

ABSA National Simmentaler Champs



With 45 stud breeders and an astounding 424 animals, the cream of South African Simmentalers participated in this year's ABSA National Simmentaler Championship at the Vryburg Show in May. Simmentaler/Simbra Breeders' Society president **Dr Johan Kluyts** believes the standard of the animals shown compares with the best in the world. The South African Simmentaler herd offers a strong basis of top quality animals for the commercial and stud breeder. **Annelie Coleman** reports.



◀ **LEFT:** Kobus Erasmus of Jacmi Simmentalers at Lephalele sold Jacmi Grets JME 0414, the most expensive cow at the national auction, to PJ Luttig of Vanzylsrus for R45 000.



▲ **ABOVE:** The annual ABSA National Championship is a highlight of the Simmentaler year. This year it was quickly followed by another, the Nampo Harvest Day. The Simmentaler/Simbra Breeders' Society's marketing team barely had enough time to recover from the championship before it tackled Nampo, where Belinda Putter and Petro Ferreira prepared the Simmentaler/Simbra exhibit.



▼ **BELOW:** A special function just for the ladies featured Carina Viljoen (fashion expert), David Viljoen (of Kyknet's *Tuine en Tossels*) and Elzien-Lolette van der Merwe (lifestyle consultant).



◀ **LEFT:** Jan Hattingh, co-owner of Salerika Simmentalers, and Peet Visser from ABSA with the 2011 Grand Champion Simmentaler Cow, UG 0914. Jan says this cow is particularly well-balanced with good hair quality, a smooth coat and an exceptional udder.



▲ **ABOVE:** The judges selected UG 09 032 B, one of the top stud sires from Jan Hattingh and Riaan Coetzee's Salerika Simmentaler Stud in Delareyville, as the 2011 Simmentaler National Championship BLUP Bull of the Year. Riaan describes the bull as 'exceptionally well-muscled, with a smooth coat, outstanding length and width, and a good temperament.'



▲ **ABOVE:** The Grand Champion Simmentaler Cow received this cow bell as a gift from Dr Thomas Grupp of Thomas Grupp Bayern Genetik. The cow, UG 0914, hailed from Jan Hattingh and Riaan Coetzee's Salerika Simmentaler stud, and was also the Grand Champion Dual Purpose Interbreed female. Johanna Kampschulte from Bayern-Genetik brought the bell all the way from Germany and presented it to Jan Hattingh. She also attended the championship and said she was astounded by the quality of South African Simmentalers.



▲ **ABOVE:** Kyksim Malba KS 0813, from Streicher Swart's Kyksim Simmentalers in Swellendam, was the Senior Udder Class winner. Simmentaler/Simbra Breeders' Society president Dr Johan Kluyts says the Simmentaler is making inroads into the dairy industry because of its outstanding cross-breeding vigour and the fact that cows can be milked directly from the veld.



▲ **ABOVE:** The championship was followed by the national auction, as has become custom. Altogether 105 animals were put up for sale this year. Elrico Esterhuizen of the Elriza Simmentaler Stud in Vryburg sold the bull Elriza Norac EE 08 21 for the highest price of R120 000 to Marlan Ranch, also in Vryburg.



▲ **ABOVE:** At the Simmentaler gala dinner, the Simmentaler/Simbra Breeders' Society honoured Adriaan Odendaal from Villiers for 30 years' judging. Dr Johan Kluyts thanked Adriaan for his contribution to the Simmentaler breed over the years and lauded him for his dedication and professionalism.

▶ **RIGHT:** Jan Hattingh was honoured as the Simmentaler Breeder of Champions and received this prestigious trophy. He participated actively in the Simmentaler National Championship despite being the organiser of the entire cattle department at the 2011 Vryburg Show.



◀ **LEFT:** Roe Wiid, stalwart of the Southern African Simmentaler industry and honorary life president of the Simmentaler/Simbra Breeders' Society, was also at the championship with his son Andries.

▼ **BELOW:** The Senior, Grand and Supreme Champion Bull Erico 07 116, bred by Erich Schulenburg from Coligny, also took the title of Grand Champion Dual Purpose bull in the interbreed championship.



▲ **ABOVE:** From left, Dr Johan Kluyts, Adriaan Odendaal and Willem Volschenk were responsible for judging at the 2011 ABSA National Simmentaler Championship. They are seen here with Francois Smith (far right) from ABSA. Dr Kluyts called it an enriching experience to judge with Adriaan and Willem. 'It was an absolute pleasure,' he said. 'These men know cattle, they know the stud industry and they maintain the highest standard.'

Results: bull classes

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| 1. Blup Breeding Value Champion | J Hattingh |
| 2. Senior Champion Bull classes 22 to 23 | EE Schulenburg |
| 3. Junior Champion Bull classes 24 to 26 | A Ellis |
| 4. Young Bull Champion classes 27 to 28 | J Hattingh |
| 5. Grand Champion Bull classes 7 to 12 | EE Schulenburg |
| 6. Supreme Champion Bull | EE Schulenburg |

Results: female classes

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. Queen Champion classes 7 to 8 | C Lee |
| 2. Senior Champion classes 9 to 10 | SDJ Kriel |
| 3. Miss Teenager Champion classes 18 to 21 | J Hattingh |
| 4. Junior Champion classes 14 to 17 | J Hattingh |
| 5. Super Cow at Show | Piet & Chris Oelofse |

Contact the Simmentaler/Simbra Breeders' Society on 051 446 0582 or e-mail info@simmentaler.org.