



# New York **Simmental** Assn. Newsletter

VOL 4

July – August 2018

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[www.NewYorkSimmental.com](http://www.NewYorkSimmental.com)

## COMING EVENTS & DEADLINES

August 7-9 – Empire Farm Days

August 28 - Supreme Show, NYSF

Sept 2 - NYSF Simmental Show

Sept 3 - NYSA Next Meeting -  
Labor Day in Beef Barn

Sept 17-20 - Big E Simmental Show

Oct 12-14 - Junior Fall Festival  
Cobleskill Fairgrounds

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## Next Simmental Meeting:

NY State Fair Beef Barn Pavilion  
September 3 around 11:00 am.



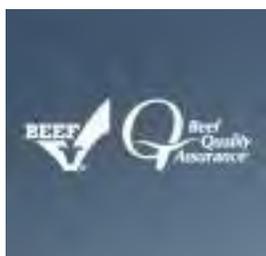
# Minutes of the NY Simmental Assn. Picnic Meeting June 30, 2018 The Bunal Farm, Rome, NY

1. President, Shane Meyers called the meeting to order at 1:45. Shane thanked The Bunal Farm family for hosting the meeting. We had several new faces at the meeting, so we had introductions.
2. Julie Murphy made a motion to accept the minutes as printed in the newsletter, Phil Paradis 2<sup>nd</sup>, passed.
3. Shawn Murphy passed out copies of his Treasurer's report. We have \$2,302.66 in checking account, expecting some Cost Share refunds coming from ASA. Shawn said we used up our full allotment from ASA for Cost Share. ASA increased each state's maximum Cost Share to \$4000. Because we used all our allotment, next year ASA will raise the amount we can be reimbursed.
4. Committee Reports:
  - A. NYSF – Jeanne reported that we need items for the Fun Auction and everyone needed to bring a dish to pass for our dinner after the show. Our judge will be Allen Bruhn, from Tn. He was picked by the White Park.
  - B. Promotion – Shawn reported that he took the booth to Big East and was handing it over to Jeanne for EFD.
  - C. Jeanne reported the next newsletter would be coming soon. Get any info about your farm or kids or shows or anything you would like listed to her.
  - D. NYJSA – Shawn reported that Jala & Gavin showed at Eastern Regional in MA. NY had 6 juniors with 8 head. There were about 60 kids and about 85-100 head of cattle.
  - E. Nomination Chair Person, Art Reynolds – Expiring Director Terms: Ken Gumaer, Joel Reach and Lonny Schaefer. None were at this meeting to confirm wanting to be re-elected.
5. Correspondence
  - A. Jeanne White received several Thank You notes for Spring Preview support.
  - B. Robert Groom reported on his BQA meeting with about 26 attending at his farm.
6. Old Business
  - A. Shawn reported about Big East. We voted to support them and our name was on their T-Shirts.
7. New Business:
  - A. EFD – Simme Valley will exhibit cattle. We need volunteers.
  - B. NYSF Awards – Jonah Broughton will get them from his brother Frank.
  - C. Next meeting will be on Labor Day at NYSF around 11am.
  - D. Julie Murphy reported they needed help at BBQ at EFD with money & gifts for Youth Groups.
  - E. Phil Paradis made a motion to adjourn & Russ Bunal 2<sup>nd</sup>, passed.

Respectfully submitted by: Jeanne A White, Secretary



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# Elm Side Farm

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Barb, Roger and Darby

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Cell: 607-434-3058

elmsidefarm@frontiernet.net

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Glenmont

New York

ATTENTION JUNIORS!

### Simmental WINNERS

\$100 – Supreme All Breed

\$50 – Grand Champion

Rules: Any junior exhibitor showing Simmental within the state of New York at a County Fair or other organized youth show.

Animal must be a **registered** PUREBRED in the junior's name or family farm name.

**Supreme** Champion must be over **All Other Breeds** (must have competition).

**Grand** Champion must have AT LEAST 10 head of Simmental females with AT LEAST 3 exhibitors, OR at least 10 steers of any breed with a **registered** Simmental steer winning Grand Champion.

**PICTURE & PROOF** from management of show must be sent to:

NYSA, 7625 Ridge Rd, Gasport, NY 14067

# Natural, Grassfed and Organic Beef

*Rick Machen, PhD*

Health consciousness is an ever increasing concern – in the political, environmental, social and personal health arenas.

As Americans attempt to eat healthier, producers respond and new products appear in the marketplace - beef is no exception

As natural, grassfed and organic beef become more visible in meat markets, on menus, and in the media, producers and consumers alike have questions relative to production specifications, market potential and nutrient content.

Many of these new beef products claim nutritional or wholesomeness superiority over traditionally produced beef. Science-based, peer-reviewed nutrition research reviews do not support such claims. Natural, grassfed and organic beef refer to production systems that yield beef products which are similar in nutrient content, safety and wholesomeness to traditionally produced beef. Supporting evidence in the scientific literature includes:

"No evidence of a difference in content of nutrients and other substances between organically and conventionally produced crops and livestock products was detected for the majority of nutrients assessed in this review suggesting that organically and conventionally produced crops and livestock products are broadly comparable in their nutrient content."<sup>1</sup>

"In summary, our comprehensive review of the published literature on the comparative health outcomes, nutrition, and safety of organic and conventional foods identified limited evidence for the superiority of organic foods. The evidence does not suggest marked health benefits from consuming organic versus conventional foods, although organic produce may reduce exposure to pesticide residues and organic chicken and pork may reduce exposure to antibiotic-resistant bacteria."<sup>2</sup>

"A recent systematic review of peer-reviewed evidence published in the past 50 years concluded that organically and conventionally produced foodstuffs are broadly comparable in their nutrient content."<sup>3</sup>

"No direct evidence of a clinically relevant nutritional difference between organic and conventional milk or produce exists."<sup>4</sup>

Van Elswyk and McNeill<sup>5</sup> suggest that comparisons of nutritional characteristics of beef from U.S. grass/forage-fed and grain-finished cattle should be on a mg/100 g rather than a percentage of total fat basis. These authors also encourage extreme caution when comparing beef from different production systems due to the "heterogeneity that exists between countries with regard to pasture type, forage availability and cattle breeds."

A team of Texas AgriLife researchers recently reported that "contrary to popular perception, ground beef from pasture-fed cattle had no beneficial effects on plasma lipid."<sup>6</sup>

Results of a Texas Tech/USDA study<sup>7</sup> found "no difference in cholesterol content between grass-fed and conventionally produced steaks." When finished to the same degree of fatness, nutrient content of beef products is very similar across the different production systems.

Without question, food produced by American ranchers and farmers is safe and wholesome – perhaps the best in the world. As evidence thereof, consider these economic figures:

"American consumers enjoy the safest, most abundant, and most affordable food supply in the world at less than 11 percent of income."<sup>8,9</sup>

"Food affordability, the combination of food cost and consumer purchasing power, rather than just the absolute cost of food, is perhaps the most meaningful criteria by which to evaluate or compare food costs. USDA-ERS data shows a declining trend in food expenditures, from 22.7% of annual disposable money income in 1929 to 11.8% in 2009."<sup>9</sup>

The intent of this paper is to help beef producers and consumers better understand the basic similarities and differences between traditional, natural, grassfed and organic beef production systems (see Table 1).

## **Traditional**

Over 90% of domestically produced beef comes from traditional production systems – cows consuming primarily forages, their calves grazing alongside until weaning at 5-8 months of age. Upon weaning, beef calves typically:  
- are pastured as stocker cattle in a grazing system, then moved to a feedyard for finishing as described below or,  
- are moved directly to a feedyard for finishing on a complete, nutritionally balanced, high concentrate diet.

As feedyard placement weights increase, the portion of beef produced from grazing forages increases as well.

Health Management – Primary focus is on preventative health care including vaccinations, and biosecurity measures.

- Antibiotic use is primarily therapeutic.
- An ionophore may be fed to improve feed efficiency (and reduce methane production).
- Growth promoting implants may be used to enhance weight gain and improve feed efficiency.

Marketing – Auction markets remain the primary avenue for marketing feeder calves and market cows and bulls<sup>10,11</sup>. Other options include direct sale, video or internet offerings and retained ownership.

### **Natural**

Many foods are described as being “natural”. To use the term “natural” on a food label, USDA requires adherence to three specifications, all of which pertain to the post-mortem handling/processing of beef. The USDA specifications require a natural product:

- 1) must be minimally processed;
- 2) cannot contain any artificial ingredients and,
- 3) cannot contain any preservatives.

By this definition, most fresh, traditionally produced beef qualifies as natural.

In the retail case, this definition applies to beef that does not have an ingredient label (products with marinade, tenderizer or other additives require a label). If there is no ingredient label on the package, it is assumed the beef is natural.

However, most branded beef programs have additional requirements for their specific “natural” beef products. At the present time, there are over 30 companies that purchase cattle and/or produce beef that qualifies as natural<sup>9</sup>.

Health Management – Primary focus is on preventative health care including vaccinations, and biosecurity measures. Natural beef programs may have a variety of brand-specific requirements. Some examples include:

- a) no antibiotic use (known as “never ever” programs)
- b) limited antibiotic use (known as “not lately” programs; most programs prohibit antibiotic use within the last 100 days prior to harvest.)
- c) ionophore use may (or may not) be allowed
- d) use of growth promoting implants is generally not allowed
- e) use of feed containing animal protein or fat may not be allowed

Marketing – To qualify for a natural branded program, some level of source and management verification is required. Consequently, most cattle that qualify for natural beef programs are sold:

- as feeder, stocker or fed cattle through an alliance with one of the natural branded beef programs or
- direct from producer to a packer, retailer or consumer.

Adherence to the requirements of a branded natural beef program is overseen and enforced by the branding company’s management or a representative thereof.

### **Grassfed**

Grassfed beef has more than one definition.

According to USDA the term ‘grass fed’ applies to “ruminant animals and the meat and meat products derived from such animals whose diet, throughout their lifespan, with the exception of milk (or milk replacer) consumed prior to weaning, is solely derived from forage which, for the purpose of this claim, is any edible herbaceous plant material that can be grazed or harvested for feeding, with the exception of grain.

Animals cannot be fed grain or grain products and must have continuous access to pasture during the growing season.

Hay, haylage, baleage, silage, crop residue without grain, and other roughage sources may also be included as acceptable feed sources. Consumption of seeds naturally attached to forage is acceptable. However, crops normally harvested for grain (including but not limited to corn, soybean, rice, wheat and oats) are only eligible if they are foraged or harvested in the vegetative state.

Routine vitamin and mineral supplementation may also be included in the feeding regimen. If incidental supplementation occurs due to inadvertent exposure to non-forage feedstuffs or to ensure the animal’s well being at all times during adverse environmental or physical conditions, the producer must fully document the supplementation that occurs including the amount, frequency and the supplements provided.”<sup>13</sup>

The American Grassfed Association (AGA)<sup>14</sup> further defines their products:

- a) Animals having been, from birth to harvest, fed on grass, legumes and forages and,
- b) Animals having not been: creep fed as calves, fed for extended periods in confinement, or finished on grains.

Cattle must be born on or purchased from an AGA certified grassfed cow/calf operation.



AGA partitions grassfed beef products into two categories: grassfed and grass pastured. AGA grassfed and grass pastured cattle “must be maintained at all times on range, pasture or in paddocks with at least 75% forage cover or unbroken ground for their entire lives.” Further, such cattle “cannot be fed stockpiled or harvested forages while on a ‘sacrifice’ pasture for more than 45 days per calendar year.”

**Grassfed** - animals must be maintained on 100% forage diets with no exposure to any non-forage supplements. Animals may only be fed approved non-forage supplements to ensure the animal’s well-being during periods of low forage quality or inclement weather.

Lifetime supplement intake guidelines (dry matter basis) are as follows:

Year 1 total intake ..... 50 pounds

Year 2 total intake ..... 80 pounds

Year 3 and thereafter total intake ..... 120 pounds

Total lifetime supplement intake by grassfed cattle should not exceed 250 pounds.

**Grass Pastured** – Requirements for grassfed cattle apply. In addition, grass pastured cattle may be fed approved non-forage supplements at a rate of 0.5% of body weight (20% of daily intake) during the growth stage (birth to start of finishing phase) and 0.75% of body weight (30% of daily intake; DM basis) during the finishing phase. Here, finishing is defined as the last 200 pounds gained before harvest.

The feeding of hay, haylage, balage, silage, forage products, crop residue without grain and roughage is not limited. The feeding of approved roughage products including dry beet pulp, corn cobs, cotton burrs or hulls (almond, cottonseed, peanut or soybean) is not limited.

Health Management - Primary focus is on preventative health care including vaccinations and biosecurity measures. Most grass-fed programs specify:

- no therapeutic or sub-therapeutic antibiotic use (a “never ever” program)
- no growth promoting implants
- no ionophores

Cattle that are injured or become ill typically receive therapeutic [antibiotic] treatment and are marketed as traditionally produced beef.

From an animal well-being standpoint it is critical that cattle (in these non-traditional production systems) which become ill, injured or burdened with internal and/or external parasites be treated in a timely manner and with the most effective product, regardless of whether or not the treatment will prevent them from being retained in a grassfed programs.

Marketing – Forage-fed cattle grow slower than similar cattle in a traditional system. Consequently, most grassfed cattle are harvested at an older age and sometimes a lower weight than those in a traditional or natural production system.

Carcass fat may not be bleached white in color. Depending on the quality and type of forage grazed during the 120 days immediately preceding harvest, carcass fat may be from pearl white to yellow (caused by beta carotene from green forages is stored in fat tissue).

Whole muscle cut size and dimension may be different than traditional or natural beef, due primarily to the lower harvest weights.

Note: In contrast to traditional and natural beef, grassfed (and organic) beef is also imported from other countries. Seldom can U.S. grass-fed product compete with imports on a cost per pound basis. Exporting countries (ex. Uruguay) have a lower cost of production due to lower land, labor and other input costs.

Marketing – To qualify for a grassfed branded program, source and management verification is required. Consequently, most cattle that qualify as grassfed beef are sold direct from the producer through a packer/processor to a:

- wholesaler
- retailer or
- consumer.

Compliance with the requirements of a grassfed beef program are often monitored by on farm/ranch visits and audits performed by the affiliated marketing alliance or a certifying agency.

## **Organic**

Organic beef production and marketing is defined by USDA standards developed for all food labeled as “organic”. Organic beef production requires more time, effort and documentation than the other production systems described herein. Livestock production and handling standards, outlined in USDA’s National Organic Program (NOP)<sup>15</sup> include:

\* Animals for slaughter must be raised under USDA certified organic management from the last third of gestation to harvest.

\* Diets must contain feedstuffs that are certifiably 100% organic. Forages, cereal grains and oilseeds (ex. cotton, canola, soybean) must be grown without the use of synthetic fertilizers, herbicides or pesticides. Initially, organic crop production is preceded by a three year period of abstaining from the use of “prohibited substances” (for a list see National Organic Program standards). Preference will be given to the use of organic seeds and planting stocks. Nonorganic seeds/stock may be used in specific instances and with NOP approval. Use of genetically modified (GMO) crops is prohibited.



\* Dietary vitamin and mineral supplements are allowed as warranted.  
\* Use of growth promotants or antibiotics (for any reason) is strictly prohibited.  
\* Organically produced cattle must have access to the outdoors, including access to pasture. Daily intake requirements call for a minimum of 30% of their daily intake come from standing forages during the growing season. Temporary confinement is allowed for reasons of health, safety, stage of production or to protect soil or water quality.  
\* Animals must be handled and processed under USDA organic certification.

**Health Management** - Primary focus is on preventative health care including vaccinations, and biosecurity measures. According to NOP standards, producers must not withhold treatment from a sick or injured animal; however, animals treated with a prohibited medication may not be sold as organic. Upon recovery, treated cattle are marketed as traditionally produced beef.

**Marketing** – As mentioned above, cattle must be processed and handled under USDA certification, from the last third of gestation to consumer purchase. Consequently, organic beef moves from farm or ranch of origin through a well defined, traceable, certifiable processing, handling and marketing chain. Within Texas, the USDA's National Organic Program (NOP) is managed and audited by the Texas Department of Agriculture, Organic Certification Program.<sup>16</sup>

### **Economics**

It is beyond the scope of this paper to include a detailed economic analysis of the four beef production systems discussed herein. Production goals and costs are unique to each operation, so comparisons between operations or across production systems are difficult without some type of standardization. However, the following generalizations seem accurate:

- By definition, natural (N) beef production is very similar (and in many cases identical) to traditional production. Brand specifications (such as no ionophore, no growth promotants) often result in some loss of efficiency and/or increase in cost of production. Differentiation from traditional beef production in promotion and the marketplace represents some amount of additional expense to the system.
- Slower growth rates and lower harvest weights associated with grassfed (GF) production result in less production efficiency and greater production cost (compared to C and N) per unit of product. Total system pasture cost is inherently greater since cattle (stocker and finishing cattle) are grazed for much longer periods of time compared to C and N systems. Likewise, greenhouse gas (methane) production is directly related to grazing time. Cattle that endure periods of less than optimal weight gain will produce a larger carbon footprint. Differentiation from other production systems in promotion and the marketplace is an additional expense to the system.
- Availability and cost of organically certified forages and feedstuffs is a significant concern for Texas producers considering organic (O) production. Precluding the prudent and environmentally sound use of technology such as synthetic fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, growth promotants and pharmaceuticals results in an increased cost of production (ex. lower production per unit of input, increased labor cost) for organic beef. Differentiation from other production systems product in promotion and the marketplace is an additional expense to the system.

The documentation required for O food production, preparation for audits and compliance with the processing and handling requirements all represent additional cost for an O production system.

Beef producers considering a different production system should carefully consider the options and their respective requirements. Like breeds of cattle, it is not (and need not) be “one kind fits all” when it comes to producing beef.

### **Summary**

The current trend in consumer preferences indicates continued growth in demand for natural, grassfed and organic beef products; no doubt, the availability of such products has resulted in the retention of beef consumers that would otherwise have abandoned beef as their source of animal protein. Long-term success of the U.S. beef industry depends on customers repeatedly voting on beef with their food dollars.

However, promotion of any one product at the expense of beef from the other production systems is not in the best interest of the U.S. beef industry.

Quoting from an article entitled “Brown eggs, grain and truth in marketing “ by John Maday<sup>17</sup> “If consumers want brown eggs, sell them brown eggs. But market them as brown eggs, not anti-white eggs.”

*What's Your Score?*

It's that time of year! The Performance Advocate breeder scores will be pulled August 1, 2018 for 2016 Fall and 2017 Spring.

**Is Data Needed Anymore?**

Many wonder, with BOLT in place that calculates EPDs more accurately and DNA testing that can blend into EPDs to make them more accurate, is phenotypic data needed anymore? Yes! Animals cannot achieve high accuracy with genomic data alone.

The fuel that makes all of this work is DATA. Is all of your calving data in?

Check - by logging into your account -

Select Data Entry / Online      Select Inventory

Select Season and Year - below the graph is your score

**Online Data Entry - Inventory**



How do you find what data is reported or missing? There are two ways to look this up:

Select Herd Mgmt / Reports

Select Your Group on the left (either 2016 Born Calves or 2017 Born calves) and on the right Select Performance Advocate Report

Sort Options - Sort by Birth Date

Select Generate Report - focus on 2016 Fall born or 2017 Spring born animals only

or

Data Search / Special Reports / Animals / Performance Advocate / Animal Data Submitted

Enter Enrollment Year / Season / Member Number

Select Get Results

If you have any questions, feel free to call Jannine Story at 406-587-4531 and or email.

**FALL 2018 THE Enrollment – OPEN -**

Quick Instructions Select Herdbook Online Services Log In by entering 6-digit member number (zero filled example: 000317) Password Under Data Entry select Online On the inventory tab make sure the year selected is 2018 and the season is Fall Choose Update 2018 - Fall THE Cow Inventory button - This will load your preliminary inventory .

*DNA Update:*

### **DNA Invoicing**

Starting September 1, 2018, DNA invoicing will be completed at the time of requesting the tests (instead of when results are received). This will increase efficiencies and reduce the number of invoices members currently receive.

Since it takes time to order kits and for the sample to complete testing, other types of processing (registrations, THE enrollment, transfers) will not be delayed pending DNA payment for a period of time, which will be determined.

We ask that if members have requested DNA kits in the past, or are requesting kits throughout the summer, that they please send the kits to the lab before September 1, 2018, so that the DNA invoicing transition is made as seamless as possible.

### **New Genetic Condition Panel Pricing**

The Genetic Conditions Panel is undergoing changes to include all 7 of the genetic defects tracked by the American Simmental Association. These defects are: AM, NH, CA, DD, OS, PHA, and TH. The new Genetic Conditions Panel will only be available with GGP-LD or GGP-HD testing and the add on price for the panel will be \$25. If the animal is not undergoing a GGP-LD or GGP-HD test, then defect testing will be \$25 per defect. If requesting the genetic conditions panel after a GGP-LD or GGP-HD test is complete, then the testing will be billed at single defect rates, which is \$25 per defect.

### **A common DNA test on Simmental cattle is the Horned/Polled test.**

This genetic trait is an example of a completely dominant trait where an animal needs just one copy of the polled gene in order to show the polled phenotype. In other words, the polled allele will mask or hide the presence of a horned allele. A polled cow or bull can carry the horned gene without any outward display of the horned condition and pass the horned gene to their progeny. The polled gene and phenotype is also an example of epistasis where a second gene (scurred) affects the phenotype of the polled animal. Presence of scurs (typically small, movable, hollow pseudo horns) only occurs in heterozygous polled animals (carry one polled allele and one horned allele, Pp). Scurred is also a sex linked trait meaning the genetic inheritance is controlled differently in males than females. Scurs is a dominant trait in bulls meaning bulls only need one copy of the scurred allele to have scurs. Scurs is a recessive trait in females meaning a cow needs to have two copies of the scurred allele to display the phenotype (see below for possible genotypes and resulting phenotypes for the horned, polled, or scurred conditions).

Let's use the following abbreviations for the horned, polled, scurred, and no scurs alleles:

P = polled allele and dominant

p = horned allele and recessive

S = no scurs (a different gene than horned/polled gene)

s = scurred (a different gene than horned/polled gene)

Horned/polled and scurred genotypes and the resulting phenotypes:

All homozygous polled (PP) animals are phenotypically polled independent of the scurred gene.

All homozygous horned (pp) animals have horns and are unaffected by the scurred gene.

The heterozygous animals at the horned/polled gene (Pp) can either be polled or have scurs depending on their sex and the alleles for the scurred gene.

\*All animals in this table are heterozygous for the horned/polled (Pp) gene. See above text for more explanation.

\*All animals in this table are heterozygous for the horned/polled (Pp) gene. See above text for more explanation.

At present, there is no test for the scurred gene but you can test your cattle for the Horned/polled alleles through the ASA. To order tests send inquiries to [DNA@simmgene.com](mailto:DNA@simmgene.com)

# Should You Creep Feed Your Calves This Summer?



By Randy Saner, Nebraska Extension Educator, Beef Systems and Travis Mulliniks, UNL Beef Cattle Nutritionist –Range Production Systems



Creep feeding must be carefully appraised in view of economics of cost of gain, potential market, and the influence on sale price of the calves. Photo courtesy of Troy Walz.

Things to consider when creep feeding are:

- Cost of the creep feed
- Efficiency of utilization of the creep feed
- Difference in price due to increased weight of the calves
- Pasture conditions

A three year study was conducted at the Gudmundsen Sandhills Ag Lab starting with 120 crossbred (5/8 Red Angus, 3/8 Simmental) March-calving cows and were divided by body weight within age group.

Treatments were creep feed with a limiter versus no creep feed. The non-creep treatment occupied one pasture while the creep treatment occupied 2 separate pastures.

Creep-fed calves were introduced into the pasture containing creep feeders surrounded by panels with openings sufficient to admit calves but prevent cow entry (8 openings, ~15 inches wide).

Cow Body Weight (BW) and Body Condition Score (BCS) were measured at calving, prebreeding, and weaning. Calf body weight (Calf BW) was measured at birth, prebreeding, and weaning. Results of the creep feeding and its effect on the cows and calves are in Table 1 (<https://go.unl.edu/tqjt>).

Results from this study demonstrate that creep feeding calves increased ( $P < 0.01$ ) calf body weight at weaning by 44 lbs over non-creep fed calves. Average intake of creep feed that disappeared from feeder was approximately 4.44 lbs (as fed basis) per calf per day, resulting in an increased cost of \$64.80 due to creep feeding. At the time of weaning of this study in Nebraska (December 4, 2017), average steer price for 507 lbs steers were worth \$209.75/cwt vs. 551 lbs. steers at \$202.5/cwt. Due to the increased weaning weights and without considering costs, creep feeding resulted in an increase of \$52.36 per calf in added value more than the non-creep fed calves. Selling weaned calves at this point in time, the increased calf weight due to creep feeding did not cover the expense of the creep feed.

Creep feeding calves did not influence ( $P > 0.06$ ) yield Grade, ribeye (longissimus) muscle area, or marbling score after a feedlot finishing period. However, steer finishing live weight, hot carcass weight, and 12th rib fat thickness were increased ( $P < 0.04$ ) by pre-weaning creep feeding. Additional value of added weight for the steers at slaughter was \$63.80 based on hot carcass weight.

Under the conditions of this study, creep feeding calves prior to weaning was not a cost effective strategy to increase weaning weight of calves. Therefore, when considering creep feeding this summer you may want to look at the projected price of the calves and the cost of the feed before making the decision to creep feed. In addition, the cost of the feed calculated in this study does not include labor cost to deliver feed to the creep feeders.

Under severe drought conditions, creep feeding can be used to offset declining forage quality and quantity due to replacing some forage consumption. However, creep feeding will not replace or decrease the calf's milk intake. Thus, creep feeding calves in drought conditions does not result in lowered nutrient requirements for the dam and may exacerbate the loss of forage due to drought on the cowherd.

Measurement	Calf Treatment		SEM	P-value
	No Creep	Creep		
<b>Cow BW, lb</b>				
Calving	1,074	1,049	12	0.03
Breeding	1,000	988	9	0.34
Weaning	1,071	1,085	10	0.42
Pregnancy rate, %	85	90	7	0.11
<b>Calf Pre-weaning BW, lb</b>				
Birth	75	77	1	0.16
Breeding	165	159	3	0.11
Weaning	507	551	7	< 0.01
<b>Calf Feedlot Performance</b>				
Finishing Live BW, lb	1,284	1,328	21	0.04
HCW, lb	809	836	13	0.04
12th rib fat, in	0.51	0.59	0.03	< 0.01
Marbling Score	463	474	29	0.59
LM, in	14	14	0.39	0.31
USDA Yield Grade	2.8	3.1	0.2	0.06

Another concern with creep feeding is the long-term impacts on creep-fed heifer calves. The increased rate of gain from creep feeding in heifers can cause over-development of the udder or fatty udders, resulting in lowered lifetime milk production of replacements going into the cowherd. In a long-term study conducted at Purdue University, cows that were creep-fed as heifers weaned less pounds of calf during their lifetime production.

Creep feeding must be carefully appraised in view of economics of cost of gain, potential market, and the influence on sale price of the calves. For more information on this topic NebGuide G2077 “Creep Feeding Beef Calves” (<http://extensionpublications.unl.edu/assets/pdf/g2077.pdf>) is a good source of information. The information from this study can be found on page 18 of the “2018 Nebraska Beef Cattle Report” titled “Effects of Gestation Supplementation, Synchronization and Creep Feeding in a Spring Calving Beef Herd in the Nebraska Sandhills” (<https://beef.unl.edu/documents/2018-beef-report/2018-05-Effects-of-Late-Gestation-Supplementation-Synchronization.pdf>)

To listen to BeefWatch podcasts go to: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/unl-beefwatch/id964198047> or paste <http://feeds.feedburner.com/unlbeefwatch> into your podcast app.



**Simmental**  
Black, Red & Traditional  
AI Sired Since 1980

*Home of LBF Simmentals  
purebred performance cattle with  
show appeal*

Ken & Mary Gumaer 9335 Pearson Rd.  
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REGISTERED SIMMENTAL CATTLE

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# Simme Valley Clinique

9-4-15

JF Milestone x  
CLO Sweet Sensation  
Bull calf by  
W/C BF Innocent Man



# Simme Valley De-Calf

9-13-16

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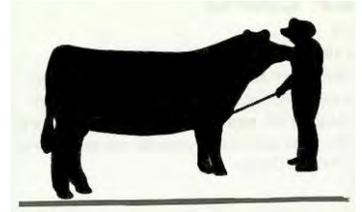
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# 2018 NYJBPA Fall Festival October 12-14, 2018



Dear Junior Beef Exhibitor:

The NYJBPA Fall Festival will hold its 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Heifer/Steer Show, scheduled for October 12-14, 2018, in conjunction with SUNY Cobleskill's AAPC Coby Classic Jackpot Show. This year's show will again be held at the Schoharie County Sunshine Fairgrounds in Cobleskill, NY, and is open to any youth age 21 and under as of January 1, 2018.

It is mandatory that all junior exhibitors participate in Showmanship classes. Showmanship is **NO-FIT** and will be held on Saturday, October 14, at 10:30AM.

The Heifer/Steer Show will be held on Sunday, October 15, immediately following the team fitting competition and awards (~9:30AM). Heifer classes will be split by age as described on the entry form. Steer classes will be divided by weight—steers will be weighed Saturday at 8:00AM.

**All entries and payment MUST BE postmarked by September 25.** The entry fee is \$15 per head. **Late entries and payment MUST BE postmarked by October 2** and will incur an additional fee of \$10 per head (totaling \$25 per head). **No entries will be accepted after this date.**

All junior exhibitors and challenge participants must be members of the NYJBPA. **Memberships are valid from January-December of the current year.** Memberships are \$10/individual or \$25/family—if you are not already a member, you may purchase a membership on the entry form.

**Health papers are required**—consult a NYS veterinarian for current health requirements for cattle exhibited at NYS fairs. **Registration papers are required with the exception of commercial cattle.** Exhibitors must currently own or lease the animal that they are showing. Proper registration papers or lease agreement (if applicable) should be presented at check-in.

Please send your entry form and payment (postmarked by September 25) to:  
**Julie Murphy, 1256 County Route 68, Eagle Bridge, NY 12057**  
518.686.4180      [NYJBPAadvisors@gmail.com](mailto:NYJBPAadvisors@gmail.com)

***\*\*Premium money is paid out for both junior shows and for all challenge events. If each exhibitor could solicit a minimum of two donations to help with the prizes, it would be greatly appreciated. Send donations to Julie Murphy (checks made payable to NYBPA) along with the full name and address of the sponsor.\*\****

## 2017 NYJBPA Fall Festival – Heifer/Steer Show and Challenge Events

Show Dates:	October 12, 13,	
Entry Deadline and Fee:	14 September 25	\$15.00 per head
Late Entry Deadline and Fee:	October 2	add'l \$10.00 per head (\$25/head total)
Cattle Arrival:	NO LATER THAN Friday, October 12 at 7:00PM	
Check-In:	Friday, October 13 from 2:00PM – 7:00PM	

**\*\*IMPORTANT NOTE:** This is a YOUTH event primarily for youth members under the age of 21. Anyone consuming alcoholic beverages during this event may be asked to leave the premises and will risk losing premium award money for themselves and/or their family.

# Fall Festival Schedule, Volunteer, and Hotel Info

## 2018 NYJBPA Fall Festival Schedule of Events

Note: This is a tentative schedule of events—we may review and adjust events as needed

### Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup>

2:00<sup>PM</sup> – 7:00<sup>PM</sup>

Check in on arrival at Cobleskill Fairgrounds  
*(cattle should arrive NO LATER THAN 7:00<sup>PM</sup>)*

5:30<sup>PM</sup> – 7:30<sup>PM</sup>

VET CHECK for all cattle

6:00<sup>PM</sup>

Challenge Event—Meats Identification and Evaluation

7:00<sup>PM</sup>

Pizza Party and NYJBPA Junior Meeting (all juniors should be in attendance)

### Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>

8:00<sup>AM</sup>

Weigh Steers and Prospect Calves

9:00<sup>AM</sup>

Challenge Event—Cattle Judging Contest

10:30<sup>AM</sup>

**Showmanship**

2:30<sup>PM</sup>

AAPC Coby Classic Jackpot Show (immediately following Showmanship)

**\*\*Entry form for AAPC Jackpot Show at <http://www.cobleskill.edu/campus-life/student-life/aap-club/cobyclassic.asp>**

3:00<sup>PM</sup> – 5:00<sup>PM</sup>

Challenge Event—Stockman's Quiz and Equipment ID

7:00<sup>PM</sup>

### Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup>

8:00<sup>AM</sup>

Challenge Event—Team Fitting Contest

9:30<sup>AM</sup>

**Fall Festival Show**

*2018 Show Order: Heifers, then steers*

---

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:**

ATTENTION PARENTS: If you are willing to volunteer to help out with one (or more) of the events, please contact Julie Murphy. We will need volunteers for events including, but not limited to:

- Meat ID Contest
- Judging Contest
- Stockman's Quiz
- Team Fitting
- Registration
- Health/Vet Check
- Cattle line-up for shows
- Ring helper

---

## **HOTEL INFO:**

The following are local hotels close to the fairgrounds. When possible, blocks of rooms have been set aside. Please know that the hotels fill up quickly so don't delay in reserving your room!

### **The Inn at Cobleskill (Best Western)**

121 Burgin Drive  
Cobleskill, NY 12043  
518.234.4321

### **Super 8**

955 East Main Street  
Cobleskill, NY 12043  
518.234.4888

### **Quality Inn & Suites**

160 Holiday Way  
Schoharie, NY 12157  
518.295.6088

### **Countryside Inn**

555 Ploss Road  
Richmondville, NY 12149  
518.294.0001

---

**\*\*IMPORTANT NOTE:** This is a YOUTH event primarily for youth members under the age of 21. Anyone consuming alcoholic beverages during this event may be asked to leave the premises and will risk losing premium award money for themselves and/or their family.

# Fall Festival Entry Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Age (as of 1/1/18) \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Exhibitor Date of Birth \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Total # of Animals \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15/head (postmarked by 9/25) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Late Entry Fee additional \$10/head (postmarked by 10/2) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 NYJBPA Membership (if not already a member for 2017) \$10/individual or \$25/family \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Additional **DONATION** for Fall Festival Prizes \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Saturday Dinner # of guests \_\_\_\_\_ x \$ (price TBD) per person \$ (to be paid at check-in)  
 Camper Fee (subject to change) \$25/night \$ \_\_\_\_\_  

**TOTAL:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

***PAYMENT MUST BE ENCLOSED WITH ENTRY FORM***  
*Entry fees include bedding (bark) provided in barn*

Please make checks payable to: **NYBPA** (New York Beef Producers Association)  
 Send entries and payment to: Julie Murphy, 1256 County Route 68, Eagle Bridge, NY 12057  
 518.686.4180 [NYJBPAadvisors@gmail.com](mailto:NYJBPAadvisors@gmail.com)

ENTRY FORM FOR ALL ANIMALS				
Breed	Class	Date of Birth	Name	Registered
_____	_____	_____	_____	YES / NO
_____	_____	_____	_____	YES / NO
_____	_____	_____	_____	YES / NO
_____	_____	_____	_____	YES / NO
_____	_____	_____	_____	YES / NO

- Class A – Jr. Heifer Calf Jan 1 – May 31, 2018
- Class B – Sr. Heifer Calf Sept 1 – Dec 31, 2017
- Class C – Jr. Intermediate Heifer May 1 – Aug 31, 2017
- Class D – Jr. Yearling Heifer Jan 1 – April 30, 2017
- Class E – Sr. Yearling Heifer Sept 1 – Dec 31, 2016
- Class F – Cow/Calf
- Class G – Prospect Calf (bull or steer) Jan 1 – May 31, 2018
- Class H – Market Steer

Note: Classes may be added or deleted according to numbers.

# Fall Festival Youth Challenge Registration

The NYJBPA Fall Festival is again happy to offer a fun and educational program for all youth interested in the beef industry. In order to participate in the challenge contests, participants must be members of the NYJBPA. You can join by sending in \$10/individual or \$25/family with your entry.

**The divisions are as follows (youth age 21 and under as of January 1, 2018):**

Pee Wee Division: age 8 and under	Intermediate Division: age 14 – 17
Junior Division: age 9 – 13	Senior Division: age 18 – 21

***Individual Challenge Contests***

- **Meats Identification and Evaluation** 6:00 PM on Friday  
Contestants will judge meat cuts and carcasses. There will be a brief overview of what you should look for and an explanation on how to evaluate and place a class of meat cuts. Identification of meat cuts will be a component of this contest as well.
- **Cattle Judging Contest** 9:00 AM on Saturday  
Contestants will judge groups of cattle. Intermediate and senior division participants will be required to provide reasons.
- **Stockman's Quiz and Equipment ID** 3:00 – 5:00 PM on Saturday  
Contestants will complete a written quiz on general knowledge of the beef industry. Topics with visual aids will be tested based on knowledge used daily on the farm.

*Individual Awards will be presented Saturday night at the SUNY Cobleskill dinner (7:00PM).*

***Team Fitting Contest***

8:00 AM on Sunday

Contestants will compete in groups of three—all from different divisions. Groups will be asked to cooperatively fit one animal.

*Team Fitting Awards will be presented immediately following the Team Fitting competition.*

**\*\*NOTE: Teams do NOT need to be pre-arranged prior to arrival.**

---

## Registration Form for Youth Challenge Contests

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Age (as of 1/1/18) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Contestant Date of Birth \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

If you are not already a member of the NYJBPA, please enclose \$10/individual or \$25/family with your registration form. Please make checks payable to: NYBPA (New York Beef Producers Association).

Send registration and payment to: Julie Murphy, 1256 County Route 68, Eagle Bridge, NY 12057  
518.686.4180 [NYJBPAadvisors@gmail.com](mailto:NYJBPAadvisors@gmail.com)

*Entries for Youth Challenge Contests will be accepted the day of the contest, but **pre-registration is appreciated.***

# Breeding Season: Stretch It Out Then Cut It Short

John F. Grimes, Ohio State University, April 27, 2018



A few years ago, I wrote an article relating to shortening the breeding season titled “Utilize the K.I.S.S. Method!” The acronym used in the title of that article referred to my preference for the appropriate length of the beef cattle calving season and imminent breeding season. In this situation, K.I.S.S. refers to “Keep It Short and Sweet!” In this article, I want to remind you of the primary advantages of a shorter breeding season. I also want to discuss a potential marketing advantage of actually lengthening the breeding season.

There can be compelling arguments to make when choosing the best calving season for a particular operation. It is my experience that there is no single best choice for a calving season for all operations. Each operation is unique as to the assets available to devote to the cattle operation including labor, facilities, feedstuffs, etc. Ultimately, the selection of your particular calving season should be determined by the likelihood of achieving the highest conception rates and calf crop percentage weaned based on your available resources.

Regardless of when you calve, there is little justification for a lengthy breeding season. If you are currently involved in a longer breeding season, there are valid economic and management reasons to make a change. Research published by researchers at Oklahoma State University and Texas A & M found a positive relationship between number of days of the breeding season and the production cost per hundredweight of calf weaned. They also reported a negative relationship between number of days of the breeding season and pounds of calf weaned per cow per year.

A 60-day breeding season is an ideal goal to shoot for and it is hard to justify any calving season longer than 90 days. Shortening a calving season requires a little discipline, a commitment to some basic facilities, some rigid culling, and a willingness to use technology and other resources available. It may be impractical to move to a 60 – 90 day calving window in one year but there is no time like the present to start working towards this positive change.

Nearly every management decision associated with the cowherd is simplified with a shorter calving season. Herd health, nutritional, and reproductive management are much easier when all cows are in a similar stage of production. Restricting the breeding season to 60 to 90 days will produce a more uniform calf crop, which enhances marketing opportunities. It is easier to match up your forage supply with the nutritional demands of your herd when all animals are in a similar production cycle. Vaccination programs are more effective when animals in the breeding herd are in a similar reproductive status.

A more concentrated calving season is important for the smaller or part-time producers who have major time restrictions in their daily lives. I do not know of any producer that enjoys the stress and worry of calving season over an extended period. This is especially true if calving season comes during inclement weather and you are away from the farm for long stretches of time during an average day.

Over the years, I have heard many excuses for why producers have lengthy or even year-round calving. One excuse frequently heard relates to the lack of facilities to maintain herd bulls away from the cowherd for any length of time. I personally believe a facility to maintain a herd bull separate from the cows should be a requirement for any cow-calf operation. These facilities can be simple yet secure and not require a large financial commitment from the producer. This simple management step would go a long way towards shortening the length of the calving season across the state.

Dr. Les Anderson, Beef Extension Specialist, University of Kentucky and a frequent contributor to the Ohio BEEF Cattle letter, reminds us that there are several heat synchronization programs available to producers. These tools do not have to be used exclusively in artificial insemination programs and can improve conception rates in herds using natural service sires.

One method to improve reproductive performance of your cowherd is to synchronize estrus prior to bull turn out. Studies conducted at UK have demonstrated that treatment of cows with a CIDR device for 7 days before natural service can have increase pregnancy rate 5-15% and can increase the proportion of cows that calve in the first 30 days of the breeding season. Anderson's data indicates that the CIDR devices only need to be inserted in cows that are likely to have trouble conceiving early in a breeding season; late-calvers and two-year old cows. By "targeting" our reproductive management to these cows, one can improve the whole herd performance and limit our input costs.

A shorter calving season will eventually lead to greater efficiencies in reproduction rates. Palpate shortly after the conclusion of the breeding season and cull heifers and cows that do not conceive within your given calving season and do not look back. Keep daughters of the cows that are bred early each calving season. If necessary, buy bred females that calve within your desired window to replace the open females. Implementation of these practices will certainly improve your herd's reproductive performance over time.

After discussing all of the merits a shorter calving season, I am going to offer you one legitimate reason for stretching out the breeding season. By leaving the herd bull out for an extra cycle or two, you may get a few more females bred over the breeding season. If you extend the breeding season, timely use of pregnancy diagnosis is very important. Traditional palpation or ultrasound should be used to determine which females are pregnant for a desired 60 – 90 day calving season.

Any females that become pregnant outside of the desired calving window can be merchandised as bred females to other producers and will certainly be more valuable than an open female that is destined to be culled. Remember that if you stretch out your intended breeding season, do not be afraid to cut it back to a more manageable length. We will be discussing an exciting marketing opportunity for young bred females in the near future.

---

## **Organic Consumers are Happy with their Choice**

(Article in Drovers Journal May 23, 2018)

Despite the presence of pesticides in equal amounts, organic consumers won't switch.

A recent study found pesticide levels in organically grown foods is equal to that of conventionally grown foods. That's right, consumers are paying more for organic foods to avoid pesticides but it's not helping. Think they'll switch to conventionally grown foods?

Not likely, according to NPD's National Eating Trends®, which continually tracks all aspects of how U.S. consumers eat. Organic consumers hold a strong belief in their nutritional knowledge and healthy lifestyle and are not likely to be swayed by the research.

NPD cited a recently released report from the Environmental Working Group (EWG) that found pesticide levels in organically grown foods are equal to those in conventionally grown foods. NPD said consumers have opportunities to consume organic foods and beverages 9.7% of the time, up from 7.5% just three years ago. The group also said about 10% of the U.S. population consumes all organic foods over a seven-day period. Another 19% consume a combination of all-natural and organic foods, with 20% consuming only all-natural foods, the study said.

The NPD group's study also identified organic-only consumers as most likely to be female, span the ages between 35 to 44 and 55 to 64, live on the West Coast and have a household income of more than \$75,000 per year. The study found 51% of the population are non-users of organic and all natural foods.

"Organic consumers will hold steadfast to their beliefs and continue to seek organic foods despite negative reporting, and all-natural consumers will continue to place convenience over taste first," said Darren Seifer, food and beverage industry analyst at NPD.

# ASA Science Community Blog

## The Science of Animal Breeding

### What is the Wild Type coat color allele?

American Simmental Association / November 4, 2015

Most of us have a good understanding of the two most common coat color alleles ~ the red and the black versions. Black is dominant to red so red cattle must have two red alleles and black cattle can either have two black alleles (homozygous) or can carry a red allele (heterozygous). Wild Type is a third option for the primary coat color gene (called the extension gene). The Wild Type allele is less common in our population of cattle and other genes can affect the coat color display. A Simmental homozygous for the Wild Type allele will likely be brownish red or brownish black with darker areas around the muzzle, ear tufts, and tail switches.

Added by Sally Buxkemper

The wild-type allele allows for the production of both red and black pigment. Many Simbrah and most Brahman have the wild type and also Brown Swiss, Tarantaise, and Jersey. A brindle also has a wild-type allele. Many red breeds carry the brindle gene but it is not expressed unless the animal has a wild-type allele. Most European (fullblood) Simmentals do not carry the brindle gene. Red breeds like Hereford, Red Angus and some red Simmentals may also carry the brindle gene but it is not expressed unless combined with a wild-type. Some Red Angus and Red Simmentals have one copy of the wild-type Extension. They often have a black nose.

### How does parent verification work?

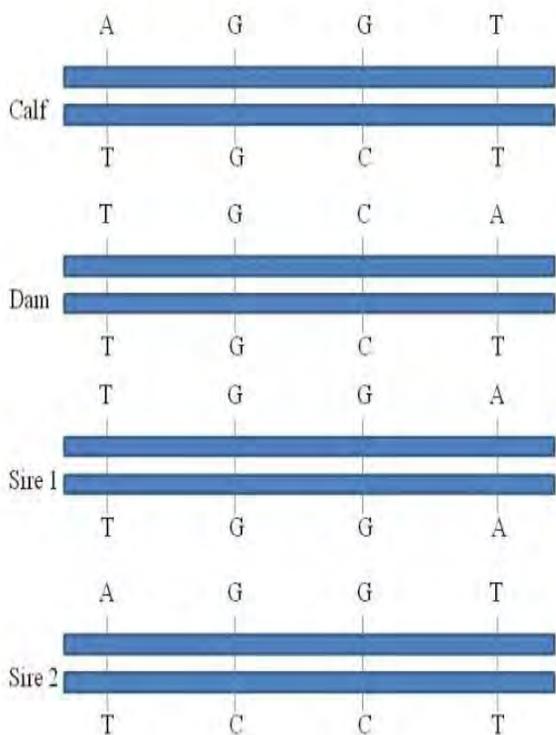
By Jackie Atkins, / March 8, 2016

Whether you use parent verification to confirm your breeding records, distinguish between AI and pasture bred calves, or to sort through progeny from a multi-sire pasture, parental validation is an important test for breeders. ***Roughly 10% of pedigrees*** reported across all breed associations are inaccurate. These are frequently honest mistakes but never-the-less, vital to fix to make informed breeding decisions. The theory behind parental validation is to determine if an animal could have inherited specific DNA markers from their reported parents. If the animal could not inherit a specific DNA Marker from the sire or dam, then the parent is excluded. With enough qualified markers, an animal is confirmed as the sire or dam of the offspring.

In the past, 15 microsatellite markers (also called Short Tandem Repeats or STRs) were used to confirm parentage but these were costly and not always reliable tests. Most new parental validation is completed with single nucleotide polymorphisms or SNPs (pronounced “snips”). The SNPs are locations in the DNA that vary from one animal to another. The SNP parentage test uses over 100 SNP markers to either qualify or exclude an individual as a parent. Each animal has two markers at each SNP location (one on each pair of chromosomes representing one from each parent).

Let's work through a hypothetical example using SNPs for parental validation. We have test results for SNPs on a calf, two possible sires, and the likely dam. We look at each SNP and see if the calf could have inherited that SNP from the possible parents and also if the mating (the parents analyzed together) could have passed along those SNPs. The following diagram and table show four SNP markers for the individuals and the conclusions drawn.

Working through each SNP marker, we look if the calf could have inherited his DNA markers (genotype; options are A, T, C, or G) from the potential parents. At SNP 1, the calf has a genotype of A/T. This means the calf inherited an “A” from one parent and a “T” from the other parent. Both the Dam and Sire 1 are homozygous T and SNP1. This means they could only have passed along a T at this location. The potential dam and Sire 1 could not have conceived the calf together as neither could have passed along an “A” at this location. However, we can’t exclude either the dam or Sire 1 based on this information, we just know that they can’t be confirmed as the parents together.



Continuing through our analysis, we cannot exclude any of the parents with SNPs 2 and 3 because the pairing of both sires with the dam could pass on the calf’s SNP markers. Looking at SNP 4 is helpful. The calf has two “T”s at SNP 4, one from his dam and one from his sire. Sire 1 has two “A”s at SNP 4 so he could not have passed along a T at this location. Sire 1 is excluded based on this comparison. If Sire 1 is excluded, then the potential Dam and Sire 2 work for the remaining SNP locations. The parental validation at the lab uses the same logical progression as this simple example except it uses approximately 100 SNP markers for the analysis.

For more information about ASA’s DNA test requirements, check out Have you Herd?.

Individual	SNP 1	SNP 2	SNP 3	SNP 4
Calf	A/T	G/G	G/C	T/T
Dam	T/T	G/G	C/C	A/T
Sire 1	T/T	G/G	G/G	A/A
Sire 2	A/T	G/C	G/C	T/T
Conclusion	Dam and Sire 1 can not be the parents together but can’t tell which to exclude	No exclusions: All pairings possible	No Exclusions: All pairings possible	Sire 1 could only pass on an “A” and calf is homozygous T/T. Sire 1 is excluded.



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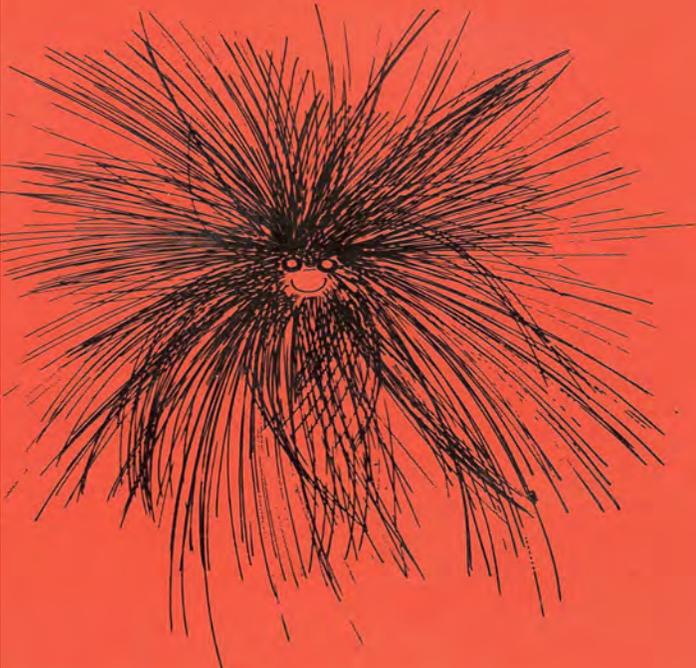
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WITHOUT ACTIVE MEMBERS ----



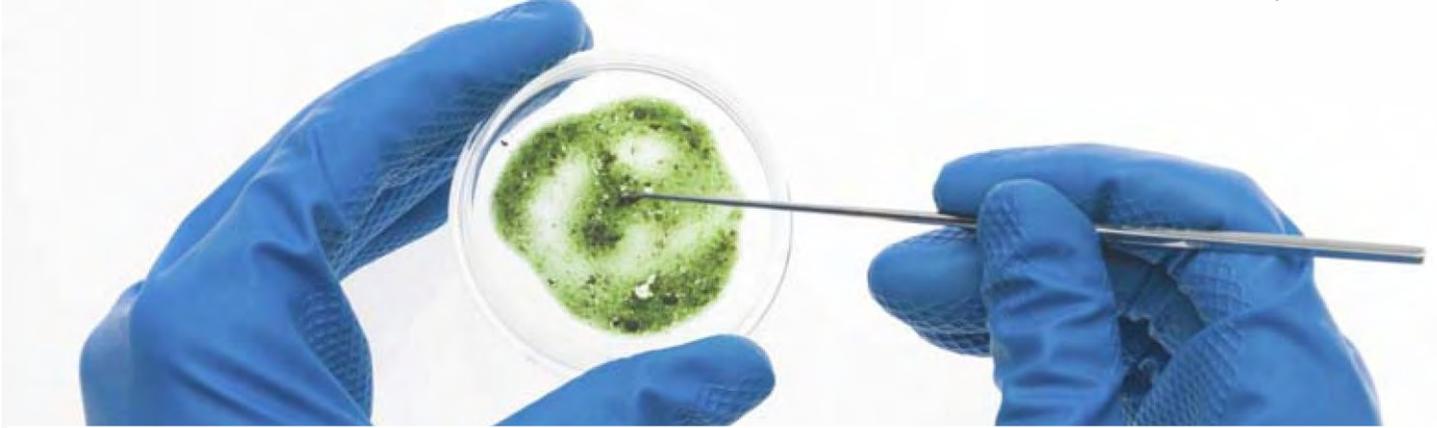
Next Meeting: NYSF

September 3<sup>rd</sup> - Labor Day  
in beef barn around 11am.

NYSA will  
Just go ALL to Pieces!!



## **Thanks to bipartisan legislation, fake meat must go by a new name in Missouri**      Source: Missouri Cattlemen's Association      May 21, 2018



### **Thanks to bipartisan legislation, fake meat must go by a new name in Missouri**

The measure, which prohibits misrepresenting a product as meat, passed on an overwhelming bipartisan vote.

It's the first legislation of its kind, and it will clearly set a precedence for other states to pass similar legislation. Missouri, living up to its motto as the Show Me state, has shown state cattlemen's associations nationwide that common sense can prevail when it comes to defining what meat is, and more importantly, what it isn't.

The Missouri legislature recently passed a bill strongly supported by the Missouri Cattlemen's Association (MCA) that prohibits misrepresenting a product as meat that was not derived from harvested livestock. The legislation comes at a time when laboratory grown meat is being debated throughout the country and in Washington, D.C.

The measure passed on a strong 125-22 bipartisan vote. It now goes to the governor to be signed.

Missouri became the first state to address the issue with legislation, sending a signal to other states to follow suit. MCA Executive Vice President Mike Deering expects other state cattle organizations to lead legislation in their respective state.

"This isn't a Missouri issue. This is about protecting the integrity of the products that farm and ranch families throughout the country work hard to raise each and every day," Deering says.

"I never imagined we would be fighting over what is and isn't meat. It seems silly. However, this is very real and I cannot stress enough the importance of this issue. We are beyond pleased to see this priority legislation cross the finish line."

The current definition of meat in Missouri Statutes is: "any edible portion of livestock or poultry carcass or part thereof." This definition certainly excludes plant-based or even laboratory grown food products from being considered meat. Deering said the problem is there is nothing definitive in state statute to prevent the misrepresentation of these products as meat.

The legislation that will now be sent to the Governor for consideration prohibits "misrepresenting a product as meat that is not derived from harvested production livestock or poultry." Deering said the association does not oppose plant-based or laboratory grown food products.

"This legislation does not stifle technology, but it does ensure the integrity of our meat supply and reduces consumer confusion. We must ensure that those products do not mislead consumers into thinking those products are actually meat produced by farm and ranch families," said Deering. "The use of traditional nomenclature on alternative products is confusing to consumers and weakens the value of products derived from actual livestock production."

The passage of the legislation follows a vote by the U.S. House Appropriations Committee on May 16, supporting regulatory oversight of lab-grown meat substitutes by USDA. MCA and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association believe USDA is best-placed to ensure food safety and accurate labeling of these products.



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