

Simmental cross Weaners Top the Southern Weaner Sales at \$860

Simmental cross weaners again topped many of the Western Victoria and South East SA weaner sales this year, scoring the best price of all sales for Simmental cross heifer weaners of **\$860**.

In one of the last sales of the season, at Naracoorte on February 9, a pen of Simmental cross heifer weaners sold for **\$860**, representing the top price for all sales for both sexes. These were sold by Tom and Marg Baker, Woonallee, Furner, SA. Their 220 Simmental/Angus and Simmental/Poll Hereford heifers averaged 364 kg @ \$2.16/kg or **\$640.70** per head.

Daryl Cameron, Cann River, Vic purchased all the Simmental/Angus as replacements for his breeding herd.

Stuart Hahn, Lucindale, SA, bought some of the red Simbeef heifers for **\$655** (298 kg @ \$2.20 /kg)

The best price for other breeds at this sale was \$700 for Angus cross and **\$695** for Hereford heifers.



Buyer of the \$860 top pen and all Simmental/Angus weaner heifers at Naracoorte on Feb 9, Daryl Cameron, Cann River, Vic (Right) with his agent, Brad Obst, Kyle & Obst, Bairnsdale, Vic (Left) and Paul Bishop, Elders Independent, Kingston, SA.



The \$860 top pen of Simmental/Angus weaner heifers at Naracoorte on Feb 9



A pen of Simmental/Poll Hereford weaner heifers at Naracoorte on Feb 9

In an earlier Naracoorte weaner sale (19th January), the Bakers sold 435 head of similarly bred Simmental cross weaner steers to a top of **\$755** per head. Their average was **\$674** or 343 kg @ 196.6 c/kg.

Other sale highlights of this sale included Lizzy Baker, Kerekaringa Pastoral Co, selling 39 Simmental-Hereford steers for a **\$702** average. Her top pen fetched **\$710** and weighed 382kg.

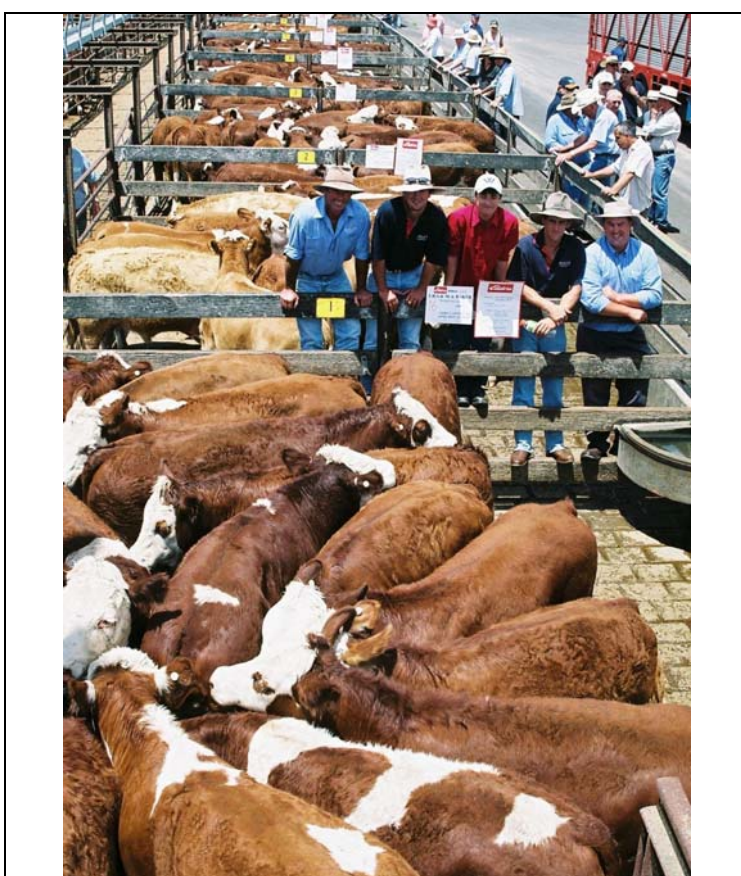
LS Johnson and Son, Naracoorte, also had their annual draft of Simmental-Herefords from their Ross Plains property at Biscuit Flat, SA. Their 184 steers averaged **\$624**, with their top pen of 364kg steers knocked down at **\$675**.



The \$755 top pen of Simmental/Poll Hereford steer weaners at Naracoorte on Jan 19



An outstanding pen of Simmental/Angus steer weaners at Naracoorte on Jan 19



Part of the draft of 435 Simmental cross weaner steers sold by the Baker family at Naracoorte on Jan 19.

At Casterton on 6th January, Cam Emerson, Alva Downs, Merino, Vic, topped the sale at **\$720** for the traditional large draft of Simmental/Hereford weaners.

At Euroa on 20th January, Ponkeen, Ruffy sold 58 Hereford/Simmental steers to top of **\$700** and Average **\$659**.

At Casterton on 19th January, "Blink Bonnie" sold 162 Hereford and Simmental Hereford weaner steers for the second highest vendor average of **\$601**

At Casterton on 13th January, Rosebank Past Co. gained the top liveweight price of 213 c/kg for Simmental/Hereford heifers or **\$510** per head

At the Hillcrest Weaner Sale, Naracoorte on 13th January, Simmental crosses averaged **\$597**, the best average of the different crosses sold.

2006 Autumn Victorian and South Australian Weaner Sales

Date	Venue	Sale Type	Sold	Steer Weaners		Heifer Weaners	
				Top	Aver	Top	Aver
2/01/2006	Hamilton	Weaner Sale		\$674	\$645		
3/01/2006	Hamilton	Weaner Sale		\$755	\$625		
4/01/2006	Hamilton	Weaner Sale	2,500	\$655			
5/01/2006	Hamilton	Weaner Sale	3,500	\$762			
6/01/2006	Alexandra/Yea	Weaner Sale	4,100	\$750	610		
6/01/2006	Casterton	Weaner Sale	3,669	\$720	\$551		
6/01/2006	Naracoorte	Weaner Sale	3,906	\$700	\$607	\$640	\$489
6/01/2006	Wodonga	Store & Weaner Sale	1,700	\$720			
9/01/2006	Birregurra	Weaner Sale	3,700	\$740	\$593		
10/01/2006	Colac	Heifer Weaner Sale	2,274				\$476
10/01/2006	Mortlake	Weaner Sale	1,400		\$616	\$550	\$432
13/01/2006	Alexandra	Weaner Sale	1,046	\$755	\$625	\$595	\$443
13/01/2006	Casterton	Heifer Weaner Sale	1,822			\$598	\$432
13/01/2006	Naracoorte	Hillcrest Weaner Sale	1,655	\$700	\$567	\$580	\$486
13/01/2006	Yea	Weaner Sale	3,534	\$810	\$649	\$800	\$606
16/01/2006	Casterton	Black & Grey Weaners	2,370	\$700	\$575	\$545	\$440
17/01/2006	Hamilton	Weaner Heifer Sale	3,200			\$669	\$493
18/01/2006	Hamilton	Weaner Heifer Sale				\$580	
18/01/2006	Kyneton	Weaner Sale		\$725			
19/01/2006	Alexandra	Weaner Sale	1,130	\$760	\$629	\$696	\$515
19/01/2006	Casterton	Weaner Sale	2,000	\$640			
19/01/2006	Mansfield	Weaner Sale	1,200	\$786		\$674	
19/01/2006	Naracoorte	Feature Weaner Sale	1,900	\$755		\$585	
20/01/2006	Euroa	Weaner Sale	3,200	\$720		\$600	
3/02/2006	Wangaratta	Weaner Sale	2,568	\$760		\$658	
6/02/2006	Hamilton	Angus Female Weaner Sale				\$490	\$446
9/02/2006	Naracoorte	Weaner Heifer Sale				\$860	

Summary Reports of some of these key sales follows:

Simmental cross steers to Naracoorte Feature Weaner Sale (19/1/2006)

Steers top at \$755 Heifers top at \$585

Quality breeding translated into strong prices at Elders' Naracoorte, SA, feature weaner calf sale on 19th January, with steers topping at \$755 and heifers \$585.

The 1900 calves were testament to the breeding program of recognised south-east SA breeders. The lead pens were also heavier than most calves seen at calf sales so far this year.

Backgrounders from Victoria, NSW and local areas all wanted some in their paddocks.

While 2005's huge top weights of 452 kilograms were nowhere to be seen, Elders, Naracoorte, branch manager and auctioneer Laryn Gogel said the line-up was more even and the calves were in better condition than last year's offering, despite the tough season.

He described the sale as "beyond expectation", quoting heavy calves from 187-195 cents a kilogram, with medium calves up to 210c/kg and lighter cattle "extremely dear".

Elders and its clients were commended for the outstanding pen cards, with buyers well informed of the breeding, grazing history and animal husbandry of most of the offering.

Long-time supporters of the sale and volume vendors Tom and Marg Baker, Furner, SA, again sold the sale toppers, a pen of 16 Simmental-Hereford steers weighing 384kg, knocked down at \$755 to Murray Bridge, SA, processor T and R Pastoral. This equated to 197c/kg.

It was then a two-way battle down the lead run for the Bakers' British-Euro crosses between regular buyer Alan Kain, Kaicowrie, Millicent, SA, buying through Elders, Millicent, and NSW commission buyer Duncan Brown.

Mr Brown was unstoppable, buying 196 steers for Malpas River at Walcha, NSW, including the second top, a pen of 16 Simmental-Hereford steers weighing 368kg at \$720.

Kaicowrie opened its account on the sixth pen, buying 24 Simmental-Hereford steers for \$685 or 212c/kg, eventually taking home 152 steers.

With much talk of the desire by lotfeeders and backgrounders for weaned steers, the Bakers decided to yard-wean 120 of the Simmental-Herefords for six weeks before the sale.

Malpas River snapped up three pens at \$680, with average weights of 344-375kg (181-197c/ kg).

Overall, the Bakers' 439 AprilMay drop Simmental-Hereford and Simmental-Hereford-Angus averaged **\$673 per head** or 343 kg @ 196.6 c/kg.

Lizzy Baker, Kerekaringa Pastoral Co, nearly upstaged the Baker Group by selling 39 Simmental-Hereford steers for a **\$702** average.

Her top pen of Dylemma Radar and Lochwood Simmental-blood progeny weighing in at 382kg sold for **\$710**.

LS Johnson and Son, Naracoorte, also had their annual draft of Simmental-Herefords from their Ross Plains property at Biscuit Flat, SA.

Their 184 steers averaged \$624, with their top pen of 364kg steers knocked down at \$675.

Elders, Moree, NSW, bought 106 of Woolum boo I-based Nonning Pastoral Company's 160 large framed Shorthorn steers for Allan Gillogly, paying to \$625 for 322kg Belmore-bloods.

Other buyers included Dave Henry, Davidson Cameron, Gunnedah, NSW, with 103 steers and Shane Lambert, Elders, Lucindale, SA, with 166 steers.

LS Johnson topped the heifer sale with 11 320kg reds at \$585 or 183c/kg. These were knocked down to Mount Loggie Pastoral, Tintinara, SA, who also took eight black baldies at \$570.

Report by CATHERINE MILLER, Stock & Land

Naracoorte - Hillcrest Weaner Sale (13/1/2006)

1316 Steers top at \$700 Averaged \$567

339 Heifers top at \$580 Averaged \$486

Steer Breed Averages:

Simmental crosses	\$597	(298 kg)
Angus cross	\$575	(274 kg)
Angus	\$570	(279 kg)
Roan Shorthorn	\$564	(289 kg)
Shorthorn crosses	\$557	(298 kg)
Hereford	\$544	(278 kg)