

Top 10 Sires by Registration

The winter of 2014 is certainly one to remember and will be talked about for many years. As a high school student in Indiana, I still remember a winter in the late '70s. It was brutally cold, and we had so much snow and wind that we had calves walking across fences.



Jack Ward

At the time my family was working for a Hereford breeder, and it was amazing how well those cows handled the tough conditions. We survived that winter, and we will survive this one, but it will certainly be a topic of conversation for years.

As we begin to put this winter behind us and start thinking about breeding decisions, I would like to touch on a couple of things we found in our recent commercial survey. Results of this survey are being compiled and will be released at the Hereford Genetic Summit in September, but a couple of key points are still at the forefront.

As commercial cattlemen select genetics for the future, calving ease (CE), disposition, efficiency and longevity along with fertility still are at the top of the lists. In addition, market

signals still show us that we need to be very familiar with end product and how our genetics will fit into this very high-quality demand.

With that said, it is always interesting to see what kind of genetics and sires are demanded by breeders. Printed here, you will see the top 10 sires by registration for the year starting Jan. 1, 2013, and ending Dec. 31, 2013. Certainly it is a pretty impressive lineup, and it shows that breeders are selecting genetics strong in various economically relevant traits (ERTs) as well as bulls with some proof.

Here are a few of the key points to the lineup. First, seven of the bulls can be found in major artificial insemination (AI) studs. This information means those folks have done a great job of finding the kind of Hereford genetics in demand and they have worked closely with the American Hereford Association (AHA) to get those sires entered into the sire test programs to get some early proof. That proof would include real harvest data, and eight of the sires

would have progeny that have feed intake collected.

You will notice that four of the bulls are trait leaders for calving ease direct (CED), and eight of them are at breed average or better. In addition, nine of the bulls are trait leaders for \$CHB (Certified Hereford Beef profit index), and all of them are better than breed average.

Add to this, five of the sires are trait leaders for \$BMI (baldie maternal profit index), and eight of them are better than breed average. I searched through the 2014 AI issue that mailed with the March *Hereford World* and found eight of the bulls were advertised and six of the bulls were priced at \$25 per unit or better, and the No. 1 bull in the breed for registrations was a non-certificate bull with semen priced at \$25.

So, when selecting bulls this spring, keep in mind your customer and use the tools supplied by the AHA to make breeding decisions. Do not compromise breed improvement, and continue to make selections based on sound science. Cull tough and continue to collect as much data as you can including cow weights, udder scores and disposition scores. **HW**

Bull name	Reg. no.	CED	BW	WW	YW	MM	M&G	MCE	MCW	SC	FAT	REA	MB	\$BMI	\$CEZ	\$BII	\$CHB
MSU TCF Revolution 4R	42593689	3.4	2.7	69	108	31	65	2.7	105	0.9	0.027	0.97	0.08	19	16	12	35
TH 122 71I Victor 719T	42800895	7.7	0.2	64	89	27	59	-0.8	85	1.4	-0.007	0.42	-0.07	23	21	19	29
CRR About Time 743	42797564	4.6	2.2	54	81	33	60	2.8	109	0.8	-0.066	0.65	0.13	20	19	15	33
UPS Domino 3027	42426386	11.5	-1.3	48	77	37	60	6.0	60	1.1	0.010	0.46	0.34	26	26	19	32
KJ HVH 33N Redeem 485T ET	42834201	0.6	3.3	68	105	18	52	2.1	113	1.3	0.052	0.67	0.22	25	16	20	33
NJW 73S M326 Trust 100W ET	43002897	-1.9	3.5	65	123	31	63	3.7	159	1.6	-0.051	1.28	0.13	25	14	20	40
THM Durango 4037	42460503	6.4	1.2	60	88	26	56	5.3	92	0.5	-0.027	0.29	0.19	19	20	12	33
TH 71U 719T Mr Hereford 11X	43101172	1.7	3.0	58	77	26	55	-0.4	76	0.6	-0.009	0.56	-0.19	13	14	10	22
TH 75J 243R Bailout 144U ET	42936652	0.6	4.3	55	96	18	46	0.0	141	0.6	-0.005	0.53	-0.07	14	13	11	25
THR Thor 4029	42551314	-0.9	3.7	63	99	20	52	2.6	74	2.3	0.041	0.93	0.25	34	17	33	33
Breed avg. EPDs for 2012-born calves		0.8	3.5	46	75	19	42	1.1	86	0.8	0.002	0.28	0.05	17	15	15	21

highlighted are trait leaders