

Simmental Family Has Great Show — Five Years Running

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Lancaster Farming Staff
MYERSTOWN (Lebanon Co.) — The family recently honored by the Pennsylvania Simmental Association certainly had a great year.

Well, not just a great year — a great five years, devoting time, attention, and love to a beef breed that many claim is easy to work with, has good motherlines, and, in the words of a champion exhibitor, “is just really interesting,” said Cassie Schaeffer, Myerstown.

With brother Tim, 16, and mom and dad Tracy and Paul Schaeffer, Cassie has been hitting the show circuit in a big way.

This year alone Cassie exhibited the grand champion Simmental heifer in both the open and junior show as well as champion bred and owned at the Farm Show.

Tim exhibited the reserve champion heifer in the junior show.

These heifers, along with War O' Fancy Pants, have competed and won at many other shows throughout the country this past year, with Fancy Pants being named grand champion Simmental heifer at the Kansas City royal in October.

Recently the Schaeffers exhibited a home-raised bull at the Tennessee Beef Agribition, where he was named reserve champion, and then son.

They also won at the recent Pennsylvania Beef Expo.

Their living room wall is sparsely decorated with many other championship trophies: banners for the 1999 Keystone

International Livestock Expo (KILE) yearling heifer, grand champion at the 1999 American Royal in Kansas City, Kan. (where they won the treasured solid silver, ruby-studded 100th year anniversary belt buckle), intermediate champion heifer at the 1999 Ohio State Fair and reserve grand champion Simmental female, and the calf champion at the 1999 Houston, Texas Livestock Show and Rodeo. They also won at the Simmental Sweepstakes Show in July 1999 in Louisville, Ky., picking up reserve intermediate champion female.

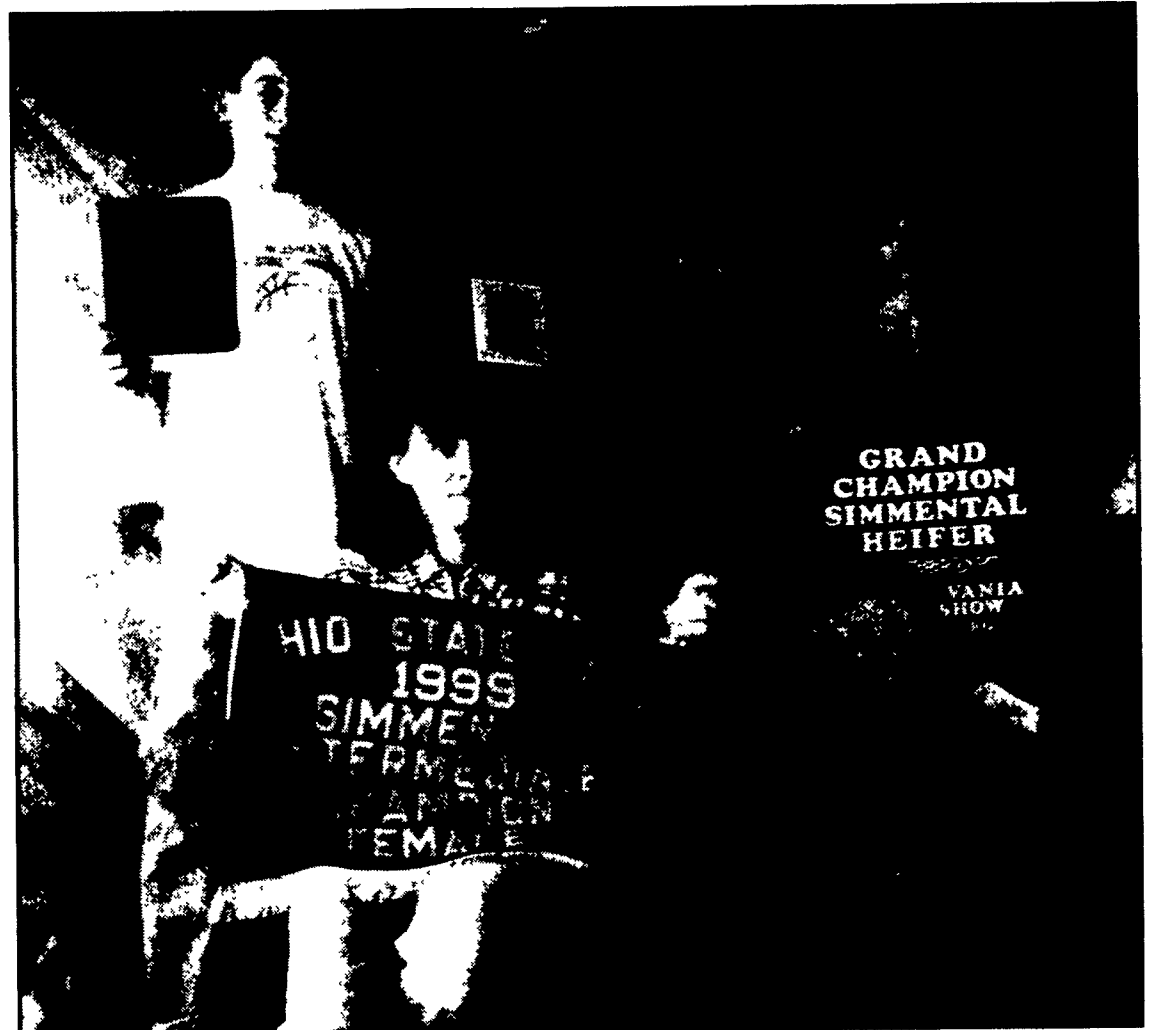
Why Simmentals?
About five years ago Tim fell in love with a black and white Simmental calf named Rachel, who they purchased, along with three other heifers, from breeder Clarence Burkholder. This was the beginning of the S&S Simmental herd.

Tim, 16, is a sophomore at Elco. Tim, who plans a career in livestock management, spends a great deal of time speaking with those involved in the Simmental breed, surfing the Internet and reading up on the latest Simmental genetics.

Tim, Elco FFA reporter and Lebanon County 4-H member, said his favorite show is the North American International Livestock Expo. The event, conducted in Louisville, Ky. every November, brings together breeders from all over the country.

Simmentals have been one of the largest exhibited breeds at this show, Tim noted.

“It’s a nice place,” he said. “The facilities are beautiful and everybody enjoys the show.”



Paul and Tracy Schaeffer and family were honored as the Pennsylvania Simmental Family of the Year. Seated from left to right, Tracy and Paul. In back, Tim and Cassie. Photo by Andy Andrews

Though it sometimes can be a long 10 days of events, leaving exhibitors exhausted, Tim speaks highly of the show.

People “are beginning to notice us,” said Tim. The family-run operation, S&S Simmentals, is picking up recognition all over the country.

Paul points out that Tim’s almost unbridled enthusiasm for the breed is the reason they started. Paul spent time showing Quarter Horses all around the country, including three years in Oklahoma City and other nationwide events.

Tim began to pick up knowledge of the breed, said Tim’s

mother, Tracy. She said that Tim spends time on the Internet keeping in touch with breeders and companies about the latest breed information.

“We see breeders all over the country, including Louisville, Kentucky, and at the Eastern Nationals in Timonium, the Farm Show, Denver, Houston, and Kansas City,” said Paul.

When the family is at shows, Tim tries to meet as many other breeders as he can. Tim, said Tracy, “likes to go up and down the aisles and study the competition.”

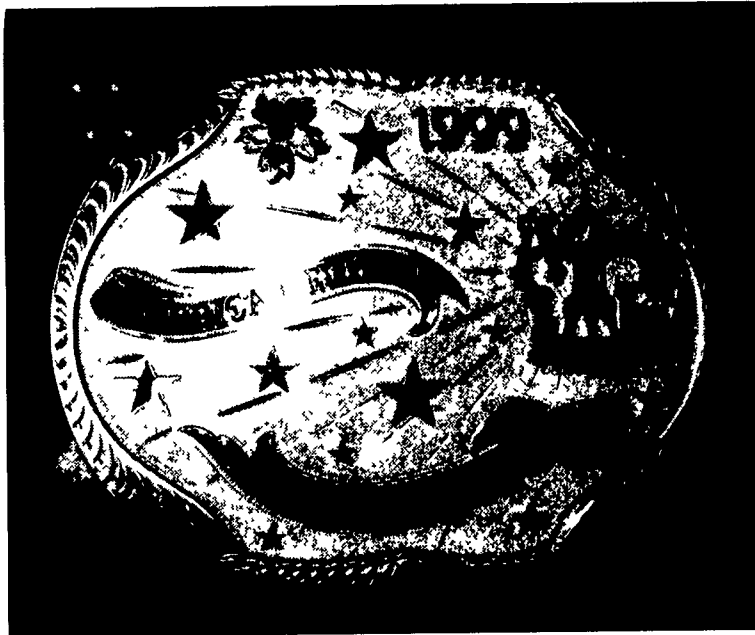
At the Eastern Regional Junior Simmental Show in Ti-

monium, Md., the Schaeffers had all three of their heifers in the top 10, with one being the reserve grand champion. The Schaeffers competed with exhibitors from Pennsylvania and 14 other states.

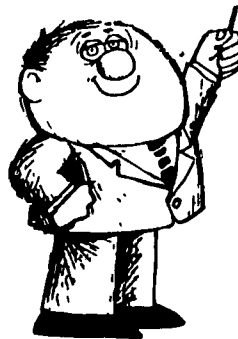
This year, the regionals are scheduled in Lebanon, Ohio, June 13-17.

The Junior National Simmental Show is being conducted this year in Stillwater, Okla., from July 17-21. The show includes Simmentals and Simbrahs (Simmental and Brahman cross-breeds).

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The American Royal was a great honor for the Schaeffer family. They were presented with this solid silver belt buckle with rubies as champions at the 100th anniversary show. “It’s an extreme honor that we’ll always remember and cherish,” said Paul.



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