



Simmental - the Breed of Choice on Monaghan Dairy Farm

Noel Hall, a dairy farmer based at Dooat, Newbliss, Co. Monaghan is an avid user of Simmental Stockbulls and is getting duly rewarded.

Noel runs a 200-cow herd, with 160 milking at any one time. He is producing milk all year round and finds this system best suits his land set up and is the most profitable for him. As a result, calving takes place all year round with where possible the months of June and July skipped. In addition to the Dairy Herd, Noel retains a small number of progeny for sale as weanlings and finished animals.

Cow Type: The cow type on this Monaghan farm is a mix of approximately 50% British Friesian & Holsteins. Recently there has been a small addition of Ayrshire with 20 females purchased.

Bull Type: Currently Noel is running one Frisian and two Simmental stockbulls. Noel finds that this two to one mix between Continental & Friesian stockbulls gives him the ideal number of replacements required. Noel finds the fertility of the Simmental bulls had to beat and says that Simmental bulls are great bulls to keep up with the herd. Noel also finds the Simmental very good



Noel's nephew Jack pictured with his children Lee and Ellen.

on gestation and has no issue at calving. Another advantage for Noel is that calves are quick to their feet and vigorous.

Sales: Its when it comes to his calf sales that Noel is most vocal about the merits of Simmental. Noel sells all his calves at home and finds repeat customers a real pleasure as you know then that your animals are delivering for the farmers who have bought them. He sees his calf sales as a major part of the farm income and according to Noel, "its nice to know that the demand is there for my Simmental X calves, both bulls and heifers".