

IRISH SIMMENTAL

Cattle Society



2020 YEARBOOK

Supermac's

FRESH RANGE

always
fresh
never frozen

100% PRIME IRISH BEEF & IRISH CHICKEN BREAST



CHICKEN BREAST
SANDWICH

WHOLEMEAL GRILLED
CHICKEN SANDWICH
- 350kcal* -

5oz BEEF BURGER

AVAILABLE AT

THE
GALWAY
• PLAZA •

THE
KINNEGAD
• PLAZA •

**BARACK
OBAMA**
• PLAZA •

COMING SOON
THE PORTLAOISE PLAZA

MALLOW
• N20 PLAZA •

**TIPPERARY
TOWN**
• PLAZA •

*Supermac's Supporting Irish farmers since 1978
& proud sponsors of the National Simmental Show 2020*

order online | supermacs.ie

*Calorie count based on chipotle mayonnaise. E&OE. All rights reserved © copyright 2018.

Unbeatable pedigree coverage.

Weekly national show round-ups, reports from premier shows & sales, breeder profiles and reports on Irish born stock overseas.



SHANE MURPHY, PEDIGREE REPORTER





IRISH SIMMENTAL

2020 Pedigree Simmental Sales

Second Spring Sale	Tullamore	Saturday April 18th
Third Spring Sale	Roscommon	Friday May 8th
Premier Autumn	Roscommon	Saturday Oct 24th



Commercial Breeding Heifer Sales

- Tullamore Monday May 4th
- Roscommon Friday May 8th
- Macroom Date TBC
- Ballymote Saturday October 3rd
- Tullamore Monday October 5th
- Ballyjamesduff Date TBC
- Gort Thursday October 15th



National Shows

National Simmental Show	Tullamore	Sunday August 9th
National Calf Finals	Strokestown	Saturday September 5th



For additional information visit irishsimmental.com
Tel: 00353 (0)57 92 24577 Email: info@irishsimmental.com

Presidents Address 2020

A Chairde

Welcome to our Irish Simmental Society Yearbook 2020. It is with great pleasure and pride that I write this presidents address as the first Lady President of the Irish Simmental Society since the breeds first importation into Ireland in 1971.

I am a native of county Limerick and originally from a dairy background. My father Seamus set up the Towerhill prefix in the mid 80's to breed his own stock bull to run with his dairy herd. My passion and appreciation for the breed developed and in 2009 I set up my own Rubyjen prefix. The dairy herd was dispersed in 2008 and we moved fully to a beef enterprise of pedigree and commercial Simmental cattle.

Shows are a vital shop window for our breed and Tullamore Show hosted our 26th National Simmental Show in 2019 with great success. The high quality and number of cattle on display was impressive and a credit to our hard working members. Strokestown show and our National Calf finals was another impressive display of top quality Simmentals. I would like to thank our Young members who are so actively involved at all levels and are the future of our breed. The Irish Simmental Society would also like to thank all our sponsors for their generous and continued support.

Our Autumn Premier sale at Roscommon in October saw a new Society Sale Female record price achieved by Clonagh Jubilant Fabulous for the Behan Family. This Supreme Champion Simmental for 2019 was sold for €18,000 to the Popes Herd in the UK. The sale saw a good clearance for Bulls with 75% of the Bulls on offer being sold and also saw an increase in the average selling price from our 2018 sale. Our Commercial heifer continues to be in high demand as evident from our Breeding heifer sales in Roscommon, Ballymote, Tullamore and Gort therefore solidifying the Simmental cow as a top choice of Suckler dam.



I would like to thank the current council and the outgoing interim committee for their continued commitment and hard work for all our members. I commend all club officers around the country for giving so freely of their time in what can often be a thankless job.

I would like to thank our office staff, namely Peadar Glennon who continues to work so hard for the betterment of the society and its members. Also to Carol McGrath who has worked tirelessly and professionally for the society for the last 14 years. Unfortunately Carol is moving on from us and I would like to wish her well in her future endeavours. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Marian Pilkington, who is taking over Carols position and wish her the best of luck with her new role in the society.

Last year was a very challenging year for both the Society and the Beef industry. I would like to remind breeders that our Simmental breed is a very versatile and useful breed within the national herd and we as breeders need to be unified in promoting the Simmental breed to the heights that it deserves.

Finally, I would like to wish all Simmental breeders well for the year ahead.

Yours Faithfully
Jennie Aherne
ISCS President

CURAHEEN GUNSHOT P (SI4147)



Eurostar Index ICBF Jan 2020

Within Breed	Index	Euro Value	Reliability	Across Breeds
***	Replacement	€110	61%	*****
*****	Terminal	€102	88%	***

Expected Progeny Performance

Within Breed	Key Profit Trait	Index Value	Reliability	Across Breeds
*****	Docility	0.18	98%	*****
*****	Carcass Weight	34.6Kg	94%	*****
*****	Carcass Conformation	1.82	92%	*****



- ◆ **Gunshot Progeny Continue to Excel Through Irish Pedigree Circuits**
- ◆ **Gunshot Has Sired Many High Priced Bulls at Society Sales In 2019 Including Top Priced Male In Roscommon Premier Show & Sale In November at €6300**
- ◆ **Mature Cows Only**
- ◆ **Semen Royalty Sire**



Source of Figures:
ICBF, Jan. 2020



CONTENTS

PRESIDENTS ADDRESS

Presidents Address	1
--------------------	---

NEWS

Council Members 2020	5
Western Club Openday	6
Hall of Fame	10
Simmental All-Star Award Winner 2019	12
Obituaries	14
Cornwall Trip to Ireland	16
Honorary Life Membership / Canada National Judge	17
Simmental Delivering for Beef Finishers	18
Simmental for Sustainability	20
Recommended Judges '20	22

NATIONAL SHOWS

Tullamore	25
Strokestown	35
Strokestown	37
Commercial Show Winners	41
Commercial	43
Young Members	44
Claremorris Heifer Championship	47

SOCIETY SALES

Roscommon March Premier	48
Tullamore April	54
Roscommon May	58
Roscommon October Premier	59

CLUBS

North East	67
North West	73
Southern Club	75
South East	82
South West	88
West	92

PEDIGREE REGISTRATIONS

Pedigree Registrations	98
------------------------	----

SIRE DIRECTORY

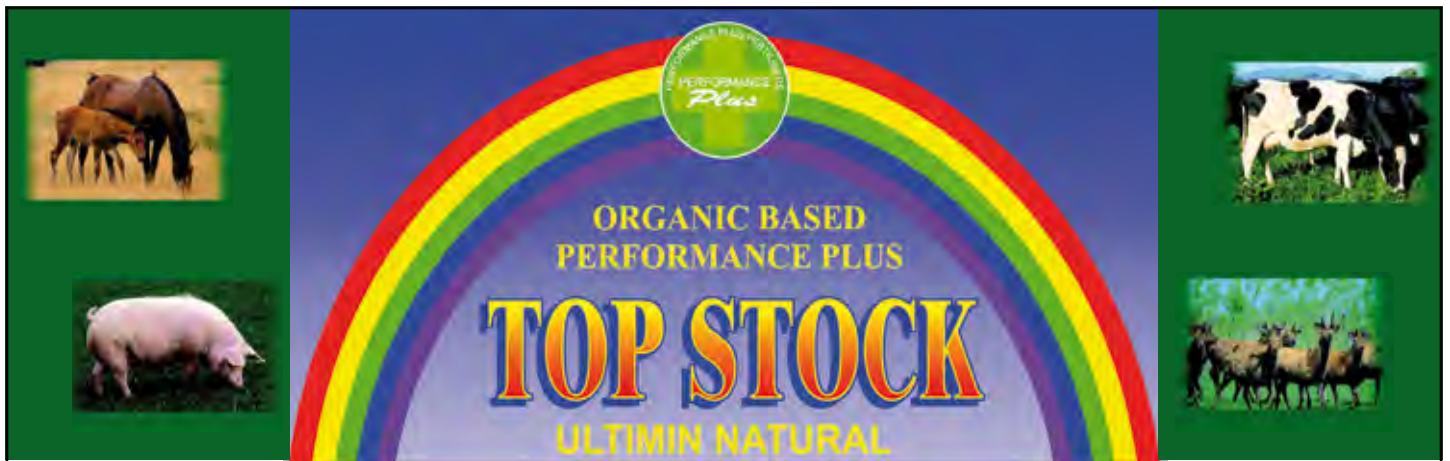
Sire Directory	99
----------------	----

Irish Simmental Cattle Society
44 Church Street,
Tullamore, Co. Offaly.
R35 C1K6

Cover Picture by Agri Images.

Design: Bottlegreendesign, Cavan. 086 3764843. Print: Turners Printing Company, (043) 335 0500.

Disclaimer: While the utmost care has been taken by the Irish Simmental Cattle Society Publications Committee, to ensure all information is correct at time of print, they are not responsible for any errors or omissions which may have occurred.



THE UNIQUE ANIMAL FEED SUPPLEMENT!

TOP STOCK

- * UNIQUE SEAWEED BASED FOR CATTLE AND SHEEP
- * IMPROVED FERTILITY, THRIVE AND FOOD CONVERSION
- * TOP BREEDERS AND FARMERS RECOMMEND IT

FULL DETAILS FROM:

P.J. or Ogie Farrelly, Virginia, Co. Cavan

Tel: 049 - 854 7076 Mobile: 087 - 259 1047

Email: ogie@topstock.iol.ie

* AGENCIES AVAILABLE

BREED MERCHANDISE



IRISH SIMMENTAL



FARM WARDROBE
www.farm-wardrobe.com

					
REGATTA UNISEX DOVER JACKET - €49.20	RUSSELL HYDRAPLUS LADIES & GENTS JACKET - €65.00	REGATTA UPROAR LADIES & GENTS JACKET - €49.20	PAPINI ELITE POLO - €20.00	PAPINI UNISEX FULL ZIP ADULT HOODY - €33.00	PAPINI UNISEX ADULT HOODY - €30.75
					
TOGGI LADIES SANDOWN JACKET - €67.00 ESHER GILET - €49.20	TOGGI MENS KENDAL JACKET - €79.00 TIVERTON GILET - €60.00	RESULT MENS ICEFELL JACKET - €72.00	YISA ADULT HOODY - €35.00	KUSTOM KIT MENS LONG SLEEVE SHIRT - €30.00 SHORT SLEEVE - €27.00	KUSTOM KIT LADIES LONG SLEEVE SHIRT - €30.00 SHORT SLEEVE - €27.00
					
FORTRESS SUTTON MENS GILET - €38.00	REGATTA LADIES & GENTS FLUX BODYWARMER - €37.00	UNEK UNISEX POLO SHIRT - €16.60	REGATTA CHILD DOVER JACKET - €33.50	PAPINI CHILD HOODY - €25.50	UNEK CHILD POLO SHIRT - €13.50
					
ADULT SHOWCOAT - €29.00 CHILD SHOWCOAT - €23.50	BASEBALL CAP - €10.00		BEANIES - €8.00	BOBBIE HATS €10.00	



Go to www.farm-wardrobe.com for a full range of sizes, colours and personalisation options!

FARM WARDROBE
BALLIN FARM | DELVIN | CO WESTMEATH
TEL: 044 9664755
Email: alison@farm-wardrobe.com

Council Members 2020



JENNIE AHERNE
President, Rubyjen Simmentals

Towerhill House,
Cappamore,
Co. Limerick.

Tel: 087-6336461



LIAM MARTIN
*Vice President,
Knocanroe Simmentals*

Millbrook, Templeberry,
Nenagh, Co. Tipperary.

Tel: 087-6181041



EMMANUAL O'DEA
*Treasurer, Koilescaul
Simmentals*

Esker, Athenry,
Co. Galway.

Tel: 086-6014783



GARRETT BEHAN
Clonagh Simmentals

Cloneygowan,
Ballyfin, Portlaoise,
Co. Laois.

Tel: 086-8167309



ANN CORCORAN
Berrywel Simmentals

Cloonshanbo,
Claremorris,
Co. Mayo.

Tel: 085-1281240



WILLIAM COTTER
Dripsey Simmentals

Model Village,
Dripsey, Co. Cork.

Tel: 086-8566408



FERGAL DOHERTY
Bighill Simmentals

Upper Devlin Reagh,
Carrigart, Letterkenny,
Co. Donegal.

Tel: 086 3320891



JOHN FINNEGAN
Leeherd Simmentals

Nadrid, Coachford,
Co. Cork.

Tel: 086-8240258



JOE KELLY
Mount Simmentals

Mount, Ballynacally,
Ennis, Co. Clare.

Tel: 086-2675094



PAUL MCARDLE
Broomfield Simmentals

Drumlandrick,
Broomfield,
Castleblaney,
Co. Monaghan.

Tel: 086-1760896



CHRIS WHITE
*Dermotstown
Simmentals*

Dermotstown,
Balbriggan, Co. Dublin.

Tel: 087-0506524



Peadar Glennon
Chief Operations Manager



Marian Pilkington
Office Administration & Accounts

OFFICE STAFF

Western Simmental Hold Openday in Association with Teagasc on Mayo Suckler Farm

Calving at 2 Years of Age and Buying the Right Cow with Stars are Key Messages at Open Day.

The key messages focused on calving at 24 months of age and Buying the right cattle with stars at a recent open day in Mayo organised by the Western Simmental Club in conjunction with Teagasc. This event took place on the farm of Martin McNicholas & Family, Kilmaine, Co. Mayo on Sunday September 8th and a very impressive display of cattle was matched by herd performance data which shows the herd performing highly in areas such as weaning weight, calving interval and progeny performance to slaughter.

Martin runs a 30 Suckler Cow herd, selling all progeny as weanlings and highlights the importance of a low input system as key to herd profitability in these difficult times for Suckler farming. In establishing his herd, Martin decided on Simmental as his preferred breed and subsequently purchased foundation females at the special Ballymote Simmental sale and has built his herd from this base.



Western Simmental Club Member and Council Member Emmanuel O'Dea addressing the gathering at the openday.

Recognising the potential value in breeding replacement heifers, Martin runs a Simmental bull with his cows. The bull presently on farm is a Milnafua Graduate son Bearnna-Dhearg Freddie purchased in Roscommon in November 2015. This impressive bull is a trait leader for Replacement Value, Carcase Weight and Docility. Martin now sells replacement weanling heifers at both the Ballymote and Gort specially organised Simmental X Breeding Heifer Sales.



Eoghain, Colette, Leah, Michaela, Martin & Aiesha McNicholas pictured with the Teagasc representatives Vivian Silke and Kevin Madden and Western Simmental Club Chairman Sean Larkin at the event in Kilmaine.



Pictured at a presentation from the Western Simmental Club to the McNicholas family are Ann Corcoran Secretary, Martin McNicholas, Sean Larkin Chairman, Colette McNicholas & Gerry Neenan Club Treasurer.

Coordinating proceedings on the day was Sean Larkin, Chairman of the Western Simmental Club and the main speakers included Vivian Silke and Kevin Madden both Teagasc with Emmanuel O'Dea Simmental breeder.

Kevin Madden, Teagasc highlighted the exceptional performance of the herd in terms of replacement traits over the past 5 years. Currently the herd is sitting in the top 4%

nationally for these traits having an average replacement index of €116 up from €87 in 2014. The herd also had an incredible 1.12 calves per cow in 2018, with an average calving interval of 366 days. A number of cows were presented on the day to highlight the herd's efficiency. In fact one of the cows focused on had reared 8 calves in 5 years with a calving interval of 381 days.

**Stockbull
"Bearna-
Dhearg
Freddie"**





The advantages of calving heifers at close to 24 months was discussed in detail with Vivian Silke, Teagasc, outlining the cost savings involved by moving to this system while have data to confirm that heifers calving younger tend to remain longer in herds. While calving younger may not suit all systems there was general agreement that it is a move farmers must consider in order to reduce costs and increase overall returns.

Emmanuel O'Dea, Simmental Breeder and Council member outlined the importance to Suckler Farmers of selecting quality cattle as well as selecting stars. He stressed that too many farmers rushed out and selected solely on stars and while now have a herd with high evaluations, overall performance in most cases will not match the expectation. However he highlighted Martin McNicholas's cows as the ideal mix between top quality cows and stars to

match. An example of this was the excellent performance of the bull calves which had an average Daily gain of 1.5kg/day at weaning, with some bulls producing 400kg U grade carcass weights at 14/15 months. This is in line with recent results from ICBF's Tully test centre where 12 of 23 Simmental x bulls were slaughtered at 13 Months with a top Carcass weight of 404kgs.

It was also evident to all present that this herd has an abundance of milk resulting in no creep feeding been required to get weaning to hit their weaning targets. In fact in one paddock three cows were displayed each rearing a set of twins without meal assistance was displayed. This coupled with the performance data presented highlighted the strength of the Simmental breed for both maternal and terminal qualities.





HALL OF FAME

Riverbank Simmentals



Liam Waldron - Scrigg, Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo.

Having seen Simmental cattle at various Shows, on the farms of the Keanes & Tierneys in Mayo and also witnessing the ability of the breed commercially, Liam decided that he would start his own Pedigree Simmental Herd. Finally after some more research and careful consideration, Liam found the female he was looking for on the farm of Gerry Donnelly, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway and duly purchased Lowland Kersey who was bred by Jackie Hennessey, Co. Limerick. This Donner sired heifer was out of Corah Heather and thus the Riverbank Herd was founded in 1990. Liam's first calf from this Simmental cow, a Hurtig bull calf Riverbank Bimbo was registered in 1991. Further purchases followed from the Drum and Gortin Herds at Roscommon Simmental Sales in the following years as Liam continued to build his herd. Liam used all A.I. in the early years and many of the bulls used included Hurtig, Gretnahouse Supersonic, Dirnanean Nuggett and Enfield Benz.

Liam has regularly over the years shown his cattle at various Club Shows, also in National Classes and has also been a keen supporter of Society Sales. Liam was also a keen supporter of the National Test Centre at Tully. Liam has on two occasion's topped the performance test at Tully with Riverbank Pedro and Riverbank Rover. Pedro was sired by Ballyduff Jeweller out of a homebred Wellhouse Willem cow, Riverbank Hanna, while Rover was a Raceview



Minister Kevin Boxer Moran presenting the Hall of Fame Award to Liam Waldron.

King bull out of another homebred Enfield Benz cow, Riverbank Frankie. Liam also topped the sale at Tully in 2010 with Riverbank Atlantic, a Glebefarm Tyson son out of a Marblehill Liam dam, Riverbank Primrose. In fact this bull was later purchased by Brian Boyle, Riverstown Simmentals, Dundalk, Co. Louth as a Pedigree Stock bull.

Another of Liam's major contributions to the breed is undoubtedly his passion and belief in the Simmental Breed which he instilled into his neighbours, the Neenan Brothers. Anywhere that Farna and now Limehill cattle are being shown Liam is never too far away willing to help and encourage.

Liam, a regular at all Western Club Events, has over the years established a vast number of lifelong friends through his involvement in Simmental cattle. There is no doubt that there are many more who will get to know Liam in the years to come.



Liam Waldron pictured with his sisters (L-R) Rita Mooney, Christina Kilduff, Margaret Fitzgerald and Josephine Nally.

PEDIGREE BREEDERS SIMMENTAL ALL-STAR AWARD WINNER 2019

Jubilant Fabulous is leading Lady at Tullamore:

I am once again honoured to be penning a tribute to another National show champion, our leading lady for 2019, “Clonagh Jubilant Fabulous”. She topped our most memorable day at Butterfield Estate by taking the senior female, overall female and overall supreme championship making it our eighth supreme championship at Tullamore National Livestock Show in 10 years.

It was an unforgettable day for us in the field of dreams, a day that will be hard matched by ourselves again with our team taking multi championships in both the male and female sections. Even more humbling was that the senior female championship line up was made up entirely of Clonagh heifers, from the reigning queen and Miss World, “Clonagh Darling Eyes”, her daughter “Clonagh Hazel Eyes”, “Clonagh Jenny Fabulous”, “Clonagh Java Klassik Girl” and last but not least especially in my eyes, “Clonagh Jubilant Fabulous”. The only thing missing from the line up was a “Jennalyn” animal but I’ll keep working on that one.

Jubilant certainly lived up to her name on the day and even though I was at the end of the halter, she showed herself to perfection each time she entered the ring never putting a foot wrong, an absolute dream to show. Her catwalk strut obviously caught the eye of Scottish judge

Clonagh Jubilant Fabulous

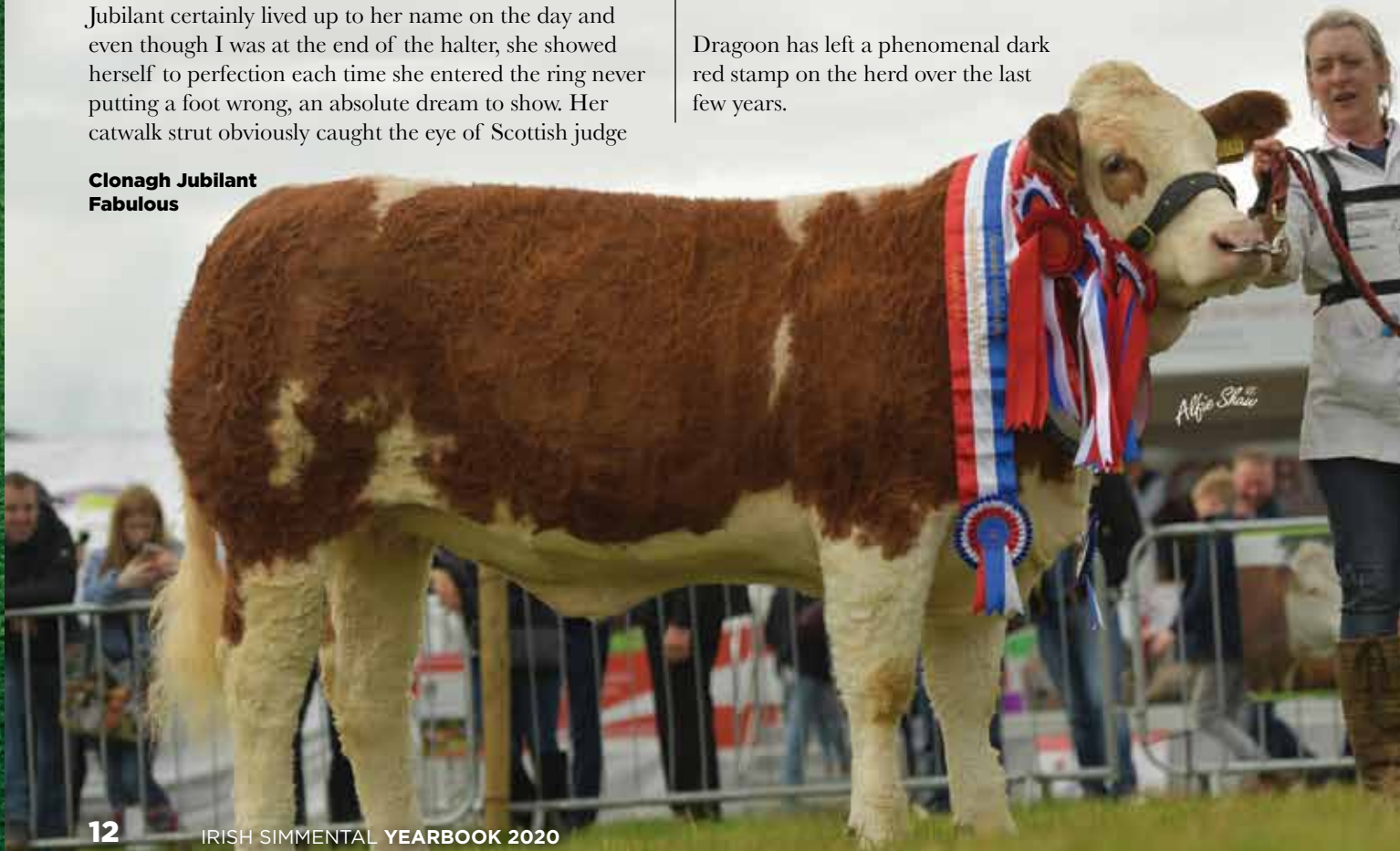
Anne MacPherson, pulling her in early in her National class and following her the whole way through to the overall championship.

During the parade of champions it was announced that Jubilant would be offered for sale as a part of our 30th Anniversary Draft Sale in Roscommon. We would have loved to retain her regardless of her performance at Tullamore, but she has always been at the top of list of elite heifers we had in mind to sell.

She was later sold at the Premier Sale for a new society sale female record price of €18,000 to the renowned Popes herd, of Jimmy and Vikki Wood family, Lancashire, UK. It was a fitting end to a wonderful year with Jubilant, if she was Princess of Tullamore she was certainly Queen of Roscommon.

Without doubt Jubilant optimises the next chapter at Clonagh, cementing the magic combination that is Kilbride Farm Dragoon daughters out of Banwy T-Rex dams.

Dragoon has left a phenomenal dark red stamp on the herd over the last few years.





Pictured at the presentation of the Simmental All-Star Award are Mairead Lavery IFJ, Tom, Garrett & Lyndsey Behan with Jennie Aherne President ISCS.

He is the sire and now grandsire of numerous National Show and sale champions and of both of our herd record prices for both males and females at €12,500 and €18,000, respectively.

This year alone he has bred six National champions for us. Dragoon was purchased privately from the Robson family in Northern Ireland with his pedigree being an ideal cross for our herd. He was an exceptionally clean bodied bull with extreme muscle. When purchased he also had an impressive set of performance figures behind him having scanned at 142, the highest scan ever at Kilbride giving him an eye muscle of +7.2, which ranked him in the top 0.01% of the breed.

Jubilant's dam, "Clonagh Delightfully Fabulous" is one of three full sisters by Banwy T-Rex out of "Clonagh Shania Babe", "Extra Fabulous" and the multi awarding winning "Absolutely Fabulous" being the other two, both of whom have bred exceptionally well.

Shania herself is one of five flush sisters by Dovefields Gallant out of Clonagh Edel and is still fresh faced and skipping around the fields of Cloneygowan at 15 years old. She goes back to Clonaslee Wanda who was purchased by Garrett himself using his communion money in 1990. It's testament to his belief in that line that some 30 years later the genetics are still playing a pivotal part in the herd's performance.



Garrett Behan pictured receiving the Miss World award in Canada November 2019.

When paying tribute to Jubilant, I cannot forget her fabulous grandsire, the loveable legend and King of the Ring, "Banwy T-Rex". Three times Overall Simmental of Year himself and now his daughters hold four titles, while a granddaughter has one. Readers will already know the esteem we hold on this bull so all we'll say is, "thank you T!"

It goes without saying that help never goes unnoticed at Clonagh so we would once again like to extend our thanks to our super team of helpers throughout the year. The past 30 years would not have been possible without our fantastic families for establishing both of our herds and encouraging their development throughout the years. Our love of Simmental cattle brought us together and we look forward to another 30 years with our Simmental family and friends.

Lyndsey Behan



MARY JOE O'DEA (RIP)

On August 29th 2019 Mary Joe O'Dea (RIP), Esker, Athenry, Co. Galway passed away. Well known in farming circles for the "Esker Pedigrees" sheep and cattle herd she ran with her husband PJ, she was passionate about farming and had been an active member of Macra na Ferma and the IFA, including as the Farm Family rep for Co. Galway for a number of years. Always ready to fight for farmer's rights, she participated in many national protests and lobbied hard for farming issues.



From early days Mary Joe loved the breed, but it was the people that she enjoyed the most. Many of the breeders that welcomed her into the Simmental family became lifelong friends. She always enjoyed attending Western Simmental Club meetings and contributing to any discussions there. She was never afraid to ask hard questions, but equally she praised the efforts of breeders where praise was due.

She is mostly remembered for her continual desire for things to be straight and transparent and her quick wit if she ever needed to make a retort!

The Koilescaul Simmental herd was established in 1989 when Mary Joe and her son Emmanuel purchased their first Simmental heifer at the Roscommon premier sale. That first purchase has had a lasting influence on the herd with many descendants including one granddaughter still breeding in the herd.

Mary Joe and her husband PJ were always together at shows or sales and enjoyed many farm tours to the UK and Europe to see pedigree stock from other countries. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam.

PETER CARROLL (RIP)

Derry Simmental Herd.

On December 20th, 2019, Peter Carroll of the Derries, Mountbolus, Co. Offaly passed away at 89 years of age. Peter was very well known in the Simmental World since setting up his Derry Herd many years ago.



Peter was a humble, modest and unassuming man who left a positive impression on anyone whoever met him. Peter was very well liked and known as a great community man.

Peter had great success with the herd at shows

and sales and sold animals to farmers throughout the country. Some of his proudest achievements included exhibiting winners at his local Tullamore Show.

Peter sold most of his breeding bulls and heifers from home and built up a great customer base with many customers returning.

Peter passed his pride and interest in Simmental cattle to his nephew Shane Carroll who bought Peter's breeding herd and proudly maintains the Derry herd bloodlines. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam.

KEVIN WALSH (RIP)

On January 14th 2020, Kevin Walsh of Brackloonagh, Charlestown, Co. Mayo passed away at the age of 83.



Kevin first fell in love with the Simmental breed at the RDS Spring Show in 1989 where he had a chance encounter with two prominent breeders, Michael Tiernan of the Cranmore Herd in Co. Mayo and Pat Lynch of the Castleoma Herd in Co. Cork. Following this encounter and subsequent discussions regarding the merits of the breed, Kevin's love for the Simmental breed was born.

Kevin was subsequently invited by Michael Tiernan to visit his herd outside of Ballyhaunis where he ended up purchasing his first two Simmental weanling heifers which was a proud moment for him. Several months later Kevin purchased two more heifers from James Loughran of the Fanerange Herd in Co. Louth. The final two foundation cows were purchased from

Gearoid Mulligan who ran the Colmcille Herd in Co. Longford. With his breeding females in place Kevin duly established the Sycamore Herd in 1990.

Kevin's priority was that the animals were well conformed and pleasing to the eye and most importantly were quiet in their nature. Sycamore animals were always handled as Kevin spent endless time with them from calves right through to their adult stage. Kevin knew every animal and their

ways, and they certainly knew his kind approach and handling towards them.

Over the course of the next number of years Kevin showed Simmental cattle at many local shows and exhibited at the National Ploughing Championships. Kevin was very proud of his Simmental Herd which he ran in later years jointly with his eldest son Chris. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam.

JOE RYAN (RIP)

On February 13th, 2020 Joe Ryan (RIP), Kyleadoher, Mullinahone, Co. Tipperary passed away at the age of 69. Joe was a very progressive farmer and established his Woodside Simmental Herd in 1987 to run alongside his dairy herd.



Joe's interest in the Simmental Breed was ignited by the Sweetman Family also from Mullinahone and in fact his first purchase from Alfred Sweetman was Island Rose, a Faust daughter out of Star Melody. In 1994 one of Joe's most recognisable animals was born when Star Polly produced Woodside Eve. Polly proved difficult to breed and it was through lots of hard work, time and effort that resulted in Eve arriving into the herd, to Joe's delight. This Kilcloran Tornado sired heifer went on to have a great show and breeding career. Winning the much-coveted Simmental of the Year in 1995 with Eve was his proudest moment in Simmentals, especially considering that Eve was only one year and nine months old at the time.

In 2001, Joe and his Woodside Herd were honoured

when winning the Overall BLUP Award for the highest ranked Simmental Herd in Ireland. The Woodside Herd also topped the Tully Performance Test with Bulls on two occasions.

Showing Simmentals was a family affair and Joe's wife Breda and sons Derek, Alan and Niall have very fond memories travelling to shows and sales with stock from their Woodside Herd. Not forgetting Joe's cousin Aidan, who looked after the animals with Joe and who was

always willing to help.

In later years when dairying became the more focused enterprise on the farm, Joe always made room for his Simmental Cattle and loved meeting the many friends he had made through his involvement with the Simmental Breed. Joe's involvement on the farm at Kyleadoher was hugely evident right through his short illness and up to the time of his passing and his presence and input will be sadly missed. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam.



Cornwall Simmental Club trip to Ireland

The Cornwall club, and friends, gathered like swallows

For their annual trip 'far away'
 This year to the 'Emerald Isle' and
 To Athlone we were destined to stay
 Off the plane, on the bus and to Dermotstown
 Home of 'Del Boy' that good A.I.Sire
 Chris White welcomed us to his small herd
 And showed us fine cattle we all could admire
 We got a soaking with good Irish rain
 Then 'dripped' in their kitchen for a drink
 We had wonderful warm hospitality
 But were so damp we thought we might shrink!
 On Sunday we travelled to Tullamore
 A show of cattle to gladden your heart
 Class after class of great animals
 Running smoothly, stewards playing their part

One of our party, Chairman, dear Barrie
 The Young Handlers to judge he was asked
 It was all a bit 'last minute'
 But 'suited' he coped so well with the task
 For one family, a show to remember
 Garret Behan's Clonagh herd swept the board
 Winning male, female and overall champion
 Years of breeding and hard work reaped reward
 We met many old friends, some new
 In that special friendly Simmental way
 Sharing our real passion for the breed
 An 'addiction' that forever will stay
 On Monday we travelled to Hillcrest
 Meeting the 'unique' man Padge Mulhare
 We were shown the herd's beautiful cattle
 High on the farm in the warm August air

The views were absolutely stunning
 The cattle looked great on the green
 With acres and acres to graze on

A most peaceful sight there to be seen
 We were generously treated to a pub lunch
 Learning more about our host as we chat
 He's a passion for Drama and Antiques
 And good 'Simmies', no doubt about that
 Due to ill health all cattle are to be sold
 At a sale I'm sure many will be
 With a chance to buy excellent cattle
 Another 'end of an era' sad to see
 We travelled then on to the Coose herd
 Meeting John Tuohy and his son at the farm
 Our jaws dropped with a fair bit of envy
 At the sight of his building, No stone Barn!
 But an array of sparkling metal barriers
 Gates, and concrete, yards and more gates!
 Lovely cattle all grazing quietly, unaware of
 The luxury accommodation that awaits

We saw some very smart females and young bulls
 That many would like to take home
 We were joined by some other breeders
 From farms far and wide they had come
 The herd is a herd 'going places'
 With a young man incredibly keen
 If the cattle are as good as his building
 They'll be the best that anyone's seen!
 The Tuohy family laid on a grand BBQ
 For us and the folk from elsewhere
 A wonderful feast with conversation
 Discussing the problems all beef breeders share
 All the laughter and friendship and chatter
 Made our short visit to Ireland such fun
 Thank you so much, we hope you'll visit Cornwall
 Land of Cream teas and Pasties and Sun
 (and some very good Simmentals !!)

Penny Lally August 2019



Honorary Life Membership Award

In November 2019 the outgoing Council of ISCS presented Padge Mulhare of Hillcrest Simmental with an Honorary Life Membership Award, recognising Padge's service, dedication and contribution to the Simmental breed over many years.



Bertie Houston President making the presentation of the Honorary Life Membership Award to Padge Mulhare at the ISCS AGM.



Council Members pictured with Padge Mulhare following the presentation.

In November Limerick breeder Jennie Aherne travelled to Canada to judge their National Show

Shane Murphy speaks with Jennie Aherne following her appointment as Canadian National Simmental show judge for 2019.

East Limerick woman Jennie Aherne was recently invited to judge the Canadian and Ontario Simmental Association's 2019 National Simmental Show on Sunday 3 November. The show hosted by the 97th Royal Agricultural Winter Fair (RAWF) in downtown Toronto is set to attract about 170 Simmental cattle.

The RAWF has been recognised as the most prestigious livestock and equestrian exhibition in eastern Canada. It has evolved to become the largest indoor agricultural event in the world, welcoming over 300,000 visitors annually. More than 33,000 people in 81 countries watched the show online in 2018 and that is only expected to increase in 2019.

While Jennie may not have started her own Rubyjen herd until 2009, she played a key role in her father's successful Towerhill herd from a very young age. This involvement at both shows and sales sparked the initial interest the keen young Simmental breeder now has.



Here she answers the Irish Farmers Journal's questions:

Why Simmentals?

"We chose Simmentals having always run a Simmental bull with our dairy herd. The breed suited our system – a docile, fertile cow with an abundance of milk and bulls capable of finishing at 16 months and younger. We regularly ran freshly calved Simmental cows through the milking parlour such was their great milk ability."

What is your biggest achievement in the breed?

"My first calf under the Rubyjen prefix, Rubyjen Axel, collected eight red rosettes from nine days out in 2009, including Celtic Sires male champion and national bull calf champion. In 2017, Rubyjen Harrys Foxy was Champion at the Tullamore Society spring sale and topped the sale at €6,600 at just 11 months old. He was the first calf off my successful show heifer Rubyjen Foxy Zoe. On the same day Foxy's maternal brother Rubyjen Here's Johnny sold to Progressive Genetics, was added to the Gene Ireland list of bulls that autumn and is currently on the Progressive Genetics spring catalogue."

What positions have you held with the society?

"I served on the society national council for

six years, which I completed in late 2017. I've re-joined council in January of this year. I've served as secretary of the South Western club for the last three years and continue to do so. I was co-ordinator of the Simmental Society's young members during my six-year council term and have also resumed this position in 2019.

What judging experience do you have?

"I've judged at various local shows around Ireland since I was added to the Irish Simmental Society list of judges in 2014, as well as the society Roscommon bull sale in May 2016. The highlight so far in my judging career was to be asked to judge the Scottish Simmental club's national show in Inverness in 2016. This was a huge honour. In the nine years of its existence I was only the second Irish person to have judged this event.

What type of animal do you like?

An animal must be correct – to have legs and feet right is very important. I like a bit of style in an animal and good conformation. Docility also ranks highly on my list and it goes without saying a cow must have enough milk to rear a calf. Simmental are a maternal breed first."

What does it mean to be asked to judge at the National in Canada?

"Unexpected but an unbelievable honour! There were five names put forward for judging and on the day of the voting at the AGM in early March it came down to four, myself being the only international judge. It took a while to sink in after I got the phone call, but I'm really excited for the experience of it."

Simmental Delivers for Beef Finishers

The terminal qualities of the Simmental breed have been largely underrated over the past number of years. We have always believed that Simmentals can achieve the greatest weight gain for age and I would just like to highlight that the data does support this

view. ICBF have been testing commercial cattle since 2012 in Tully and looking at the main continental breeds there were 1148 young bulls from the suckler herd tested. Just looking at the raw figures the Simmental breed has the largest live weight and the youngest age at slaughter of all the breeds.

Breed	Samples	Start Age	Slaughter Age	Initial Weight	Final Live Weight	Carcass Weight	Avg Grade
SI	210	375	480	499.8	703.8	404.20	U=
BB	166	378	486	482.9	684.1	415.97	U+
CH	266	380	486	495.8	694.9	411.90	U=
LM	506	383	489	474.3	667.8	396.51	U=

Looking specifically at the daily gain figures, Simmentals bulls have had the highest daily gains both pre-trial and overall from birth (based on a birth weight of 42Kg for all breeds). Compensatory growth always needs to be considered when looking at the results of

the trials. In basic terms if animals have not achieved their optimum growth pre-trial they have more capacity to do higher thrive on trial. Because the Simmentals had the highest pre-trial daily-gain, they would have had the lowest capacity for compensatory growth.

Breed	Pre-Trial ADG	On-Trial ADG	Total_ADG	Carcass Weight DG	Feed Efficiency	Terminal Index
SI	1.22	2.06	1.39	0.85	6.94	78.50
BB	1.17	2.01	1.33	0.86	6.78	100.95
CH	1.20	2.08	1.36	0.86	6.75	96.24
LM	1.13	1.97	1.29	0.82	6.49	95.06

The results of the suckler steers are even more emphatic. At first viewing the Simmental steers have the lowest carcass weights and the lowest grading but those results are greatly affected by the fact that they were (on average) 50 days

younger than the CH and LM steers when slaughtered and 80 days younger than the BB steers. It is hard to understand why there was such a difference in the ages when starting the trials.

Sire Breed	Count	Start Age	Slaughter Age	Initial Weight	Final Live Weight	Carcass Weight	Avg Grade
SI	112	486	583	520.2	660.3	361.82	R=
CH	126	534	631	549.9	670.2	377.89	R+
LM	204	537	632	527.9	649.8	370.14	R+
BB	24	566	664	564.1	673.5	387.89	U-

The actual breed performance is clearer when you look at the daily gain figure. Not only had the Simmental steers the highest pre-trial daily gain, but they had a significantly higher daily gain on trial despite being 2-3 months

younger starting the trial. Again due to their age they would have the lowest capacity for compensatory growth. It also needs to be highlighted that they also had the best Feed efficiency figures on the trial.

Breed	Pre-Trial ADG	On-Trial ADG	Total_ADG	Carcass Weight DG	Feed Efficiency	Terminal Index
SI	0.99	1.51	1.07	0.63	9.44	73.65
BB	0.96	1.32	1.01	0.61	10.57	89.53
CH	0.91	1.36	0.98	0.60	9.90	88.75
LM	0.93	1.21	0.97	0.59	13.07	91.99

The perception is that you use a Simmental bull to improve the maternal traits in your herd. What is not being acknowledged is the significant terminal gains that will be achieved as well. Based on the data we are weaker than the other breeds in kill-out percentage, however I believe that our significantly younger age of slaughter is part if the reason for this. The purpose of the Tully trials is to improve the

accuracy of the data feeding into the Terminal Index. It is hard to understand how the terminal index of the Simmental breed is so low, when you look at the relative performance of the Simmental animals on the trials. Therefore, it is imperative on all Simmental Breeders to highlight and promote the excellent beefing qualities of the Simmental breed.

Emmanuel O'Dea.



417 Kg Carcase at 14 Months Grade U+3-



Simmental for Sustainability

Over the past 12 months the climate credentials of the national suckler herd has been put under intense scrutiny, with some people claiming that we need to reduce our suckler herd to achieve our 2030 targets. The reality is that Irelands GHG¹ emissions target for 2030 (17.5 to 19 MT) was easily achieved as recently as 2011, when there were over 1 million calves born from the suckler herd.

Regardless of this, as a sector we have to focus on improving or environmental efficiency even more to avoid a climate crises and the best way to measure environmental efficiency is to calculate how much GHG is produced per Kg of carcass. There is a direct link between how much an animal consumes and the amount of

GHG it creates. For this reason the two most important traits for reducing emissions is Feed Efficiency and Age of Slaughter.

Feed Efficiency

The importance of feed efficiency is pretty straight forward. Looking specifically at two batches of bulls that were tested in Tully; Intake 44 was a batch of suckler bulls slaughtered in October 18 and Intake 47 was a batch of Dairy bred bulls slaughtered in March 19.

If we compare the difference between the suckler and dairy bulls above and work off a target live weight of 700kg (660 kg of growth from a 40kg birth weight) the sucklers would have consumed 4,290kg of DMI compared to 5,623kg for the dairy bulls.

Intake ID	Type	No of Samples	Age at Start	Weight at Start	Daily Gain Pre-Trial
44	Suckler Bulls	57	344	396	1.04
47	Dairy Bulls	30	637	461	0.66

Age at End	Weight at End	Daily Gain On Trial	Feed Efficiency On Trial	Carcass Weight
434	616	2.2	6.5	351.76
726	629	1.7	8.32	330.32





Age of Slaughter

The age of slaughter has a massive impact on the carbon foot print of beef, due to the fact that all animals consume a quantity of feed each day just to maintain themselves. This figure is reported to be in the order of 1-1.5% of their body weight and dairy breeds tend to be in at the upper range due to their higher metabolism.

By applying the FE² from the trials above to the daily gain before/during the trial and allowing 1.4% of live weight each day as maintenance cost; the suckler bulls had a feed intake of approx 13.25 Kg of DMI³ per Kg of carcass, while the Dairy bulls had a feed intake of approx 21.5Kg of DMI per Kg of carcass weight. This not only equates to a 62% increase in costs but also a 62% increase in emissions also!

8 of the bulls in Intake 44, were Simmental bulls that were slaughtered at 13 months with an average carcass weight of 374Kg and a feed efficiency 6.2kg/kg. The top performer had a carcass weight of 404kg at 13 months with a Feed Efficiency of 5.98 kg/kg. Using the analysis above he had an estimated feed intake of 12.55Kg of DMI per Kg of carcass weight. One of the biggest challenges of slaughtering bulls this young, is to achieve an adequate fat score, however the Simmental bulls averaged 3-for fat.

As we move into this climate conscious age it is good to know that the Simmental breed is best placed to minimise the emissions from the suckler herd; we can add “saving the planet” to our long list of positive traits.

Emmanuel O’Dea



- 1 Green House Gas
- 2 Feed Efficiency
- 3 Dry Matter Intake

IRISH SIMMENTAL CATTLE SOCIETY

Recommended Judges '20

Ms. Jennie Aherne	Towerhill	Cappamore	Co. Limerick	087-6336461
Mr. Julian Ashmore	Corah	Ferns	Co. Wexford	053-9388526
Mr. Albert Bagnall	Ballycommon	Tullamore	Co. Offaly	057 9341071
Mr. Michael Bailey	Progressive Genetics	Enfield	Co. Meath	046-9541230
Mr. Adrian Bateman	Sliveroe	Riverstick	Co. Cork	086-8300379
Mr. Garrett Behan	Cloneygowan	Ballyfin, Portlaoise	Co. Laois	086-8167309
Mr. Basil Bothwell	Dereskit	Killeshandra	Co. Cavan	086-6050095
Mr. David Brickley	Anatrim Herd	Coolrain, Portlaoise	Co. Laois	087-2999127
Mr. James Browne	Corbally	Glanworth	Co. Cork	087-2976562
Mr. James Costello	Seafort Hse.	Dromard	Co. Sligo	086-8266742
Mr. Tom Cox	Fortfield Hse	Strokestown	Co. Roscommon	087-2602909
Mr. David Dillon	Killard	Graigue, Carrowmore	Co. Sligo	086-2851099
Mr. Fergal Doherty	Upper Delvinreagh	Carrigart, Letterkenny	Co. Donegal	086-3320891
Ms. Catherine Farrell	Barrack Hill	Endrim, Ferbane	Co. Offaly	087-1508680
Mr. Roger Gibbons	Ballindrait	Lifford	Co. Donegal	086-1233470
Ms. Elaine Hennelly	Creggconnell	Rosses Point	Co. Sligo	086-3699518
Mr. Paddy Hennelly	Creggconnell	Rosses Point	Co. Sligo	086-8050919
Mr. Nigel Hogan	Rathnashannagh	Bennykerry	Co. Carlow	085-7540079
Mr. Bertie Houston	Monfad	Newtowncunningham	Co. Donegal	086-8178100
Mr. David Houston	Monfad	Newtowncunningham	Co. Donegal	086-1018886
Mr. Eric Jackson	Kilmurray	Baltinglass	Co. Wicklow	086-8374296
Mr. Keith Jagoe	Toughmacdermody	Drinagh	Co. Cork	087-6368755
Mr. Clive Jennings	Bolteen	Enniskeane	Co. Cork	086-2411399
Mr. Michael Keating	Kickham St.	Mullinahone,	Co. Tipperary	087-1319017
Mr. James Kelly	Mount	Ballynacally, Ennis	Co. Clare	085-7644791
Mr. Pdraig Kennedy	Creta	Elphin	Co. Roscommon	071-9635110
Mr. John Kenny	Ballinlovane	Ballyduff	Co. Waterford	058-60218
Mr. Aidan Kinahan	Cush House	Kilfinane	Co. Limerick	089-4711449
Ms. Shannon Kinahan	Cush House	Kilfinane	Co. Limerick	083-8834437
Mr. David Larkin	The Hermitage	Kilcormac	Co. Offaly	086-3397810
Mr. Gerry Lenihan	Rathlee	Easkey	Co. Sligo	087-9885166
Mr. John Lynch	Portauns	Kilmallock	Co. Limerick	087-6605506
Mr. Tom Maloney	Carroward	Bohola, Claremorris	Co. Mayo	087-9197006
Mr. Cian Martin	Millbrook	Templederry, Nenagh	Co. Tipperary	087-2421411
Mr. Paul McArdle	Drumlandrick	Bloomfield, Castleblaney	Co. Monaghan	086-1760896
Mr. Paul McKiernan	Corlesmore Hse.	Corlesmore P.O.	Co. Cavan	049-4337185
Mr. Sean McKiernan	Corlesmore Hse.	Corlesmore P.O.	Co. Cavan	087-1245927
Mr. Kieran Mullarkey	Silverhill	Ballinfull	Co. Sligo	086-8910882
Mr. Michael Oliver	Tullinacurra	Swinford	Co. Mayo	086-8196511
Ms. Niamh Oliver	No. 5 Cois Abhainn	Bellaghy, Charlestown	Co. Mayo	086-1247780
Mr. Richard O' Beirne	Ardour	Cloghans Hill, Tuam	Co. Galway	087-2077847
Mr. Peter O' Connell	Knoppogue	Mallow,	Co. Cork.	086-8250881
Mr. Raymond O' Malley	Purcellstown,	Ardee,	Co. Louth	086-2427529
Mr. Tom O' Riordan	Ballyedmond	Middleton	Co. Cork	087-2898778
Mr. William O' Riordan	Bridgemount	Kilbrien, Rathcormac	Co. Cork	087-0662742
Mr. Michael Prendergast	Cloondroon	Claremorris	Co. Mayo	087-2908676
Mr. Martin Regan	Clonfad	Ballyhaunis	Co. Mayo	086-8216253
Mr. Derry Rothwell	Greenhall	Tinahely	Co. Wicklow	086-8651008
Ms. Sharon Rothwell	Greenhall	Tinahely	Co. Wicklow	086-3861501
Mr. John Storey	Hazelwood Cottage	Eyne, Portlaoise	Co. Laois	087-9696220
M. Kevin Treanor	Clontybunna	Scotstown	Co. Monaghan	086-8448040
Mr. Kieran Treanor	Clontybunna	Scotstown	Co. Monaghan	086-3907536
Mr. Keith Vickery	Carbery Farm	Rosscarbery	Co. Cork	087-2907316
Mr. Chris White	Dermotstown	Balbriggan	Co. Dublin	087-0506524