

Exciting Times

There have been a lot of exciting things happening at the American Hereford Association (AHA), including the AHA spring Board meeting; the Herefords, Heterosis and Headlines Media Event; the World Hereford Council meeting; and the Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Annual Research Symposium and Annual Meeting.



Jack Ward

Media event, Board highlights

During the week of April 20, the AHA Board met and then participated in a media tour that took us through Kansas to visit Ford County Feed Yard, Sandhill Farms, CK Ranch and then back to National Beef Packing Co. LLC headquarters and Hen House Market. For highlights of the media event, see Page 56.

This event was a great opportunity to sit down with media folks and give them an update on what has been happening at the AHA. It tied together some of the major topics discussed during the breed improvement committee meeting.

These topics included a report from Dan Moser, Kansas State University, on heifer calving rate (HCR). Everyone understands that fertility is an economically relevant trait (ERT) to all beef producers, and the AHA Board and staff think this heritable trait can be measured to help

producers indicate fertility within the breed.

This trait is measurable because of the data collected through whole herd reporting. HCR will be a sire model and daughters of a sire will be measured within same contemporary groups. Those groups will be females that are raised in the same yearling group and have calved together.

A second report was presented from Mike MacNeil, Fort Keogh Livestock and Range Research Laboratory, on the progress of "survivability." Again, this trait will be a sire model based trait and will use disposal codes from whole herd reporting to track sires' daughters within a contemporary group.

This trait will be somewhat different from other breeds' stayability in that it will allow a female to have credit for production until the time she leaves the herd. This method allows us to build this trait quicker on young sires.

A female will get credit for calving, and if she leaves the herd and is sold to another breeder or enters an embryo transfer program, she will be censored. If she is culled for any reason such as poor production, disposition, or a bad udder, she will then count against the sire.

So, a censored record will be different from a record that culls the female from the herd. Mike gave a presentation at BIF that included his research on this trait. You can find that presentation

on the BIF Web site, www.beefimprovement.org. Click on the "Proceedings" tab. Both of these fertility traits will be ready to launch by this fall at the AHA Annual Meeting. Make plans to attend the meetings on Saturday to hear a full report.

A large portion of the breed improvement committee report was spent discussing the final data from the Circle A Ranch Heterosis Project.

The Circle A research was also a focus of the media event. Circle A Ranch is a large commercial and purebred Angus operation with its headquarters in south central Missouri. The staff and ownership of Circle A Ranch wanted to see what heterosis could provide in a real world setting of intensely linebred Angus females.

This herd has been built with a great deal of detail spent on data collection and these data are based on ERTs. Circle A has been measuring feed efficiency, carcass quality and tenderness, and fertility in its herd for many years. Because of the ranch's size and scope, it has several thousand animal records. So, the management at Circle A wanted to look at what effect would be seen if they used alternate breed bulls on its Angus females.

Table 1 includes a list of the Hereford and Angus bulls used. The Hereford bulls were randomly mated to 600 commercial females. The calves were weighed at birth and weaning, and

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then the steers were moved to Circle A's feedlot where individual feed intake information was collected.

The resulting females were developed, bred and sold at Circle A's annual sale in March. The biggest advantage seen was in the female fertility. The F1 Hereford-Angus females had a 7% advantage at pregnancy check time. This is consistent with the results of other research projects, including Harris Ranch.

However, there were also incremental advantages to the Hereford-sired calves in the feedlot including gain, conversion and ribeye area. In the table below, you will find the Hereford and Angus sires and how their progeny performed for each measurable trait. Also, you will find the expected progeny difference (EPD) of each sire. These EPDs are current as of May 19, 2009.

At the end of the chart, you will find the USMARC breed adjustments that were just reported by Larry Kuehn of the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center. He has taken over the germ plasm project that was started by Larry Cundiff more than 30 years ago.

This research has been done for several reasons, and the results of this project are used in many ways. In this case they allow us to compare EPDs from different breeds. For instance, we can look at what the EPDs for SHF Progress would be within the Angus breed. His birth weight (BW) EPD on an Angus scale

would be $.6 = (-2.3 + 2.9)$, weaning weight (WW) $40 = (43 - 2.8)$, yearling weight (YW) $45 = (61 - 16.1)$, maternal milk (MM) $1.5 = (19 - 17.5)$, FAT $-.025 = (.032 - .057)$, ribeye area (REA) $-.07 = (.17 - .24)$ and marbling (MARB) $.14 = (.5 - .36)$.

2009 is the first year that comparisons are reported for carcass traits. This is the reason why the change was made last year to the carcass EPD (moving from reporting the traits based from ultrasound to real harvest scale). This table and a report are presented each year on the across breed comparisons at BIF. You will find the report at www.beefimprovement.org. Click on the "Proceedings" tab.

In Table 1 CONR is the conversion ratio, and a higher ratio (above 100) means the progeny of that sire did a better job of converting, and an IntakeR (Intake ratio) lower than 100 means that sire's progeny ate more feed.

The project proved heterosis does work in a real world setting in central Missouri. The Circle A cow herd is based on years of incorporating records collected on ERT and the knowledge that the Angus cow is a tremendous ally to a Hereford bull.

This means that the production and sale of good Angus and Hereford bulls are a requirement and can be utilized to increase profits in a commercial herd. An economic model built by Vern Pierce, University of Missouri, showed that using Hereford bulls on Angus cows could increase profits by more than \$50 per cow per

year. For more information about the project, see Page 50.

BIF highlights

The theme for this *Hereford World* issue is personalities. At this year's BIF meeting, Hereford personalities took center stage.

Harrell Hereford Ranch was recognized as 2009 Seedstock Producer of the Year. The Harrells have been a Gold Total Performance Records (TPR) herd since the program was initiated in 2005. The program really demonstrates what a seedstock producer in the 21st century is all about.

The Harrells have been raising Hereford and commercial cattle for many generations. They have adapted to the changing needs of the industry, and they have become a full-service provider. Service may still be the biggest component of success of any business, and the Harrell family really understands its customers' needs. Congratulations to them!

The second personality recognized at BIF was Bruce Orvis. Bruce was recognized as a Pioneer Breeder. What a great honor and one that is well deserved. Bruce and his family have been leaders for the beef industry and the Hereford breed for decades. I always enjoy visiting with Bruce as he was on the board when I was hired to join the AHA staff. Congratulations also to Bruce and his family for this special recognition.

Page 170 of this issue includes highlights of the BIF conference.

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Table 1: Hereford and Angus bulls used in Circle A Ranch Heterosis Project

Reg. #	Bull	EPDs										Indexes													
		BW	WW	YW	MILK	M&G	CEM	SC	FAT	REA	MB	BMI	CEZ	BII	CHB										
42361822	KCF Bennett 3008 M326	99	108	102	102	102	103	96	100	97	0.02	4.2	61	99	17	47	2.6	2.1	0.023	0.47	0.46	36	19	34	39
19587707	JET Domino L617	104	103	101	101	101	105	99	101	100	2.4	2.1	47	80	19	42	-3.3	1.4	0.024	0.08	0.49	26	17	26	30
42536808	CJH Harland 408	104	102	102	102	102	106	108	97	3.7	1.1	57	92	19	47	-1.3	1.6	0.126	0.07	0.48	27	18	24	28	
42375618	Schu-Lar 5N of 9L 3008	100	100	100	100	100	101	99	99	100	5.9	1	55	99	6	34	5.8	1.9	0.016	0.16	0.45	38	25	34	37
42481042	SHF Progress P20	95	100	100	100	100	98	104	103	99	8.2	-2.3	43	61	19	40	1.3	0.3	0.032	0.17	0.5	21	22	17	29
42602761	JET Mr X512	104	99	98	98	98	105	106	104	102	4.2	-0.4	49	77	17	41	2.5	0.9	0.031	0.29	0.29	23	19	20	27
42481140	SHF Phoenix M33 P68	103	99	101	101	101	104	94	100	95	-1.8	3.3	63	93	20	51	3	1.3	0.041	0.12	0.4	25	14	22	32
42075700	OXH Mark Domino 0125	104	99	98	98	98	96	104	106	98	-3.6	4.6	44	77	35	57	3	0.9	-0.067	0.48	0.32	18	12	17	30
42588968	KJ C&L J119 Logic 023R ET	99	98	99	99	99	101	100	97	99	1.7	2	62	96	21	52	1.3	0.6	0.006	0.42	0.07	16	14	11	30
42228848	Feltons Magnum 434	98	96	101	101	101	98	96	95	100	2.6	2.7	46	73	13	36	1.5	0.8	0.079	0.23	0.47	23	18	21	26
	Hereford Breed Average									0	3.5	43	70	17	38	0.7	0.6	0.002	0.19	0.03	15	14	14	18	
14768734	Rito 456 of 2536 SA	98	101	97	97	97	92	102	100	101		3.2	71	113	30			0.058	-0.02	0.22					
13880818	Mytty In Focus	96	100	102	102	102	96	99	90	108		-1.3	55	100	24			0.039	0.05	0.56					
14843347	Connealy Meat Maker 4834	97	93	98	98	98	98	98	95	104		1.7	29	67	30			-0.009	-0.01	0.61					
	Angus Breed Average										2.2	42	78	20				0.008	0.1	0.26					
	MARC Adjustments (H-A)										2.9	-2.8	-16.1	-17.5				-0.057	-0.24	-0.36					

I encourage all Hereford breeders to visit the BIF Web site and study the proceedings from the different presentations. There are obviously

continuing developments within the genomics world, and there were informative presentations on the continued value of heterosis and its effects within the industry. Dave

Daley used some of the Harris Ranch results in his presentation. Also, as I mentioned earlier, Mike MacNeil used his research on Hereford survivability in his presentation. **HW**

Confirmed genetic abnormality carriers

Printed here is a list of registered Hereford animals that are confirmed genetic defect carriers as of June 1, 2009. For an updated list visit Hereford.org and under the "Records" tab select "Confirmed Carriers."

Hypotrichosis

Animal name	Reg. No.
DR P183 Rebel 926Y	P23369392
Feltons 468	P23300822
FTR BSF Krypton K11	P42052371
FTR Hannah H18	P41106790
FTR Holly H19	P41106774
FTR Ponderosa L18	P42188920
HH Hunter 531M	P42312968
HPC Butler	P23000171
JR Nick The Butler P183	P22686006
JR P183 Bold Ruler T106	P22989678
JR P183 Wallstreet T56	P22989671
JR PBL P183 Jackpot T15	P22988865
PRL 110 Embark 619T	P21833798
R&S Miss Vic 03N 591R	P22819142
Ruby Tana T50	P23006581
WNH FTR Decathlete 9803	P41006660
WNH FTR Ms Nizhoni 9818	P24056902
WSF 25M Ms Vic 58R	P22733706
WSF Mainstream 186P	P22698616

Dilutor

Animal name	Reg. No.
B Admiral Mischief 12	42889245
FTF M326 Main Man 805U	P42882283
FTF Special Edition 536R	P42620341
JP Miss Gold 7742	42849542
JP Miss Lad 6785	42683712
OXH Monarch 1199	42180512
TCL Moolah Maker 2203	42638078
UU Robin Hood 1118	42152464
WBI 41J Maintimet Amara I24L	P42199593
WHR 386 Domino 391	19398519

Ideopathic Epilepsy

Animal name	Reg.No.
-S Advance 160A K150	42105094
4V 7 J8 43 Domino 805U	42894575
4V 75 6 6 8J Domino 8264U	42898144
4V Ms 6 8J Fortune U155	42898180
4V Ms BU J2 18 Domino U114	42898171
4V Ms E 8J Curvebender U140	42898175
4V Ms LG 34 18 Domino U77	42898197
4V V H 37 Curvebender 8230U	42898133
5PH Miss Success 5K 25	P42720657
BR Wildfire 2153	42358153
C Ms Pure Gold 3010	42399306
Churchill Lady 843U	42884755
Churchill Lady 877U	42884812
Churchill New Idea 857U	P42884696
Churchill Yankee 8144U	42884807
CJH 9126 Domino 407	42536789
CL 1 Domino 0100K	42044437
CL 1 Domino 218M	42270307
CL 1 Domino 486P	42482440
CL 1 Domino 6126S	42673515
DD 4 JA Buck 882	42888883
DD 8 2 18 Domino 898	42888856
DD C Y 8 Domino 838	42888892
DD Homeb J2 18 Domino 8267	42889723
DD LG 2 8 Domino 8266	42888886

DD LG JA 8 Domino 842	42888899
DD S 12 LG 23 Domino 853	42893937
DD W SM 8 Domino 859	42888861
DD Y 3 Curvebender 847	42888894
Domino 8096U	42940682
DS 3001 Adv 7133	40041222
DS 7133 Adv 2136	42294207
ER Miss Advance L361	42232119
FH Miss Solution 767 ET	42894088
GB L1 Domino 226F	42278829
GB L1 Domino 485H	42541755
GKB 146 Promise Me 7119 ET	42881166
GKB HHR Miss Pure Gold B659 ET	42811106
GM Piglet R510	P42925846
GO 102 Domino U110	42889106
GO 3196 Advance U11	42889083
GO 3196 Advance U111	42889173
GO 3196 Advance U114	42889176
GO 3196 Advance U116	42889155
GO 3196 Advance U21	42889108
GO Buddy U60	42889141
GO Jasper U100	42889151
GO L18 Excel U10	42889062
GO Ms 102 Domino U118	42889102
GO Ms 102 Domino U120	42889091
GO Ms 3196 Advance R4	42582959
GO Ms 3196 Advance S151	42698074
GO Ms 3196 Advance S50	42697968
GO Ms 3196 Advance S99	42698040
GO Ms 3196 Advance U115	42889159
GO Ms 3196 Advance U50	42889110
GO Ms 3196 Advance U56	42889107
GO Ms JJ Excel U55	42889098
GO Ms L18 Excel U6	42889068
GO Ms N32 Excel U109	42889167
GO Ms R20 Advance U26	42889181
GO Ms R20 Advance U34	42889170
GO Ms R20 Advance U46	42889143
GO Ms R20 Advance U93	42889140
GO N32 Excel U77	42889149
GO R163 Excel U71	42889129
GO R20 Advance U37	42889154
GO R20 Advance U73	42889133
H5 255 Advance 6262	42686652
H5 255 Domino 6132	42686831
HB Miss Wildfire 8016	42881434
HH Advance 041K 1ET	42050160
HH Advance 160L ET	42151173
HH Advance 252M 1ET	42281408
HH Advance 255M 1ET	42281411
HH Advance 3196N	42370242
HH Advance 361N 1ET	42370289
HH Advance 6052F	19562277
HH Advance 6075S ET	42674271
HH Advance 6133S	42674115
HH Advance 836H	41009427
HH Advance 9012Y	19017888
HH Advance 9043J	41114522
HH Miss Advance 6024S	42674008
HLG 51M Renae 21T	P42814656
HVR Jewel 895 ET	42965959
HVR Jewel 898 ET	42965960
JA L1 Dominette 0406	42091652
JC L1 Domino 6075S 810U ET	42960716

JC L1 Domino 6075S 816U	42955640
JC L1 Domino 6075S 817U	P42955637
JC L1 Domino 6075S 829U ET	P42960713
JC L1 Domino 6075S 830U ET	42960714
JC L1 Lady 7006 828U	42955639
JPS 0228 L1 Princess 501	42612730
JPS 0228 L1 Princess 707	42866244
JPS 300 L1 Princess 606	42762332
JPS 715 L1 Princess 06	42104027
JPS L1 Princess 204	42345349
K&B 4150 Ms Dom 8204U	42904505
K&B Advance 1638	42175189
K&B Knockout 8134U	42904508
K&B Lady Sentry 8009U	42904525
K&B Max Advance 1563	42175194
K&B Sultana 8223U	42904669
KB L1 Dominette 423P	42511601
KB L1 Dominette 601	42674358
KB L1 Dominette 720T	42784492
KB L1 Dominette 853U	42878460
LF Advance L1 823	42883814
LF Domino 818	42883809
LF Domino Duracell 83CC	42883818
LF L1 Advance 813	42883804
LF L1 Advance 81	42883807
LF L1 Advance OK 822	42883813
LF L1 Domino 808	42883799
LF L1 Domino 8560	41039598
LF L1 Ms Dominette 9023	42970582
LF Miss 4 Star 8004	42883772
LF Miss Domino Star 8012	42883779
LF Starlet Advance 8001	42883770
LF XP Domino 820	42883811
Madsens David 0101	42362924
MC 9615 Dutchess M202	P42317722
MCR L91 Mark Dominet 510 ET	42646877
MH Energizer U22	42883744
MH Gold Advance U24	42883737
MH Gold Patriot U31	42883738
MH Keynote U33	42883734
MH Keynote U35	42883728
Miss Advance 3213	42400496
Montana Miss 8148U	42878470
Mr Gold Cave 817	42899613
Ms DD 3 Buck G Domino U32	42888840
Ms DD 3 JA LG 23 Domino U95	42893933
Ms DD 7 4 443 Domino U07	42893948
Ms DD F 2 8 Domino U63	42888868
Ms DD S Homeb JA Domino U23	42888910
PF Becky 8512	P42942469
R Advance 2238	42913917
R Advance 4297	42817168
R Advance 4767	42817209
R Advance 4927	42817222
R Miss Advance 167	40029059
R Miss Advance 396	19579466
R Miss Advance 46	19579424
R Miss Combo 1591	42204775
R Miss Gold Star 666	42715655
RC Ms Silver	40062410
RLC 501 Of 53 083	P42903533
RP 255M Total Carcass T5	P42813355
SWS Excellor 407	42490865
UPS Miss Diamond 2811	42329816 HW