

In Passing

Esther L. Murphy, Belton, Mo., passed away Jan. 6.

Esther worked 10 years for the American Polled Hereford Association before retiring. She was an avid traveler. With her husband, James Murphy, who preceded her in death, she traveled to all 50 states and many foreign countries.

Survivors include her step-son, David Murphy; a step-grandson; a step-granddaughter; and five great-grandchildren.

James Smith Riddell, 87, Sparland, Ill., passed away at his home, surrounded by family members Jan. 12.

James was born into the Hereford business. His parents moved to the farm in 1916 and named it the Wellgreen Stock Farm as a tribute to the ancestral home in Scotland. In January 1964 the family suffered a blow when they lost Jim's father, and the following year, his brother and partner Bill. With determination, the remaining family members took on the full responsibility of Wellgreen Stock Farm, which included Herefords only. In 1974 the name was changed to Riddell Polled Herefords.

Through the years, Jim participated in every Hereford and polled Hereford organization in his area, as well as on the state and national level. Today a fourth and fifth generation has joined in the registered polled Hereford business on the family farm.

During these years, James and his

Montana youth recognized

The Montana Junior Hereford Association recently recognized carcass and overall steer award winners. To participate in the program, juniors must show their steers at the Mountain Magic show and the Junior Beef Expo. The steers are then graded and the carcass information is compiled and sent to a university for evaluation.

The owner of the champion overall steer is awarded \$1,000, and reserve, \$500. The owner of the champion carcass receives \$200, and the reserve, \$100.

The champion overall steer was owned by Rachael Buzanowski, Pompeys Pillar. Reserve champion overall and champion carcass steer was owned by Taylor Sidwell, Columbus. Katelyn Kohlbeck, Bozeman, exhibited the reserve carcass steer. **HW**

family were honored with numerous awards including: The Diamond Jubilee awarded at the Illinois State Fair in 1991 for being in the Hereford business for 75 years; the premier senior breeder at the Illinois Junior Preview Show in Lincoln, Ill., in 1994; the pioneer breeder in 1999 at the annual meeting of the Illinois Polled Hereford Association (IPHA); National Cattlemen's Beef Association Environmental Stewardship Award for Illinois; and the Marshall Putnam Soil Conservation Family of the Year. Also, in 1998 James was inducted into the IPHA Hall of Fame.

Survivors include his wife, Clarabel; two sons, William Riddell and James Riddell; three daughters, Mary Kessling, Marjorie Gilmore, and Nancy Riddell-Dudra; 12 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Nance Bauhof Whitehead, 94, Menard, Texas, passed away Jan. 13, at Shannon Medical Center with her loved ones at her side.

She attended business school in San Antonio. On Nov. 9, 1933, Nance married the love of her life, Gene Whitehead. Their lives were blessed with a son, William Gene Whitehead and his family — wife, Leigh, and children Cody and Kara.

Nance loved horses and rode well into her 70s. She was a member of the American Thoroughbred Association. She had a great passion for the horse racing industry and had many prize-winning horses. She was also a member of the American Hereford Auxiliary, Sheep and Goat Raisers Association, and Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association.

She had a strong commitment to the Menard community. She built the Gene and Nance Whitehead Youth Center for the youth of Menard County. She also supported the Menard Library and the Menard Community Center.

Nance is survived by her grandson, Cody Gene Whitehead.

Max Watts, 73, Frost, Texas, passed away Jan. 18 at the Lake Pointe Medical Center in Rowlett, Texas.

Max was a rancher by occupation. He is survived by his wife, Shirley; three daughters, Stephanie Ebeling, Debra Barnes and Tammie Griffith; and five grandchildren.

Merrill James Hemen, 87, Aberdeen, S.D., passed away Jan. 19 at his home, surrounded by loved ones.

When Merrill was 8, his family moved to a farm in the Wetonka area. He farmed and ranched in the Wetonka area until 1997, when he retired and moved to Aberdeen.

Merrill was a lifetime member of the American Polled Hereford Association. For 45 years, he was a member of the Barnard United Church of Christ and served on its board in various positions. He served on many boards, including the Mid Dakota Polled Hereford Association, Barnard Co-op Elevator, Farmers Union, National Farmers Organization, Brown County Conservation Board and Northern Electric Board.

Merrill enjoyed hunting with hounds and hunting pheasants, deer and antelope. He also liked playing baseball and cheering for the Cubs and Northern State Wolves. Merrill coached little league baseball.

Survivors include his wife, Betty; son, Brian Hemen; daughters, Denise Kolton and Jan Ellefson; nine grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Marie Rodgers Forrest, 83, Saluda, S.C., passed away Jan. 28 in University Hospital in Augusta, Ga.

Marie graduated from S.C. Baptist Hospital School of Nursing. She was a nurse and homemaker and charter member of Saluda Baptist Church.

Survivors include her husband, Earl Forrest; a son, Brad; three daughters, Vivian, Sallie and Susan; 12 grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

John Wesley Rakestraw, 50, Rockmart, Ga., passed away Feb. 1.

Wesley was a Hereford breeder and owner of JWR Land and Cattle Co. A successful businessman, he owned Raker Construction Co. He was a director of Georgian Bank and a member of Bartlett Lodge #139 F&AM, Scottish Rite Valley of Atlanta, Yaarab Shrine Temple, Paulding County Nobility Club and the First Baptist Church, Dallas, Ga.

Survivors include his wife, Sharon; sons John Wade, Joshua Wesley and Jacob Weston; and his father, Tyre Louis Rakestraw. **HW**

Beef Industry Loses a Legend

The beef industry lost one of its visionary leaders Sunday, Jan. 20, with the passing of Roy Wallace, long-time sire selection specialist for Select Sires. Wallace began his career with Select Sires in 1967, and he once told me, "It's the only job I've ever had."

It was certainly a job he devoted his entire life to, and that was the good fortune of beef producers as Wallace influenced the genetic advancement of the global beef industry through his sire selection line-up and his very vocal support for artificial insemination (AI) and synchronization programs.

Wallace passed away doing what he loved; he was attending the National Western Stock Show (NWSS) in Denver, looking for that next great sire and visiting with the many cattle friends he'd made during his 40-year career. Wallace was 63.

In January 2003 at the NWSS, I had the opportunity to visit with Wallace about his outlook for the beef industry. Though that conversation was five years ago, Wallace's foresight — and opinionated manner — is still on par today. Here are some highlights from that conversation:

How would you classify most cattle being fed for market today? Are producers utilizing the genetics needed to meet consumer demands? If not, what needs to change from a genetic selection standpoint?

Wallace: We have such a spectrum of people breeding cattle — from programs with no emphasis to extremes. The data we have available on cattle today is excellent, but as a whole, there are still a ton of producers who buy based on what they like — and they still love fat.

Years ago, all we had was British cattle, and it was simple. Now, the outcome can be varied, so breeding requires discipline. The genetics are there; producers just need to be disciplined in the applications.

What technologies will play a role in promoting more use of AI among beef herds in the future? Any predictions as to the percentage of beef herds that will use AI in 2025?

Wallace: It's all tied to labor and profitability. The average cattle operation saw a 2% return on investment in the last decade. When you have 800,000 producers selling to feedlots and packers paying for pounds of product, that's what they aim for until they are paid for quality.

Everyone's already concentrated on selling the genetics part of AI, but there are a lot of other benefits to sell: AI is cheaper than using bulls, and if you synchronize, you can get a 13-day advantage in age of calf, which is more pounds to sell.

We all agree there are going to be fewer seedstock producers in the near future. Therefore, there will be a need for more AI.

What tools (i.e. genetic markers, new expected progeny differences (EPDs), ultrasound technology, etc.) would you like to have to assist with selection?

Wallace: Ultrasound data has made it easier, but it makes it harder too.

Our emphasis in the last 10 years has been birth weight more than any other trait because heifers are the majority of beef cattle being bred AI. But, traitwise they've still got to be a balanced bull.

Wallace also pointed out that Select Sires has a long-standing young sire program. In his selection, Wallace relied on a methodology he developed called the Power Score Index. It entails adding the birth weight, weaning weight, yearling weight and milk EPDs together and then dividing by 4. To consider carcass traits, a bull's EPDs for marbling and percent retail product are added together and divided by 2. Wallace often called this equation his "cowboy math," and said, "The bulls with the lowest numbers win."

Although Wallace himself is no longer with the beef industry, the genetics he selected will influence the industry for generations to come, which is a contribution worth remembering.

Select Sires made the following statement: "Roy dedicated 40 years of service to Select Sires as vice president of the beef department and made a positive impact on millions of lives throughout the beef industry and the world through his work. One of the most telling signs of his remarkable influence was his recognition as one of the 40 most influential people in the beef industry in the last 40 years by *BEEF* magazine in 2004. Roy will be missed dearly by his family at home, his family at Select Sires and countless throughout the entire industry."

Memorials can be sent to The Ohio State University, The Department of Animal Sciences, c/o Dr. James E. Kinder, Chair, Roy Wallace Memorial, 2029 Fyffe Road, Columbus, OH 43210.

If you would like to send a card to Roy's family, please send to: The Roy Wallace Family, 3918 Co. Rd. 13, Burgoon, OH 43407.



Roy Wallace

— Kindra Gordon