

Pruning the Paperwork

MyHerd.org offers electronic storage of registration certificates.

by Julie White

Do you ever find yourself buried in paperwork with dreams of a simpler way and, well, fewer papers? The American Hereford Association (AHA) offers electronic storage of registration certificates to members using the online registry system *MyHerd.org*, a service provided with busy Hereford breeders in mind.

Storing online

“When a member registers or purchases a Hereford animal, the registration certificate is stored electronically on MyHerd,

until the member wants to release the certificate for print,” explains Christy Bradshaw, AHA education and information service coordinator.

“The electronic storage service allows members to decide when they receive registration certificates. There is no additional cost to store or release registration certificates.”

Bradshaw emphasizes that each current owner is provided one registration certificate with the cost of registration or transfer. AHA members using MyHerd may

choose to store the registration certificate online until they would need a paper copy. Then, she says, it’s simple for members to go to MyHerd at their convenience and “release” the stored certificate that will then be printed and mailed.

Dave Breiner of Mill Creek Ranch, Alma, Kan., says the opportunity to utilize electronic storage of registration certificates is one of the reasons he signed up for MyHerd. “We always try to stay updated on the newest technology,

FAQs

Q: When is a registration certificate stored electronically?

A: A registration certificate is stored electronically at *MyHerd.org* when an animal is successfully registered or transferred and all associated fees are paid in full. Registration certificates are only stored for animals registered or transferred after a member is enrolled in the electronic storage service. Animals registered or transferred prior to enrollment can’t be stored electronically because their certificates have already been released.

Q: Can a registration certificate be put back into electronic storage?

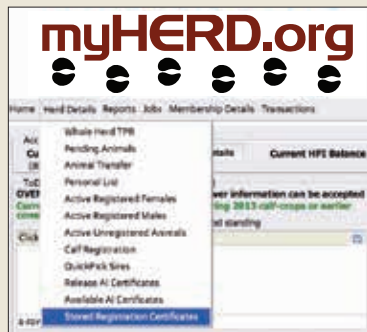
A: No, when a registration certificate is released from storage, it cannot be returned.

Q: What happens when I purchase an animal and it’s transferred to my member account?

A: When the seller requests “Cert to Buyer” the new certificate will be placed into the participating buyer’s electronic storage instead of traditionally printed and mailed to the buyer. If the new owner (buyer) wishes to receive the hard copy of the certificate, he will need to release the certificate from his storage once the animal is transferred successfully.

Q: Do we still need an original hard copy registration certificate to show at a national American Hereford Association (AHA) or affiliated show?

A: AHA national shows still require an original hard copy registration to check in and exhibit an animal. MyHerd



To view stored registration certificates in MyHerd, click on “Herd Details” and then “Stored Registration Certificates” from the menu option.

Selected	Registration Num	Herd ID	Sex	Season	Status	Animal Name	Birth Date	Lot #
	4342796R	37A	B	2013 Spring	Active	LF DOMINO 30A	04/25/13	
	4343014A	305A	B	2013 Fall	Active	MCR 0147 3027 HARLAND 308	08/13/13	
	4343056F	301	C	2013 Fall	Active	MCR 0147 408 DOMINET 305	09/08/13	
	4343054A	302A	C	2013 Fall	Active	MCR 0147 4R DOMINET 312A	11/20/13	
	4343094A	303	B	2013 Fall	Active	MCR 0147 HARLAND KING TEN 303	09/08/13	
	4343093A	408	C	2013 Spring	Active	MCR 0147 HARLANDS DOMINET 408	04/15/14	
	4343092A	309	C	2013 Fall	Active	MCR 0147 MARK DOMINET 309	10/02/13	
	4343091A	305	C	2013 Fall	Active	MCR 0147 MS 3027 HARLAND 305	09/01/13	
	4343090A	305A	B	2013 Fall	Active	MCR 0147 REVOLUTION 408 305	09/02/13	
	4343081A	011A	C	2014 Fall	Active	MCR 0147 408 DOMINET 411A ET	10/16/14	
	4343079A	4009	B	2014 Fall	Active	MCR 0147 408 DOMINO 4009 ET	10/20/14	
	4343078A	4001	B	2014 Fall	Active	MCR 0147 550R HARLAND 4001 ET	09/18/14	
	4343077A	401	B	2014 Fall	Active	MCR 0147 550R HARLAND 401 ET	09/18/14	
	4343076A	4008	B	2014 Fall	Active	MCR 0147 550R HARLAND 4008 ET	09/18/14	
	4343075A	4015	C	2014 Fall	Active	MCR 0147 MS HARLAND 4015 ET	10/16/14	
	4343074A	4013	C	2014 Fall	Active	MCR 0147 MS HARLAND 4013 ET	10/16/14	
	4343073A	4012	C	2014 Fall	Active	MCR 0147 MS HARLAND 4012 ET	10/16/14	
	4343072A	4011	C	2014 Fall	Active	MCR 0147 MS RANCHER 4011 079 ET	09/18/14	
	4343069A	405	C	2014 Fall	Active	MCR 0147 MS HARLANDS CLASS 405	09/18/14	
	4343068A	4002	C	2014 Fall	Active	MCR 0147 408 DOMINET 4002	08/13/14	

Registration certificates that are stored electronically will appear in a list on MyHerd.

so this seemed like a good fit for us,” he says.

Mill Creek Ranch is a family operation where Breiner and son Chad run 400 registered and commercial Hereford and Angus females, utilizing embryo transfer (ET) and artificial insemination (AI) extensively.

“We like MyHerd because of the quick turnaround of data — whether it be registrations, transfers or performance data,” Breiner explains. “Once the data is submitted, the registration number is assigned, the transfer is completed and the weaning and yearling info is available. Instead of mailing information in and waiting for the paperwork to be sent back, the information is on the website as soon as the data is entered.”

Breiner also appreciates how MyHerd’s electronic certificate

How to enroll in electronic storage service

Contact the customer service department with your member number to enroll your herd in the electronic storage service. The only requirement to store registration certificates electronically is to have a *MyHerd.org* account.

MyHerd is a free online registry system available to American Hereford Association members. MyHerd allows members to view and release stored registration certificates.

If you don’t already have a MyHerd account and want to enroll in electronic storage, email your member number to MyHerd@hereford.org. **HW**



storage service lessens the amount of paperwork for the Breiner family. “The registrations, transfer information and performance data is at your fingertips,” he says. “Plus you can choose to release the hard copy of the registration certificate from storage if needed for your ranch or a customer.”

Storing its registration certificates on MyHerd allows

Mill Creek Ranch to have the most current information when a certificate is released. “We release certificates either for us to have a paper copy or to transfer to a buyer,” Breiner says. “Storing electronically makes sure that the certificate has up-to-date info and EPDs on it for the new buyer.”

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makes it easy to release your show string’s registration certificates — they can be released any time, day or night, and will mail out the next business day.

Q: How far in advance do I need to release registration certificates from storage for a show?

A: AHA National Shows Coordinator, Bailey Clanton, says, “A good rule of thumb is to release your registration certificates from storage prior to submitting show entries.”

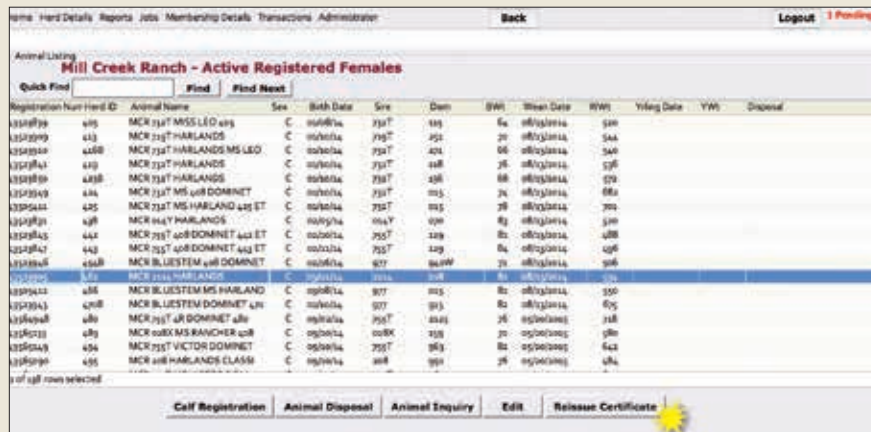
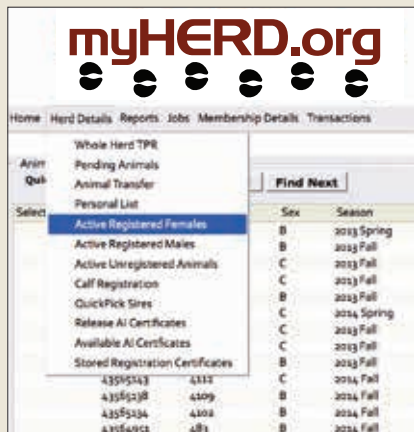
She suggests that the owner release the registration certificates before submitting show entries in order to double check how the birth date, tattoo, horn status and current owner are printed on each respective animal’s registration certificate. It is important to review this information to avoid registration issues at show check-in.

Q: What happens if I lose a certificate that I released from storage?

A: A duplicate registration certificate can be requested when an original registration certificate is lost. Duplicate registration certificates can be reissued on MyHerd on the active registered female and active registered male pages for \$2 each.

How to reissue a duplicate certificate on MyHerd.org:

1. Click on the tab “Herd Details” and select the menu option active registered females or active registered males.
2. Select an animal from the list.
3. Click the “Reissue Certificate” button located at the bottom of the page.
4. Your MyHerd account will be charged for each duplicate registration certificate. Don’t forget to check out on MyHerd, all transactions must be paid before work can be released. **HW**



To reissue a lost certificate, select the animal from the active registered female or male page and click “Reissue Certificate.”

Providing convenience

Dave Bielema of Grand Meadows Farm, Grand Rapids, Mich., was part of the trial herds used in the early stages of testing and rolling out MyHerd. "This was a real rewarding process," he says. "It was apparent early on it would add some things for the individual breeder that you couldn't do before."

Grand Meadows Farm is a small seedstock operation with a herd of 50 cows that emphasizes raising show cattle for Bielema's daughter and selling freezer beef. Bielema works off the farm and says MyHerd helps him take care of his registrations and data submission when it's convenient for him.

"When I want to register calves I can do so at any hour of the day," he says. "I can do basic functions myself, like transferring certificates. I can have those transactions recorded and I don't need someone to help me and I know it's done. Other things too, like we had misplaced a couple of registration papers and I can request a copy of those without calling into the office. Realizing that at 8 p.m., it doesn't matter."

Bielema also serves as a member of the AHA Board of Directors and

says electronic storage of registration certificates also benefits the Association.

"We, in the office, spend a ton of money on postage and many of those paper registration certificates get filed and never looked at again," he explains. "They're also kind of snap shots in time because the most up to date performance pedigree data is online with MyHerd we have the most current data at our fingertips."

Bielema says registration certificates can be requested at any time, and members can have them in their mailbox within a few days. "To me, I see the electronic certificate storage service as a cost savings advantage for the Association and providing conveniences and freeing up the records staff to do other work and answer phone calls."

Benefiting members

Bradshaw says there are numerous benefits to members who utilize electronic storage of registration certificates. "This service helps prevent members from losing registration certificates on animals in their herd," she says. "It also cuts down on paperwork for our members. Since

registration certificates aren't needed to transfer Hereford cattle online, members can transfer owned animals to their customers without having to handle registration certificates."

For performance members, Bradshaw says they can wait to have their calf crop's registration certificates printed until all performance data is submitted and then have the most current performance data and EPDs printed on each certificate.

If electronic storage of registration certificates piqued your interest but you are still uncertain, Breiner encourages members to reach out to the Association for assistance. "We appreciate all the help we get when we have a question about MyHerd," he says. "Everyone at the AHA office has been very helpful as we learned how to utilize this program. We also like the webinar programs that are offered online, so producers can learn how to take advantage of all that is available with this program." **HW**