



# GEORGIA • HEREFORD • ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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## GHA SPOTLIGHT:

### *The Simmons Brothers*



With cattle prices at an all time high, cattle producers large and small are looking to get the best price for their heifers and steers. In Northeast Georgia, there are two brothers Donald Simmons and Paul Simmons that have been working for the past three to four years to produce a quality product. Their farm is located at 3675 Highway 191, Danielsville, Georgia in Madison County.

In the 1930's, the original farm consisted of 76 acres owned by their grandfather. For the past 74 years the three generation farm has consisted of 310 acres with 60 acres rented. The original cow herd, in the 1930's, was Hereford cattle. In the 1980's, the cows were crossed with Limousin and Beefmasters. Presently, they are using Hereford bulls on the majority of the herd. There are also some Angus bred cattle and they plan this year, starting in December, to breed these groups to a Hereford bull. Donald and Paul made a very clear point that using quality bulls with strong EPD's has made a positive influence on the cow herd. This has increased weaning weights, and improved replacement heifer quality. Hereford bulls have been rented from Apple Valley Farm in Commerce, Georgia for the past three years.

Several years ago the Simmons brothers decided that their cattle herd needed to be more productive. With that decision, a program of action was developed, and they have kept focused on that plan. Many of their cattle were not productive and



*Paul Simmons (left) and Donald Simmons (right) have been working to produce a quality herd.*

unmanageable, some of the cattle could not be worked because of their disposition. Over the years these type cattle have been culled. Also, Hereford bulls were used to bring back that Hereford influence to produce moderate frame, milk, and a good disposition – just to name a few characteristics of the Hereford breed.

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*Top quality cross-bred three-year-old cow with second calf.*



*Impressive view of the Simmons brothers' herd and their 2004 calf crop.*

