



Dear Simmental-Fleckvieh Friends,

2009 is almost over and the end of the year is filled with memories of the results and review of the past months. 2009 was extremely hard for the milk producers with the dramatic decrease of the milk prices. The last months of the year brought a slight improvement of the prices but the financial situation of the dairy farmers is still very bad. We all hope the coming year 2010 will bring with it the necessary stability and predictability for the market.

The last WSFF Council Meeting in Namibia featured discussion about the activities of the WSFF for the future – about the effectiveness of the WSFF work and cooperation with the European Simmental-Fleckvieh Federation (ESFF). Especially the last point – closer co-operation with ESFF was highlighted and the first concrete result will be a joint council meeting of the WSFF and the Congress of the ESFF 2011 in Italy. In the technical part of the meeting the genomic selection was the most important issue – experiences and expectations from the particular member countries.

The countdown for the 2010 WSFF congress has begun and our Australian friends have warmly invited the World Simmental-Fleckvieh family “down under” to Australia and post-congress tour in New Zealand. (For more info see www.worldsimmentalcongress2010.com)

For the coming year I would like to express my best wishes to all of you and your families. To all the Simmental-Fleckvieh breeders I wish a most successful and prosperous year!

Yours sincerely

Josef Kučera
I. Vice-president

NEWS

28th Congress of the European Simmental - Fleckvieh Federation, Siófok, Hungary (September 22nd – September 27th)



The Congress was held in September. The new presidency was elected (President: Josef Kucera (Czech Republic, vice-presidents: Imre Füller (Hungary) and Jean-Marc Vacelet (France). Next Congress will be held in May 2011 in Udine, Italy.

www.wsff.info



Council Meeting of the World Simmental-Fleckvieh Federation, Windhoek, Namibia (October 11th – October 19th)



Special thanks to the Namibian Simmental/Simbrah Association for hosting the WSFF Council Meeting 2009. The minutes from the Meeting will be available on the www.wsff.info soon.

6th German Fleckvieh Show November 13th – November 14th



There was a great event in Ilshofen, Germany in November 2009. More than 3000 visitors attended the show – 15 European delegations and guests from North and South America were involved.

Winners:

1st lactation: Cow No. DE 000813637899, S: ZAHNER ET, SD: HORWART

2nd -3rd lact.: DE000940030822, S: WEINOLD, SD: BORNEO

4th lact. and older: DE000935922330, s: ROMELLO, SD: MALF

Long-lived cow: DE000810071317, S: ROMEN, SD: RIVERJAM ET

More details here: www.asr-rind.de



UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2010

Council Meeting of the European Simmental - Fleckvieh Federation, Paris, France 3rd – 5th March 2010

28th Congress of the World Simmental-Fleckvieh Federation, Australia

info@wsff.info



Dear Colleague,

Australia will host the World Simmental Congress in Melbourne in September 2010. I would like to take this opportunity to invite you, your partner, friends and industry colleagues to attend the 2010 Simmental World Congress.



Many international and Australian delegates are expected to attend this important event to increase their knowledge of Simmental cattle and the Australian beef cattle industry.

The Congress and the pre and post Congress tours will include a range of activities to inform and entertain delegates. The program will focus on the role of Australian Simmental in maximising enterprise profitability, especially through crossbreeding. It will also cover topics on innovations in cattle genetics, stud and commercial herd breeding, product quality, management technology and marketing. The Congress will be held in conjunction with the Simmental Feature Breed Judging at Royal Melbourne Show.

A special Congress feature will be an International Young People's Program. We invite you to enjoy the Welcome Reception, interactive networking sessions, a Congress dinner, a themed Australian farewell dinner, partners program during the Congress and other tour events.

In addition, the overall Congress program will provide a memorable rural Australian experience and an insight into Australia's hidden wonders and attractions as delegates journey through a diverse range of terrain, cultures and environments.

We look forward to welcoming you to the 2010 Congress.

Kind regards,

Bill Almond

Chairman - 2010 World Simmental Congress

Vice Chairman - World Simmental Fleckvieh Federation

For more information:

www.worldsimmentalcongress2010.com

„From the world of science...“

Relationships between longevity and conformation traits in Czech Fleckvieh cows

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ABSTRACT: The relationships between conformation and longevity traits were analysed in 58 493 Czech Fleckvieh cows first calved from 1994 to 2003. All cows were scored for conformation during the first lactation. Genetic correlations between longevity and conformation traits were estimated by bivariate runs using the VCE 4.0 program for variance component estimation. The values of heritability for conformation traits were in the range from 0.06 to 0.63 and for longevity traits from 0.04 to 0.05. Low or intermediate genetic relationships between recorded linear traits and longevity trait were found. The correlations were lower for functional longevity. Body measurements showed negative genetic correlations with real as well as functional longevity (-0.12 to -0.29). The dairy character negatively correlated with longevity traits (-0.18 to -0.26). The muscularity and udder showed a zero correlation with functional longevity, while the feet and legs were not correlated with real longevity. The highest positive genetic correlations between real longevity and objectively scored linear type traits were found for hock (0.24), rear udder attachment (0.28), fore udder length (0.16) and central ligament (0.11). On the contrary, the correlation between the udder depth and the milk-corrected longevity was positive (0.28) and higher than in the case of real longevity.

Full text:

<http://journals.uzpi.cz/uniqueFiles/10161.pdf>