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Hereford Makes Genetic Progress Through AI

Jack Ward

Included with the March issue of the *Hereford World* each year is the *Hereford Artificial Insemination (AI) Book*, which focuses on bulls that have semen available.

Included are pedigrees, an expected progeny difference (EPD) trait list, semen and certificate costs (unless non-certificate sire), basic information and owners — this is a great reference. Of course, a more comprehensive search can be done on the American Hereford Association (AHA) website, *Hereford.org*, under the EPD inquiry section.

Having free access to performance certificates, the AHA has the most transparent site in order for anyone to search for Hereford animals. In addition, all results from young sire test programs and research programs are printed in the *Hereford World*.

All of this information is at your fingertips for you to make good selections for genetic progress in the area of economic relevant traits. Each year it has been exciting to see the bulls used most heavily in the seedstock herds, based on the number of calves recorded by sire. Below is a list of the top 10 sires for calves born between Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2014.

It is clear to see by looking through this list that Hereford breeders are committed to using high-accuracy sires that are multiple trait leaders in areas of economic relevance. Nine of the bulls listed are proven sires that offer some calving ease, growth and end product merit.

Five of the sires are listed in the major AI sire books, and two of them are non-certificate sires. Since 2003, AI use in the Hereford breed has grown 82%, and in 2014 more than 31% of the calf crop recorded was born from an AI sire.

There has been tremendous genetic progress made in the Hereford breed over this time period, which has allowed Hereford semen sales to really grow in the commercial market. As seedstock producers, I encourage you to keep up the good work. Identify the genetics that will work in your herd and for your customers, and utilize all of the tools available to make sound breeding decisions. **HW**

Top 10 Hereford sires for calves born Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2014

Sire Name	CE EPD	CE ACC	BW EPD	BW ACC	WW EPD	WW ACC	YW EPD	YW ACC	MM EPD	MM ACC	MG EPD	MCE EPD	MCE ACC	MCW EPD	MCW ACC	UDDR EPD	UDDR ACC	TEAT EPD	TEAT ACC	SC EPD	SC ACC	CWT EPD	CWT ACC	FAT EPD	FAT ACC	REA EPD	REA ACC	MARB EPD	MARB ACC	BMI	CEZ	BII	CHB
NJW 73S W18 Hometown 10Y ET	2.2	0.54	2.3	0.9	64	0.86	108	0.82	31	0.39	63	0.8	0.42	120	0.57	1.14	0.48	1.03	0.46	1.4	0.66	78	0.57	0.049	0.55	0.51	0.56	0.57	0.53	26	17	21	40
MSU TCF Revolution 4R	3.5	0.77	2.7	0.95	67	0.93	107	0.92	23	0.86	57	0.5	0.69	109	0.87	1.49	0.89	1.50	0.88	1.0	0.86	82	0.83	0.029	0.76	1.01	0.78	0.15	0.74	22	17	16	35
RST Times A Wastin 0124	2.6	0.50	0.8	0.88	59	0.82	94	0.78	30	0.40	60	1.8	0.38	100	0.51	1.41	0.51	1.41	0.5	1.3	0.61	68	0.57	-0.082	0.51	0.70	0.55	-0.08	0.54	22	17	18	32
Churchill Sensation 028X	13.1	0.62	-2.9	0.92	50	0.89	71	0.89	45	0.64	70	5.6	0.50	58	0.68	1.40	0.74	1.57	0.73	1.6	0.78	61	0.71	0.053	0.66	0.33	0.67	0.38	0.65	29	28	22	30
NJW 73S M326 Trust 100W ET	-1.8	0.66	3.7	0.92	68	0.89	120	0.88	33	0.68	67	4.9	0.56	145	0.72	1.44	0.74	1.33	0.73	1.4	0.75	80	0.71	-0.052	0.62	1.30	0.64	0.21	0.6	25	14	19	43
NJW 98S R117 Ribeye 88X ET	6.9	0.53	0.9	0.88	55	0.83	80	0.83	38	0.45	65	7.9	0.43	66	0.59	1.38	0.51	1.42	0.5	0.6	0.7	60	0.61	-0.034	0.59	0.16	0.60	0.34	0.58	20	22	13	34
TH 122 71I Victor 719T	7.7	0.76	0.5	0.94	61	0.92	88	0.91	28	0.81	59	-2.4	0.68	71	0.82	1.34	0.85	1.45	0.84	1.4	0.83	66	0.8	-0.015	0.72	0.32	0.74	0.11	0.70	24	20	21	32
CRR 719 Catapult 109	1.3	0.43	2.6	0.81	73	0.72	119	0.68	27	0.27	64	-0.9	0.34	110	0.47	1.25	0.27	1.27	0.26	1.1	0.48	84	0.51	0.044	0.43	0.46	0.45	0.10	0.40	18	13	12	34
H/TSR/CHEZ/Full Throttle ET	-2.4	0.34	3.7	0.67	56	0.46	96	0.42	18	0.17	46	-0.2	0.27	119	0.34	1.26	P	1.21	P	0.9	0.19	68	0.27	-0.007	0.21	0.47	0.24	0.11	0.19	18	12	16	28
CRR About Time 743	4.2	0.74	2.2	0.94	53	0.92	80	0.91	28	0.85	55	1.3	0.70	99	0.84	1.26	0.87	1.25	0.87	0.9	0.82	59	0.82	-0.069	0.71	0.48	0.74	0.07	0.68	20	18	17	31