

Mother Nature's

Mother Nature. She does not always cooperate. Sometimes she brings us challenges, while other times, we are blessed with glorious skies, lovely days and the moisture needed to keep pastures lush and ponds full.

Most Americans wake up and wonder, "What's the weather going to be like today?" For most the answer may mean putting on a jacket, grabbing an umbrella or bundling up the kids for the school bus stop. But for farmers and ranchers, the answer has a significant effect on their very economic well-being.

During the last several years, the weather has taken its toll on agriculture. Throughout the country and around the globe, many have experienced the power of Mother Nature — she can change any situation in the blink of an eye.

In the pages that follow, we take a look at instances when Mother Nature has unleashed havoc on Hereford breeders and other cattlemen around the country. In this section — from blizzards to drought and floods to wildfires — we are reminded of the awesome power of Mother Nature.

Although many of these "events" have left producers wondering if they can outlast Mother Nature, her challenges have also given them an opportunity to plan for the future. By planning and not panicking, producers can use Mother Nature's challenges to build a stronger, more uniform herd that will bring them more profits in the future.

And Hereford breeders know when facing Mother Nature's challenges, there's nothing better than a "hardy" Hereford to survive and thrive. **HW**



With the blink of an eye, challenges from Mother Nature like tornadoes, fire, flood and drought can change a picture-perfect scene to something deadly.

Challenges



ORIGINAL PHOTO BY KEN COLEMAN, ENHANCEMENTS BY CHRISTY BENIGNO

Killer Storm
Page 48



Out of the Ashes
Page 62



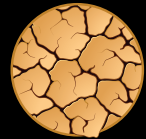
Cows and Wildfire
Page 74



**Surviving
the Storm**
Page 84



Pray for Rain
Page 96



**Rangeland
Realities**
Page 108



Washed Away
Page 124



In the Eye of Ike
Page 136



**What's Your
Contingency Plan?**
Page 148



Got Stress?
Page 150

