

AI Advances Hereford Genetics



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Artificial insemination (AI) has played a fundamental role in the Hereford breed's genetic progress and development. In fact, since 2003 AI use has increased by more than 51%, and breeders continue to add this technology to their herds. In fiscal year 2014, nearly 30% of the calves registered with the American Hereford Association (AHA) were by AI sires.

This month, you will find the *2015 Hereford AI Book* included with the *Hereford World*. This tool allows breeders of all sizes access to the best genetics the breed has to offer and the ability to customize breeding programs — specifically, to make mating decisions.

Table 1 provides a list of the top 10 sires by registrations for fiscal year 2014.

Each of these sires is a proven sire with at least .60 accuracy for weaning weight (WW), and each of them is a trait leader for both Baldie Maternal Index (BMI\$) and Certified Hereford Beef Index (CHB\$). It is certainly encouraging to see multi-trait leaders being used and incorporated by breeders. In addition, seven of these sires are either owned or leased by major bull studs.

Whatever your breeding program emphasizes, a balance between the use of some high accuracy sires along with young sires will help you identify the value of each of the traits of interest. Obviously, the incorporation

of genomic information into a sire's pedigree can help you identify sires younger and can make those animals much more reliable. You will find these bulls identified with genomic-enhanced expected progeny differences (GE-EPDs). See the article "Making the Numbers Work" on Page 48 of the February 2015 *Hereford World*.

The Hereford breed is experiencing a significant increase of customers in the commercial industry, and it is the customers who will help identify traits and information needed to make their programs profitable and sustainable. Listen to them, and make breeding decisions based on customers' needs. **HW**

Table 1: 2014 top 10 sires by registration (as of Feb. 9, 2015)

Rank	Name/Reg. no.	CE	BW	WW	YW	MM	M&G	MCE	MCW	UDDR	TEAT	SC	FAT	REA	MARB	BMI\$	CEZ\$	BIIS	CHB\$	GE-EPD
1	MSU TCF Revolution 4R 42593689	3.3	2.6	67	107	25	58	1.0	110	1.5	1.5	1.0	0.034	1.00	0.16	\$21	\$16	\$16	\$35	✓
2	NJW 73S M326 Trust 100W ET 43002897	-1.9	3.6	69	122	32	66	3.8	151	1.35	1.27	1.4	-0.044	1.28	0.20	\$24	\$14	\$19	\$42	✓
3	NJW 98S R117 Ribeye 88X ET 43094146	4.6	1.0	58	81	33	62	7.0	68	1.48	1.48	0.9	-0.032	0.19	0.22	\$22	\$20	\$16	\$32	
4	NJW 73S W18 Hometown 10Y ET 43214853	2.4	2.3	61	102	29	59	1.7	108	1.21	1.17	2.0	0.043	0.54	0.53	\$32	\$19	\$29	\$38	
5	TH 122 71I Victor 719T 42800895	7.8	0.3	63	89	31	62	-3.0	77	1.31	1.37	1.4	-0.015	0.36	0.12	\$24	\$20	\$20	\$33	✓
6	Churchill Sensation 028X 43092364	13.1	-2.8	52	71	40	66	6.6	60	1.30	1.41	1.5	0.064	0.31	0.28	\$28	\$29	\$21	\$28	✓
7	CRR About Time 743 42797564	3.9	2.2	54	80	30	56	1.5	106	1.26	1.29	0.9	-0.061	0.61	0.10	\$21	\$18	\$17	\$31	✓
8	RST Times A Wastin 0124 43123163	4.5	0.7	57	91	31	60	1.7	94	1.39	1.41	1.4	-0.021	0.49	0.18	\$24	\$19	\$20	\$33	✓
9	KJ HVH 33N Redeem 485T ET 42834201	1.4	3.4	66	101	21	55	2.3	110	1.51	1.48	1.4	0.073	0.61	0.18	\$24	\$16	\$20	\$30	✓
10	UPS Domino 3027 42426386	11.3	-1.3	47	77	37	60	7.0	66	1.47	1.50	1.1	0.007	0.40	0.35	\$26	\$27	\$19	\$32	✓

Indicates trait leaders