



Colorado SimFacts

Colo. Simmental Assoc. ♦ www.ColoradoSimmental.com ♦ Fall 2026



It's time!

The One & Only Sale nominations & National Western Stock Show cattle entries open Oct. 1-Nov. 20, 2026.

See **page 3**.

Updated \$API & \$TI coming

During Fall Focus, American Simmental's science team unveiled pending enhancements to the \$All-Purpose Index and \$Terminal Index. EVP Dr. Jon DeClerck stated that ASA's economic indexes will better reflect the current beef market, making them more accurate at predicting progeny profitability. The modernization includes:

- Update economic assumptions based on CattleFax and other sources to represent more recent price structures and economic weightings based on current beef genetics.
- Update traits that were previously included based on correlated responses but not directly predicted based on that trait's phenotypes (like Heifer Pregnancy, Dry Matter Intake, Mature Weight, and Carcass Weight).
- Method to incorporate more precise breed percentages.

ASA took an important step forward in 2005 in how breeders used genetic data, turn its growing collection of EPD into a roadmap for genetic progress with selection indexes. Now ASA is enhancing those selection tools. See **page 4** of this e-news for more details. A "research release" is now available for viewing on Simmental.org.

Fall Focus filled with speakers, networking



CSA members part of the '26 **FALL FOCUS**



Bozeman, MT
Aug. 28-31



Fall Focus drew about 200 SimGenetic enthusiasts, including several CSA members.

Fall Focus showcased informative speakers, awards, Town Hall discussions, and great hallway interaction in addition to ASA committee and board meetings. Thanks to ASA & MT Simmental for being co-host. A special thanks to Chad Cook & Quin LaFollette, CSA members who serve on the ASA board.

NEWS AT A GLANCE

Colorado Simmental annual meeting Nov. 7th

Colorado Simmental Association will hold its annual meeting on **Saturday, Nov. 7th**. CSA member Reitzenstein Cattle will host the business meeting near Kersey. Thank you, Mark & Kaye, for your generosity!

This is the perfect opportunity to voice your suggestions and exercise your right to vote for directors. One director's seat is up for election.

SAVE the date! A detailed agenda, a map and RSVP instructions will be forthcoming.

Colorado Cattlemen's Convention

Two Simmental members were in the spotlight during the Colorado Cattlemen's Association (CCA)'s "Under the Big Top" convention on June 22-24 in Loveland. Curtis Russell represented the beef community as the 2025/26 CCA president. His presidency ends during the CCA convention, where he presented Willie Altenburg, with *CCA Volunteer of the Year* award.

The pair were instrumental in creating the foundation work to form a new young producer initiative. A program is being developed to assist young producers trying to get into the cattle business in a meaningful way. Both Russell & Altenburg are former CSA presidents & ASA trustees. Congrats!



Altenburg, left, receiving an award from Russell.

Colorado Simmental membership

Colorado Simmental begins its fiscal year October 1. Dues notices and signups for our popular membership benefit of co-op advertising campaign are now being accepted.

ASA TRUSTEE UPDATE

By Quin LaFollette, an ASA western trustee & CSA member

Hello CSA. It's a beautiful September day in NW Wyoming. We've been dry up here but we're not complaining. We know a lot of folks have it way worse than us. Water is starting to become an issue in some late pastures, but I think we'll make it through and look forward to a "WET" 2027!

There is a ton of exciting things going on with ASA at the moment. At the top of the list is the new \$API and \$TI figures coming out real soon.

Like all technology, we always want the newest, latest and greatest that's out. For now, I think we're going to get it. The new adjustments in market values and running costs incorporated with the new trait EPDs and adjustments will give us as accurate of indexes as is possible at this time. Please go to the ASA website and read up on these New Indexes and how they were updated.

The research release was put out this week,

and a Town Hall meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, **Sept. 29th** for questions and feedback.

For those of you that use EID tags and hate tattooing as much as I do, there's Good News. 840 EIDs are now acceptable as another form of permanent ID for registry as long as they are with DNA on file, a tattoo or a hot or freeze brand. I know this makes my life easier and hopefully it will aid some of you, too.

The ASA annual meeting is coming up in January and is coming back to the National Western so hopefully a bunch of us can be there to show them some Colorado Hospitality and give our two cents (excepting Willie 1 cent) on the next round of issues to be addressed.

Hoping and Praying for a Great fall for everyone and hope to see you in Denver.

-Quin



National Western 2027 features

•ASA annual meeting

American Simmental will hold its annual meeting on Fri., Jan. 15 in conjunction with the National Western Stock Show (NWSS). Board meetings and the annual meeting will be held at the Denver Airport Marriott at Gateway Park, Denver. A hotel block also will be available. Watch for details & opportunities to participate.

•Entries with 2 ‘bonus’ pen shows

National Western online beef entries are open Oct. 1-Nov. 20, with late-fee entries taken until Dec. 10. Go to nationalwestern.com.

NWSS has altered the SimGenetic schedule slightly for 2027. See the judges and schedule at right. In addition to the traditional SimGenetic pen shows, two “bonus” pen shows again will be offered in the yards:

1. Simmental’s **Phenotype & Genotype** (P&G) purebred & percentage bull pen of 3 shows



allow exhibitors to stretch their entry dollars with bonus classes by showing already exhibited pen bulls &/or alternate bulls. P&G show requires GE-EPDs, so get your DNA submitted now.

2. **Rancher’s Best** features a mixed-sex pen from SimGenetic animals the breeder has already exhibited on Jan. 17 & 18, allowing exhibitors to further stretch their marketing dollars.

•Power Simmental breeder wins \$20,000

The 22nd annual People’s Choice Power Simmental event will again award the winning breeder **\$20,000** for the selected bull or heifer.

We are securing our 2027 sponsors now.



National Western Stock Show (NWSS) SimGenetic yards exhibitors may nominate a bull &/or heifer they are exhibiting in their pen(s) to compete in the event. The public, either in-person or remote, may purchase judging cards to participate in the “People’s Choice” selections on Jan. 16 & 17. The finalist animals will be paraded through the ring at the start of *The One & Only Sale* on Jan. 17. The drawn winner will select the Power Simmental, and he/she will get 100% possession, while the breeder receives \$20,000.

•One & Only Sale nominations

Nominations are open to consign lots to Simmental’s *The One & Only Sale*. Have a live lot, embryos, or a pick to sell at Denver? Contact sale manager Matt Macfarlane at 916-803-3113 or m3cattlemarketing@gmail.com by Nov. 20th.

The sale will begin at 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 17. Note the new time. It will kick off with the Power Simmental selection, plus a special lot of an XC20 Signature semen tank, donated by MVE Biological Solutions, & filled with semen from leading sires.

Elite live and frozen lots will be showcased in the Denver auction. Don’t miss out. Get your nominations turned into M3 Marketing.



2027 NWSS

SimGenetic schedule:

- **Junior shows**, judged by Spencer Scotten of OK & associate Mason Allan of TX @ 8 a.m. Sat., 1/16 in new “hill” CoBank Arena.
- **Female pen shows**, judged by Jake Scott of NE & associate Willy Couch of OK @ 1 p.m. Sat., 1/16 in the Witwer yards arena.
- **Bull pen shows**, judged by Scott & associate Couch @ 8 a.m. Sun., 1/17 in the yards arena.
- **P&G bull pen shows**, judged by Dr. Ryan Rathmann of TX & associate Kase Lerow of CO on Sun., 1/17 in the Witwer yards arena.
- **People’s Choice** judging on 1/16 & 17 in the Witwer yards arena. With the winner drawn at the start of the sale.
- **The One & Only Sale** @ 4 p.m. in the yards Wagner Equip. Auction Arena.
- **Open class shows**, judged by Greg Walthall of MO & associate Pearl Walthall @ 9.m. Mon., 1/18 in new “hill” CoBank Arena.



ASA STAFF UPDATE

By Dr. Elizabeth Dressler, ASA lead geneticist



\$API & \$TI's Research Release available

Economic selection indexes are a valuable tool for selection & mating decisions. One major benefit is that selection indexes combine several traits into one number that estimates expected progeny profitability for a specific production system.

When you open a sale catalog to compare two bulls, economic indexes are designed to help answer a practical question: "Which bull is expected to sire the more profitable set of calves within this production system?" ASA publishes two economic selection indexes: the all-purpose index (\$API) and the terminal index (\$TI). These indexes help Simmental breeders make more informed decisions by bringing the economic importance of several traits together in one easy-to-use tool.

Why is ASA updating? \$API and \$TI are valuable tools for Simmental breeders and have helped make meaningful genetic progress in the breed. If you are a Simmental breeder who has used \$API or \$TI over the years, you have likely seen the value of these selection tools in your own herd. In other words, the previous indexes were not wrong. Simmental breeders have made progress using them, and they have served the breed well. ASA is making key updates so the indexes will be **even better selection tools**. The beef industry has changed in recent years, and our technology and ability to analyze data have also advanced significantly. Together, these changes give ASA an opportunity to build on what has worked and make the indexes even more accurate at predicting progeny profitability.

What is being updated?

1. Direct Incorporation of New EPD - It has been a busy and productive time on the IGS science team. In the last 1½ years, IGS has released five new predictions for members, including dry matter intake (DMI), \$Gain, mature weight (MW), cow energy requirements (CER), and heifer pregnancy (HP). The release of these 5 new predictions reflects the hard work of not only the IGS science team, but also the Simmental breeders dedicated to reporting phenotypic data for these traits. It is something ASA members should be excited about.

With the release of these new EPD came the opportunity to directly include carcass weight (CW), DMI, MW, and HP into the indexes. Previously, this information was approximated based on the relationships between these traits and others like growth.

Think of it like estimating the weight of an animal based on its age and size. An experienced cattleman can often get surprisingly close. But actually putting that animal on a scale gives you a much more accurate measurement. In much the same way, using information from related traits allowed the previous indexes to make fairly good predictions of CW, DMI, MW, and HP. Now, integration of the new EPD into the indexes leads to a more direct, accurate measure of genetic potential for these traits.

2. In-House Simulation Building an index requires more than knowing the EPD. IGS also has to determine what changes in those traits are worth economically. This is called economic weighting. Establishing the economic weightings for each EPD is one of the more challenging aspects of developing an economic selection index. We can't simply guess what the economic value of

Key takeaways:

- \$API and \$TI are being updated to provide a more accurate prediction of progeny profitability using improved data, technology, and modeling.
- New EPD are now directly incorporated into the indexes, giving the indexes more accurate information for CW, MW, HP, and DMI.
- Heterosis is accounted for more precisely by modeling different levels of Simmental genetics rather than applying a broad adjustment factor.
- Updated economic assumptions better reflect today's cattle industry, accounting for factors across the cow-calf, backgrounding, feedlot, and packing sectors.
- The updated indexes should be utilized just as the previous indexes were - use \$API when retaining replacements and \$TI when all offspring are marketed as terminal cattle. Use the updated percentile rankings when evaluating animals.
- A research release on high-use animals is now available on the ASA website.

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\$APT & \$TI updates *Continued from page 4*

increasing marbling, or any other trait, by one unit would be. Instead, we use what's called a simulation.

Think of this like the popular Farming Simulator video game where players manage and grow their own virtual farms. In a similar way, IGS created a simulation that models a cattle operation. We could think of it like our own "Cattle Ranch Simulator," although no video game controllers were involved. The simulation plays out the index production scenario over a specified period of time and uses the results to generate the economic weightings needed for the index.

The production scenario simulated for \$API begins with a 500-head Angus cow herd where replacements are retained, and all non-replacements are sold on a carcass basis. The simulation models a fixed land base. In other words, the "Cattle Ranch Simulator" operates on a fixed number of acres, which means the number of replacement females retained depends on the resources available from that land. The \$API simulation plays out for 50 years.

The production scenario simulated for \$TI also begins with a 500-head Angus cow herd, but no replacements are retained and all progeny are sold on a carcass basis. The \$TI simulation plays out for two years, focusing on the short-term economic returns of terminal calves.

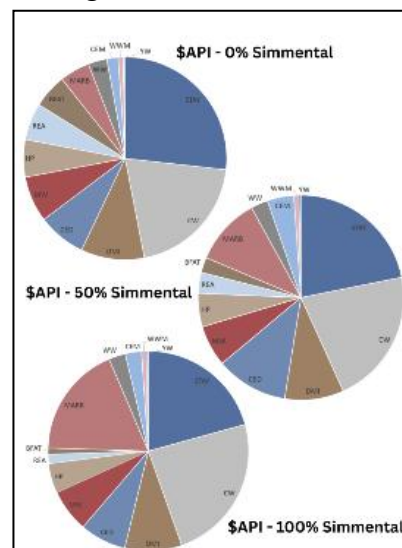
3. More Precise Accounting of Heterosis - Another improvement to the indexes is the way they account for heterosis. ASA has long been an advocate for crossbreeding, promoting performance gains from heterosis and breed complementarity. The previous indexes accounted for heterosis in a more general way. Animals were categorized into broad breed groups, and then a heterosis adjustment factor was applied at the end. The updated indexes account for heterosis more precisely within the simulation itself.

The simulation described above was repeated multiple times using bulls at different percentages of Simmental (or more specifically non-British or dairy), in 10% increments ranging from 0% Simmental to 100% Simmental. This results in a different set of marginal economic values and relative emphasis of traits for each 10% Simmental group. In other words, the relative emphasis of traits changes depending on the percentage of Simmental genetics being used. This allows the updated indexes to more accurately account for heterosis, breed advantages, and breed complementarity when Simmental bulls are bred to an Angus-based cow herd.

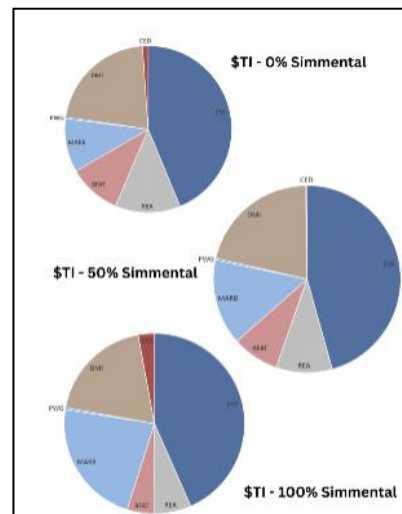
4. Updated Economics - The economics of the cattle industry have evolved, and they will continue to evolve over time. Economic selection indexes are designed to be robust, meaning they are intended to remain useful despite short-term fluctuations in the market. Because \$API and \$TI were being updated in other ways, this was also an opportunity to update the economic assumptions of the index.

Just like the Farming Simulator game has built-in economic assumptions, such as how much players are paid per bushel of corn, the "Cattle Ranch Simulator" also needs the underlying economic assumptions to generate the economic weightings discussed above under update #2. The economic inputs for the index simulation were based on historical CattleFax data and projected into the future using those pricing trends and relationships among inputs. The economic assumptions cover all the major aspects of cattle production from cow and backgrounding assumptions to feedyard economics and carcass premiums and discounts.

As a result of these updates, the amount of influence a trait has in the index, or the relative emphasis has changed. The relative emphasis of traits for the updated \$API and \$TI is shown in the pie charts below. As described under update #3, the relative emphasis differs based on the incremental 10% Simmental groups; the 0%, 50%, and 100% Simmental groups are shown.



See Simmental.org for details on these example trait pie charts.



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\$APT & \$TI updates *Continued*

Updated indexes can be used in selection and mating decisions just as the previous indexes were used. Both \$API and \$TI are expressed in dollars per cow exposed and represent expected progeny profitability under the production

scenario of each index. Indexes should be used as a comparison tool.

This table outlines the average \$API and \$TI for the Simmental breed sub-groups for animals born after Jan. 1, 2024, and provides context for interpreting the updated index values. Because of the updates, comparison of an animal's previous index value and updated index value would not be meaningful. Instead, look at the animal's updated percentile rankings to understand how it compares with other animals in the population.

It's also important to remember that there is not only one recipe for a high \$API or \$TI. There are different paths to profitability. Because an index combines multiple EPD, animals with different EPD profiles can still arrive at a similar \$API or \$TI. This allows producers to use the indexes to identify profitable animals while still having the flexibility to fit their individual operation.

Simmental Sub-Group	Average \$API	Average \$TI
Purebred	304	179
Hybrid	300	175
Simbrah	259	135
Fullblood	263	146

Where can I find the research release of the updated indexes?

A research release of the updated \$API and \$TI on high-use sires is available on **Simmental.org**. Usage was determined based on progeny counts within the last five years. EPD and previous index values presented in the research release were pulled on Sept. 14, 2026. Percentile rankings for the updated indexes presented in the research release are approximate, and slight differences may be seen after Herdbook implementation.

YOUTH NEWS

•State Fair breeding beef

The 2026 Colorado State Fair junior breeding beef was judged by Taylor Frank of KS. The youth show highlights on Aug. 31 were: Purebred Champion female: AJ-B Zinna (4573298), exhibited by Adley Blach;



CSF Junior show champions from Blach & Hansen, respectively.

and Percentage Simmental Champion female: Miss Supergirl 703N (4610522), exhibited by Lear Hansen.

Pueblo's open show was on Sept. 2, officiated by Saige Ward of WY. Youth projects also dominated those entries, with Purebred Simmental Champion female: WF Creighton N1000 (4590357), exhibited by August Emberton; Percentage Simmental Champion female: A-C Next Girl N2550 (4624163), exhibited by Joey Patton; & Percentage Simmental Champion bull: Mr. Amstel 2503N (4500598), exhibited by Jason Dias.

•Scholarship, grant applications due Oct. 1st

Colorado Simmental generously offers an educational scholarship and a Herd Builder grant. Details & applications are on ColoradoSimmental.com. Check out this great opportunity for youth. Submit by Oct. 1st!

•AJSA National Classic

Colorado was represented at the American Junior National Classic on July 4-10 in Grand Island, NE. Kudos to CJSA members who participated with a special congrats to CJSA members Braden Vetter for receiving the Bronze Merit Award and Jayme Gittlein for placing 8th in the Livestock Judging Contest.



•Breed Bash

CJSA's annual field day will again be in conjunction with *Colorado Breed Bash*, a fun multi-breed field day in Brush. Plan to participate in the June 5-6, 2027, weekend event.

