

HRF Supports Breed Improvement Research



Jack Ward

It is a great time to be in the Hereford business. Demand for Hereford genetics in the commercial industry has hit a new level. The hard work and dedication of performance breeders and their commitment to Whole Herd Total Performance Records (TPR™) has helped drive this increase in demand.

In addition, the Harris Ranch, Circle A Ranch, Simplot Ranch and Amana Farms heterosis projects and the National Reference Sire Program have proven the benefits of adding Hereford genetics into predominately commercial Angus cow herds.

These projects are not only proving the value of Hereford genetics in the cow herds, but we are also collecting data for feed intake, fertility and mature cow size. Furthermore, the American Hereford Association (AHA) has developed a strategy to include genomic information into the genetic analysis in order to further enhance the consistency and predictability of Hereford genetics.



A functioning part of the Hereford Youth Foundation of America

With this in mind, the AHA established the Hereford Research Foundation (HRF) in 2009 to help fund research and breed improvement projects that will continue to build growth and demand for Hereford genetics. These special projects should position the Hereford breed as an industry leader for years to come.

The HRF is a 501(c)3 that is a division of the Hereford Youth Foundation of America. All HRF donations go specifically to help fund research and breed improvement projects. The HRF has grown significantly in a short period of time. This growth documents the interest breeders have in these types of projects.

Here is a list of ways and opportunities for breeders to support HRF:

- Designate one cow or bull within your herd and have the proceeds from progeny or semen sales each year earmarked for the HRF.
- Donate cattle, embryos, semen or any other item to the online HRF fund-raising auction each year.
- Leave a legacy to the Hereford breed by earmarking a portion of your estate to the HRF.
- Make a cash donation.

These are just a few of the possibilities. As the challenges facing the beef cattle industry continue to grow, the seedstock industry will need to continue to embrace new technology. It will be through your continued support that the Association will be able to grow this foundation, which will allow us to explore opportunities and document the value of Hereford genetics within the commercial industry.

If you have any questions or thoughts about the HRF, please do not hesitate to call 816-842-3757. **HW**

- Donate the proceeds of one lot each year in your production sale.

Confirmed Genetic Abnormality Carriers

To review a list of registered Hereford animals that are confirmed genetic abnormality carriers go to Hereford.org and under the "Records/TPR" tab select "Genetic Abnormalities." If you do not have Internet access, call 816-842-3757 to request a list. **HW**