As we enter the last few days of 2019, we can reflect on a hard and tough year behind us.

The year ahead will be a very challenging one for our breeders and for farmers in general.

History has taught us a few lessons and I am more than convinced that as Simmentaler breeders we will rise to the occasion and conquer 2020!

To each and every reader, I wish you a peaceful festive season filled with an abundance of Blessings in 2020!

God Bless!

Jan
Wishing you a joyous holiday season and a most prosperous and healthy New Year.

Photo - Wikus van der Merwe at Milagro Simmentalers
The 2019 / 2020 Simmentaler Journal has arrived and we are very pleased with the final product! Hard copies have been sent to all members via post and should be arriving soon. Please send your feedback to info@simmentaler.org - we would love to hear your thoughts. The journal is available to download for free on our website www.simmentaler.org

In light of the current Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) situation in South Africa, we advise all buyers to contact involved parties before attending any auctions or shows to confirm whether the event will in fact take place or not. Please see page 5 for more information regarding FMD.

All active members - updated levy lists must reach the office on or before 10 February 2020.

Another reminder that birth notifications to the office will only be accepted in the followings formats as of 1 January 2020:
- Web registrations - contact the office for your password.
- If you are not computer literate, the above mentioned Excel form may also be completed by hand, as long as it is clearly readable.
- Herdmaster or Bengu program.

The holidays are upon us and we would like to remind everyone that the office will be closed from 13 December 2019 at 12:30 and will start the new year on 6 January 2020 at 08:00.

Have a safe holiday with your friends and family, a merry Christmas and happy New Year! We look forward to taking on 2020 with you.

Festive wishes
SIM Office
Progress has been reported consistently over the past four weeks since the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) in Molemole. To date, 11 commercial properties have been found to be infected and confirmed positive: Seven in Capricorn, two in Vhembe and two in Mopani district municipalities. There are an estimated 14,000 cattle on the infected properties, which include five feedlots and six commercial breeding farms. All affected properties have been linked directly or indirectly to cattle sold at auctions. Further follow-up investigation and sampling is still being conducted to determine the extent of the outbreak.

The Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development gazetted a national ban on the gathering of cloven-hoofed animals, including livestock auctions, shows and similar activities. The gazette is available on the DAFF website https://www.daff.gov.za/daffweb3/Home/Foot-and-Mouth

According to Section 11 of the Animal Diseases Act, 1984 (Act No. 35) it is the responsibility of “any owner or manager of land on which there are animals to take all reasonable steps to prevent the infection of the animals with any animal disease, or parasite and the spreading thereof from the relevant land or animals”.

Anyone spreading FMD through the movement of animals may, therefore, be held civilly and or criminally liable for such an offence.

All suspected and infected properties have been placed under quarantine and no livestock is allowed to move in, through or out of the affected properties. Immediate neighbouring properties have also been placed under quarantine. Quarantine on the suspected and neighbouring properties will be lifted as soon as it has been proven that all animals on these properties are free of FMD. The owners of infected properties have been given slaughter out options to facilitate depopulation.

As per the press release of 19 November 2019, all owners of livestock are encouraged to observe strict biosecurity measures on their premises. The biosecurity guidelines are available on the National Animal Health Forum website www.nahf.co.za.

It is important that all livestock owners familiarise themselves with the following measures to prevent their animals from being infected:

- Not moving high risk animals;
- Only buying animals from a proven source;
- Insisting on a veterinary attestation/health declaration to accompany any animals that are brought in.

Adherence to the above measures will assist government and farmers to resolve the situation. It is vital that all stakeholders act reasonably, responsibly and according to the law at all times.

For further information contact:
Reggie Ngcobo
Media Liaison Officer
Mobile: 082 883 2458
Dr Bothe Modisane
Technical spokesperson on FMD
Mobile: 063 693 0330

Joint Statement of the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development and the FMD Technical Task Team on the Foot-and-Mouth Disease Outbreak Limpopo

Postponement of Simmentaler National Championships 2020
Foot-and-Mouth Disease

Fellow breeders,

In light of the announcement by the Minister of Agriculture in the Government Gazette, 4 December 2019, no. 42883 which reads as follows:

“The Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development gazetted a national ban on the gathering of cloven-hoofed animals, including livestock auctions, shows and similar activities. The gazette is available on the DAFF website https://www.daff.gov.za/daffweb3/home/Foot-and-Mouth. Also read it with the law according to Section 11 of the Animal Diseases Act, 1984 (Act No. 35)”

The Council of the Simmentaler and Simbra Cattle Breeders’ Society of Southern Africa has decided not to endorse any shows and auctions for the sake of prudence and in light of the seriousness of the situation until further notice.

As a result, the Simmentaler National Championship of 2020 is postponed until further notice. The Society will notify Lichtenburg Show Association accordingly.

Cattle greetings,
Jan Holliday
President of the Simmentaler and Simbra Cattle Breeders’ Society of Southern Africa
PROTECTING YOUR ANIMALS FROM FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

NEARLY 100% OF ANIMALS ON A FARM CAN BE AFFECTED

The impact of foot-and-mouth disease

- Loss of milk production
- Lower weight gain
- Lower fertility
- Denied access to markets

Signs of foot-and-mouth disease

- Fever
- Sores and blisters on feet, mouth and teats

How foot-and-mouth disease is spread

- Animal-to-animal
- In the farm environment
- From contamination on humans

STOPPING AND PREVENTING FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

- Sanitation
- Reporting illness
- Vaccination
- Controlling introduction of new animals

References
2019's Simmental Asia/Africa Champions

Southern Africa took the top three spots for the 2019 “Simmental - Miss Asia/Africa” and 2019 “Simmental - Champion of Asia/Africa” competitions, competing against African and Asian countries’ best Simmentals.

The competition took place on 5 December 2019, with judges Johnny Gutierrez / Tiziana Prada (Argentina), Brett Nobbs (Australia), Heiko Grob (Germany) and Fred Schuetze (USA).

Results for the 2019 “Simmental - Miss Asia/Africa” competition were:
GOLD: South Africa (8 points)
SILVER: Botswana (7 points)
BRONZE: Namibia (7 points)
(Tie for Silver was broken by Botswana earning two 1st places)

Results for the 2019 “Simmental - Champion of Asia/Africa” competition were:
GOLD: South Africa (9 points)
SILVER: Namibia (8 points)
BRONZE: Botswana (4 points)

The two gold places, Milagro Premier ACM1644 and Milagro Amy ACM1471, went through to compete in the 2019 World Championships where Amy won the bronze place in the “Simmental - Miss World” on 11 December.

Premier was appointed the 2019 “Simmental - Champion of the World” competition on 13 December. See page 9 for the results.

Congratulations to our breeders on this great achievement and for waving our African flags proudly.
Simmentaler

2019/20

2019/20 JOURNAL
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VOED DIE WÊRELD
FEED THE WORLD

Photo taken at the Milagro Simmentaler Stud by Wikus van der Merwe
South Africa does it again! Milagro Premier ACM1644 has been crowned as the best Simmental bull in the world.

Congratulations to the Milagro Simmentaler stud from Oyster Bay in the Eastern Cape, we are proud beyond words!

Results for the 2019 "Simmental - Champion of the World" competition:

GOLD: South Africa (7 points)
SILVER: England (5 points)
BRONZE: Argentina (4 points)

Judge’s selections for Gold:
Gutierrez/Prada (Argentina): ARGENTINA
Nobbs (Australia): SOUTHAFRICA
Grob (Germany): ENGLAND
Schuetze (USA): SOUTHAFRICA

Words from the breeders and owners of the champion bull, Andrew and Colette Masterson:

“So that’s a wrap for the Champion of the World Competition 2019 and for our 2019 show season. What a phenomenal show year it was indeed!

This year we had three animals qualifying for judging with two different breeds.

Milagro Premier 1644 was made Simmentaler Champion of Africa/Asia and went on to win Champion of the World yesterday.

Milagro Amy 1471 was crowned Simmentaler Miss Africa/Asia and ended up as no. 3 in the Miss World judging earlier this week.

Milagro Elle 1210 (Red Angus) was placed 3rd in the Angus Miss Africa/Asia judging.

Premier will compete in the All Breeds World Supreme Championships in March 2020.

Congratulations to our fellow breeders who also came out on top in this competition and will compete in the All Breeds World Champions in March with us (Red Brahman cow, Beefmaster bull, Charolais bull, Simbra cow and Wagyu bull).

Thank you all for your support during our very busy 2019 show season. We were truly blessed.

A big thank you to our show and support staff! Thank you to PJ Budler for creating this amazing world wide judging platform.

Compliments of the Season to you all. May all your wishes come true in 2020.”
Perfecting animals for shows, a perpetual process

By Kesego Ngwai

Agricultural shows provide local and sometimes international farmers with an opportunity to celebrate achievements as well as acknowledge and reward the hard work and skills; a platform to benchmark and network, with the main focus being the ultimate prize-winning.

In the quest to shed a light on preparing and perfecting animals for shows, Farmer's Magazine Botswana, interviewed Mr Werner Faber of Tholo Holdings; who has consecutively emerged victorious in various Agricultural shows over the past five years.

Sharing his experience, Mr Faber said winning the show is about the most correct animal that happens to also be perfect for the day adding that it takes 90 percent preparation while half the breed is in the feeds and water.

He reiterated that the right feeds are the major component and animals should be fed to their potential citing that different breeds have to be given specialized feeds as there is never a one size fits all feeding recommendation.

Moreover, he said farmers who want to show their animals should go all out and engage experts such as nutritionists as they require a solid nutrition program.

"Selecting a quality show feed involves more than simply evaluating the ingredient list. Consider what goes into making that feed, including research and innovation, quality control, consistency and expertise. When you select a high quality feeding program, you often get much more than just feed, re-evaluate if the animal is not performing as you anticipated, if not make changes," he said.

As one of their production, he revealed that Tholo Holdings manufactures Show Finishers which he said was the best feed to use to finish off animals for the show.

He explained that the formulation of the feed has been done to protect the stomach from damage while feeding, adding that feed helps the animal to be able to continue life in the veld after the show therefore protecting its stomach with the right feeds enables it to carry on with life as usual.

"When animals are prepared for a show, it must begin after a period of 130 days for the male and 100 days for female and once the animals are in a good condition make sure they exercise enough and do not let them get over-fat" he said.

He explained that he selects his animals well in advance, sometimes as early as the calf is born, the process he said takes time and thorough observation and care.

"In essence, preparing for shows is a yearlong process that takes a lot of commitment because other animals are not always good shows, others are good when young, others when old. Young animals are also not a guarantee that they'll be good shows in future," Mr Faber said.

Furthermore, he said farmers who are into showing or aspire to, should know that they can keep on enhancing their breeds by making new additions.

He elaborated that even after six years he still wants and more as he does not consider what he has the best, therefore his dream and ultimate goal remains to buy and develop what he already has.
"The dream is to win with the Tholo bloodline, something we are passionately in pursuit of, we want Tholo Breeds to dominate the local all through to the international market," he said.

He went on to say people should know their stand in hinting that there is a difference between farmers and breeders further identifying himself as a breeder as they enhance livestock and farmers come in to buy.

On another note, Mr Faber said it is compulsory and wise to know competition rules and live to embrace the fact that livestock shows are about the perfect animal for that particular day and how one models the animal.

He also said, if an animal wins he never takes it back or show it twice something he reckons unfair to the animal.

"Most animals at Tholo are winners already, have and give all your animals a chance to participate, that way all animals in the kraal are well taken care of," he shared.

He advised breeders and farmers to take shows as a platform to market their animals, a way to advertise and engage with potential clientele therefore either win or lose, farmers need to be at their best adding that passion wins all the time.

Mr Faber also said he offers free consultations and advice to farmers as his aim is not to soar alone but to share and see Batswana at their best in animal husbandry.

"If we talk about “type” in Fleckvieh we should take a holistic approach - don’t focus on udder, just look at the balance/harmony in the body and keep in mind what this animal is used for. On the photo (left) is an ideal Fleckvieh type cow from René Kraft/Namibia.”

- Bayern Genetik - Deutschland, 04/12/2019

"Great Namibian genetics. This pic (above) was as junior 2 years ago. She calved 3x now with an ICP of 342." - Peter Massmann, 06/12/2019
Prof. Chris Barnard - heart surgeon and a short time Fleckvieh breeder

On December 3, 1967, a South African made history - Prof. Chris Barnard transplanted the first human heart in the Grooteschuur Hospital in Cape Town. Peter Massmann, the international Fleckvieh legend, tells us his experiences with Prof. Barnard exclusively on Facebook:

“One evening, after a long telephone conversation, I was lucky enough to convince Prof. Barnard to become a Fleckvieh breeder. I then hired a specialist to select breeding animals in Germany, and at the same time I organized his trip, which led, among other things, to Bayern Genetik, where he also took a look at the beginnings of embryo transfer. I also visited him on his beautiful farm at the Cape and tried to stop him in his attempt to become the best breeder in South Africa overnight.

The big day came at a show in South Africa, where he or his manager showed the expensive imports for the first time and it became a failure for him. That night, I will never forget it, he came to me and said: "Peter, I am not a loser, what do I have to do? I explained to him that it would take years to build a herd and a stud name - and he replied: "I can't wait that long!"

We decided to sell the herd and our association had a great auction. Chris was a difficult man, but one of the greatest South Africans. What a contrast today - with the ANC's years of leadership in South Africa, our once famous hospitals are a disgrace. I recommend to all Facebook friends to read one of the many books about Chris Barnard’s interesting life…”

Source: Bayern Genetik - Deutschland Facebook page, 6 December 2019.

5 Years at the Society
Amari Bornman

After completing my Animal Science degree in December 2014, I started as an intern at the Simmental and Simbra Cattle Breeders' Society in February 2015 while completing my Honors degree in Animal Breeding. In December 2016, I was appointed as the Society's Animal Scientist.

During my time at the Society, I learned so much about the cattle industry - the beautiful and ugly! You as farmers and stud breeders have been through one of the worst droughts we have seen and some parts of Southern Africa are still experiencing it. I am so grateful for initiatives created to help our farmers out there.

Although we personally farm with Braunvieh cattle, I must confess that in my time at the Society, the Simmentalers have found a very special place in my heart.

One of the many highlights I will remember dearly is the Simmental National Championships of 2017 in Lichtenburg. I feel very privileged to have seen and experienced so many of the country’s best Simmentalers together.

Thank you to every one of the breeders who always welcomed me with open arms when I attended a Simmental event. Your kindness and hospitality will remain with me forever.

I am eternally grateful to the Society, council members, ladies (and gentleman) from the office and breeders for the opportunity I have had over the past 5 years to work with you and for you.

I wish you all the best. Happy farming!

“I don’t believe there was ever a life more attractive than life on a cattle farm.” - Theodore Roosevelt
Simmentaler Semen Available

The Simmentaler office has semen available from the following bulls. The price per straw is VAT inclusive.

**Maphance Braai**
CMS14101

*R230 per straw*

**Simberg Riaan**
JS1726

*R230 per straw*

**Kwantum Benz 78**
KM1278

*R230 per straw*

PLEASE NOTE – the semen straws of Benz are marked as KL12078 Benz 78.

Please contact Kinnear Geldenhuys at +27 (0) 76 191 4316 for more information.

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Majesto Simmentalers

The cows at Majesto Simmentaler stud (photographed below) in the Delmas area, are expecting their second calves this coming April 2020. Exciting times ahead!

Photo credit - Majesto Simmentaler on Facebook

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Photo below: Mont-Beau Julian, BM1630, the heifer breeding bull at Majesto.
I am a South African in blood and bone. However, after three break-ins into my house in Pretoria in one year, I sold all of my South African assets in 2012 and moved to America.

Although America has farmers with large land too, our agricultural land here in the USA is divided into smaller pieces of land. Thus, farms here in general are much smaller than in South Africa because there are no laws preventing subdivision of agricultural land and land is therefore very expensive.

Because America is a developed country, there are infrastructured towns everywhere in the countryside and it is therefore possible for my wife Lori and I to both work full time and do all of our farm work after our regular working hours and over weekends. Like most farmers in America, we have no help on our farm and do all labour by ourselves. My wife and I span fences, do all the maintenance on the farm, and both of us do all the work with our Simmental herd alone.

Our Simmentalers are vaccinated and dewormed every year in April. They graze in the spring, summer and autumn (from May every year to November) on grass camps that we manage intensively where we also supply mineral and salt supplements for the cows. These grass camps are divided into smaller camps of about 3 hectares each with permanent wire fences, because neither me nor my wife are here in order to move electric fences. So we move our cows every 3 days to the next camp with their minerals and salt and graze the grass camps so that the camps can recover quickly.

Our cows are very tame and come when we call them to move them to the next camp. Our cows also regularly receive Purina pellets (20% protein).

My wife and I manage the grass camps intensively and all camps are fertilized, sprayed for weeds, and sown with new grass where needed. All grass camps rest from December to April each year.

During this winter period we feed the cows grass and lucerne round bales in our cattle pens at home where there is also a shed for them to shelter from the winter. We only feed the lucerne bales when it’s really cold.

During the winter months, our Simmentalers also have ad lib access to liquid protein loaded with minerals and a fly controller. We also feed them broken maize with minerals throughout the winter to ensure that all cattle receive the
minerals.

Pregnancy tests are done during the first week of December each year. During this visit of the AI and embryo station, the breeding program is planned for the following year. We decide on donor cows and identify recipient cows and select semen. My tank currently has semen from Porterhouse Regent (a son of Rogant the German champion) who we would like to use for 2020 to flush one of our donor cows and then transfer fresh embryos to our recipient cows. These are cows that are not thoroughbred Simmentaler cows. The rest of our cows will be AI’d with the same Porterhouse Regent for 2020.

Our cows are synchronized and all calve more or less in March every year. We then AI at the end of May every year if conditions allow it and remove our bull from the cows at the end of June.

We wean all of our calves while they remain with their dams by using nasal flaps that prevent them from drinking. Once the cows are well dried, we remove the nasal flaps.

Our bull calves that are not good enough to sell as bulls will be castrated at 8 months and sent to a feedlot. The feedlot allows us to retain ownership of the oxen until they are slaughtered. We keep all of our heifers.

There is a healthy demand for Simmentaler bulls in America because cattle farmers use the Simmentaler for crossbreeding. The problem is that most cattle farmers in America use the same bulls on their cows and heifers. Therefore search for bulls that breed smaller calves. Of course, smaller calves also cause lower weaning weights, which re-emphasizes the merits of crossbreeding here in America.

Nevertheless, despite the fact that my wife and I do all our work on the farm ourselves and that we have no domestic help, we enjoy our farm with our Simmentalers. Nothing is broken, nothing is stolen and no one wants to kill us or take our land. Our home on the farm has no burglar bars, no alarm system, no security fence around our house, no dogs or neighborhood watch. Our vehicles are not locked.

Our Simmentalers make farming a pleasure. Our veterinarian and the people from the embryo station who come to our farm can’t believe how tame they are, how beautiful the cows’ condition is year in and year out, and how easy it is to work with them.

The feedlot tells us that when the feed truck passes, our cattle are the first at the feeding bowl!

We do not want to farm with any other cattle breed.
At the National Simmentaler Auction held outside of Kroonstad in September 2017, Toverberg Athene (AK151) was on offer with her first calf Toverberg Voetpad (Ak179). They were sold to the Gulland Simmentaler stud, where Voetpad proceeded to develop and perform brilliantly.

At the first Young Bull Day hosted in Bethlehem early 2018, Voetpad was crowned as the Reserve Champion of the show, competing against South Africa’s top young bulls born in 2017.

In August 2018 he was crowned Bull Calf and BLUP Champion at the Willem Prinsloo Show, Rayton Gauteng.

Voetpad was recently named the Simmentaler Breedplan Champion Bull at the Lichtenburg Show 2019.

Voetpad’s lineage can be traced back to one of our Queen Bees - Toverberg Ragel (AK006). Ragel is the dam of world renowned bulls Salerika Eksellent and Erico Napra.

Congratulations to Gulland Simmentalers, Martiens de Jager Snr and Martiens de Jager Jnr, for selecting for appearance and genetic background. We look forward to see what else Voetpad has in store for you.

Toverberg-stoetery on Facebook
5 December 2019

As 2019 starts drawing to a close, it is time to reflect on the year that has been. So grateful for the opportunity to rekindle the joy of breeding Simmentalers again. Thanks to Garrisford Simmentalers, Tendele Simmentalers, Milagro Simmentalers, BTB Simmentalers, Lewenslus Simmentalers and Econotech Simmentalers for the animals that have been welcomed to the Nestau family this year.

Nestau Simmentalers on Instagram
@nestaustud 13/12/2019

Nestau Simmentalers - Welcome back!
“Old School” Simmental
Terry Burks, Facebook

This week (9-14 December) we are really going “OLD SCHOOL” as we look back at some of the earliest photographed bulls in the breed!

BURGEL. Born in 1949, he was a son of Bernstein out of the Antschi cow. This German recorded bull was recorded as being owned by PJ Oelofse.

PRISKUS. Born in 1949, this German herdbook bull is a son of Penny out of a Pistor daughter.

BERNIT. Born in 1949, this German bull was a son of Benz out of a Moritz daughter.

POSTRAT 525. Born in 1950, this German Herdbook bull was sired by Postillion and dammed by an Adam daughter.

POSTMEISTER. This 1950 born German Herdbook sire was sired by Postillion and out of a Negesti daughter.

BAYER. This 1955 born German Herdbook bull was sired by BURGEL (our Monday feature bull) and dammed by the Hyazinthe cow. Records indicate he was owned by PJ Oelofse.
"In this publication you will get a glimpse into the Simmentaler treasure chest of memories. The history of the Simmentaler breed, a breed whose first herdbook entry was already made in 1806 is fully summarised, which is an almost impossible task because of the long and colourful history of this world breed."

- Kobus Bester,
President of the Simmentaler Cattle Breeders’ Society, 2014

Commemorative Books available, courier cost for your account.
Please contact the office if you’re interested info@simmentaler.org / +27 51 446 0580
Photos from #simmentaler on Instagram

- @jp_wallis
  Gabane, Botswana
  11/12/2019

- @mlcattle
  Missouri, USA
  10/12/2019

- ibenstein_simmentaler_stud
  Dordabis, Namibia
  12/12/2019

- @nestaustud
  Assagay, South Africa
  08/12/2019

- @da_na_toe
  Vergeleë, South Africa
  18/12/2019

- @barana_simmentals
  Coolah NSW, Australia
  03/12/2019
Simmentaler Cattle Breeders’ Society of Southern Africa

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