

Former AHA Exec Passes



Henry Hopkins "Hop" Dickenson passed away peacefully at his home with his family by his side on Dec. 24, 2013. His death followed an 18-month battle with cancer.

He was a graduate of Virginia Tech.

Hop spent a lifetime dedicated to serving the Hereford breed. He worked for the American Hereford Association in various roles for 38 years, 24 as chief executive officer. During his career, he traveled to 36 countries.

Hop began working for the Association in the 1950s, first as fieldman and then as secretary for state Hereford associations in the Southeast. He spent two years overseas in the Army in Germany, and when he returned, he worked as an Extension beef cattle specialist for Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

In 1960 he returned to Association work as field representative for the *American Hereford Journal*. He next served as an Association fieldman for the same territory and then switched to the Kansas, Oklahoma and Missouri territory.

In 1968 he moved to Association headquarters as general manager of the *American Hereford Journal*. Next, he assumed responsibilities as the Association's director of marketing. Then, in July of 1974, he was appointed the chief executive officer, a position he would continue for 24 years.

Considered the father of Certified Hereford Beef (CHB®), Hop is regarded as a breed association trailblazer. He was also responsible for introducing the total performance recording (TPR) and expected progeny difference (EPD) systems and was a driving force in bringing the two populations of Hereford people and the cattle they raise together for the good of the industry. Because of his contributions to the Hereford breed, he was inducted into the Hereford Hall of Merit in 2012.

He served on the National Livestock Meat Board, the American Royal Board of Directors and was past president of the U.S. Beef Breeds Council and the National Society of Livestock Records. He was a member of Village Presbyterian Church.

He is survived by his wife, Polly; son, Hank; and two grandsons. **HW**

