

DOD Program Recognizes Maternal Strength



Jack Ward

Recently at the American Hereford Association (AHA) office we celebrated Bud Snidow's 90th birthday. Bud is a household name in the Hereford breed and his dedication and commitment to the breed is nothing short of amazing.

I always enjoy sitting down with Bud over a cup of coffee and listening to his life experiences. He really is a remarkable guy and a genuine friend of the breed.

It is occasions like visiting with Bud that remind me

Springtime reminders

- Remember to take advantage of the lower fees for registering calves prior to four months of age.
- The cutoff date to get data submitted for the next genetic analysis is June 1.
- If you are weaning fall calves, be sure to take cow weights and assign body condition scores.
- Schedule ultrasound scanning of yearling cattle. The age-range window is the same for collecting yearling weights — 301-530 days of age. Barn sheets that you submit to the Centralized Ultrasound Processing (CUP) Lab do not get forwarded to the American Hereford Association (AHA). Thus, if you are measuring scrotal circumference (SC) at the same time, you need to record SC on Form 4.
- There will be no more online Hereford 101 Webinars scheduled until next fall due to the busy spring and summer schedules of breeders and staff. If you have suggestions for specific topics you would like to see covered next fall e-mail jward@hereford.org or call (816) 842-3757. **HW**



of the importance that longevity, perseverance and dedication have on building a strong, time-tested program. The Hereford breed has long been known for its maternal strength and that strength can be directly related to the momma cow.

Dams of Distinction honored

In this issue of *Hereford World*, we are recognizing the 2006 Dams of Distinction (DOD). This is a list of dams that meet the highest standards of cattle production. A cow must do her job and producers must manage her properly to give her the opportunity to excel. In order for a cow to be named a DOD, she must meet the following criteria:

- 1) Weaned a calf born since Jan. 1, 2005.
- 2) Produced at least three calves.
- 3) Initially calved at 30 months of age or less.
- 4) Had an interval between the first and second calves of no greater than 400 days. In addition, a 370-day calving interval must have been maintained after her second calf. The longer initial calving interval allows breeders to calve 2-year-old heifers prior to the mature cow herd.
- 5) Every calf produced that was born before June 30, 2006, must have weaning records submitted to the AHA Total Performance Records (TPR™) Program.
- 6) A progeny average 205-day weaning weight ratio of at least 105.

This year we recognize 1,927 dams from 611 herds in 43 states with the DOD title. Just like sitting down with

Bud over coffee, we can sit down and study these cows and let them tell us the story of why they have stood the test of time.

Listen to your cows

Each year, about this time, I will take calls or read articles from folks who criticize the TPR program because they are upset that their best cows (DODs) are not the ones with the most exciting expected progeny difference (EPD) makeup.

Maybe your cows are telling you a story. That story may be that the most profound EPD makeup may not be the most profitable for your environment. Of course we are always asking breeders to make genetic progress in areas of concern, but sometimes we need to remember why the good Lord put Hereford cattle on the face of the earth.

Herefords are a maternal breed and they are used in a crossbreeding program to add disposition, longevity, fertility and efficiency without sacrificing carcass or optimum growth.

In most of my articles, I stress the importance of sire selection and the importance of utilizing all available technology to make genetic improvement. This becomes even more profound when we talk about the value of the cow. She is the result of proper sire selection. It is said that sire selection today can influence your herd for the next 10-12 years. The "stayability" of the Hereford breed is dependent on its powerful cow, which is directly connected to sire selection.

Congratulations to all the breeders who have dams recognized as DODs, and continue to keep up the good work. **HW**