

REPORTING ABNORMALITIES IN SIMMENTAL AND SIMBRAH CATTLE

The association bylaws provide for the receipt, filing and monitoring of information concerning abnormalities of Simmental and Simbrah animals. Members are encouraged to promptly report all abnormalities to the association. With the aid and counsel of qualified geneticists, every effort will be made to determine the cause and mode of inheritance for every reported defect. Please use this form to report an abnormal animal as soon as it is discovered.

1. Phone ASA immediately to report the incidence and describe the abnormality.
2. If the animal is dead, take photos and freeze the entire carcass if possible. If freezing the intact animal is not practical, freeze the abnormal body part, such as the head, legs, toes, etc.
3. If the animal is alive, document the abnormality thoroughly in writing (see pages 2 and 3), and take photos or a video if possible.
4. A DNA sample is necessary for parental verification. To attain this sample, pull 20-30 hairs out of the animal's switch and store them in a ziplock bag. If their DNA is not already on file, attain hair samples from the animal's sire and dam as well. Submit the sample/samples to ASA to verify parentage as soon as possible. ASA will pay parental verification fees.
5. Some members may be asked to send abnormal calves, dead or alive, to Dr. David Steffen, University of Nebraska, Department of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences, Veterinary Diagnostic Center, Lincoln, NE 68583. Handling and shipping instructions can be explained and discussed at that time. In special cases, arrangements may be made to examine the animal on location, or at another research facility.

Owner Information

Name of Herd Owner: _____

Address: _____

Member

Number: _____ Telephone: _____

Location of Herd: _____ County: _____ State: _____

I certify that the information reported is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

The American Simmental Association has my permission to use this information without restriction.

Signature of owner making report

Signature of attending veterinarian, if applicable

Date: _____

Date: _____

Mail to: American Simmental Association, 1 Simmental Way, Bozeman, MT 59715 USA
Phone: (406) 587-4531 Email: simmental@simmgene.com

Sire Information

Sire Name: _____ Sire ASA Registration Number: _____

Dam Information

Dam Name: _____ Dam ASA Registration Number: _____

Dam Permanent I.D.: _____

Has your herd had other abnormal calves? Yes _____ No _____

If so, describe: _____

Service record of dam for period when affected calf was conceived:

1st service—Date: _____ Bull's Name: _____ Reg. No.: _____

2nd service—Date: _____ Bull's Name: _____ Reg. No.: _____

3rd service—Date: _____ Bull's Name: _____ Reg. No.: _____

Calf Information

Calf Sex: _____ Calf Date of Birth: _____ Twin: _____ Sex: _____ ET: _____ Dead: _____ Alive: _____

Cause of death if determined: _____

Calving difficulty? _____

Was abnormality obvious at birth? Yes _____ No _____

When did you notice it? _____

Did veterinarian see abnormal animal? _____

If so, please list his:

Name: _____ Address: _____ Telephone: _____

Detailed description of affected animal by owner or attending veterinarian (also see next page).

Circle each word that applies to the abnormality you have observed:

General: small large runt weak dwarf mummified inside-out normal other

Muscles: uncoordination spasm missing large contracted normal other

Bones, Joints: missing bones short spine stiff joints normal other

Hide & Hair: hairless abnormal skin development albino normal other

Head: enlarged short thick small wide forehead depression between eyes
bulging forehead peaked opening in forehead normal other

Ears: bent notched long short normal other

Eyes: closed small eyes no eyeballs pop eyes crossed eyes blind
hairs in eyes film over eyes (cataract) normal other

Nose: fused nostrils pug nose wry face hairs in nostril double normal other

Lower Jaw: won't open short long impacted molars absent normal other

Upper Jaw: cleft palate short long absent normal other

Limbs: absent crossed short thickened paralyzed additional legs
crooked reversed cocked ankle absence of dew claw normal other

Feet: toeing out extra feet long hooves one toe only more than two toes
feet turned back normal other

Hips: stiff narrow wide hip bone narrow pin bones normal other

Tail: absent short stub bob wry at angle kinky crooked tail
crooked tail head drags ground two-tailed normal other

Rectum, Vagina: high common opening no anus abnormal sex organs normal other

Abdominal area: hernia incomplete closure other

Central Nervous System: convulsions paralysis uncoordinated

Bleeding: especially from tattoo umbilicus hematoma under skin

ASA Policy on Genetic Defects

Reporting: In order to maintain a viable breed relatively free of undesirable genetic factors and to ensure that today's breeding practices will help tomorrow's Simmental and Simbrah cattle stay free of undesirable traits, it is recommended that every ASA member or breeder of Simmental and Simbrah cattle report the occurrence of an abnormal Simmental and Simbrah animal. In order for said reports to be recognized as authentic and valid, the animal must be DNA sampled to verify parentage. All animals should also be inspected and the defect so diagnosed by a veterinarian or extension specialist.

Abnormal calves should be reported to the ASA Executive Vice President by telephone as soon as they are discovered. Based on the description of the abnormal animal, and depending on whether it is dead or alive, the association may ask the caller to complete an abnormal calf report. This can be done over the telephone, or by the owner or his veterinarian. A DNA sample should be collected from the calf, as well as its sire and dam, and submitted to ASA to verify parentage.

Members are encouraged to send abnormal calves (either dead or alive) to the ASA-approved research facility for examination, or in special cases, the research facility may arrange to examine the animal on location or pick up the animal themselves for examination at their facility.

The ASA will pay the parental validation fees for all abnormal animals and their parents.

To facilitate reporting abnormal Simmental and Simbrah animals, forms will be available on the website, or they can be obtained directly from the ASA office.

Monitoring: The Executive Vice President shall receive, keep on file and monitor all information concerning abnormalities of any Simmental and Simbrah animal. The file shall be cross-referenced by sire, by breeder and by defect; however, the owners' and breeders' names will be kept confidential. A copy of the abnormality report and parental validation will be sent to the ASA-approved research facility. The ASA office and owner of the abnormal animal will each receive a copy of the research facility's findings.

Each case will be handled on an individual basis, and only the individual owner reporting or submitting the abnormal calf report, the association office and the research facility will be informed on the initial diagnosis. An effort will be made to diagnose all cases, whether the problem is genetic or caused by environmental factors.

When in the opinion of the Executive Vice President, or his designate, sufficient evidence is available from research data that an animal is a carrier of a genetic abnormality, the owner of the animal's sire and dam will be notified.

Definition and Special Action: A deleterious genetic factor is defined as one that causes death or impairment of the usefulness of the animal.

The ASA Board of Trustees shall determine which deleterious genetic factors are to receive special attention and monitoring.

Classification: The association shall publish a notation of any sire or dam that has been classified as a proven carrier. The notation will include the deleterious genetic factor or factors the animal possesses. The association may release such information to any of its members who may request the same, without the association or any of its officers, staff or members becoming liable for damages.

The Board of Trustees will determine the criteria by which an animal shall be classified a proven carrier for each genetic abnormality.

A recognized guideline for testing bulls for recessive genes is to mate a bull to at least 35 of its own daughters. If all normal calves result (35 calves from 35 matings), there is a 99.6 percent probability that the bull is free from autosomal recessive genetic abnormalities.

The expense of any test or tests to determine whether an animal is proven free or a proven carrier will be the responsibility of the owner or the semen distributor.

Ethics: The association considers it an unethical practice to offer for sale a breeding animal or semen from an animal which is known to carry a deleterious genetic factor as defined by ASA without first informing the potential buyer or buyers of this fact. Any advertising, descriptive material or pedigree initiated by the owner of a proven carrier of a detrimental genetic factor as defined by ASA shall include a statement defining the deleterious factor or factors which the animal in question possesses. Any effort to conceal such information is considered to be equally unethical.