

Australian Simbrah

The Best of Both Breeds

Developed through structured crossbreeding of the Simmental and Brahman breeds, the Simbrah combines the best of both parent breeds to boost overall herd performance.

Sim The **Simmental** breed is renowned for its superior weight gain, fertility, carcass yield, maternal and milking ability and temperament qualities.

Brah The **Brahman** breed has proven popular in northern environments for its heat, tick and disease resistance.

- Simbrahs are the ideal breed to use in tropical and subtropical environments.
- Simbrah bulls are a popular choice to crossbreed with Brahman and other Bos Indicus infused herds, to increase animal productivity while retaining the adaptability traits.
- Simbrah offers an alternative dairy breed option for tropical and sub tropical areas.

In Australia, the market requirement for younger beef has demanded cattle that reach desired market weight at a younger age and with higher carcass yield characteristics.

Using Simbrah, progeny can reach desired slaughter weight up to one year earlier and at heavier weights. This generates increased cash flow while reducing stocking pressure.

Simbrahs reach puberty early and have high fertility, further boosting herd profitability.

Simbrahs are registered in the Australian Simmental Breeders Association's Simbrah Register. This register provides for three grades, each with a range of Simmental and Bos Indicus content to suit different environments.

	<u>Simmental (%)</u>	<u>BosIndicus (%)</u>
Grade A: Registered Purebred Simbrah	30 to 70	30 to 70
Grade B: Registered Simbrah	25 to 75	25 to 75
Grade C: Percentage Simbrah	15 to 85	15 to 85
Most Simbrahs are between	37.5%	62.5%
And	62.5%	37.5%

- In tropical and sub tropical areas, Simbrah breeding herds with a high to medium BosIndicus content are recommended.
- In these areas, if the cow herd is of Brahman or other BosIndicus breeding, productivity can be lifted by crossbreeding, using Simbrah bulls with low to medium Bos Indicus content.

SIMBRAH – AS A DAIRY BREED

Throughout the world's temperate regions, the dominant dairy cattle breeds used are Holstein-Friesian, Simmental and Jersey. These high milk producing breeds require optimum nutrition and suitable environments to achieve their high milk yield potential.

The Simmental breed is classed as dual purpose for milk and beef production, while in Australia, Simmental is predominantly used for beef production. While its milk yield is a little lower than Holstein-Friesian, the beef value of Simmental calves is higher, the value of culled cows is higher and their disease resistance and structural soundness are better, leading to lower maintenance cattle with a longer productive life.

In tropical and subtropical areas, environmental stresses severely limit the milk productivity of these breeds. The solution is to use a breed that comprises an infusion of one of these milking breeds with an infusion of a BosIndicus breed for environment adaptability purposes. While such a breed will have a lower milk yield than Holstein-Friesian or Simmental, it will adapt more readily to the environment.

Two such breeds to consider are the Australian Friesian Sahiwal (AFS) and the Simbrah.

The AFS is only available from New Zealand and in restricted numbers.

The Simbrah, combining Simmental and Brahman, is available from Australia. With moderate milk yield it offers the added advantage of superior beef producing ability.

SIMBRAH FOR BEEF PRODUCTION

In Australia, Simbrah steers, compared to Brahman and Brahman crosses,

- gain weight 10% to 15% faster,
- produce carcasses with more muscle, and hence higher meat yield percentage.
- fatten at a similar rate to Brahman crosses and a little faster than Simmental.

Simbrahs are either grown out and finished on pasture or grown out on pasture and finished for 100 to 120 days in a feedlot. The finished carcass weight depends on the specific market requirements. These range from 250kg to 350 kg.

The most popular finished weight for Australian markets is approximately 300kg carcass weight, at which weight, feedlot finished Simbrahs produce carcasses having a dressing percentage of 55% to 60%, (compared to Brahman and Brahman cross carcasses which dress 52% to 56%).

Due to their greater muscling, Simbrah carcasses, when broken down to retail meat cuts, yield 60% to 65%, (compared to Brahman and Brahman cross which have carcass yields of 57% to 60%).

Feedlot finished Simbrahs at 300 kg Dressed Weight commonly have 12 to 18 mm subcutaneous fat, similar to Brahman crosses.

Australian research has clearly demonstrated that faster early weight gains leads to more tender eating beef. This is a real advantage for Simbrah as their 10% to 15% weight gain advantage ensures they reach marketable weight earlier than Brahman and Brahman crosses.

A typical Australian example illustrates the differences:

	<u>Simbrah Steers</u>	<u>Brahman & cross steers</u>	<u>Simbrah Advantage</u>
Age at turnoff	16 months	20 months	4 mths younger
Live Weight	517 kg	555 kg	38 kg lighter
Fat Depth (12th rib)	14 ml	14 ml	
Dressing %	58%	54%	
Dressed Carcass Weight	300 kg	300 kg	
Meat Yield %	62%	58%	
Meat Yield Weight	186 kg	174 kg	12 kg more
Meat Produced per Month of Age	11.63 kg/mth	8.70 kg/mth	+ 33% more

Simbrah heifers also outperform Brahman & Brahman crosses in carcass performance. Compared to their steer counterparts, they have 5% slower growth, fatten quicker and have lower dressing percentages and slightly less muscle development leading to slightly lower meat yield. However, the relative advantage to Simbrah is similar in percentage terms to the steer example above.

In most South East Asian countries, cattle are usually slaughtered at lighter weights and without as much fat cover as in Australia. Nonetheless, the relative advantages outlined above would equally apply to lighter weight Simbrah versus Brahman cattle.