

A Story to Tell



Julie White

I love a good story. I grew up around great storytellers, but then again, most farmers I know are.

I could spend hours listening to my Grandpa White's story of how he and my grandma saved every penny to purchase the farm I know today. How they lived in town when they first were married until Grandpa couldn't stand the confinement another minute. How they tore down the old cabin that once sat along a road that saw stagecoaches travel from the now sleepy Fayetteville to the now bustling Warrensburg. How they saved up more to build with their own two hands a nice, modest home for their four children.

I don't know how many times I've asked my Grandpa and Grandma Adams to tell me the story again of how that one piece of land on the back side of their place — the one with the most beautiful view of the rolling hills of Missouri — has been in our family since 1836 when a distant relative of mine acquired it through a land grant. How my great-grandpa pieced together the property, and you can still see those old corner posts of what was once divided. And hearing from my mom about how she and her brothers used to play in the old, abandoned farmhouse, now long gone. But the barn is still there.

I remember being hushed by my dad in his Chevy truck when the great Paul Harvey came on the Kansas City radio station 61 Country, so we could all hear "The Rest

of the Story" program and learn a little something new that day.

I also enjoy the stories my siblings and I now have from our experiences becoming who we are. Some of those stories made our parents laugh, get angry or shake their heads, and others — well, it may be just a few more years before those stories are told.

In this issue

It comes easy, then, that one of my favorite things about my job is hearing stories. As we were brainstorming themes for the 92nd Annual Herd Bull and Reference Edition and settled on "Hereford Generations," I couldn't wait to tell the stories of our longtime Hereford breeders and the ones we've recently welcomed to the Hereford family.

This "Hereford Generations" edition tells how some of our members began in the Hereford business and how some have kept going all these years. I'm thankful for their honesty in not only recounting the good times but also sharing with us the difficult realities of running a successful business with family.

We also spent time speaking with succession experts to learn how to prepare your farm or ranch business now for that next step. You will also find a story on ways to implement sustainable management strategies to ensure you leave your farm or ranch in the best shape possible.

"Planning Your Legacy" emphasizes the importance of developing a plan for how your assets will be transitioned and introduces an opportunity to give back to future leaders.

Also in this issue, the American Hereford Association (AHA) welcomes Jack Ward as executive vice president, to lead, direct, manage or support all functions of the Association. With extensive knowledge of the beef cattle industry and a commitment to the Hereford breed, he is ready to guide the organization to face challenges and seek new opportunities.

Be sure to check out "All Things Hereford" as we take you through the new website, *ShopHereford.com*, where Hereford enthusiasts may purchase apparel, décor and marketing materials. Certified Hereford Beef (CHB®) is now available for purchase online through this website.

We introduce to you the AHA records department team that works daily to meet the needs of our membership. We also dive into the electronic storage of registration certificates on *MyHerd.org*. This feature helps members cut back on paper work and open up some space in their file cabinets.

Take a step back in time and visit the historic Hereford Farm and learn about the colorful Dorothy Roche who grew up on that piece of land in Hereford, Md.

Everyone has a story, and we hope you enjoy the few we were able to include. **HW**