'll likely have a backup or spare bull which can be used. However, in smaller operations, this is generally too costly. Most seedstock producers have a few bulls which can be used in the case of injury to your main herd bull. Don't forget about good biosecurity practices in those cases when a replacement bull is needed.

After the Breeding Season. Evaluate condition, soundness, and health of all bulls used during the breeding season. Thin bulls will require additional energy in the diet in order to regain body weight which was lost during the breeding season. Remember that yearling bulls need to be fed to continue to grow after the breeding season as well.

For more helpful tips

on dealing with winter

conditions go to:

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