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Trying Times



Sara Gugelmeyer

Ranching is dangerous. I knew that going in. Or so I thought. I married a fourth-generation rancher, and, despite my relatively new understanding of the cattle industry, when we had the opportunity to lease a place of our own, we jumped on it. When I saw my husband tangled up in barbed wire, wrapped around a machine, screaming in pain, limbs mangled, I had second thoughts.

Yep, ranching is dangerous; I knew that for sure then. It's a lot of other things too that aren't necessarily fun. So why do we do it? Well, in the aftermath of my husband's accident, we were inundated with calls from family, friends, neighbors, even people we had never met, wishing us well and asking if there was anything we needed. We're new to the area — a young couple in an aging rural ranching community. Most families have lived here for generations, but it

didn't matter that we are relative outsiders.

That is what makes the cattle industry, and the entire agriculture sector for that matter, so great: the people. Everyone has a story like this to tell of when something went wrong and people jumped to lend a hand.

In this issue we chose to take a closer look at a few people in the Hereford industry, not because they're necessarily famous, or infamous, but because it's the people in this industry who make it what it is. And these Hereford

personalities make the Hereford industry unique.

And just for the record, aside from the day of the accident, I wouldn't go back and do things differently. Despite the trying times, we are all lucky to be a part of an industry where people still offer to help when they see those in need. That's way more comforting than a cozy corner office job. **HW**

Editor's Note: Sara Gugelmeyer joined the *Hereford World* staff in August 2007 as assistant editor. She works part-time from her home near Dalhart, Texas. Our thoughts and prayers continue to go out to Sara and Jeremy as he continues to recover from the accident.



Jeremy and Sara Gugelmeyer operate a commercial stocker cattle operation in the northwest corner of the Texas Panhandle and raise and train Quarter Horses. They also own and manage an outfitting business offering hunts in Texas, Kansas and Colorado.

Celebrating 100 Years of Hereford Publishing

This month we continue to commemorate the 100th year of Hereford publishing. Here are some of the highlights printed in the July 1, 1910, issue:

- American Hereford Association Secretary C.R. Thomas advised breeders to castrate every medium or inferior bull and spay every medium or inferior heifer. He said this would increase quality and prices paid for Herefords.
- The highest price paid (at that time) for a straight load of heifers at the St. Louis market was a group of Hereford heifers that sold for \$8.10 per hundredweight (cwt).
- Branded Nebraska Herefords — five loads of them — topped the Chicago market Monday, June 13, 1910, at \$8.75 cwt. Wheeler Bros., Giltner, Neb., bred, fed and shipped the lot that included 45 head and averaged 1,498 lb.

July 15, 1910:

- "Herefords Best for the Feedlot" was the lead story. W.J. Tod, a well-known feeder at the time, wrote Herefords gain more on grass alone compared to any other breed and because of their strong constitutions and great thrift should and do respond to feedlot conditions better than any other breed that he had ever fed.
- An article encouraged producers to use purebred bulls because herds cannot be improved using "grade" sires.

— Angie Stump Denton, editor

