

First Prize Junior Bull Calves,
bred and shown by Fred C.
DeBerard, Kremmling, Colorado.

National Western Stock Show,
Denver, Jan. 28 to Feb. 4, 1939.
Calf Manna was used in develop-
ing these prize winners.



100 YEARS AT NATIONAL WESTERN

One family's centennial show legacy continues.

by Danielle Beard Hayden

A century ago the DeBerard/Orr family began exhibiting at the National Western Stock Show (NWSS) in Denver. What began as one man's passion for exhibiting Hereford cattle grew into a legacy his descendants are still carrying on today.

Creating a stock show foundation

Known as the "King of Cattle" in show circles, Fred C. DeBerard of Kremmling, Colo., began showing cattle in the early 1900s, as it was the best way for cattlemen to advertise their herd and

**"GOOD CATTLE
PAY THE WAY."**

Fred C. DeBerard

to become aware of what customers were looking to buy at the time.

DeBerard, who was quoted on several occasions as stating "good cattle pay the way," chose the showing as one way to demonstrate the quality of his cattle compared to that of others'. At the NWSS, DeBerard was best known for carloads and feeder calf pens. Since, at that time, cattle were brought to the show by railroad, carloads of calves consisted of 20 head.

In 1951, when he was honored with the Man of the Year in Livestock award, he credited his mantra

to his success in being able to expand his herd and landholdings during the Great Depression.

DeBerard and his wife, Myrtle, had several sons and daughters. Daughter Sarah DeBerard married Ted Orr; both were instrumental in helping on her parents' ranch. Of Ted and Sarah's four children — Jack, Jean, Ronnie and Myrtle — Jack and Jean were the two to take the most interest in the cattle.

DeBerard was inducted into the Hereford Hall of Fame in 1979 — one of the first — and grandson Jack Orr followed in his footsteps to receive the same honor 30 years later in 2009.

“And that's really how the legacy began,” says Tonya (Orr) Pèrez, Pèrez Cattle Co., Nara Visa, N.M.

Pèrez is a granddaughter of Jack Orr. She and her two sisters, Kaycee (Orr) Hoffman and Katie (Orr) Egbert, are the current generation carrying on the family name at the NWSS.

“Out of Jack's sons and daughters, my dad — Clair Orr — was the one who took to showing purebred cattle, and passed that on to Kaycee, Katie and I,” Pèrez continues.

A tale of three sisters

Growing up attending the NWSS as part of a family with rich history at the show, Pèrez has fond memories from the Yards.

“Since we were one of the oldest families, we were one of the first pens in the yard on the train track side,” she says. “Some of my fondest

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Sisters Tonya (Orr) Pèrez, Katie (Orr) Egbert and Kaycee (Orr) Hoffman share fond memories from the National Western Stock Show.



GRAND CHAMPION
CARLOAD OF FEEDER CALVES
1942 DENVER NATIONAL WESTERN

GRAND CHAMPION LOAD OF FEEDERS
AT THE 1942 DENVER SHOW
BRED AND SHOWN BY FRED C. DE BERRARD
KREMLING COLO., PURCHASED BY MONFORT
BROS., GREELEY, COLO., @ \$20.35 PER G.W.T.
AVERAGE WEIGHT 340 POUNDS.



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memories growing up were playing in the yards and putting pennies on the railroad tracks.”

For Pèrez, the NWSS holds a dear place in her heart.

“I’ve been attending the show since before I was born,” she laughs. “I even met my husband, Kyle, there.”

Pèrez, Hoffman and Egbert all married into ranching families, but while Pèrez and Hoffman were able to continue in the purebred show world, Egbert’s life set down a different path.

“Coy, my husband, a pilot, grew up in Montana on his parents’ place, and he knew he wanted to raise his own children on a ranch but was not afforded the land and assets that customarily get passed on from generation to generation, so he joined the Air Force and just recently flies for Delta,” Egbert explains.

“We both have the ultimate goal of being able to afford a place of our own in which we can raise our children on and instill the values that go along with ranching. So our dreams of getting back to ranching are finally starting to take flight.”

Despite 10 years of Air Force life, Egbert has only missed one NWSS.

“I’ve attended 34 out of my 35 years,” she says. “It’s important to me, to be together as a family,

to work towards a common goal and celebrate those achievements as a family.”

According to Pèrez, having all the family together in Denver is important in order to pull off the amount of work it takes to be ready.

Denver, with its location and older facilities, is not the easiest to get cattle in and out of, but it’s just one of those shows cattlemen don’t miss. It’s the Super Bowl of cattle shows, she explains.

“It takes a massive crew to make all of it happen, Pèrez says. “We exhibit anywhere from 10 to 18 head and then Kaycee and, her husband (Jason of Hoffman Ranch, Thedford, Neb.) will exhibit 20 to 30 head. The rule of thumb is to have a person per every two animals, because with feeding, washing and clipping it is a full day’s job with that many head.”

All three sisters credit the support system of one another, the friends they have made over the years and their family for their success at the NWSS year after year.

But, the 2016 NWSS was a different year for the family.

“This was the first show without my dad,” Hoffman says.

Clair Orr, who recently passed away after a battle with cancer, was an instrumental part to his family’s show legacy.

"I'm not going to lie, it was a tough one to get through without him there, but we were able to push through it," she reflects.

"Growing up, working with just my mom, dad and sisters, we had a close bond and created many memories, now that my dad is gone, those memories are even more cherished."

Carrying on a legacy

The NWSS has been a family affair for the DeBerard/Orr family and the future looks to be no different. The three Orr sisters are now raising future stock show exhibitors of their own.

"It's something we want to carry on, because it's our heritage; our children will be the sixth generation," Pèrez says. "This event is a family affair, between mine and my two sisters' children, there are eight kids under the age of five."

While the NWSS is still an event the family looks forward to, in this season of life, the show is a different experience for the Orr sisters.

"It's exhausting," Pèrez admitted. "I have a set of 2-year-old twins and with the rest of the kids, it's crazy, but it's also a lot of fun, just getting to all be together. In a few years the kids will start getting to show age and then watch out."

Since Egbert's life has been outside raising cattle since college, her role at the NWSS looks a little different.

In addition to ranching, Hoffman owns Bar None Hat Company, and Pèrez works for her parents' company, AgTown Technologies.

"I am watching kids during the NWSS," Egbert remarks. "Other than some partnership cattle, I don't really have livestock in the shows, so it frees me up if Kaycee has a hat customer she needs to meet or if Tonya needs to run to take care of a client she does marketing for, I am there to help take care of their kids along with mine."

Raising children at the NWSS is important to the Orr sisters, not only to give their children the same fond memories they shared, but to give them the opportunity to gain the character that raising livestock teaches children.

"My favorite memories growing up was morning chores with Tonya and Kaycee," Egbert said. "We had a rotational system because we only had one blower, so one would wash, one would blow and the other would get to sleep in the wheel barrow. Yeah, there were fights, and there were times we didn't want to help each other out, but there was a lot of laughter too. These times are what created the special bond we still have today."

According to her, she is grateful for the family time together and for the sense of responsibility and accountability that comes from taking care of show stock.

Hoffman added she is excited for her children to share similar experiences.

"My hope for the future is that this family tradition continues so my children will grow up showing cattle," she says. "Showing cattle has come a long ways since my childhood — some ways good, others it has gotten out of hand — but what hasn't changed is how much a child can learn and grow from showing."

"It's amazing, being part of a family that has a hundred year history with National Western, getting to carry that forward and for our children to do the same, is quite something." **HW**

Line 1 Herefords

One of Fred C. DeBerard's contributions to the livestock industry included the formation of Line 1 Hereford cattle.

Wanting to produce cattle that could "get fat on grass," DeBerard's great great-granddaughter Tonya (Orr) Pèrez says he purchased Advance Domino 13th from Mousel Brothers of Cambridge, Neb., for \$1,000. Domino 13 was used heavily in the herd, siring Advance Domino 20 and Advance Domino 54.

In 1934 the U.S. Range Experiment Station in Miles City, Mont., purchased Advanced Domino 20 and Advance Domino 54, who became the foundation sires of the Line 1 Herefords.

The research done with Line 1 has contributed to the better understanding of maternal genetic effects in beef cattle. The influence of a cow's milk production on the growth of her calf is one well-recognized example.

According to Pèrez, Line 1 achieved nationwide prominence and popularity in the American Hereford Industry in the 1970s. Line 1 genetics are still heavily influencing the Hereford industry today. **HW**



**Advance
Domino 20**



**Advance
Domino 54**