

Research Potential AI Sires

This month's issue of the *Hereford World* is always one of my favorites because it focuses so much attention on artificial insemination (AI) and AI sires. By now, I am sure you realize how important I think the value of AI is to the growth and continuing demand of the Hereford breed.



Jack Ward

This magazine along with the *Hereford AI Book* will provide information on several bulls within the breed. Obviously, the most comprehensive search can be done utilizing the online sire summary at *Hereford.org*, or you can request a printed version by calling the American Hereford Association (AHA) office at (816) 842-3757.

However, I want to extend a great deal of gratitude to

those breeders who have chosen to advertise their bulls in this issue. It is a tremendous resource and gives potential customers an opportunity to study a picture along with performance information, and then, most importantly, it gives contact information.

The contact information may be the most important because you always need to find out as much information about a potential sire as possible. This would include information on how the bull was raised, what his environment was and what you could expect from the bull in areas that aren't part of a measurable trait such as disposition and conformation. You might even request information on where to find some progeny from the bull. Research bulls extensively, and do not be afraid of asking questions. The sire you use today can affect your cow herd for several years.

Introducing CHBS

This issue will also include a reference to a list of bulls that have qualified for Certified Hereford Beef Sire (CHBS) recognition. The Board initiated this program last summer, and its intent is to recognize bulls that have sired cattle that have performed well from a carcass standpoint.

To qualify as a CHBS, a bull must be in the top 25% for the CHB\$ profit index and have a minimum accuracy level of 50% for both ribeye area (REA) and intramuscular fat (IMF). In

the future there will be a search option on the Web site to find these sires.

As with all new programs, I always like to caution breeders: this is a great way to recognize sires that have excelled in a certain area, but I would never ask you to single-trait select or compromise your herd through programs that do not pertain to you or your customers.

The AHA has always had a way to recognize females, but the staff, along with Board support, just felt like it was time to recognize sires that have performed well.

I encourage you to utilize AI in your program, and let's continue to find the bulls that are the movers and shakers in the breed.

Roy will be missed

On a different note, I wanted to take a minute to let breeders know about the passing of a true friend of the cattle industry. Roy Wallace passed away in his room during the National Western Stock Show. Roy will be remembered throughout the industry as a man who was truly passionate about beef cattle improvement.

He was a good friend of mine and many of you folks, and I cannot tell you the times that I relied on Roy for advice not only for my job at the AHA but also as a producer.

Roy's passing reminds me of how lucky we have things in the U.S. We are free to make choices and pursue the things that are important to each of us. How lucky are we to be able to use the land that God has given us to make a living while raising our families? God bless each of you. **HW**

Non-Certificate AI Sire Program update



The Non-Certificate AI Sire Program allows breeders to nominate a bull into the artificial insemination (AI) program without selling AI certificates. The program began in April 2006 with the intent of increasing AI use within the breed by allowing breeders to register calves without the hassle or cost of AI certificates.

Program specifics

- Producers will pay \$250 to enter a bull in the program.
- An agreement must be signed by all bull owners and filed at the American Hereford Association (AHA). If a bull is syndicated, then a representative of the syndicate must sign the agreement.
- Once a bull is entered into the program, he will remain in the program. He will not be able to move between certificate and non-certificate programs.

To find a list of bulls enrolled in the program, go to *Hereford.org*, select "EPD Inquiry" on the left side of the page and then search for bulls by calving year and "Select if" a Non-Certificate AI Sire. For more information about the program, contact Jack Ward, AHA chief operating officer and director of breed improvement, at (816) 842-3757 or jward@hereford.org. **HW**