

Welcome to...
HEREFORD COUNTRY

2006 National Western Stock Show Hereford Highlights

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Celebrating 100 Years

Hereford breeders from around the globe converged on Denver to participate in Hereford activities during the 100th National Western Stock Show.

An evening to remember in Denver — the American Hereford Association hosted a reception Jan. 12 at the Renaissance Hotel. Attendees enjoyed visiting about the old days and the days to come in the Hereford business.



During the National Western Stock Show's centennial celebration in Denver spectators witnessed more than 400 head of Herefords compete for national honors in the open and junior shows on the Hill Jan. 12-14. The two-day female and bull shows were judged by husband and wife duo, Kevin and Sheila Jensen, Courtland, Kan. The open show numbers were up 25 head compared to 2005.

In the Yards, where the National Western all began, Hereford breeders exhibited seven carloads and 29 pens. According to National Western history compiled by Keith and Cheryl Chamberlain, the first National Western started on Jan. 29, 1906, for a six-day run that attracted 336 entries. The mid-



Longtime Stock Show exhibitor in the Yards, Mills Ranch Herefords, St. Francis, Kan., with the help of other Kansas Hereford breeders and colleagues, hosted a Certified Hereford Beef® (CHB) lunch in the Yards on Jan. 11. More than 300 attendees enjoyed the new CHB tips and gravy sponsored by Dan's Prize in partnership with CHB LLC.



UPS Odyssey was selected supreme Hereford champion. The supreme champion Hereford award was established in memory of Tom Lane Sr. to celebrate the spirit of competition, camaraderie and business opportunities. Tom Lane and AHA President Jack Holden presented Upstream Ranch, Taylor, Neb., and TJ Cattle Co., Hardin, Mont., the Tom Lane Sr. Memorial trophy, which includes \$2,000 endowed prize money.



Bottom left and right: The National Western Stock Show recognized Hereford breeders who have exhibited cattle at the Stock Show for 25-plus years.



winter date, sandwiched between the busier fall and spring seasons, appealed to farm and ranch folks, while for the show's Denver boosters, the livestock hoorah was just the fix for those post-Christmas blahs.

The first three shows were held under canvas. A big top borrowed from a circus that wintered in Denver was erected in the stockyards. Grandstands, arc lights and a big coke-fired heater were installed. The Denver Union Stock Yards Co. ran a bustling year-round operation, but they made room in their pens for the Stock Show, and pen and carload cattle shows quickly became highlights of the January event. Cattle included just four breeds — Hereford, Angus, Shorthorn and Galloway. The first three would monopolize the show for six decades. In its infancy, the show was open only to entries from west of the 99th meridian, but in 1910, the gates were opened to all comers and it truly became the National Western.

The Yards were the heart of the show until the meatpacking industry began to decentralize in the 1960s. By the mid-1970s, the sprawling complex was virtually deserted. To preserve a venue for its trademark pen and carload shows, the National Western began purchasing the fence-studded acres, and now the Yards come alive each January with cattle judging and auctions.

The Hereford activities kicked off with a Certified Hereford Beef® (CHB) lunch in the Yards on Wednesday. Mills Ranch Herefords hosted the event that featured CHB tips and gravy. Throughout the four days of Hereford activities in Denver, producers could visit the Hereford suite in the Exchange Building for refreshments and a nice place to sit and visit with other Hereford enthusiasts.

Wednesday evening was the annual herdsman dinner. Star Lake Cattle Ranch, Skiatook, Okla., and Coyote Ridge Ranch, LaSalle Colo., provided the chili dinner and refreshments.

The junior heifer show on the Hill was on Thursday morning, followed by the carload and pen show in the Yards. Prior to the selection of the champion carload and pen the National Western recognized Hereford breeders who have exhibited more than 25 years at the Stock Show. In total 33 Hereford breeders were recognized, including five operations that exhibited

more than 50 years — Franklin Herefords, Meeker, Colo.; Douthit Herefords, St. Francis, Kan.; Wyoming Hereford Ranch, Cheyenne, Wyo.; Mills Ranch Herefords, St. Francis, Kan.; and Cumming Cattle Co., Julesburg, Colo. For a complete list see, "Recognizing Years of Dedication," page 70.

To celebrate the centennial, the American Hereford Association (AHA) hosted a Hereford social on Thursday evening.

Friday evening was one to remember as SHF Radar topped the Mile High Night National Hereford Sale, selling one-third interest for \$105,000. For a complete sale report see page 52.

The 100th National Western Stock Show will be one that is remembered for years to come. Enthusiasm for the Hereford breed was evident throughout the event. On the following pages are results of the shows on the Hill and in the Yards, as well as highlights of those recognized in Denver for outstanding achievements. **HW**



Star Lake Cattle Ranch, Skiatook, Okla., and Coyote Ridge Ranch, LaSalle, Colo., hosted the herdsman social Wednesday evening in the Yards. Chili and the fixings were enjoyed by current and future herdsmen alike.



State Hereford royalty (polled and horned) assisted with the activities in Denver.

