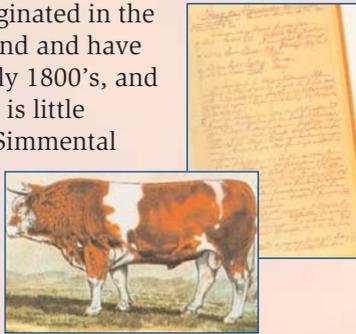


Fleckviehs . . .

Many breeders have asked about the history of Fleckvieh. It is difficult, if not impossible, to find a chronological history of the breed. I have put together a brief history with the help of C.P. Massmann, past Executive Director of the South African Simmentaler Association, and Dr. Thomas Grupp, General Manager of Prüf- und Besamungsstation in Munich, Germany. My sincere thanks to them for their help.

Fred Schuetze

Simmental cattle originated in the Simme Valley in Switzerland and have been around since the early 1800's, and probably before, but there is little documentation. The first Simmental Herdbook was established in 1890 in Bern that recorded Simmental cattle which were then bred for milk, beef and draft.

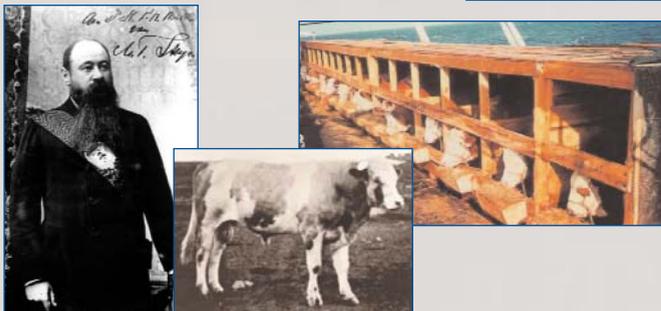


In the late 1800's Swiss Simmentals were exported throughout Europe where different selection traits changed the cattle, as well as their names, and the five strains of Simmental were derived. In Germany and Austria they were called "Fleckvieh", translated into English you have Spotted Cattle or Simmental. In the high valleys and mountains of France the "Abondance" line was started and in Southeastern France the "Mont-beliard" was developed for milk production. In the rest of France the "Pie Rouge de l'Est" became known.

The first documented exports outside of Europe were in 1893 and they went to Namibia.



In 1905 the second documented export was sent to South Africa.



No other exports were seen until 1963 when a group was sent to Brazil and this signaled the start of the beef boom around the world. Argentina, Canada and the USA followed in 1968; the UK and Ireland in 1970; Australia, New Zealand and Uruguay in 1971; Sweden in 1973, Denmark in 1975 and Mexico in 1982.

It is noted that between 1900 and 1929 cattle, not watches, became the number one export product from Switzerland with over 150,000 head being exported during this period.



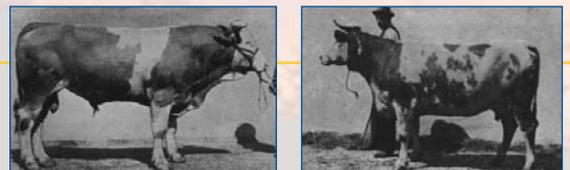
Our history has produced a genetic base that originally was based upon milk, beef and draft because economics forced these issues of importance upon our forefathers. Over the last 150 years economic traits and environments have changed our cattle to what we know them as today within the different environments.

So, how have we changed in types over the last 100 years in the Fleckvieh breed?

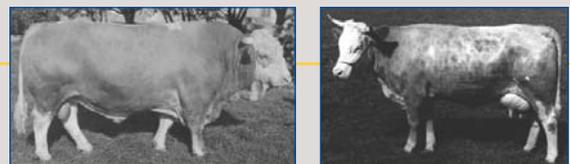
I will let the pictures tell the story.



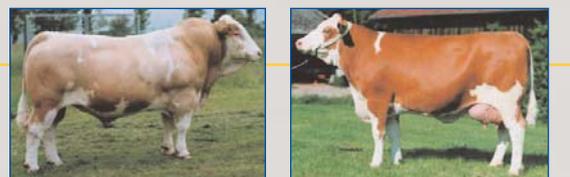
1890



1950



2000





Now, where are we nearly a decade from the turn of the century?

In Europe, where milk is the driving force, Fleckvieh are still dual purpose cattle and selection has maintained it to be a balanced breed, not selected for the extremes.

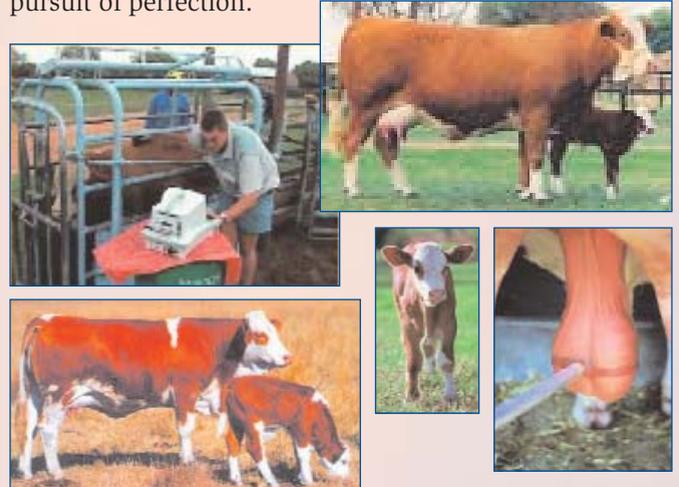
Balanced, productive and highly efficient dual purpose cattle, suitable for the production of milk, beef, and beef by-products, that can be kept in all production systems around the world.



can be kept in all production systems around the world.

Fleckvieh were imported to North America in 1968 and started the pendulum genetic swing from the cattle of the 40's and 50's, that were just over three feet tall, to the large framed, narrow gutless wonders of the 70's and 80's, and then on to a trend toward smaller framed, easy fleshing, thicker cattle with less milk to stay productive on pasture land throughout the US.

Summary was created in 1971 by American Simmental Association, and they continue to lead the field in the pursuit of perfection.



40's & 50's



70's & 80's



2006



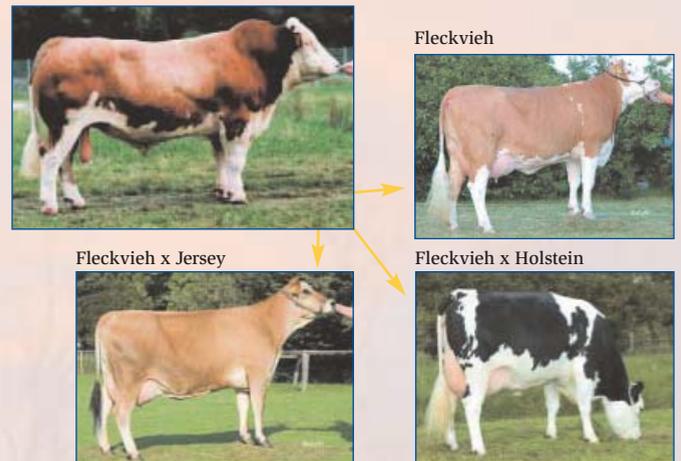
World Congress

1978 2006

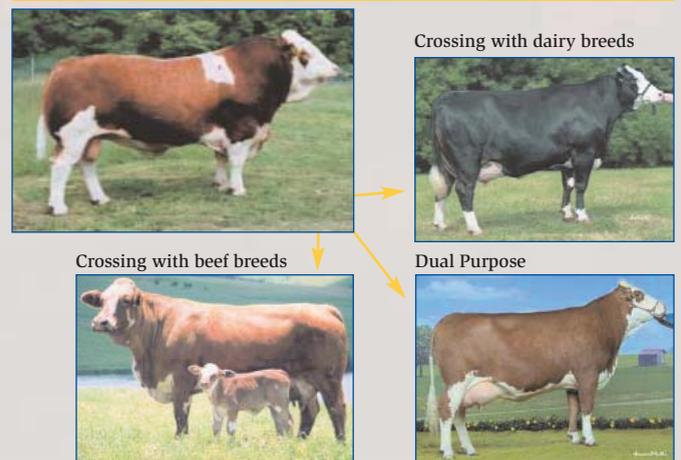


The acceptance of Fleckvieh cattle globally is because of their economic advantages and their adaptability.

Crossbreeding with Dairy Breeds



What is the future of the Fleckvieh Breed?



Performance testing of Simmental cattle started in the early years and weights were a requirement for registration. The first Simmental Sire



Fleckviehs . . .

As one travels around the world it is easy to see why Fleckvieh have maintained such a presence in the beef cattle industry. The numbers of Simmental cattle, in the world population, is second only to Zebu. And, again, the reason is adaptability and proven genetics that are a century old.

In some countries the color has changed and type has been modified to meet environmental and market demands, but the genetic base of Fleckvieh continues to provide the base for superior performance.

Meeting the needs of the cattle industry

Over the last 150 years Fleckviehs have changed also to meet the demands imposed upon them by the environment and the market place. In some countries smaller framed, easy fleshing and calving with less milk and higher carcass quality are issues, along with color. While in others countries, size and color are not an issue and more milk is desirable.

The key issue here is that within the Fleckvieh gene pool there are genetics available to produce the type of cattle needed, and, as long as Fleckvieh breeders don't go to extremes, the cattle will survive as they have done for the last 1 1/2 centuries.

Current Fleckvieh Types

Europe



Australia and New Zealand



South Africa



South America



USA

Moderate Size — Easy Calving — With Depth Of Rib
Good Udders With Adequate Milk — Natural Thickness
Sound Feet And Legs — Carcass Quality

