

The Eighth Annual CK CATTLE & WAGER CATTLE

PRODUCTION SALE

SUNDAY | FEBRUARY 16, 2025 | 2:00 PM Highmore, South Wabata

NEW SALE DATE FOR 2025 ONLY!

Only in 2025, due to the BHSS schedule we will move our sale to Sunday, February 16, 2025 to accommodate many of your schedules. We look forward to seeing you at our 8th Annual Production sale in Highmore, South Dakota!



BRIDLE BIT RECHARGE K256

The first calves from the \$ 100,000 Bridle Bit Recharge K256 will highlight our 8th Annual Production sale! They are true curve benders that offer breed leading growth and performance with elite carcass value and built in calving ease!



The influence of ES Right Time FA 110-4 needs no introduction! He is the "do it all" sire to inject performance, carcass merit, and maternal excellence! One of the most consistent sires that we have ever used. the proof is in the progeny!



A past sale feature that was selected by Wagonhammer Ranches, WAGR Patriot 1008J has evolved as one of the most elite sons of Hooks' Eagle 6E in the business. Top 196 REA, Top 3% WW, YW, TI, Top 5% CW, Top 10% ADG, MWW, Top 15% CE, BW, Top 25% Marb!

THE 2025 OFFERING INCLUDES:

125+ Simmental, SimAngus™, and Angus Bulls | 50+ Bred Heifers from the heart of the program!

SIRES REPRESENTED:

Bridle Bit Recharge K256, ES Right Time FA110-4, WAGR Patriot 1008J, FRKG CKCC Platinum 009H ET, CKCC Lincoln 0631H ET, WINC All Right 213K, OMF Epic E27, HOLT Night Vision 457H, STCC Tecumseh 058J, SO Remedy 7F, CKCC Relevant 0639H, Mohnen Hollywood, Musgrave Jumbo, Deer Valley Growth Fund, Hoffman Thedford, & more ...



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SIMMENTAL SCENE

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Advertising Space Rates

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1/4 Page	\$275

Advertising Deadlines

Issue	Deadline
February, 2025	Jan. 15, 2025
November, 2025	Oct. 15, 2025
January, 2026	Dec. 15, 2025

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About the Cover: Photo captured by Will Bollum at Mandan Lake Simmental, Center, ND

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Offeires Gight... By Tamra Heins, Editor

Happy New Year to all!

The beginning of the new year is always filled with hope and anticipation, and resolutions, but I will have given up on the resolutions by the time you read this.

The American Simmental Association greeted 2025 with the announcement of a new Executive Vice-President. Dr. Jon DeClerk will assume the position on July 1, 2025. New leadership often brings new ideas and new processes and those will translate into continuing the success of the Simmental breed.

The January magazine focus is on anticipation with featured articles on new technology. I sat in on more than a few meetings this fall where the topic of fence replacement cost was addressed. I was shocked when I heard the costs and now see how virtual fencing could really be a viable choice. The technology is amazing and NDSU just completed their research publication on the topic and I felt it was valuable to share. We also included some first-hand information on virtual fencing from a South Dakota rancher.

With cattle prices being so positive, I looked to find some information on what some are predicting for 2025. I found the Terrain Ag website had some valuable points that can be considered when planning for the upcoming year.

Be sure to read the article about out-going ND Simmental Association President, Davis Kinn. I am always interested in reading about someone else's story of how and why they raise cattle.

The ND Simmental Association Annual Meeting and Banquet was well attended and even included a special visit from Santa Claus. We feature our award winners in this issue as well as some pictures of the activities.

Look for the SD Simmental Association Annual Meeting and Banquet awards and pictures in the February issue.

We are entering the most wonderful time of the year, and for me, that is bull sale season. With calf prices reaching alltime highs, I can't wait to see how the bull sale season stacks up to previous years. All indications are it should be a great one.

Thank you to all our readers and advertisers, we appreciate you and are looking forward to bringing you this magazine.

WE ARE UPDATING THE MAILING LIST!

We want to ensure this magazine gets to active Simmental enthusiasts.

Please note the tear-out postcard included in this issue.

If you would like to continue to get the free issues of the SD SimmenTeller and the ND Simmental Scene in 2025, please scan the QR Code or mail the postcard back.

Use your smart phone's camera app to scan this QR code and e-mail Editor Tamra Heins your updated address information.



Looking for Performance?

Ellingson Simmental Performance Bull & Female Sale



Friday, January 24, 2025 · 1 pm CST

Sale Location: At the farm, Dahlen, ND

SELLING: 66 YEARLING SIMMENTAL AND SIMANGUSTM BULLS & 20 OPEN YEARLING HEIFERS

Sires include: Hooks Galileo 210G, Gibbs 9114E Essential, LCDR Diligence215J, SFG Cowboy Logic D627, R Plus Yuma 9087G, LCDR Patriot 8K, Deer Valley Growth Fund, R Plus Uppercut 6103D, WS Epic E152, RFS Bulletproof, Rockin H Captivate J75, KS Vanderbilt G270, Ellingson Guardian J141 & WS Proclamation E202.

Bulls will be SEMEN TESTED and GUARANTEED BREEDERS.



ELLINGSON BEEFMAKER M409 ASA 4386376

CE BW WW YW ADG MCE MM MMW MB REA SAPI \$TI
5.5 3.5 102.5 157.1 0.34 5.0 29.2 80.4 0.26 1.16 132.5 94.5



ELLINGSON EPIC M411 ASA 4386302

CE BW WW YW ADG MCE MM MMW MB REA SAPI \$TI
5.7 3.3 101.7 155.9 0.34 1.9 22.6 73.4 -0.08 1.06 110.8 85.4



ELLINGSON DEADWOOD M412 ASA 4386305 CE BW WW YW ADG MCE MM MMW MB REA SAPI STI 10.7 1.9 103.4 162.3 0.37 6.0 23.4 75.1 0.77 0.68 153.7 104.0



ELLINGSON GALILEO M435 ASA 4386345

(E BW WW YW ADG MCE MM MMW MB REA SAPI STI
10.6 1.4 97.0 149.6 0.33 7.1 32.2 80.6 0.48 0.82 158.4 99.6



ELLINGSON/STR RED NOTICE M4034 ASA 4386411

CE BW WW YW ADG MCE MM MMW MB REA SAPI STI
6.5 2 78.5 126.3 0.3 1.6 17.9 57.1 -0.12 0.76 102.1 71.3



ELLINGSON GENESIS M498 ASA 4386407

(E BW WW YW ADG MCE MM MMW MB REA SAPI STI 9.7 1.5 104.2 164 0.37 4 25.7 77.8 0.53 1.31 162.5 104.7



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The catalog & updated information (homozygous polled test, ultrasound & scrotal measurements) will be available online.

www.ellingsonsimmentals.com or www.simmental.org

COMMERCIAL CATTLEMAN OF THE YEAR

The Milton Weippert Family was recognized as the 2024 Commercial Cattlemen of the Year at the ND Simmental Association Banquet. ND Simmental Board of Director, Kelly Hanson presented the award and shared the following history of the Weippert family and the influence Simmentals have had.

In the fall of 1957, Eugene and Lorraine (Hausauer) Weippert purchased the present-day Weippert farm ten miles south of Tappen, ND. It was here they raised their son, Milton, and two daughters as well as their herd of beef cattle. It was also here that Milton discovered his love for cattle working alongside his dad.

After high school, Milton attended Bismarck Junior College and obtained a degree in Ag Business Sales and Service. He went to work in the parts department for the local John Deere dealership in Napoleon for four years. During this time, he was still drawn back to the farm and could be found there most evenings and weekends continuing to work alongside his dad.

In 1985, Milton along with his wife Colleen (Leier) decided it was time to come back to the farm. So, they purchased the Bernice Albright farm a mile from his parent's farm and Milton started ranching with his parents fulltime. Colleen continued to work off the farm at the local ASCS office.

Initially, Milton had herd shares with his dad while he worked to build his

herd. Each year, he would diligently pick through the heifer crop looking for the best ones to grow his herd. In 1986, Milton was proud to buy his first Simmental herd bull from Arnold Brothers production sale. He continues to purchase Simmental herd bulls to add calving ease to his herd as well as efficient growth on a grain ration.

In 1993, Eugene and Lorraine retired, and Milton and his family moved to the family farm. As the family grew, so did the cattle herd. At its peak, the cattle herd was up to 425 cows in addition to growing corn, small grains for feed, and alfalfa for the herd.

In the spring of 2022, Milton and Colleen found themselves for the first time during calving season as empty nesters. So, cameras were added to the calving barn and outside calving pens to help keep eyes on the cows until their children came home on the weekends to help. They also cut the herd down to around 300 Simmental cows to make it more manageable. They have also found that the Simmental breed is more docile than others, which also makes it easier for them to manage. In 2023, Colleen retired from the local FSA office and has been helping Milton on the farm fulltime.

Currently, the replacement heifers are AI-ed with Simmental bulls the first week in June. Then in mid-September, the cows and heifers are ultrasounded, and first shots are administered to the calves at that time. Weaning usually occurs at the end of



October or early November and the calves are given booster vaccines at that time. Milton chooses his replacements, and the rest of the calves are background and sold after the first of the year. It's usually around this time that the bull books start landing in the mailbox. For the next few weeks, you can find Milton, with the books spread across the table, analyzing the bulls searching for his next herd bull. Then, the replacement heifers start calving around the 15th of March and the cows start about ten days later.

With the help of their children, as their schedules allow, Milton and Colleen continue to raise Simmental cattle. Hannah works from home for Noridian. Kristine is married to Jeremy, has a son Beckett (4), and is a CPA in Bismarck. Nicholas lives in Tappen and works for BEK as a plant technician. Kaydee, who has her dad's love for cows, is the CED for the Stutsman County FSA office in Jamestown. Austin is working on his master's degree in Agronomy at NDSU in Fargo.



KAELBERER RANCH • SRF SIMMENTALS • KINN SIMMENTALS present the

Join us

Feb. 11, 2025
1 p.m. CST · Kist Livestock, Mandan, ND

Gelling

POWERFUL Simmental & SimAngus™ Herd Bulls

Simmental & SimAngus™ Bred Heifers



CLRS HOMELAND 327H



KWA INTERSTATE 63H



BRIDLE BIT BLACK CANYON J194



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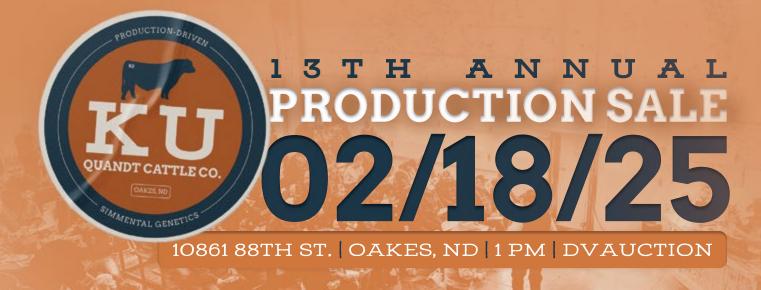
- ❖ We are your source for homozygous black and polled Simmental, SimAngus™, Angus genetics, the top 150 bulls out of 275 sell.
- Many ½ & ¾ brothers sell in volume enabling you to assemble like bred genetics that are predictable and consistent.
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- Every bull walks through the sale ring enabling you to see what you are buying. Some pictures and videos just don't represent cattle as they should.

Raising cattle that work for the cow-calf producer, the feeder, and the packer, while providing an enjoyable eating experience for the consumer should be every cattle producer's goal. Ranchers work hard and should expect their cattle to do the same. There are no shortcuts with today's high inputs; your cattle have to be profitable and efficient. Blending EPD and genomic traits requires discipline, common sense, and patience. It doesn't matter how impressive the EPD are or the size of calf at weaning. Cattle that lack efficiency and require extra labor and costly inputs are not desirable. This is why common sense and an experienced eye still play a major role in every breeding decision we make.

EXTREMES ARE EASY TO ACHIEVE. BALANCE TAKES DISCIPLINE, PATIENCE, AND A LIFETIME OF EXPERIENCE TO PERFECT.







2024 HIGHSELLERS



QB BENCHPRESS L32 DCR BENCHMARK F113 X QB F840 Sold to Werning Cattle Co.



QB L51
SPRINGCREEK IRONSIDES X QB MS D613
Sold to Scott Braun



QB NO LIMIT L28 LRS FALCON 442G × QB MS J153 Sold to G & D Simmentals



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PROMOTER OF THE YEAR

By Davis Kinn

Quandt Cattle Company was presented the 2024 North Dakota Simmental Association's Promoter of the Year Award. Quandt Cattle Company is a family business that goes back many years in beef production. They are currently the first generation of this operation to be in the seedstock side of the industry but make no mistake they have made a big splash. They have quickly developed deep roots that are well established in the Simmental industry. This family operation started using Simmental bulls in the 1980's to compliment a commercial herd consisting of Charolais and Hereford genetics. Their purebred herd started to develop 14 years ago when they began to AI commercial cows with purebred Simmental bulls to improve their genetics. The goal was to eventually grow the commercial herd to a papered purebred herd and sell Simmental bulls. To help accelerate this process, they began purchasing elite purebred females and flushed them to establish a strong foundation for their program.

The core goals they focus on with their genetics are growth, stayability, maternal capability and structural integrity.

Ultimately, their primary objective is to produce cattle that not only add pounds to their customer's calves but also stand the test of time. They prioritize in the ability to produce females with excellent dispositions that also possess strong milking capability. At the end of the



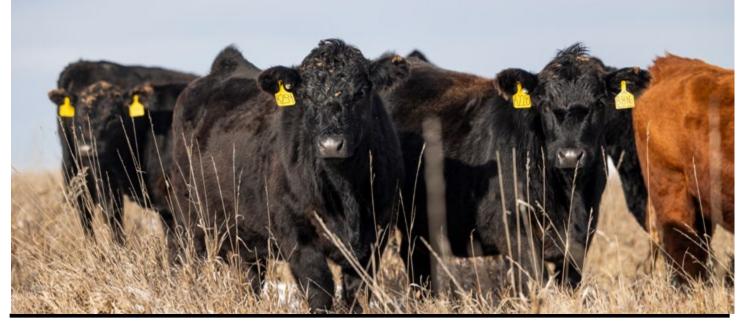
Quandt Cattle Company

day, it is all about meeting the needs and expectations of their customers.

The Quandt family present a very strong marketing campaign. When they first started marketing bulls, they focused heavily on building the brand and establishing a strong local customer base. Personal relationships and word of mouth were essential in getting their name out there and earning the trust of cattle producers. They really focus on building repeat customers and referrals from those customers. As the operation grew, they recognized the importance of reaching a wider audience. They began placing

ads in newspapers, running radio ads and building a mailing list to connect with potential buyers. In recent years, they recognized the need to use social media to take their marketing to the next level. They have really focused on building a strong profile in the social media market that represents their cattle well to a wider audience. They believe that creating engaging content with high quality photos and creatively designed ads, highlights the strengths of their program. Their marketing strategy is now a blend of traditional and modern methods.

Congrats to Quandt Cattle Company!





AT THE RANCH • HURDSFIELD, ND • 2 P.M. CENTRAL Selling: 60 Simmental & SimAngus™ Bulls **25 Registered Open Heifers**

Select Groups of Commercial Bred & Open Heifers



CROSSROAD STRIDE H149 x WLB BLOOD RUNNER 3011C 461F ASA#: 4423761 - BD: 03/16/24 - PB SM

BW	EPDS	CED	BW	WW	YW	MCE
95	EPVS	4.2	5.3	90.5	134.5	0.8
Adj 205	MILK	MWW	MARB	REA	API	TI
835	25.1	70.2	-0.1	1.06	108.4	75.1



CROSSROAD ENGAGE 125K x KUNTZ SHERIFF 8A ASA#: 4423787 • BD: 03/04/24 • PB SM

BW	EPDS	CED	BW	WW	YW	MCE
92	EPUS	7.6	2.7	85.5	121.7	2.3
Adj 205	MILK	MWW	MARB	REA	API	TI
811	26.4	69.1	-0.19	1.03	107.8	73.9



STRA ADMIRAL 0150 x KS BAYLOR G119 ASA#: 4425650 • BD: 04/04/24 • 1/2 SM 1/2 AR

BW	EPDS	CED	BW	ww	YW	MCE
88	EPDS	11.3	0.9	100.1	153.6	8
Adj 205	MILK	MWW	MARB	REA	API	TI
901	27.3	77.3	0.26	0.59	137.1	90.8



LBRS GENESIS G69 x SPRINGCREEK LINER 56U ASA#: (4423791) • BD: 02/15/24 • PB SM

BW	EPDS	CED	BW	WW	YW	MCE
69 ET	EPDS	7.5	5.6	111.8	168.3	4.3
Adj 205	MILK	MWW	MARB	REA	API	TI
790 ET	24.6	80.4	0.3	1.14	145	98
The second second	THE PERSON NAMED IN	The second second	21.00	W - F - E - II		



LBRS GENESIS G69 x TNT TANKER U263 ASA#: 4423785 • BD: 03/08/24 • 3/4 SM 1/8 AN 1/8 CS

	BW	WW	YW	MCE
S 8.9	2.7	98	145.7	5.1
K MWW	MARB	REA	API	TI
5 74.5	0.48	0.84	150.7	96.1
	K MWW	K MWW MARB	K MWW MARB REA	8.9 2.7 98 145.7 K MWW MARB REA API



CROSSROAD ENGAGE 125K x KUNTZ SHERIFF 8A ASA#: 4423781 • BD: 03/04/24 • PB SM

BW 📳	EPDS	CED	BW	WW	YW	MCE
94	EPD3	10.7	3.3	88.7	133.3	4.6
Adj 205	MILK	MWW	MARB	REA	API	TI
870	29.5	73.8	-0.22	0.72	109.5	75.3



QB SPECIAL OPS K11 x QB BLUEPRINT D47 ASA#: 4423784 • BD: 03/15/24 • PB SM

BW	EPDS	CED	BW	WW	YW	MCE
95	EPDS	5.4	5.1	98.6	157.7	4.1
Adj 205	MILK	MWW	MARB	REA	API	TI
827	24.7	74.1	0.11	1.11	125.7	86.1



CROSSROAD ENGAGE 125K x TNT UNION D385 ASA#: 4457133 • BD: 03/10/24 • PB SM

8	BW	EPDS	CED	BW	WW	YW	MCE
6	95	EFDS	7.4	4.4	97.8	146.7	3.7
	Adj 205	MILK	MWW	MARB	REA	API	TI
8	864	23.7	72	-0.02	0.85	113.6	82



SUNNY VALLEY CONVOY 24J x LFE MCDAVID 413C ASA#: (4423789) • BD: 03/07/24 • PB SM

BW	EPDS	CED	BW	WW	YW	MCE
100 ET	EPDS	6.4	4.3	97.4	148	5.1
Adj 205	MILK	MWW	MARB	REA	API	TI
871 ET	26.4	75	0.24	0.93	132.5	89.6

Visitors welcome anytime!

Monty & Terri • Matt, Eddy, Emersyn & Landri Kline Matt: (701) 693-6317 • Monty: (701) 693-6806 E-mail: klsrcows@gmail.com

www.KLSRCOWS.com • 4 /Kline Simmental Ranch Contact us for a catalog, videos, DNA and other updates!

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Kyron & Kelsey Manske Box 456, Coronach, SK, SOH O2O 306.267.7530 east.poplar@hotmail.com

DOUBLE FARMS 51st Annual Bull & Female Sale FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 2025 12:00 NOON • 48672 252nd Street • Garretson, SD Selling Pick THE OPEN HEIFERS!

85 Blacks, Black Baldies, Reds, Red Baldies including 30 ET's straight from the heart of our program that has stood the test of time for 51 years!

SELLING 85 LOTS

SIMMENTAL, SIMANGUS™ & ANGUS **BULLS AND FEMALES**



427 Power Play x Cowboy Cut ASA #4406340 - PB SM Homo Polled & Homo Black Top WW & added frame with unique genetics & strong functional traits.



144 ET 20-20 x E774 (Cash Flow) ASA #4406453 - PB SM Homo Polled & Homo Black Eye appealing with added performance & carcass!



ASA #4248188 - 3/4 SM 1/4 AN

Frosty x Santa Fe - Al safe to Klondike, due 2/8 17 elite bred females sell!



1486 Enhance x Boise ASA #4406397 - 1/2 SM 1/2 AN

Homo Polled & Homo Black Calving ease & performance oriented Percentage bulls!



476 Jesse James x Cash Flow

ASA #4406387 - PB SM Homo Polled & Homo Black Curve bending genetics with a big spread in a high capacity package.



ASA #4248247 - PB SM

Revolution x Daphne (Uprising) - Al safe to Galileo, due 2/8 Selling 2 maternal sibs to Outlaw, Jesse James & Spotlight!



VI478 Jawbreaker x Right Time ASA #4406389 - PB SM Homo Polled & Homo Black High growth & carcass driven!



N4135 ET Heyday x X011 (Legacy) ASA #4406444 - PB SM Homo Polled & Homo Black

Proven high growth genetics from a leading donor with 5 maternal sibs selling!



For more information or to request a catalog... Call, text or email:

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Vicitors always welcome!



Roundup x Hamley ASA #4406369 - 3/4 SM 1/4 AR

Homo Polled Purebred & Percentage bulls sired by Roundup, Captivate & Killian.

ANNUAL BANQUET



Board of Trustees member Tim Clark, addressed the crowd on behalf of the American Simmental Association. Clark made the announcement of the selection of the new executive vice-president, Jon DeClerck.



Secretary/Treasurer Kim Myers and newly elected President Lyndon Hoiby conducted the drawing for the door prizes at the conclusion of the banquet.



The annual coloring contest had a large number of kids and the challenging part is trying to get them all lined up to take a picture.



Bill Begger volunteered his time to be the auctioneer for the annual ND Junior Simmental Association Auction. This fundraiser helps the junior association with various activities throughout the year.



SimmSpecialist Perry Thomas helped out as a ringman for the junior auction.



Santa made a visit to the banquet and handed out goody bags to all the kids.



Santa had a goody bag for Erika and Eleanor.



Justin Deckert gave the invocation.



The ND Simmental Association Board of Directors.

Standing left to right: Wyatt Hansen, Lyndon Hoiby, Jason Quandt and Levi Elliot. Sitting left to right: Ethan Steffan, Derek Sys, Kelly Hanson, Matt Kline and Davis Kinn





Davis Kinn was recognized for his service to the Board of Directors and as President by former President Bryan Leapaldt.



43rd Annual KSR Production Sale - 1PM CST - Ruso, ND -



KSR 372M #4424089 - 2/15/2024

PB SM, Homo-Polled, Homo-Black BW: 89 lbs WW: 722 lbs CLRS GUARDIAN 317G x KSR KY KY 372K

CE	BW	ww	YW	MCE	MILK
11.9	0.1	96.1	142.9	9.6	23.6
MWW	CW	YG	МВ	API	TI



KSR 654M #4424127 - 3/1/2024

PB SM, Homo-Polled, Hetero-Black BW: 104 lbs WW: 805 lbs LTS HOTZ TOP SHELF 5J x KSR CASIE 654C

CE	BW	WW	ΥW	MCE	MILK
6.9	4.7	97.6	147.1	2.6	19.5
MWW	CW	YG	МВ	API	TI
68.2	50.3	-0.38	-0.13	107.2	79.2

Selling:

45 Yearling Simmental & SimAngus™ Bulls
10 Registered Bred Heifers
8 Registered Open Heifers

Lots available for viewing at any time

EPDs pulled: 12/15/24



Scan to sign up for a catalog



#4424017 - 2/27/2024

PB SM, Homo-Polled, Hetero-Black BW: 94 lbs WW: 715 lbs LTS HOTZ TOP SHELF 5J x KSR CHRYSTAL 157H

CE	BW	ww	YW	MCE	MILK
10.2	1.9	97.9	135.4	6.6	21
NAVA/VA/	C/V/	VC	MR	ΛDI	TI

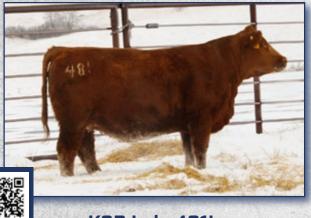
69.9 33.4 -0.43 0.03 127.3 86.8



#4423975 - 3/19/2024

3/4 SM 1/4 AN, Homo-Polled, Hetero-Black BW: 100 lbs WW: 760 lbs KSR MAIN MAN 723K x KSR ANNIE 31G

CE	BW	WW	YW	MCE	MILK
10.4	2.9	107	169.9	7	27.3
MWW	CW	YG	МВ	API	TI
80.8	43.6	-0.36	N 29	121.9	949



KSR Lula 481L #4346350 - 2/22/2023

PB SM, Hetero-Polled, Red BW: 80 lbs WW: 600 lbs SAS COPPERHEAD G354 x KSR FION 981F Al Safe with a bull calf due 2/21/2025

CE	BW	WW	YW	MCE	MILK
5.3	3.3	97.5	139.1	2.1	20.6
MWW	CW	YG	МВ	API	TI
69.3	34.4	-0.38	0.2	128.0	88.2



KSR Laiken 432L #4290693 - 3/1/2023

PB SM, Homo-Polled, Hetero-Black BW: 88 lbs WW: 616 lbs

MR SR MIC DROP G1534 x KSR DIXIE 732D Al Safe with a heifer calf due 2/21/2025

CE	BW	WW	YW	MCE	MILK
11.1	1.5	84.2	132.7	8.5	26.0
MWW	CW	YG	МВ	API	TI

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By Bryan Leapaldt

The 2024 ND Simmental Association Pioneer Award was presented to Kevin & Lynette Thompson, TNT Simmentals, of Almont, ND at the ND Simmental Annual banquet on December 13.

Kevin grew up on a commercial and feeder operation in Iowa. His parents sold the farm in 1976 and moved to Minnesota where he attended the University of Minnesota Crookston. He was studying animal science and needed to do an internship before graduation. One day on the bulletin board, he noticed an ad for ranch help in western North Dakota. This is where Kevin received his first taste of ranching in North Dakota.

In 1979, he moved to Berthold, ND to work on a farm and ranch. The farmer he worked for gave him a pasture to run cattle on as a raise. He purchased 30 black and baldy cows and 2 Simmental cows to start his first cow herd. This was the beginning of his dream to be a rancher.

In 1980, Kevin married his wife, Lynette. They've been married for 44 years and are blessed with 4 kids and 15 grandkids.

Between 1980 and 1985, Kevin and Lynette worked on three different ranches. During this time, they continued to increase their own cow herd, while gaining valuable experience. Kevin spent two years managing Main Line Simmentals at Carson, ND. Then they moved to central Montana and built their cow her up to 70 Simmental cows. The guy Kevin was working for then was experiencing tough times and they didn't know what to do. "It was either sell our cows or try it on our own," Kevin said.

After making some contacts, they moved back to North Dakota in 1985. They rented a farm, which is the farm where they reside now. They sold a few bulls privately in 1985.

Due to drought in central Montana, two pioneer Simmental breeders were forced to sell cows. They selected and purchased a potload of top cows from each breeder. They also leased some commercial cows from a friend in Montana for four years. In 1986, they held their 1st annual production sale.

In 1989, they purchased their current home place. Kevin said, "It was a dream come true because all I ever wanted to do was farm and ranch. We built our cow herd up while working for others. We also gained valuable experience. We had some lucky breaks, but we couldn't be doing it if it wasn't for the Simmental cattle."

When asked why he chose to raise Simmental cattle, he said they make an excellent cow, the calves feed out really well, their carcass qualities are excellent, and the meat is the type the consumer is looking for when purchasing beef.

He went on to say, "In the 80's, many in the seedstock business began to grow cattle taller and ignore other traits. Some poor cattle in the Simmental breed stood out because they could get taller faster. It wasn't fair to stereotype the whole breed, but the reality was the spots had to go."

Kevin has purchased a lot of bulls over the years, but one of the most influential ones was ER Americana.

Continued on page 22

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PB SM - ASA# 4131835 - Red - Homo Polled EPDs CE 3.1 BW 6.1 WW 104.8 YW 159.6 ADG 0.34 MCE 1.9 MM 29.2 MWW 81.5 API 114.4 TI 84.1



DJF PALISADES J170 PB SM - ASA# 3929091 - Homo Black - Homo Polled

EPDs CE 10.9 BW 2.3 WW 95.5 YW 148.6 ADG 0.33 MCE 9.6 MM 16.4 MWW 64.1 API 126.2 TI 84.1



SKORS BLACKJACK 62G

PBSM - ASA# 3700499 - Black - Homo Polled

EPDs CE 7.3 BW 3.9 WW 99.1 YW 148.6 ADG 0.31 MCE 4.3 MM 21.3 MWW 70.8 API 111.0 TI 82.8

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DVAuction

Continued from page 20

He took the spots off and made them thick at a critical time when Simmental was needing to change! Bryan Leapaldt remembers driving 100 miles to Bismarck with his dad, Delmer, in a blizzard because his dad thought there would be some bargains that day due to the weather. One of the first calf crops of Americana sold on that wintery day. Delmar Leapaldt ended up with a red, white-faced bull, but no bargain, as everyone else thought the same thing that day!

TNT was a family run operation with all the kids helping and Lynette being a vital component of the operation from bookkeeping records, raising a family and whatever else was needed of her. A family run operation that always had the best, or one of the best Simmental sales in the nation.

Most who've spent any time around Kevin, know he's always been a strong advocate for the Simmental breed. When he started using Angus genetics in their program, he could be heard saying, "If they cut me, I will still bleed Simmental!" While Kevin & Lynette's family continued to grow, they decided to transition into what Kevin calls, "slowing down". But not sure that's what Lynette calls it! They sold a large part of their herd to their daughter and son-in-law, Shanon and Gabe Erbele, where they continue the tradition of the TNT Explosive Difference Sale. Kevin and Lynette still have cows

and continue to sell a few bulls through the TNT Sale now at Lehr, ND.

Kevin has always been a walking encyclopedia when it comes to his cows. He truly has a love and passion for family, cattle and the friends he's acquired through the years.

Congratulations to Kevin & Lynette Thompson!





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M869 Trax's Bull Dog G49 x DKSR Mr Rushmore Z511 ASA#: 4394018 • ADJ 205: 823 • Homo Polled



M823 IPU Rawhide 59J x DKSR Galaxy B108
ASA#: 4393972 • ADJ 205: 759 • Homo Polled



M900 | IPU Rawhide 59J x Trax's Bull Dog G49 ASA#: 4394049 • ADJ 205: 788 • Homo Polled





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DMJ 50M - Selling in Premium Beef 2025 SVS Tycoon 841F x R Plus Venom 4006B



NRD 12L - Sold in 2024 to Maxwell Simmentals; Maternal Grandson sells 2025



SBSF Laser 5L - Sold in 2024
to Routledge Stock Farm \$9.250



DMJ~88M - Selling in Premium Beef 2025 DMJ War Zone 13H x MRK Priority 3C



NRD 49L - Sold in 2024 to Sigfusson Farms Ltd.; Maternal Son sells 2025



SBSF Levi 1L - 2024 High Seller to Frischholz Farm \$13,000

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Come early sale day to view the bulls at the ranch, then join us for lunch and bull auction at the community center!







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10 QUESTIONS WITH PAST PRESIDENT KINN

By Tamra Heins

Davis Kinn, recently completed his term as President of the ND Simmental Association. Kinn has a unique story to share, as him and his family are first generation seedstock breeders. He grew up west of Turtle Lake, ND and graduated from high school in 2000. He attended NDSCS where he received degrees in Refrigeration and Electrical Technology. This allowed him to work in an industry where he could be close to home and still stay involved with the livestock. Even though he wasn't able to make a living exclusively from livestock Kinn explained he considers that a blessing as he has learned so much from both industries with successes and failures.

It has been an uphill battle building this program and Kinn says he will never forget the people that believed in him. And also, the people that didn't, recollecting a story of a banker who didn't share Kinn's vision when he first got started and wanted to buy land.

Kinn married his wife and best friend in the fall of 2009. They started to build their own place south of Benedict, ND and have continued to grow their cattle herd. Kinn says he couldn't imagine doing it any differently and having his wife and three girls, Maggie, Liberty and Josephine share in all the experiences of building this program and our brand. Kinn proudly

stated, "I couldn't imagine not having our daughters grow up around it.

Here are my 10 questions with outgoing President Davis Kinn,

How did you get your start in the Simmental breed?

My dad always had livestock, and he ran a small commercial herd when we were growing up. My brother started to buy registered heifers when he was in high school. I had a few commercial cows and then decided to buy registered cows. I bought my first bred heifers from SRF Simmentals private treaty and got much more than just some good heifers out of the deal. We were very lucky to meet some very good people when we first started, and the Finke family was very helpful to us. We continued that friendship with the Finke family, as well as with the Kaelberer families and sell our bulls in the Edge of the West production sale. It is held on the second Tuesday in February at Kist Livestock, Mandan, ND. My advice in life for all the young people out there is to surround yourself with good people and stick with it.

What do you think are the biggest benefits of the Simmental breed?

I really believe that you will not find another breed that can complement all the other genetics out there when crossbreeding cattle. I know that they can compete with every breed when it comes to maternal, growth, docility, and structural correctness. It is the only breed you can use today that will add value in all those categories. I will be the first to say that I appreciate all the major breeds in our industry, and you will not hear me tearing any of them down. They all deserve a place at the table and are major contributors in our industry.

What are the biggest challenges that you see for Simmental breeders?

I think that right now as a breed we have some differences in what we think the perfect Simmental bull or cow should be. It's ok to have those passionate discussions because we always need to challenge each other and in the end the cream will rise to the top. At the end of the day everyone should be raising what works for them and feeding the type of cattle that they want to look at.

Continued on page 28



The girls are HUGE Lainey Wilson fans and couldn't wait to attend the concert this summer at the ND State Fair. They had their special outfits picked out way in advance and on the day of the concert they also had a special outfit for their Dad.



Our philosophy is simple:

Annual Production Sale Feb. 15, 2025

At the Ranch, Turtle Lake

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Schooley Haggard X LRS Iconic 1/2 SM · Homo Polled and Black



KBHR Bold Ruler X Beacon PB SM - Homo Polled and Black



KS Sedona X Beacon PB SM - Homo Polled



HA Justice X Main Attraction PB - Homo Polled and Black



Homesteader X Beacon 5/8 SM - Homo Polled and Black



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Continued from page 26

What is your favorite part of the livestock business?

Probably just working day to day with the animals. I know being a shepherd with animals is the most natural profession and has been there since the beginning of time.

Is your operation a farm or a ranch?

We have a ranching operation consisting of two families, my brother Tyler's and mine. We both have off the ranch jobs in the energy industry. We are both very blessed and lucky to have had all the opportunities that have come our way in life.

What is your least favorite job on the farm or ranch?

I really do not have any job that I do not like. My favorite day is probably the one when I can unhook the mixer wagon from the tractor. It's one of the most weightlifting feelings that I cannot explain. It is just a good feeling knowing everything is out grazing with their little calves just like they are intended to do.

Why did you decide to get involved in the ND Simmental Association?

We got involved buying from and consigning to the ND Simmental Classic Sale early on. We met so many good people that wanted to help and share knowledge, so it was hard not to get involved with our state association. It is a great place to network with some good breeders.

What was the most surprising thing you learned as the president of the ND Simmental Association President?

I would say I realized that everyone is capable of speaking in front of a crowd. You just must stay calm and trust the message you are sending.

What would you tell someone to encourage them to get involved in the Association?

It is an amazing group of people. Our state has one of the best associations in the nation. I have made live long friends being part of this group and I wouldn't know where I would be if I had not got involved.

What does the role of genomics look like for Simmental breeders?

I am proud to say that the American Simmental Association is a leader in genomic testing across the entire industry. They have been trailblazers in that they incorporated testing along with proven results in that testing which collects data from multiple breeds. I love that they work with all other breeds and that they manage most of the other breeds databases. I think that being open-minded and working with the entire beef industry will achieve the best results for all of us.





KING OF RANGE

 \star \star \star \star \star \star \star \star PRODUCTION SALE

Thursday, February 6, 2025

1 PM CST | At the Ranch DVAuction Selling 100 Simmental Bulls - 90 Black and 10 Red





STAV CLUBS 25M ASA # 4349601 • 3/4 SM • Homo Black • Homo Polled King of Clubs x Pipeline



STAV PICASSO 123M ASA # 4349782 • PB SM • Homo Black • Homo Polled Rapture x Certified



STAV CLEMSON ELITE 103M ASA # 4349749 • PB SM • Hetero Black • Homo Polled Clemson Elite x Red Oak



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Thursday, March 6, 2025

1:00 p.m., At the Ranch, Mandan, ND
Selling: 120 High-Performance Red & Black
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80 Red & Black Simmental & SimAngus™ Heifers



KBHR MR HOMELANDER M021 Reg# (4387151) - 3/4 SM - Homo Black - Homo Polled KBHR HOMELANDER J071 x KBHR DAISEY K092



KBHR MR ESSENTIAL M028

Reg# (4387158) - PB SM - Homo Black - Homo Polled

GIBBS 9114G ESSENTIAL × KBHR J029 MS SUGAR HIGH

CE 16.2 BW -2.6 WW 96.2 YW 153.5 MCE 8.8 M 27.9 MWW 75.9 API 198.2 TI 113.1



KBHR MR GUNSMOKE M058

Reg# (4387188) - PB SM - Homo Black - Homo Polled

KBHR GUNSMOKE J131 x WS MISS SUGAR C4

CE 15.5 BW -1.9 WW 80.9 YW 119.7 MCE 8.3 M 27.4 MWW 67.7 API 181.8 TI 101.0



KBHR MR GUNSMOKE M059

Reg# (4387189) - PB SM - Homo Black - Homo Polled

KBHR GUNSMOKE J131 x WS MISS SUGAR C4

CE 14.0 BW 0.7 WW 93.5 YW 141.6 MCE 6.9 M 27.4 MWW 74.1 API 183.5 TI 106.0



KBHR MR JAM-PACKED M050

Reg# (4387180) - PB SM - Homo Polled
WS JAM-PACKED 88J x CLRS GENOME 979G
CE 15.7 BW -2.7 WW 72.7 YW 116.9 MCE 8.7 M 20.6 MWW 56.8 API 189.1 TI 96.7



Reg# (4387241) - PB SM - Homo Black - Homo Polled KBHR KEYNOTE K229 x KBHR MS KATHERINE K163 CE 12.8 BW -1.8 WW 95.6 YW 146.4 MCE 7.4 M 26.0 MWW 73.7 **API 176.3 TI 107.0**



KBHR MR KING JAMES M032
Reg# (4387162) - PB SM - Homo Black - Homo Polled
CLRS KING JAMES 616K x KBHR J170 MS SUGAR FLARE
CE 15.5 BW -1.1 WW 90.9 YW 134.8 MCE 8.7
M 25.8 MWW 71.2 API 182.3 TI 105.0



KBHR MR ESSENTIAL M041
Reg# (4387171) - PB SM - Homo Black - Homo Polled
GIBBS 9114G ESSENTIAL x KBHR SUGAR CRUSH J186
CE 18.3 BW -3.7 WW 83.7 YW 139.7 MCE 10.2
M 30.8 MWW 72.6 API 193.7 TI 105.0



KBHR MR STOCKMARKET M004
Reg# (4387134) - 1/2 SM - Homo Polled
BIEBER CL STOCKMARKET E119 x KBHR J103 MS RED AUTUMN
CE 16.1 BW -3.8 WW 82.6 YW 135.4 MCE 9.5
M 24.3 MWW 65.5 API 197.2 TI 107.9



KBHR MR STOCKMARKET M014

Reg# (4387144) - 1/2 SM - Homo Polled
BIEBER CL STOCKMARKET E119 x KBHR J103 MS RED AUTUMN
CE 16.1 BW -3.8 WW 82.6 YW 135.4 MCE 9.5
M 24.3 MWW 65.5 API 197.2 TI 107.9



KBHR MR STOCKMARKET M019
Reg# (4387149) - 1/2 SM - Homo Polled
BIEBER CL STOCKMARKET E119 x WS ELECTRA E88
CE 18.2 BW -5.3 WW 79.6 YW 129.2 MCE 11.4
M 24.7 MWW 64.5 API 189.6 TI 105.0



KBHR MR IMPERATIVE M064

Reg# (4387194) - PB SM - Homo Black - Homo Polled

KBHR IMPERATIVE K185 x KBHR J102 MS SUGAR SUITE

CE 16.2 BW -2.7 WW 83.1 YW 129.1 MCE 9.7

M 26.1 MWW 67.6 API 189.3 TI 103.2



KBHR MR FIREPROOF M084
Reg# (4387214) - 1/2 SM - Homo Black - Homo Polled
G A R FIREPROOF x KBHR MS BERTHA K186
CE 15.4 BW 1.6 WW 100.9 YW 167.2 MCE 9.8
M 29.2 MWW 83.2 API 193.5 TI 114.6



KBHR MR GUNSMOKE M089
Reg# (4387219) - PB SM - Homo Black - Homo Polled
KBHR GUNSMOKE J131 x WS MISS SUGAR C4
CE 13.4 BW 1.7 WW 103.4 YW 160.3 MCE 7.1
M 27.4 MWW 79.0 API 178.5 TI 106.7



KBHR MR GENETIC VISION M052

Reg# (4387182) - PB SM - Homo Polled

RFS GENETIC VISION K162 x CLRS GENOME 979G
CE 17.0 BW -1.3 WW 69.3 YW 108.8 MCE 9.7
M 20.3 MWW 54.9 API 183.0 TI 94.6



KBHR MR HONOR GUARD M131 Reg# (4387261) - PB SM - Homo Polled CDI/NF HONOR GUARD 267H x WS ELECTRA E88 CE 16.9 BW -3.2 WW 82.6 YW 135.6 MCE 9.8 M 24.8 MWW 66.0 API 193.8 TI 100.5



KBHR MR HOMELANDER M081

Reg# (4387211) - 3/4 SM - Homo Black - Homo Polled

KBHR HOMELANDER J071 x KBHR DEBUTANTE H113

CE 15.0 BW -1.2 WW 95.1 YW 147.7 MCE 9.0

M 25.9 MWW 74.2 API 193.9 TI 113.6



KBHR MR IMPERATIVE M060

Reg# (4387190) - PB SM - Homo Black - Homo Polled

KBHR IMPERATIVE K185 x KBHR J102 MS SUGAR SUITE

CE 13.7 BW 0.2 WW 94.9 YW 154.3 MCE 8.4

M 26.1 MWW 73.5 API 176.2 TI 103.6

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DR. JON DECLERCK TO SERVE AS NEXT AMERICAN SIMMENTAL ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE VP

BOZEMAN, MT — Dr. Jon DeClerck has been selected as the next American Simmental Association (ASA) Executive Vice President (EVP). DeClerck will assume the position of EVP on July 1, 2025; Dr. Wade Shafer will continue serving as ASA EVP until his official retirement on June 30, 2025.

DeClerck is a forward-thinking leader with extensive experience in the cattle industry and a lifelong passion for advancing animal science. Holding a PhD in Ruminant Nutrition from Texas Tech University, he has excelled in technical consulting, education, and research. As a Technical Consultant for Purina Animal Nutrition, Dr. DeClerck has advised stakeholders across the beef production cycle in New Mexico, Texas, and Louisiana, combining innovative research with practical solutions to help producers maximize profitability. Previously, he

served as a lecturer and livestock judging coach at Texas Tech and Iowa State University, mentoring students and leading multiple national champion livestock and meat evaluation teams. DeClerck has been recognized as a national champion team coach, and is the recipient of numerous industry awards. Raised on a diversified farm near Aledo, Illinois, featuring a Simmental and commercial cow herd, Dr. DeClerck has a deep connection to the breed. A lifelong advocate for Simmental cattle, he is committed to serving the membership and advancing the scientific innovation and growth that have long defined ASA.

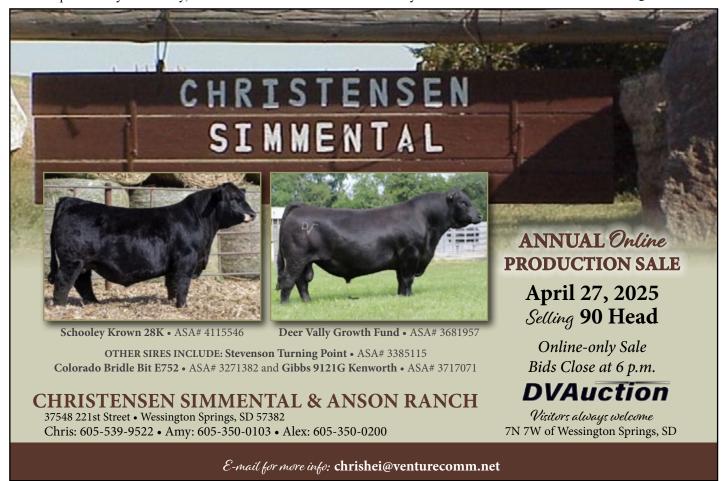
Chris Ivie, Chairman of the ASA Board of Trustees, shared, "On behalf of the American Simmental Association Board of Trustees we would like to welcome Dr. Jon DeClerck as our next Executive Vice President. He will work closely with Dr.



Dr. Jon DeClerck

Wade Shafer over the next six months; we look forward to working with Dr. DeClerck to continue the unprecedented success and growth we are experiencing here at the ASA."

Founded in 1968, the American Simmental Association is headquartered in Bozeman, MT. ASA is committed to leveraging technology, education, and collaboration to accelerate genetic profitability for the beef industry. In keeping with its commitment, ASA, along with its partners, formed International Genetic Solutions — the world's largest genetic evaluation of beef cattle. Learn more at www.simmental.org.





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GROWING OPTIMISM FOR 2025 FED CATTLE PRICES

Reposted with permission from Terrain Ag By Dave Weaber

Despite growing optimism, beef cow herd expansion remains uncertain. Beef cow slaughter is down, but with limited replacement heifers, the 2025 calf crop will likely be smaller. The discovery of New World screwworm in Mexico has halted cattle imports, reducing feeder cattle supplies in the U.S.

TIGHTER SUPPLIES BOOST FED CATTLE PRICES

Tightening fed cattle supplies are leading to higher prices. The fed cattle supply situation leading into Q4 2024 had been ample by historical standards and punctuated by recordheavy carcass weights on a weekly basis since early March.

Cattle-on-feed mirrored this trend for more than 180 days, until the beginning of October when frontend supplies of market-ready cattle finally began to tighten. October 2024 supplies were up just 9% versus a year earlier and posted a 16% year-over-year (YOY) decline for November 1. As a result, 5-Area fed cattle prices have firmed substantially relative to a year ago.

The 2024 fall rally hadn't lived up to the normal seasonal trend that suggests prices should rally \$5/cwt to \$7/cwt from August to December. But prices rallied sharply in early December, pushing the increase to nearly double the normal seasonal fall rally. The current market action is certainly a better scenario, with prices about \$25/cwt higher than a year earlier.

Meanwhile, optimism for 2025 fed cattle prices is growing, small grain crop grazing conditions in the Southern Plains are improving, and feeder cattle and calf supplies outside feed yards are tightening. From January through October, feeder cattle and calf placements were down 1.1% YOY, despite starting the year with feeder cattle and calf supplies that were 4.2% lower than a year earlier. This implies feed yards have overplaced cattle relative to available supplies.

Also take into account the number of days on feed that feed yards have added in order to boost weights and reduce break-even selling prices. The result is a record-large number of cattle on feed in November.

In the meantime, the trade disruption should support feeder cattle and calf prices in the U.S.

PEST DISCOVERY LIKELY TO SUPPORT FEEDER CATTLE PRICES

The late-November discovery of New World screwworm in a cow in southern Mexico has caused the U.S. to suspend imports of all cattle from Mexico. As a result, about 30,000 head fewer feeder cattle and calves are moving north to the U.S. on a weekly

basis. The closure is expected to last into at least mid-December.

The USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and its Mexican equivalent are currently in negotiations to establish inspection and treatment protocols necessary to reopen borders and reestablish trade flows between the two countries. In the

meantime, the trade disruption should support feeder cattle and calf prices in the U.S.

WILL HERD EXPANSION BEGIN?

Beef cow herd expansion still appears to be a decision to which cow-calf operations are not yet ready to fully commit. 2024 year-to-date beef cow slaughter is down 18.2% versus a year ago, but given the limited number of beef replacement heifers that were bred last year and calved this year, I expect beef cow numbers to decline during 2024, leading to a smaller calf crop for 2025.

Dairy replacement heifer numbers remain in a tight supply situation. This is driving up prices as dairy product processing capacity is increasing and dairy facility expansions are short cows in the milking string. Some dairies have already started to shift out of beef-on-dairy crosses to heifer-sexed matings to grow replacement heifer numbers. This trend will further tighten feeder cattle and calf supplies outside feed yards ahead of beef heifer retention, which will drive prices for replacement feeder cattle even higher.

The large number of beef heifers that ranches had retained last fall but were placed into feedlots during spring 2024 has bolstered fed supplies for Q4 2024 and will likely lead to further declines in the beef cow inventory going into 2025.

Drought conditions currently exist in about 74% of land area of the continental U.S., up 19% from a year ago.

For much of the U.S., October was the driest or near driest on record. Drought conditions currently exist in about 74% of land area of the continental U.S., up 19% from a year ago. Even areas hit by Hurricane Helene are now reported to be in moderate drought conditions.

Major storms eliminated drought conditions across much of the Southern Plains during November. Areas that benefited the most were the Panhandle areas of Texas and Oklahoma, southwest Kansas and southeast Colorado. Meanwhile, the Northern Plains (WY, NE, SD, ND, MT) are in moderate to extreme drought, according to the December 5, 2024, U.S. Drought Monitor.

U.S. consumer-level beef demand and spending remain robust and well above yearago levels.

All top five U.S. beef cow states are in some form of drought, which I believe is limiting ranch-level interest in beef heifer calf retention. I expect beef cow numbers as reported by the USDA in the January cattle inventory report to be down 0.5% to 1% (-150,000 to -275,000 head) versus a year earlier, totaling 27.9 million to 8.1 million head. That would be the lowest beef cow inventory number ever for the second year in a row.

BEEF STILL WINNING WITH CONSUMERS

U.S. consumer-level beef demand and spending remain robust and well above yearago levels. From January through October, all-fresh beef demand was up 4.3% from a year earlier while real (deflated) per capita expenditures for beef using the all-fresh retail beef price were up 5%.

For perspective, from January through October, chicken real per capita expenditures were down 3.2% while pork was down 1.6%. Real per capita expenditures for both proteins have struggled for the past 15 months while beef has been winning with consumers. Continued strong beef and cattle prices depend on strong consumer spending.

I forecast 5-Area fed steer prices to average \$186/cwt to \$188/cwt in December and then average in the mid-\$180s/cwt in Q1 2025.

PRICES SET TO RALLY

I expect the availability of market-ready fed cattle to remain 2% to 3% below year-ago levels through at least March and decline at about the normal seasonal rate from January through March. Earlywinter storms across the Panhandle of Texas and Oklahoma and southwest Kansas created muddy pens, challenging feed yard performance and doubling typical death losses in the region. I forecast the number of cattle placed against and expected to be marketed in Q1 2025 to be 0.5% to 0.75% smaller than a year ago.

I expect this to continue to help the feeding industry manage the carryover of unmarketed cattle. Combined with the effects of winter weather, this might get weights in check by the end of the year.

If that all comes to fruition, feeders could regain market leverage.

I forecast 5-Area fed steer prices to average \$186/cwt to \$188/cwt in December and then average in the mid-\$180s/ cwt in Q1 2025, with noted seasonal strength entering Q2 2025. CME Feeder Index prices are likely to be rangebound near \$250/cwt to \$255/cwt, as negative basis limits feeders' willingness to pay higher prices and bet on even higher breakevens.

If the border closure situation with Mexico is resolved, I expect the resumption of cattle crossing the border to limit upside potential for feeder cattle and calf prices during January and maybe early February. Oklahoma City 450-pound calf prices will likely stay in the \$375/cwt to \$390/cwt range through the end of 2024 as seasonal calfrun supplies tighten and demand for late-turnout cattle extends into late 2024. Lower feed grain prices, tightening yearling supplies, and any heifer calf retention will further support prices.

The two largest risks to beef and cattle prices going into 2025 are a pullback in consumer spending (possibly driven by a slowing U.S. economy, though there are no signs of this yet), and a pullback in export demand by our trading partners in retaliation for tariffs levied by the incoming U.S. administration.

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CATTLE ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION (AI) SCHOOL

Thursday, March 27 - Saturday, March 29

SDSU Extension will host a Cattle Artificial Insemination (AI) School from March 27-29, 2025, at Bieber Red Angus (11450 353rd Ave, Leola, SD 57456). Participants will learn overall herd management for reproductive success and profitability during the 2.5-day school. AI Schools are open to anyone wanting to learn to artificially inseminate.

The first day of the school consists of classroom training pertaining to AI techniques, reproductive-tract anatomy, heat detection, AI equipment and semen handling. On the second and third days, sessions focus on practicing hands-on AI techniques, and classroom training on topics such as bull selection, expected progeny differences (EPD), estrous synchronization, herd management and nutrition.

SCHEDULE

- Day 1: 12:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
- Day 2: 8:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.
- Day 3: 8:00 a.m. − 3:30 p.m.

The schedule is subject to small changes.

REGISTRATION

36

The registration fee is \$500, which covers the cost of educational materials, supplies, facility and cow use. There is a limited number of spots available. Registration is required and can be completed online at https://extension.sdstate.edu/.

If a participant is under the age of 18 and will be attending without a parent or legal guardian, release forms must be completed. For more information, contact Robin Salverson, SDSU Extension Cow/Calf Field Specialist at Robin.Salverson@sdstate.edu.





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COULD YOUR RANCH GO FENCELESS?

VENCE'S COW COLLARS CREATE INVISIBLE BOUNDARIES TO AID IN ROTATIONAL GRAZING.

Reprinted with permission from Successful Farming Published online March 27, 2024

By Gene Johnston

Don't laugh: This is a real product. A virtual fence technology for cattle works like the invisible fence for dogs. Each cow wears a neck collar that delivers a warning beep if the cow approaches the invisible boundary, then a small shock if it crosses it. Over time, they learn to heed the beep to avoid the shock.

Unlike a dog fence, which relies on a buried cable to set the boundary, the boundaries for cattle are broadcast by a radio signal from a base station. The cows' location relative to the invisible fence is tracked by a GPS chip in the collar.

The technology, from Vence (vence.io), now part of Merck Animal Health, allows users to change the boundaries for the invisible fence, from a computer or smartphone, as often as desired. Vence highlights the technology's value in a rotational grazing system to manage cattle and grass inventory while reducing costs for labor and fence material.

One early adopter of the system is Jorgensen Land & Cattle Partnership in central South Dakota. Nick Jorgensen says the Angus seed stock operation began looking at virtual fencing several years ago and decided to buy its first Vence units in 2020, when 300 replacement heifers received collars. It's been a steep learning curve, Jorgensen says, but it's been mostly positive. In 2023, the ranch had collars on about 500 cows, or about half the herd. We asked Jorgensen for his assessment so far.

SF: How does the Vence system work for you?

NJ: We have four of the base stations that are connected to the internet and broadcast the boundaries on two grazing locations, one about 2,000 acres, and the other, 3,000 acres. Vence says the base station can reach out and broadcast the boundaries a distance of about three to five miles. But it really all depends

on the terrain. With hills or mountains, it's a shorter distance, and it might require multiple base stations. We're pretty flat around here, and I've seen the signal travel six miles. In our case, one base unit could probably reach about 3,000 acres.

SF: Does it help you graze more efficiently?

NJ: Yes; we use it to rotationally graze cattle. Last summer, we used the system to move cattle into new grazing paddocks every three to four days, using just the collars and virtual fence. The collars are GPS-enabled, to track where every cow is at any time. When a cow gets close to a boundary we've set, she gets the audio signal on her collar. It's like a loud beep. If she gets even closer, it gives her a small shock. It's only about one-tenth the shock of an electric fence, but that's all it takes. You'll see them twitch their neck and back up. Most cows learn within a few days that when they hear the beep, it's time to turn back.

SF: Do you have to train cows?

NJ: When we put the Vence collars on a group of cows, we have a conditioning period of three or four days in a 40-acre pasture that has a real fence. We set the virtual boundary just inside the real fence. They understand the real fence, and they learn how the virtual fence works in that conditioning period. If they get too close, they hear one beep. They learn that if they keep going that way, they're going to get a shock.

I've spent hours over the course of this project watching cow behavior, and one thing I've learned is how smart they are. You can go out there and hear all of their beepers going because they are inside the zone. They'll graze right up to the invisible line and stop. It's amazing how they figure it out.

SF: How hard is it to move cows from one paddock to another, with just the invisible fence?

Continued on page 42



PRODUCTION SALE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2025

Rugby Livestock Auction | Rugby, ND | 1:00 PM (CST) | Online Bidding Through DVAuction



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NJ: We've built the paddocks around water sources that make it easier for the cows to move. When we move, we set the new boundaries, so that when cows come to drink, they're captured inside the new paddock. They essentially move on their own, without a lot of hassle. Over the course of a day, every cow is going to come to water.

SF: Do you put the collars on cows and their calves too?

NJ: No, not on the calves. For the most part, calves stay with their mothers and don't cross the invisible boundaries. If a calf does wander off to graze outside of the virtual boundary, it's not really a bad thing, as that calf is grazing on the freshest grass that hasn't been touched or trampled.

SF: Does it work? And do the cows stay where you want them without real fences?

NJ: Our farm is still on the bleeding edge of this technology, and we're still learning where it works best and its limitations. The newest collar design from Vence is made of chain and is less likely to fail than earlier versions. The neck unit that delivers the beep and light shock is run by a battery, which is usually good for six to nine months. Batteries do run down, and power outages can disrupt the system. All in all, our experience would say the virtual fence is about 95% effective at containing animals. But any rancher can tell you that a physical fence isn't 100% either.

This probably won't ever replace all physical fences, at least on our farm. Like most of the Midwest, our farm is largely laid out in one-mile-square sections. I

expect us to always have a real physical fence around the perimeter of those sections, so cows can't get on the roads. But the internal fences that move the cows around to smaller paddocks for rotational grazing could be the invisible kind.

SF: What about the economics of this new technology?

NJ: That's a tough question to answer. I know the cost to build a physical fence is about \$15,000 a mile. To go all the way around a section of land is four miles, or \$60,000. On our farm, if we put the virtual fence on all 1,000 of our cows, our outlay would be close to \$50,000. When you look at that comparison, the virtual fence doesn't look so prohibitive.

The question is, can you make that kind of investment and get the value back? We're still determining that, and I don't think we know the answer yet.

For instance, what is the full economic value of using this system to do a better job of grazing, particularly rotational grazing? Can we get enough improved productivity to pay for the technology?

SF: Do you have other thoughts on invisible fence?

NJ: If you want to practice rotational grazing to manage cattle, grass, and water inventory, and you don't want to invest in a lot of infrastructure, this can do that. I could see this as a way to graze cornstalk fields that no longer have fences. Think how it might work for ranches that are on leased land, where you can't build real fences for various reasons. This would let you practice controlled rotational grazing, and help you keep track of the animals, without fences.



How much does the virtual cow fence cost?

The Vence base system, which broadcasts the invisible fence boundaries, costs \$10,000 per base unit, or \$12,500 if Vence technical experts do the install. A base unit can broadcast the signal for three to five miles. Depending on terrain and acres, some ranches might need multiple base units.

The collars are sold on a subscription basis and include the collars, technical support, and software, for \$40 per collar per year. They're reusable from one animal to another.

The batteries for the collar unit usually last six to nine months and are sold as needed for \$10.

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EFFECTIVENESS OF VIRTUAL FENCE IN NORTH DAKOTA GRAZING SYSTEMS

NDSU NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

by Miranda Meehan1, Kevin Sedivec2,4, Zac Carlson3, Josh Wianecki1,2, Chris Byrd1, Jason Harmon2 and Torre Hovick2

Virtual fence is a relatively new technology that has the potential to improve grazing management without physical fences while providing GPS tracking of livestock. For the last year, researchers at North Dakota State University have been evaluating the use of virtual fence to graze rangeland and annual forages. Virtual fence was effective in containing animals in a designated grazing area 92% of the time in both grazing systems. Virtual fence was effective in managing grazing animals. Virtual fences also provided increased management flexibility as they can easily be moved or adjusted to improve grazing distribution, increase harvest efficiency, and enhance wildlife habitat.

Summary

Virtual fence is a relatively new technology that has the potential to improve grazing management without physical fences while providing GPS tracking of livestock. For the last year, researchers at North Dakota State

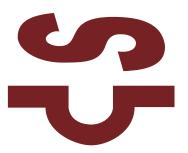
University have been evaluating the use of virtual fence to graze rangeland and annual forages. In both rangeland and annual forage systems, GPS location data was logged at 30-minute intervals, and the number of management cues received by each animal was recorded. This data determined the number of breakouts and time spent outside the designated grazing area. The virtual fence was utilized in two experiments. For the first experiment, virtual fencing was used to patch graze on rangeland at different grazing intensities to create heterogeneity. Four herds of cow-calf pairs with 19 to 30 pairs per herd grazed rangeland from June 8 to Oct. 20, 2023. Herd size was based on the estimated carrying capacity of each pasture. For the second experiment, yearling heifers grazed annual forage pastures in the fall using four grazing and technology treatments: 1) continuous grazing, 2) strip graze with manual fence, 3) strip graze with automated fence and 4) strip graze with virtual fence. Stocking rates were estimated based on biomass production at the time of grazing. Each treatment was grazed by 8 to 12 head of yearling beef cattle, depending on forage production, from Oct. 6 - Nov. 27 at the Central Grassland Research Extension Center (CGREC) and Oct. 2-16 at NDSU. Virtual fence was effective in containing animals in a designated grazing area 92% of the time in both grazing systems. Virtual fence was effective in managing grazing animals while providing increased flexibility in management as fences could easily be moved or adjusted to better meet management goals of improving grazing distribution, increasing harvest efficiency and enhancing wildlife habitat. As with any technology, producers must understand how this technology can be integrated into their production system to better enable them to meet their individual management goals.

Introduction

Virtual fence is a relatively new technology that has the potential to improve grazing management without physical fences while providing GPS tracking of livestock. Livestock wear collars that communicate animal location in relationship to a virtual fence boundary via radio and/or cellular tower to a web- or phone-based application. Each animal receives audio and electrical cues, depending on its location in relationship to the virtual fence boundary.

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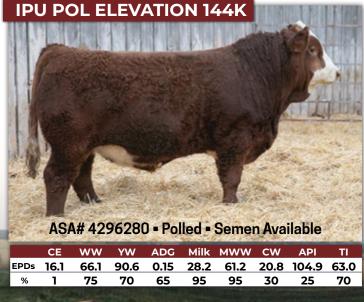


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Virtual fence has been shown to be effective in either including or excluding livestock from a designated area with the majority of research reporting 90% or greater success in managing grazing access of livestock (Aaser et al. 2024; Campbell et al. 2018; Campbell et al. 2020). When livestock have an adequate forage supply, the effectiveness of virtual fence increased over the grazing period as animals learned the cues, resulting in reduced electrical cues to be effective (Hamidi et al. 2022; Ranches et al. 2021). There is variability in effectiveness between classes of cattle and individual animals. Boyd et al. (2024) and Utsumi et al. (2023) reported that cows with calves received more audio and electrical cues when compared to dry cows because of the social interactions with uncollared calves.

In addition to enhancing management of grazing animals, virtual fence can be used to improve habitat and wildlife management. The most obvious improvement is the removal of physical fences that inhibit wildlife movements. However, virtual fence also can improve our understanding of habitat use by livestock (Aaser et al. 2024) and manage livestock use of sensitive habitats by either limiting use or restricting use (Campbell et al. 2018; Campbell et al. 2020). To date, there is limited research published on the use of this technology in the United States and no research using it to manage cattle grazing of annual forages.

Experimental Procedure

For the last year, researchers at NDSU have been evaluating the use of virtual fence in grazing systems to manage livestock grazing on both rangeland and cropland to enhance grazing efficiency and livestock production. Prior to the grazing period for both experiments, cattle were fitted with virtual fence collars and went through a four- day training period. Calves were not collared. Across both projects, GPS location data was logged at 30-minute intervals, and the number of management cues received by each animal was recorded. These data determined the number of breakouts and time spent outside of the designated grazing areas.

On rangelands, the team evaluated

the use of virtual fence to grazing using fence and season-long grazing systems. The virtual fence was managed to patch graze at different grazing intensities. Animals were given access to a quarter, then half, then three quarters of a pasture, leaving one quarter ungrazed (Figure 1). The goal of this project was to enhance conservation benefits to wildlife while benefiting livestock production. To see if this goal is being achieved, the following metrics are being tracked: vegetative structure (wildlife habitat), plant species diversity, wildlife populations, forage production and livestock performance.

This project was piloted in 2023 at the CGREC near Streeter, ND. Virtual fence was used to manage four herds of cowcalf pairs with 19 to30 pairs per herd from June 8 to Oct. 20, 2023 Herd size was based on the estimated carrying capacity of each pasture. During the pilot study, vegetation structure was measured using Robel readings at the end of the grazing period. Livestock performance was collected by weighing cows and calves at the start and end of the grazing period.

The team is also evaluating strip grazing using different technologies on soil health,

animal performance and behavior, and economic viability for cattle producers. We tested three techniques of strip grazing a cover crop: manual fence movement (polywire), automated fence movement, and virtual fence. The objective is to improve harvest efficiency, soil health, and livestock performance in an integrated crop and livestock system. The following parameters are being evaluated: forage production, harvest efficiency, soil chemical and physical properties, and livestock performance.

The strip grazing project was piloted in 2023 at the CGREC and the NDSU campus in Fargo, ND. An annual forage was grazed in the fall using four grazing and technology treatments: 1) continuous grazing, 2) strip graze with manual fence, 3) strip graze with automated fence and 4) strip graze with virtual fence. There was also an ungrazed treatment at each location. Field size was approximately nine acres, and stocking rates were estimated based on biomass production at the time of grazing.

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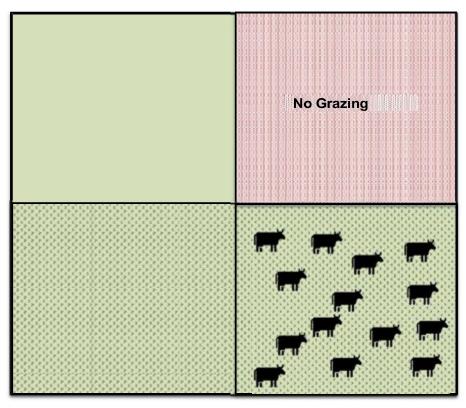


Figure 1. Diagram of patch graze system where cattle are restricted to the southwest quarter, then to the south half, then given access to three quarters, leaving the northwest quarter ungrazed.



Each treatment was grazed by 8-12 head of yearling beef cattle Oct. 6 - Nov. 27 at CGREC and Oct. 2-16 at NDSU. Each treatment was clipped post grazing to estimate harvest efficiency of the grazing treatments. Livestock performance was also collected by weighing cows and calves at the start and end of the grazing period.

Results and Discussion

One of the greatest concerns from producers looking to adopt virtual fence is its effectiveness in keeping animals in or out of a designated area. Across both studies, we observed 92% containment of grazing animals to designated areas. This is consistent with research conducted in other locations, which reported 90% or greater containment (Aaser et al. 2024; Campbell et al. 2018; Campbell et al. 2020). Similarly, we observed increases in the number of cues animals received following move dates when becoming familiar with the new boundary and at the end of a grazing period when available forage was reduced. Boyd et al. (2024) reported a decline in containment from >94% to 75% as available forage was reduced.

Initial results suggest that we were successful in creating heterogeneity in structure across the pasture (Figure 2) with no negative impacts to cow or calf performance in comparison to the other grazing treatments. Heterogeneity in structure increases the habitat types available for waterfowl and grassland birds, and increases biodiversity of the bird population. Heterogeneity also increases plant species biodiversity, which benefits pollinator populations. These results indicate that virtual fence can be an effective tool in managing grassland ecosystems for wildlife.

Initial results of using virtual fence to graze annual forages indicate that similar harvest efficiency was achieved across all treatments. However, livestock performance varied between treatments with the virtual fence and manual fence treatments having higher performance (Figure 3).

Continued on page 52

Virtual Fencing VOR

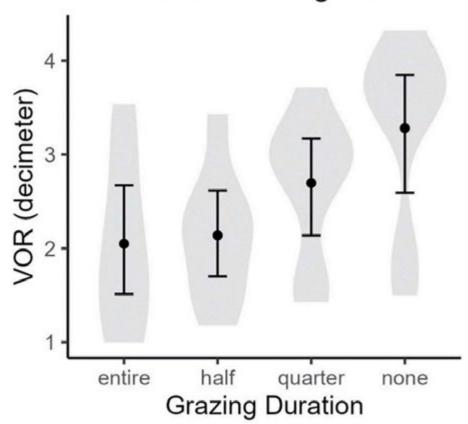


Figure 2. Virtual fence patch grazing structure measurusing visual obstruction readings (VOR)

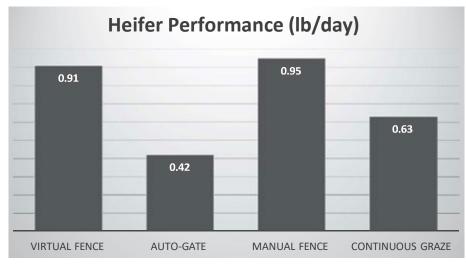


Figure 3. Heifer performance in pounds per day (lbs/day) when grazing late season annual forage with virtual fence, automatic gate, manual fence (polywire) and continuous grazing (no strips).



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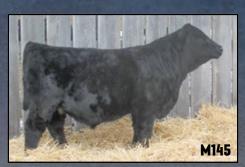
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PF Outfit X Viper 1/2 Simmental 1/2 Angus

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MRL Dewalt X Capitalist 3/4 Simmental 1/4 Angus

CE BW WW YW MCE M MWW API TI 13 0.3 79 116 8 27 67 138 80



PF Outfit X Viper 1/2 Simmental 1/2 Angus

CE BW WW YW MCE M MWW API TI 12 -1.0 86 135 5 24 67 144 91



MRL BattleCry X Joker Purebred

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Bulls pictured at 8-9 months of age. EPDs as of 12-8-24.

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The reduced performance observed in the auto- gate treatment is likely due to animal behavior, as the animals did not move through the gate to utilize the last strip of forage. The reduced performance with similar harvest efficiency for cattle on the continuous graze treatment may be because of increased forage waste because of trampling and foraging behavior that resulted in lower quality forage as the grazing period progressed.

The initial findings of our research indicate that virtual fence is effective in managing grazing animals, providing increased flexibility in management as fences can easily be moved or adjusted to better meet management goals of improving grazing distribution, harvest efficiency, and wildlife habitat. However, adapting this technology is not without challenges. The cost is likely a barrier to many producers, and more economic information is needed. Economics will be evaluated as the current projects proceed. Additionally, time is needed to learn how to effectively use the technology to manage livestock to meet individual management goals. As with any technology, producers should understand how this technology can be integrated into their production system to better enable them to meet their individual management goals.



Acknowledgements

The authors acknowledge the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station and State Board of Agricultural Research and Education for their financial support. A special thanks to the research technicians at the Central Grasslands Research Extension Center and NDSU Beef Unit for their assistance.

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Figure 1: An animal at the SDSU Cottonwood Field Station suffitted with a virtual fence collar from the company Vence.

Updated July 01, 2024

By Krista Ehlert Assistant Professor & SDSU Extension Range Specialist Additional Authors: Jameson Brennan, Hector Menendez

Recent advancements in technology have made their way into precision agriculture, with emphasis placed on using new technologies to increase crop yields and profitability, while simultaneously lowering levels of inputs needed like water, fertilizer and herbicides. Although widely used in row-crop production, precision agriculture is only just beginning to move into the ranching world. Virtual fencing, though, has started making waves in the cattle industry. Time and research will tell us more about how adaptable and transformative this precision technology is in the cattle industry; we are researching its use and utility at the South Dakota State University (SDSU) Cottonwood Field Station starting this summer (Figure 1).

Virtual fencing – borders without physical barriers – can be used to implement precision grazing management. Fences are the traditional tool used to dictate boundaries on livestock grazing and to manage landscapes. There are mixtures of private, state and federally owned lands across the Northern Great Plains that create unique challenges for providing adequate natural resource management and implementing conservation practices, such as rotational grazing. Many ranchers are hesitant to adopt rotational grazing, because it

requires the installation of new water sources and fences, and those additional costs are unattractive; material and labor costs for one mile of fence can easily exceed \$10,000. This reluctance is exacerbated on property that is leased privately or has a state or federal grazing permit. While expensive, fencing is also necessary in some instances, such as excluding cattle from a riparian area to allow for landscape regeneration.

About Virtual Fencing

Virtual fencing transforms manual labor into cognitive labor, and therefore has the capacity to improve producer efficiency and have a positive effect on animal efficiency. Virtual fencing is most often thought of as the "invisible fence" for use with cats and dogs, but the technology and interested parties have since evolved to include applications for other species, such as goats. Research investigating virtual fencing for cattle is relatively new, with few published studies. A virtual fence consisting of a collar worn by cattle and an above-ground induction cable was effective in one study; however, the aboveground induction cable acted as a visual deterrent and was the main determining factor in keeping the cattle contained. In contrast, a virtual fence collar with an auditory stimulus followed by electrical pulses successfully contained grazing dairy cattle within predetermined areas 99% of the time. Newer advancements in virtual fencing for cattle have focused on a GPS-enabled collar that is placed around each animal's neck. There is a three-way interaction between the collars. a base station in the field and a software subscription. The software subscription

allows the user to "draw" their pastures. These boundaries transmit to the base station (operated by cellular and solar), which pushes the virtual fence to the collars. The user can see the position and movement of each collared animal and can easily rotate animals among paddocks with a few clicks.

Potential Benefits

Virtual fencing as a tool to implement rotational grazing has several potential benefits for producers with respect to their resources (financial, time), grassland management and animal performance. First, virtual fencing allows a producer to "draw" a paddock to allow access to existing water features, saving money and labor on unnecessary water development. Second, minimal time is required to move cattle and check fences as it is all done via software. Third, virtual fencing provides the means for producers to capture the environmental benefits of rotational grazing. Fourth, it could easily be implemented on leased land, because livestock operators do not need to attach permanent improvements (fences, water developments) to someone else's real property. A final benefit of virtual fencing is that producers have greater control over animal movement on the landscape, and therefore animal performance. Fence boundaries can be drawn based on factors like elevation, soil type, plant communities and forage quality, so that animals can be moved to areas with the highest quality forage. Ultimately, virtual fencing exemplifies the potential impact technology has on increasing animal and producer efficiency while creating positive impacts on the landscape.

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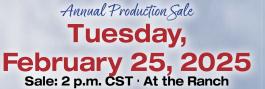


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WHEN TO INVOLVE YOUR VETERANARIAN AND WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

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by Matt Hille, DVM, MS, PhD Diagnostic Veterinary Pathologist and Nebraska Extension Specialist, and David Steffen, DVM, PhD, DACVP Diagnostic Veterinary Pathologist

Confirming pregnancy in the herd is an important milestone in the overall cow-calf production system, but there's still a lot that needs to go right before you're admiring next year's weaned calf crop. Unfortunately, reproductive losses can still happen between confirmation of pregnancy and calving. Beef producers and veterinarians often refer to any death loss before calving as an "abortion," but in reality, true abortions only make up a portion of this loss. It is important to define some of the terms regarding reproductive losses:

- Early embryonic death: Loss of pregnancy in the period from conception to maternal recognition of pregnancy (implantation). This occurs approximately 17 days after initial fertilization.
- Late embryonic death: Fetal losses that occur from recognition of pregnancy (about 17 days post

conception) until about six weeks post conception.

• Abortion: Fetal losses from six weeks of gestation to calving.

Important Messages

- Determining the cause of embryonic losses early in gestation is extremely difficult since the losses often happen well before we're aware there is an issue. Developing an overall herd health plan with your veterinarian can improve the recognition of preventable reproductive losses, and enable preventative management strategies. Special attention should be made regarding the nutritional status of the herd, reproductive health of the bulls, recordkeeping, and a proactive vaccination schedule to combat infectious causes.
- Average annual abortion rates can vary widely from ranch to ranch. Use your own previous years' experiences with your herd to help you decide when abortions reach an abnormal level. If in doubt, call and discuss the situation with your veterinarian to determine if investigating the losses is warranted.

Continued on page 60

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- It is not practical to investigate every suspected abortion due to the associated costs. Confirming suspected cases as true abortions, as opposed to death loss due to a difficult birth or failure of a live calf to thrive is the first step in determining whether further investigation is warranted.
- Diagnostic workups for abortions historically have low rates of success in determining a definitive cause. However, ruling out causes of abortion via negative test results can provide valuable diagnostic data. There is always value in knowing what did not cause increased abortions in your herd.

Tips for beef producers dealing with suspected aborted calves:

- Remove the dead calf from the pasture or pen to prevent predation.
- Keep the carcass cool until it can be examined by your veterinarian or shipped to the diagnostic lab.
- It may be desirable to freeze back select samples from early losses to be available if the threshold for action is reached.
- When possible, obtain the expelled placenta in addition to the fetal carcass. Placenta is a valuable sample if additional diagnostics are pursued, and increases the likelihood of a diagnosis in abortions caused by infectious agents.
- Ingestion of pine needles in excess can cause abortions in cattle. Historically this has been a difficult diagnosis to make beyond speculating based on the history of access and potential ingestion. Recently, we have been able to test aborted fetuses and confirmed this as the cause in a number of abortion cases in areas of Nebraska where cows have access to pine needles. If you suspect this may be the case in an abortion, let your veterinarian know. The sample of choice to test for pine needle abortion is thoracic fluid from the aborted fetus.

Pre-breeding considerations to minimize reproductive losses

Reproductive losses that take place earlier on in gestation usually do not result in an observed lost embryo or fetus. These cows will most often present as open or late bred cows at preg check, depending upon if they returned to heat. Diagnosing these cases can be difficult (if not impossible) since the inciting factor happened weeks or even months before the issue is identified. Early reproductive management practices can be essential in minimizing these losses. It is important to ensure cows are in adequate condition by the start of breeding season. Pregnancy is a physiologic luxury, and will only happen and/or be maintained when the nutritional and physiologic needs of the dam are met, and continue to be met throughout the pregnancy. There is a strong correlation of body condition with conception rates and being on the "gain" trend if entering breeding can mitigate these early losses, particularly in secondcalf heifers. Low body condition score and marginal nutrition is a common cause of infertility and early losses up to about six weeks. Routinely evaluating, recording, and addressing body condition scores in your cows before breeding and during early gestation is crucial. This type of methodical approach can provide useful data to troubleshoot reproductive losses when consulting with a veterinarian or herd nutritionist, should they occur.

Another important pre-breeding management tool is to ensure breeding soundness exams are performed on bulls each year. Approximately 10% of adult beef bulls will fail a breeding soundness exam each year. The timing of these exams is important. Testing bulls too early in the year creates potential for infection, fever, or injury prior to turnout. It is recommended to re-test newly purchased bulls, even if tested prior to purchase, for the same reason. Testing bulls immediately before turnout can be problematic as well if there is not adequate bull power available if there is an unexpected failure rate. This means when to test bulls will vary from ranch to ranch. The ideal scenario would be to test bulls as close to turnout as possible, but leave enough time to find replacement bulls if needed. This will also allow bulls to be re-tested if they failed due to a treatable issue. Performing breeding soundness exams in the breeding pasture, where bulls that pass the exam exit the chute and immediately join cows works great; until it doesn't. I have personally had several

instances where the producer had more bulls fail the exam than they anticipated, and they were left short on bull power with minimal options for immediate quality replacements. Some very basic discussions early on with your veterinarian surrounding breeding management can help minimize these issues.

When to be concerned about abortions

Normal rates for reproductive losses in cattle can vary substantially between operations based on a number of factors, including farm-specific management, time of year, breed composition, and geographic region. Therefore, the number of abortions that should be cause for concern will vary, and published thresholds of acceptable losses range widely from around 2-8%. You will need to develop a threshold for concern based on past experiences. Typically, we suggest a 2-2.5% rate of mid- to late-term abortions to be expected for the average herd in Nebraska. Regardless, knowing your own herd and your management strategies should help define your action threshold. If in doubt, it is never a bad idea to discuss losses with your veterinarian early on and potentially even hold samples to allow for a retrospective look if more abortions occur. Your veterinarian works with numerous producers in the area, and may have insight into ongoing losses across many herds that may help explain your own. The cost benefit ratio and a willingness to act upon any findings are important to consider before sending specimens to the lab for further diagnostics. Investigating reproductive losses when it is not warranted or without predetermined goals and action plans can be financially inefficient. Waiting too long to investigate loses opportunity for earlier interventions and potentially mitigating further losses. Thus, having a defined herd reproductive plan developed with your veterinarian can ensure sample preservation and avoid the pitfalls of diagnostic inefficiency.

Continued on page 62

Sorenson ranch

Your source for composite Simmental bulls that are bred for:

Longevity

& Calves that PUSH DOWN the Scale Average Actual Birth Weight: 80lbs Average Adjusted 205: 756lbs





BDV GB Ignife 173F - ASA# 3553934



HABR Eagle K201 - ASA# 4091829



Ellingson Turnpike K252 - ASA# 4088856 **ADDITIONAL REFERENCE SIRES:**

THSR CLICKER K222 -ASA# 4023507



R PLUS SOCKEYE 2023K -CANSM #1396316 TT GOLDEN 783G -ASA #3614391

JC MR PONTIAC D114K -ASA #4029546



Colorado Bridle Bií E752 - ASA# 3271382

NEW DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION!!

Foin Us: MARCH 5TH, 2025

FREE FEEDING - FREE DELIVERY WITHIN 500 MILES

Selling: 55 SIMMANGUS BULLS
55 COMMERCIAL OPEN HEIFERS 5 BRED REGISTERED HEIFERS **5 REGISTERED OPEN HEIFERS**

Now Selling Registered Bred and Open Heifers!

FREE FEEDING AND DELIVERY OFFERED FROM SALE DAY TO WHEN BULL(S) ARE DELIVERED. BULLS WILL BE FED FREE OF CHARGE, GUARANTEED SEMEN TESTED, AND DELIVERED BY APPROXIMATELY JUNE 1ST.



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Recording data such as breeding dates, pregnancy dates, and birth dates of calves can be helpful in addressing reproductive failure. This data will allow retrospective calculations of pregnancy rates over 21-day intervals and can help identify periods in early gestation where bull factors might be impacting the calf crop. Healthy breeding bulls can cover for "bad" bulls for a short period, but can also start to fail from overuse, and this type of data can help provide a clue. Clues toward an early bull failure may help guide future bull-to-cow ratios or the number of cleanup bulls to use in subsequent years.

This can allow you to optimize the usage of bulls to moderate cost, but prevent catastrophic infertility and also return to your ideal calving window if it has been prolonged over time.

When a dead near-term calf is found, it is important to distinguish whether the case represents abortion, a stillbirth, or perinatal death. A prolonged or difficult birth (dystocia) that goes unnoticed can resemble a late-term abortion. Also, a live calf that dies before rising and nursing can appear as an abortion or a stillbirth. The list of differential causes in these cases can be quite different. Meconium or fecal staining on the skin (giving rise to a brown-yellow discoloration) is an indicator of fetal distress since calves will defecate in utero during a dystocia. If you see this, it is suggestive that the particular death was possibly due to a dystocia that wasn't noticed. Swelling of the face, neck, and tongue of the dead calf are also indications of dystocia. In the absence of these signs, a postmortem exam (i.e., a necropsy) by your veterinarian can be beneficial.

One important component of a necropsy is to determine if the calf died in-utero or shortly after birth. Inspecting the lungs can give important clues, as a live calf will usually take a breath and inflate the lungs. These inflated lungs will often appear

lighter pink compared to the darker red seen in collapsed or non-inflated lungs. Partial or fully inflated lungs indicate either an issue with birthing or a failure to thrive after birth, and a necropsy can help to correctly characterize these calves.

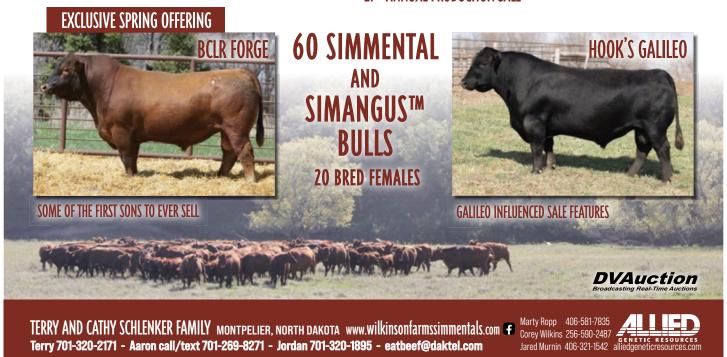
Perinatal losses (death shortly after birth) can be due to dystocia and result in an oxygen-deprived calf being born alive. They can also be due to inadequate nutrition during the last trimester of pregnancy. The losses can be the result of vitamin and/or mineral imbalances, particularly if the majority of gestation takes place in a dry lot with stored feed or byproducts being fed. It is critical to properly account for loss of nutrients in stored feeds in these non-grazing situations. A necropsy will often allow proper characterization of the death, but will rarely have gross abnormalities that provide definitive diagnosis.

Continued on page 64



WILKINSON FARMS SIMMENTALS

FEBRUARY 20, 2025 1:00 PM CST AT THE C-B SALE FACILITY 4 MILES SOUTH OF THE RANCH, MONTPELIER, NORTH DAKOTA 27TH ANNUAL PRODUCTION SALE



5TH ANNUAL PRODUCTION SALE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2025

Simmentals SOLSAA

- 24 SIMMENTAL & SIM-ANGUS BULLS
- 30 ANGUS BULLS
- 14 OPEN ANGUS HEIFERS



1:00 Sale

INCLUDES SONS BY:



WHEATLAND DIMENSIONAL 1147J



MOHNEN HOLLYWOOD 652



KBHR REVOLUTION H071



SAV EARLY ARRIVAL 0903







MIKE THYEN 605-520-0575

ERIC SOLSAA 605-237-0984



45142 183RD STREET | HAYTI, SOUTH DAKOTA
[3.5 MILES WEST OF KONES KORNER]

If indicated, your veterinarian may recommend further diagnostics in an attempt to narrow down the possibilities or determine a cause for the losses.

The diagnostic laboratory is useful to evaluate infectious causes of abortion, inherited anomalies, and some nutritional aspects that can impact birth rates and calf survivability. The causes within these groups are numerous, and detailing each specifically is outside the scope of this discussion. But, by either submitting the entire aborted fetus or submitting samples from specific tissues to the diagnostic lab, veterinary diagnosticians can look to confirm or rule out some of the more common causes.

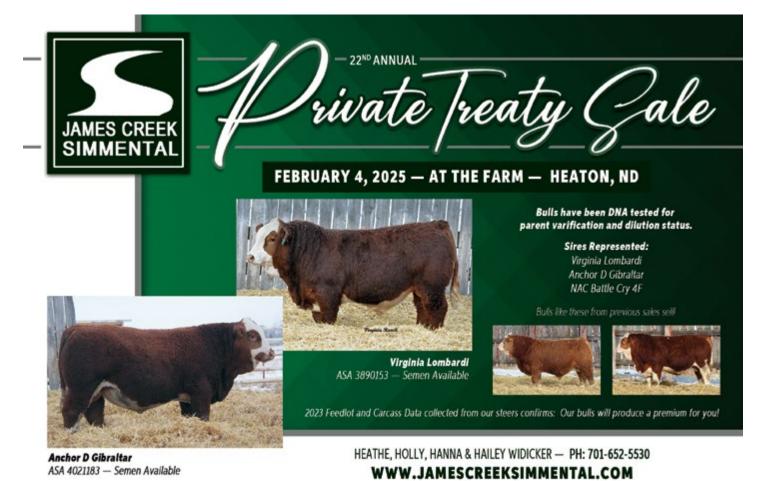
Diagnosticians at the laboratory will review the case, order appropriate tests, and aid in the interpretation of the results. Including a complete history improves the chances of obtaining a definitive diagnosis and can keep costs down. Most diagnosticians are happy to discuss the case prior to investigation to help guide sample collection. The more common

tests performed include microscopic examination of the tissues, bacterial culture, and toxicological or nutritional analysis of fetal tissues. PCR tests are also common and allow for highly sensitive detection of small amounts of nucleic acid from viruses or bacteria known to cause bovine abortions. The results are interpreted in context with the goal to assist your veterinarian in treatment or preventative management in the herd.

Unfortunately, the majority of abortion workups in veterinary diagnostic labs result in a diagnosis of "idiopathic abortion," which is a fancy way of saying we don't know what caused the abortion. The poor success rate of obtaining a definitive diagnosis for abortions is likely due to a number of factors. One of these factors is that some of these cases are not true abortions. There are undoubtedly cases pursued as abortions that are dystocia, failure to thrive, or due to nutritional or stress factors not evident in routine lab examinations. Working cows that are very near full-term can induce physiologic stress, causing endogenous steroids to be released that

result in pregnancy termination. The same type of stress can happen in extraordinary weather events like snow storms. These types of abortions leave no detectable evidence in the tissues of the fetus and end up being classified as idiopathic if examined in the lab. The cost of an abortion workup varies by laboratory, but it is not uncommon to end up with several hundred dollars in testing fees. This highlights the importance of working with your veterinarian to establish thresholds for intervention, a diagnostic sampling plan, and to establish goals for using the diagnostic data obtained.

Receiving a diagnosis of an "idiopathic abortion" does not necessarily mean the investigation was not useful. As veterinarians and veterinary diagnosticians, our goal is to promote herd health and help inform management decisions. Some causes of abortions in cattle can cause abortions rates of 50% or more, and ruling out these causes with negative test results can provide value. That is, sometimes knowing what did not cause the abortion is as important as knowing what did cause the abortion.



SIMMENTELLER SIMMENTAL SCENE

January, 2025

Springs

SAT @ 2pm(CST)...FEB 1, 2025

Decorah Sale Barn, Decorah, IA



46 Years Palancing

EPDs, Actual Weights, Carcass Evaluation & Phenotype to IMPROVE YOUR PROFIT LINE

ASA 4362941 • CE 9 • WW 89 • YW 126 • API 110 • TI 75



PB SM • 2054L • S: Erixon Bitten 203A • MGS: R Plus Reload BW 81 • Red • Homo Polled Full brother to SAS Copperhead @ Select Sires

ASA 4362939 • CE 8 • WW 81 • YW 112 • API 122 • TI 75



PB SM • L423 • S: SAS Shootin the Moon • MGS: King of the Yukon BW 88 • Homo Black • Homo Polled



PB SM • M334 • S: KBHR Honor • MGS: Silver Lake Gold Digger BW 90 • WW 736 • Homo Black • Homo Polled Maternal brother to \$55,000 evaluation SAS Black Majic

ASA 4423381 • CE 11 • WW 85 • YW 126 • API 127 • TI 82



PB SM • M131 • S: SRH Hannibal 5H • MGS: Hook's Zebulon BW 80 • Red • Homo Polled Maternal-sib to SAS Antidote

ASA 4423374 • CE 11 • WW 95 • YW 132 • API 135 • TI 89



PB SM • M802 • S: Erixon Bitten • MGS: Erixon Bitten BW 87 • WW 808 • Hetero Black • Polled

*EPD as of 12/13/2024

80 Herd Improving Bulls • Bred & Open Females • Donor Females • Embryos

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15 **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18 SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22 MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24**

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28

SATURDAY, MARCH 1 MONDAY, MARCH 3

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

THURSDAY, MARCH 6

SATURDAY, MARCH 8

MONDAY, MARCH 10

FRIDAY, MARCH 14

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

SUNDAY, MARCH 16

THURSDAY, MARCH 20

SATURDAY, MARCH 22

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26

SATURDAY, MARCH 29

TUESDAY, APRIL 1

FRIDAY, APRIL 4

TUESDAY, APRIL 8

THURSDAY, APRIL 17

JNR FARMS SIMMENTAL BULL & HEIFER SALE

VIRGINIA RANCH/SKYWEST SIMMENTALS BULL & HEIFER SALE

TRI K CATTLE SIMMENTAL BULL & HEIFER SALE (W/ALBRECHT FARMS)

BEECHINOR BROS SIMMENTALS AND CHAROLAIS & GUESTS BULL & HEIFER SALE

SPRING LAKE SIMMENTALS, THE ZIMMERS - BULL SALE

LONE STONE FARMS SIMMENTAL & RED ANGUS BULL SALE

BRIDGE CITY SIMMENTAL BULL SALE

12TH ANNUAL SPRING SELECT SIMMENTAL BULL & HEIFER SALE

21ST ANNUAL SWANTEWITT & SAGE SIMMENTALS BULL & HEIFER SALE

TRANSCON'S 7TH ANNUAL NEXT STEP SIMMENTAL BULL SALE

TRANSCON'S RED DEER COUNTY BULL SALE

12TH ANNUAL NORTH COUNTRY RANCHLAND SIMMENTAL BULL SALE

HIGH BLUFF STOCK FARMS CHAROLAIS & SIMMENTAL BULL & HEIFER SALE

MCRUER SIMMENTALS 2ND ANNUAL BULL & HEIFER SALE

TRANSCON'S PREMIUM BEEF SIMMENTAL BULL SALE

JANZEN RANCHES 32ND ANNUAL SIMMENTAL & RED ANGUS BULL SALE

9TH ANNUAL LEEWOOD RANCH SIMMENTAL BULL & HEIFER SALE

CAMDEN CATTLE CO. 13TH ANNUAL SIMMENTAL BULL & HEIFER SALE W/ NIWA RANCHING CO NEW BRIGDEN, AB

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TRANSCON'S NORTHERN CONNECTION SIMMENTAL & CHAROLAIS BULL SALE

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BELL SIMMENTALS

Production Sale FEBRUARY 3RD, 2025 1PM AT THE RANCH IN FORDVILLE, ND

BLACK MARKET L187



	\$API: 93.6 \$TI: 68.7				
CE	BW	WW	YW	ADG	MILK
7.2	3.6	81	128	0.30	25

ASA: 4252416

BOMBER M51



CONTROL .	- NEW CO.	Brank.	\$AP	I: 129.2	\$TI: 86.9	
CE	BW	WW	YW	ADG	MILK	
8.6	3.2	91	133	0.26	30	
ACA, 4490201						

ASA: 4420301

McDavid M76



\$API: 120.1 \$					TI: 78.6
E	BW	WW	YW	ADG	MILK
.8	4.4	90	135	0.28	26.1

ASA: 4420323

OKLAHOMA L251



\$API: 98.1 \$TI: 77.3					
CE	BW	WW	YW	ADG	MILK
9.0	3.4	102	160	0.37	30.2

ASA: 4252929

VERSATILE M3



		WINE THE		\$AF	PI: 160.9	\$TI: 99.6
	CE	BW	WW	YW	ADG	MILK
	12	0.5	94	148	0.34	21.1
191 1120250						

ASA: 4420259

WITNESS M102



WW YW ADG MILK BW4.7 142 | 0.32 | 20.6 92

ASA: 4439262

9.0

- COMING 2-YEAR-OLD SIMMENTAL & SIMANGUSTM BULLS 40
- YEARLING SIMMENTAL & SIMANGUSTM BULLS 60
- **200** F-1 Commerical Bred Heifers
- SIMMENTAL & SIMANGUSTM BRED HEIFERS 30
- 125 BLACK ANGUS BREDHEIFERS
- 100 RED ANGUS BRED HEIERS







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67









ND Simmental Classic Sale

Kist Livestock, Mandan, ND - December 14, 2023

Auctioneer: Tracy Harl Sale Report Provided by Kirby Goettsch, Agri-Media Representative

29 Bred Heifers Average	\$6,405
10 Open Heifers Average	\$4,500
31 ET Lots Average	\$393.00

TOP SELLING BRED HEIFERS:

Lot 29: \$13,500 Misss Traxs L361; a 3/12/23 daughter of Rockin H Captivate J75 bred to Redhill Burley 99J. Consigned by Traxinger Simmental; Houghton, SD. Sold to Kunkel Simmental, New Salem, ND

Lot 23: \$10,500 QB MS L334; a 3/25/23 daughter of TNT Journey J458 bred to LRS Falcon. Consigned by Quandt Brothers; Oakes, ND. Sold to Mike Kegley; Casselton, ND

Lot 24: \$10,000 QB MS L329; a 2/22/23 daughter of Springcreek Ironsides 53G bred to BC Structure J111. Consigned by Quandt Brothers; Oakes, ND. Sold to Clearwater Simmental; Milan, TN

TOP SELLING OPEN HEIFERS:

Lot 41: \$7,000 KR Miss Elsie M01; a 1/17/23 daughter of KWA Northstate 63H consigned by Kaelberer Ranch; New Salem, ND. Sold to Ashworth Farm and Ranch; SK, Canada

Lot 39: \$6,250 4E GIGI 19M, a 1/28/24 daughter of KLER Promoterr G15. Consigned by 4E Simmental; Plaza, ND. Sold to Kemnitz Ranch; Cavalier, ND

South Dakota Source Sale

Open Heifers Average	.\$4000 \$430
TOP SELLING LOT:	
Pick of the 2024 Heifer Calf Crop\$1 Seller: Roller Ranch, Hewitt, MN	4,500
Buyer: Kaehler Cattle St. Charles, MN	
TOP SELLING OPENS: HARC Cru 400M\$ Seller: Harris Cattle, Plankinton, SD Buyer: Wheatland Cattle, Bienfait, SK Canada	8,750
HARC Raven 402M	6,000
JB3 MS Mable M426f\$ Seller: JB3 Cattle, Beresford, SD Buyer: Alex Merrick, Akron, IA	4,500
TOP SELLING BRED HEIFERS: HLTS Red Jewel L37	\$4500
HILD Sienna Dawn L505JS Seller: Volz Farms, Elmore, MN Buyer: Ron Gilliland, Davis, CA	\$4250
ONE STEER: W/C Romeo 2MSeller: Werning Cattle, Emery, SD	\$5250

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/an Der Wall	
Wheatland Cattle Co	
Wilkinson Farms Simmental	

Buyer: Mary Meimer, Gilead, OH

DAKOTA

SIMGENETIC BULL & FEMALE SALE 2 10 25 1 PM | HANNAFORD, ND

APPROXIMATELY 50 YEARLING BULLS & 25 BRED HEIFERS

M4002



PB SM | **ASA #**: 4405666 | **ADJ. BW**: 71 | **ADJ. WW**: 893 OMF EPIC E27 X THSR MS UNION K208 | CE: 12.6 | BW: -1.3 WW: 87.9 | YW: 134.3 | MCE: 5.5 | MILK: 21.3 | MWW: 65.2 | API: 148.2 | TI: 91.5

M4070



5/8 SM 11/32 AN 1/32 AR | **ASA #**: 4405728 | **ADJ. BW**: 91 | **ADJ. WW**: 833

M4225



PB SIMM | **ASA #**: 4405771 | **ADJ. BW**: 90 | **ADJ. WW**: 796 OB DISCOVERY K49 % THSR MS RIDDLER F815 | CE: 8.4 | BW: 3.0 | DJF PALISADES J170 % SYS MS COWBOY CUT H108 | CE: 9.8 | BW: 0.0 | WW: 856 | YW: 1377 | MCE: 5.7 | MILK: 25.0 | MWW: 677 | API: 119.7 | TI: 77.3 | WW: 831 | YW: 1307 | MCE: 8.0 | MILK: 22.2 | MWW: 63.9 | API: 126.0 | TI: 80.6 | TI: 80.6



PB SM | **ASA** #: 4405710 | **ADJ. BW**: 96 | **ADJ. WW**: 821



PB SM | **ASA** #: 4405777 | **ADJ. BW**: 85 | **ADJ. WW**: 943

M4038



PB SIMM | **ASA** #: 4405700 | **ADJ. BW**: 90 | **ADJ. WW**: 946 THSR KONG F848 X 4E Y307 | CE: 11.9 | BW: 0.9 DJF PALISADES J170 X THSR MS SLAM F8006 | CE: 7.9 | BW: 3.0 LBRS GENESIS G69 X BRKC DAPHNE DY37 | CE: 11.1 | BW: 2.7 |
WW: 838 | YW: 132.9 | MCE: 6.5 | MILK: 25.6 | MWW: 67.7 | API: 142.1 | TI: 84.6 | WW: 90.2 | YW: 143.0 | MCE: 6.6 | MILK: 24.3 | MWW: 69.3 | API: 119.2 | TI: 79.0 | WW: 96.2 | YW: 143.2 | MCE: 4.8 | MILK: 20.3 | MWW: 68.3 | API: 143.7 | TI: 93.9



1/2 SM 1/2 AN | **ASA** #: 4405783 | **ADJ. BW**: 70 | **ADJ. WW**: 784

M4069



PB SM | **ASA #**: 4405727 | **ADJ. BW**: 90 | **ADJ. WW**: 822 POSS RAWHIDE X K253 | CE: 15.8 | BW: -3.1 | RFS HUSTLER H82 X THSR MS RIDDLER E711 | CE: 6.8 | BW: 4.4 | KS VANDERBILT G220 X THSR MS PRIME BEEF C505 | CE: 7.1 | BW: 1.0 | WW: 91.3 | YW: 138.3 | MCE: 9.6 | MILK: 22.8 | MWW: 68.5 | API: 164.9 | TI: 101.0 | WW: 101.9 | YW: 165.9 | MCE: 4.3 | MILK: 22.5 | MWW: 73.5 | API: 140.8 | TI: 94.0 | WW: 93.3 | YW: 143.6 | MCE: 5.0 | MILK: 27.0 | MWW: 73.6 | API: 149.2 | TI: 96.3 | MCE: 9.6 | MCE: 4.7 | MCE: 4



PB SIMM | **ASA** #: 4405711 | **ADJ. BW**: 91 | **ADJ. WW**: 762



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Tyler Cell: 605-280-1416 · Cam Cell: 605-350-2018