

"What's New?" is a column designed to keep you in-the-know about Hereford happenings. You can also sign up for Hereford eNews, a weekly electronic newsletter from the American Hereford Association (AHA). Send an e-mail to eNews@hereford.org to subscribe. Archived issues are posted at Hereford.org.

Spring cow herd inventory deadline extended

Due to the challenging winter weather conditions experienced across much of the country, the American Hereford Association (AHA) has extended the spring cow herd inventory deadline one month from March 15 to April 15.

AHA encourages all breeders to turn in their active cows and bulls to the AHA by the deadline to avoid a \$2-per-head increase in the cow inventory fee. If you need another copy of your inventory report, contact the AHA records department at (816) 842-3757.

National Beef is looking for Hereford and black-whitefaced cattle

National Beef Packing Co. LLC is currently looking for Hereford and black-whitefaced cattle to fill a growing market need. National Beef is placing print ads and running 30-second radio spots throughout media

outlets in the Central Plains and Midwest Corn Belt.

The qualifying cattle are eligible for competitive market pricing, age verification and forward contracting.

Test for epilepsy gene found

Jon Beever, molecular geneticist at the University of Illinois, has confirmed his finding of the causative gene for idiopathic epilepsy (IE) in Hereford cattle. He reported his finding to the AHA Board in Denver and confirmed that proper validation is complete, providing 100% confidence in the test.

For those breeders interested in testing suspect sires, dams or progeny for the causative gene, contact Beever at (217) 333-4194 or jbeever@uiuc.edu for test kits. The test will be free of charge through March 2008.

Plan to attend national tour

Look for information on Page 30 and online at Hereford.org. **HW**



Ward named BHE Outstanding Ag Alumni

Jack Ward, American Hereford Association (AHA) chief operating officer and director of breed improvement, has been recognized as the 2008 Black Hawk College-East Campus (BHE) Agri-Business Club Alumni Outstanding Ag Alumni Award recipient.

Ward enrolled at BHE and received his associate's degree in ag transfer in 1984. At BHE he was an active member of the Agri-Business Club and the livestock judging team. He graduated from Purdue University with a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics.

Prior to joining the AHA staff in 2003, he managed several prominent purebred Angus herds — Maple Lane Angus, LaGrange, Ind.; Three Rivers Angus, Roanoke, Ind.; and Hicks and Yearly Angus, Midway, Ky. He hosted practices for hundreds of 4-H, FFA, junior college and senior college livestock judging team members.

Throughout the U.S. as well as in Canada, Argentina and Uruguay, Ward is well respected as a livestock judge, particularly of purebred cattle, and is a frequent guest lecturer on beef production. He was named Outstanding Breeder by the Indiana Angus Association and has served as president of that organization. Ward has been recognized with the BHE Agriculture Merit Award for outstanding service in the training of young people for careers in agriculture.

Ward, his wife, Mary Ann, and their two sons, Cameron and Carter, live in Plattsburg, Mo. They enjoy showing livestock at state and national shows. He is a lifetime member of the BHE Agri-Business Club and a member of St. Ann's Catholic Church, Knights of Columbus and Purdue Ag Alumni.

He also is a member of the Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) board of directors, Missouri Cattlemen's Association, American Angus Association and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association. **HW**