



Colorado SimFacts

Colorado Simmental Assoc. ♦ www.ColoradoSimmental.com ♦ Early winter 2023 issue



**Happy
Thanksgiving!**
*Count your
blessings!*

NWSS entries, sale nominees due Nov. 20

Ready for National Western Stock Show? Sale nominations and exhibitor deadlines are both Monday, **Nov. 20**.


Including today, that's only 7 days away! (Exhibitor late entry deadline is Dec. 20, with extra fees applied.) Get online at NationalWestern.com.


The full schedule and details are shown at right or on ColoradoSimmental.com. The sale nomination form is also on our website or contact Matt Macfarlane at 916-803-3113.

In addition to the elite lots, the American Simmental-Simbrah Foundation will be including fun fundraiser lots during *The One & Only* sale.

Also, don't forget to participate in the 19th People's Choice Power Simmental. We do "off-site" and "will call" tickets, in addition to those sold at Denver.

Countdown: 60 days until the first 2024 Simmental show! See you soon.



NATIONAL WESTERN
Stock Show 

SUNDAY - 2:00 PM MT
JANUARY 14

**WAGNER EQUIPMENT
AUCTION ARENA -
STOCKYARD EVENTS
CENTER**

For more information, go to
ColoradoSimmental.com
or contact sale manager
Matt Macfarlane at 916-803-3113 or
m3cattlemarketing@gmail.com

NWSS 2024 SIMMENTAL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

JANUARY 13	1 PM	SIMMENTAL HEIFER PEN SHOW
JANUARY 14	9 AM	SIMMENTAL BULL PEN SHOW
	1 PM	THE ONE & ONLY SIMMENTAL SALE PREVIEW
	2 PM	THE ONE & ONLY SIMMENTAL SALE
JANUARY 15	1 PM	JUNIOR SIMMENTAL SHOW
JANUARY 16	8 AM	OPEN SIMMENTAL BULL & FEMALE SHOW

The 19th annual People's Choice Power Simmental judging will be a part of the 2024 National Western Stock Show. Judging cards will be sold in advance or on-site. Judging will take place during the Jan. 13 & 14 pen shows. Winners will be announced at the start of The One & Only Sale with selection of the Power Simmental from the qualifying bull or female finalists. Details are on ColoradoSimmental.com. To buy your judging card ahead, call Susan Russell at 719-469-0020.

CSA annual meeting filled with honors

Colorado Simmental members recognized a charter member, current active leaders, and outstanding youth during its annual meeting on Nov. 9.

Pioneer Award

Oran K. Cuning was recognized with the *CSA Pioneer Award*. Cuning was one of Colorado Simmental's 13 founding members who created the association on August 22, 1970, in Denver. Cuning was also one of the initial board members and an early officer.

"We were primarily dairymen and created Colorado Simmental from scratch," he said. Cuning and his brother, Myron, were numbers 6 & 7 of CSA's 28 charter members and held membership number 243 with American Simmental.

Membership took its task of developing and promoting Simmentals in Colorado seriously. Cuning, who saw benefits of the Continental breed, was among those immersed in the Simmental activities right from the start. Despite being only five months old, CSA helped American Simmental host the 1971 American Simmental Association convention in Denver during National Western Stock Show events. Files show that CSA members helped manage the ASA convention for many years.

Colorado also hosted the first "national" all-Simmental sale on Jan. 16, 1971, with 300 head of half-blood or greater Simmental cattle being auctioned in Denver. Cuning said OK Farms had a heifer in that sale, and his OK Farms Inc. shows up as a buyer of a ¾-blood heifer in 1972, and a volume buyer in 1973, for example.

Cuning was a CSA director from 1970-1979 and he was CSA secretary/treasurer from 1973-1979. He, with the help of his wife Joy, coordinated and recorded the association's business, advertising and activities in its formative years.

The Cuning brothers were in the Holstein business, but their OK Farms also included a cow/calf beef operation and a farrow-to-finish hog operation near Brighton. They initially used Simmental semen to artificially inseminate their Holsteins to make crossbreds. "We had a few half-bloods and ¾ bloods then," he explained. "We had several crossbred Holstein-Simmental cows in our milking string. We had 130 to 140 head, which was large at the time."

They also raised alfalfa, corn, wheat, milo, and sugar beets from their Brighton headquarters east to Wiggins, plus farming south toward Denver, southeast to Byers clear to Last Chance.

His brand, matching the OK of Oran K., is an O stacked atop a reverse K. His brand is still listed as active in the Colorado Brand Book.

Cuning, now 87, said he was in the Holstein business until about 40 years ago. The OK Farms partnership was dissolved in 1998. Myron lives in Arizona. Oran and Joy now live in Thornton, CO.

CSA's *Pioneer Award* recognizes long-term leadership from our Simmental founders

continued >



Oran Cuning, left, is shown with previous Pioneer Award recipient James Docheff. They are ASA members 243 & 244.

Honors continued...

whose foresight blazed the trail for the association. CSA is grateful for the huge efforts and formally recognized the leadership of Oran Cunning with its *2023 Pioneer Award* in a presentation prior to the Zoom meeting.

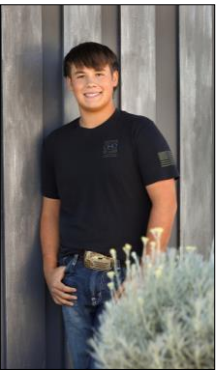
President's Awards

Pres. Willie Altenburg gave *President's Awards* to Paul & Nia Hill and Susan Russell. Paul & Nia Hill of Nunn are active Colorado Junior Simmental advisors, instrumental in the annual multi-breed *Breed Bash* youth event and assisted in preparing American Simmental Foundation's bred heifer lot sold at National Western. They were recognized for their extra 2023 efforts with a clock plaque. Susan Russell of Sugar City has served in the pivotal role of CSA secretary/treasurer for 25 years, coordinating all the association's business, finances, marketing, social media, membership, and events. Her 25th milestone was commemorated with a custom silver brand necklace presented at Fall Focus.



Scholarships

Jason Dias received *CSA's Herd Builder Grant* and one of two *CSA Youth Education Grants*. The Herd Builder's \$1500 stipend is designed to supplement Dias' establishment or enhancement of his cowherd. The second \$500 grant will be used for expenses as he pursues college.



Dias, who will graduate from Fort Morgan High School in May, was lauded by Greg Ditter, his FFA advisor, who wrote that "Jason has exhibited great leadership skills and has guided our younger members using his past experiences. He has been a vital part of not only our chapter membership, but also assisting when we have hosted district contests."

Ditter and Heath Deway, a USDA ag market reporter, also commended Dias' community activities, 4-H, baseball, and National Honor Society involvement in addition to being a fourth-generation rancher. He is the son of Chris Dias and Raychel Dias of Fort Morgan.



CSA gave its congratulations to Bradie Midcap, who also was a \$500 *Youth Education Grant* recipient. Midcap, who will graduate from Butler Community College in May, is the daughter of Nate and Jolynn Midcap of Wray. She is competing on the college's livestock judging team. Upon earning her associate degree, she plans to pursue a bachelor's in animal science and accounting.

"Bradie is an incredible people person," wrote Travis Taylor, a CSU livestock extension specialist. "Her passion for livestock, especially her own Simmental herd, has allowed her to become a strong businesswoman." Midcap has many successes with her cattle and swine and in livestock judging. She has excelled scholastically, in addition to community involvement and leadership roles.

CSA also provided awards to County Fair winners who have shown their registered SimGenetic animals into the Supreme multi-breed winner's circle. During the Zoom annual meeting, CSA recognized Easton Hill for his two Supremes at the Weld County Fair.

Elections, reports part of CSA annual meeting

Colorado Simmental Association elected its leadership, heard reports, and discussed issues during its Nov. 9, 2023, meeting.

Outgoing director Ron Mari of Holyoke was thanked for his long-time service. He chose not to seek re-election to the seven-member board of directors. The membership elected Cody Pitt of Hotchkiss to the three-year director seat.

Willie Altenburg of Fort Collins was re-elected president, Jolynn Midcap of Wray, vice-president, and Susan Russell of Sugar City, secretary/treasurer. Rounding out the board are Pitt, Jay Hill of Sterling, Paul Hill of Nunn, and Mitchell Jergensen of Ramah.

The membership heard highlights of the *Fall Focus*, which drew participants from 28 states and three Canadian providences to Denver when Colorado Simmental, Colorado Cattlemen's and American Simmental associations co-hosted the annual beef industry educational event.

The 2023 National Western Stock Show activities were reviewed and details for the 2024 National Western were finalized. Simmental's breed shows in Denver are Jan. 13-16, with *The One & Only* sale on Jan. 14 in the state-of-the-art yards auction facilities.

Chad Cook, an American Simmental trustee and board treasurer from Walsh, CO, gave an update on the national activities.

Unofficial minutes for this annual meeting are posted on ColoradoSimmental.com/Board.

YOUTH

Colorado Junior Simmental members, please note these upcoming opportunities:

- Mon., Jan. 15, 2024 – National Western Stock Show's Simmental junior show in Denver.
- Sat., June 1, 2024 - CJSA Annual meeting in Brush.
- June 1&2, 2024 - *Breed Bash* at the Morgan County Fairgrounds in Brush, CO.
- June 26-29, 2024 - AJSA Western Regional in Miles City, MT.
- July 8-14, 2024 - AJSA National Classic in Tulsa, OK.
- Mon., Aug. 26, 2024 – Colorado State Fair youth breeding beef show in Pueblo, CO.
- Tues., Oct. 1, 2024 - Annual CSA Herd Builder grant, and CSA Education grant applications deadline. Forms are on ColoradoSimmental.com.

**Thank you to our
Power Simmental
2024 sponsors!**



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