



**World
HEREFORD
Conference #16**

Canada 2012

Celebrating the New Hereford

Highlights of the 16th World Hereford Conference in Canada.

Hereford enthusiasts from around the world were in Canada July 8-24 to participate in the 16th World Hereford Conference. Hosting the event was the Canadian Hereford Association.

More than 300 producers registered for the entire conference and approximately 100 U.S. producers participated in the event.

On Friday, July 13, the meetings in Calgary began with member countries giving update reports. During the meeting, Jose “Pepe” Bonica, current Uruguayan Rural Society president, was selected as the new World Hereford Council secretary-general.

Saturday was a full day of speakers, with approximately 445 attendees.

On Monday the events moved to Olds, Alberta, for the shows, starting with the Junior Bonanza, where young cattle breeders from across Canada, as well as 42 juniors from around the world, participated. There were more than 700 people in the audience. On Tuesday was the World Hereford Conference National Hereford Show with more than 320 head competing. It was judged by Dave Durie Jr. and watched by nearly 1,200.

Wednesday was rancher day, which kicked off with an experienced panel of cattlemen and cattlemen judging from horseback. The women judged the cow-calf pairs, and the men judged the pen-of-three bulls. Again the attendance was nearly 1,200 people.



Presidents from each country were recognized during the opening session and presented white hats. Pictured far right is American Hereford Association President David Breiner. The White Hat Ceremony is a long-standing tradition in Calgary, a symbol of the Western hospitality and good cheer.



Matt Woolfolk, 2011-12 National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) chairman, gave a presentation about NJHA activities.



My WHC Adventure

by Heather Bradford

I was the lucky winner of the OXO World Traveler Scholarship, sponsored by Linda Swiercinsky and family. With this amazing opportunity, I attended the pre-tour and the 16th World Hereford Conference (WHC) July 9-18. My incredible journey started in Vancouver, British Columbia, and ended in Calgary, Alberta. I also decided to do something a little outside my comfort zone and blog about my adventures across Canada.

The best part wasn't the cattle or the scenery but having the opportunity to meet so many unique people from around the world and even Ohio. I made friends from Denmark, England, New Zealand, Sweden and, especially, Australia. The Australians have almost convinced me to visit, although I have been warned that I might not want to come home once I get there.

Pre-conference tour

First stop, Murphy Ridge Farms owned by Henry and Velma Braun in beautiful Abbotsford. Many local

breeders had cattle on display for the three tour buses. Just north of the U.S. border, this area has extremely fertile soil that is excellent for growing raspberries and blueberries.

Quite possibly the highlight of the tour was Copper Creek Ranch, owned by Ron and Sharon Stevenson, in Princeton. The weather was amazing, and it was so quiet and peaceful in the valley between the mountains. They had cow-calf pairs on display, and my fellow attendees thoroughly enjoyed driving through the pasture in the golf carts. The cow-calf pair that would go on to win both the open and junior WHC shows was even on display there.

After a short bus ride to begin day two, we stopped at the historic Quilchena Hotel, which is owned by Guy and Hilda Rose, in the Nicola Valley. This stop was complete with the more than 100-year-old hotel, general

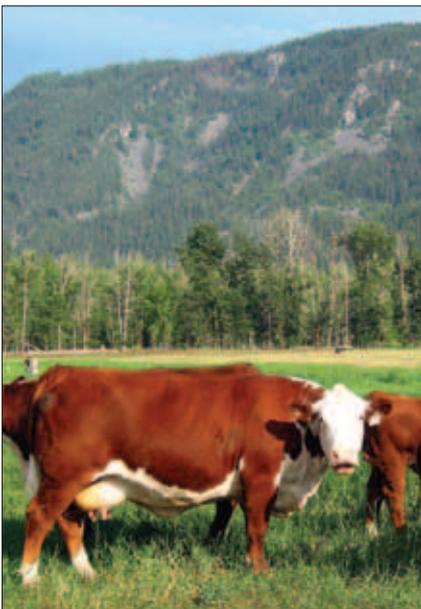


Douglas Lake Ranch is the largest ranch in Canada with 7,000 Hereford or Hereford-cross females.

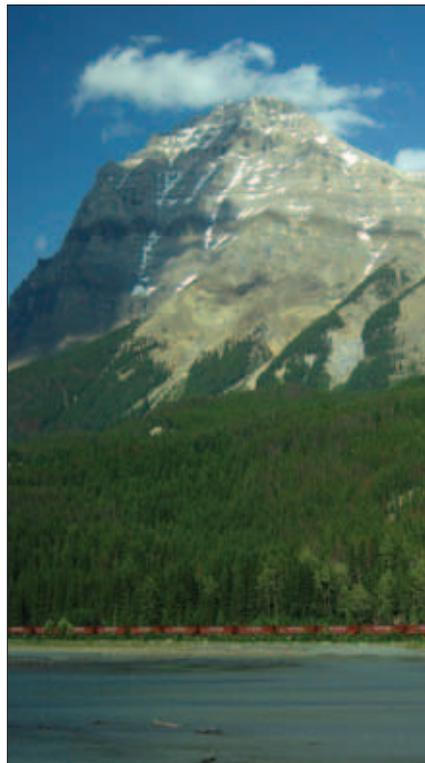
store and golf course. The Rose family has taken full advantage of the tourism industry as an additional source of income to their 1,500 cows. This is a very arid region that receives only about a foot of rain annually.

Then, we headed out for Douglas Lake Ranch with one of the cowboys on board the bus as our personal tour guide. The ranch is located beside an Indian reservation and lake of the same name. This is the largest ranch in Canada, boasting 7,000 females that are all Hereford or Hereford-cross. Unfortunately, the cows were all up in the mountains on summer pasture; so, we didn't actually get to

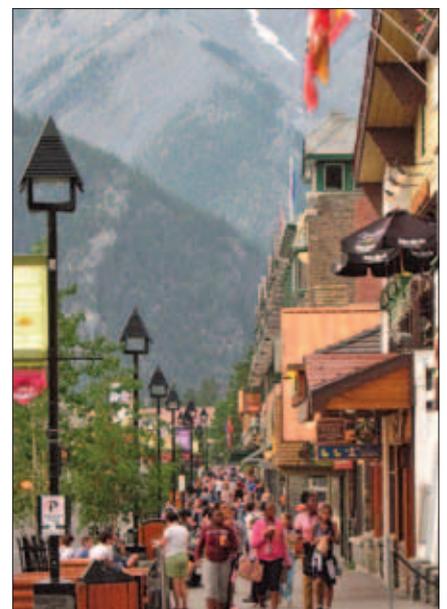
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Day one of the pre-conference tour included a stop at Copper Creek Ranch, Princeton.



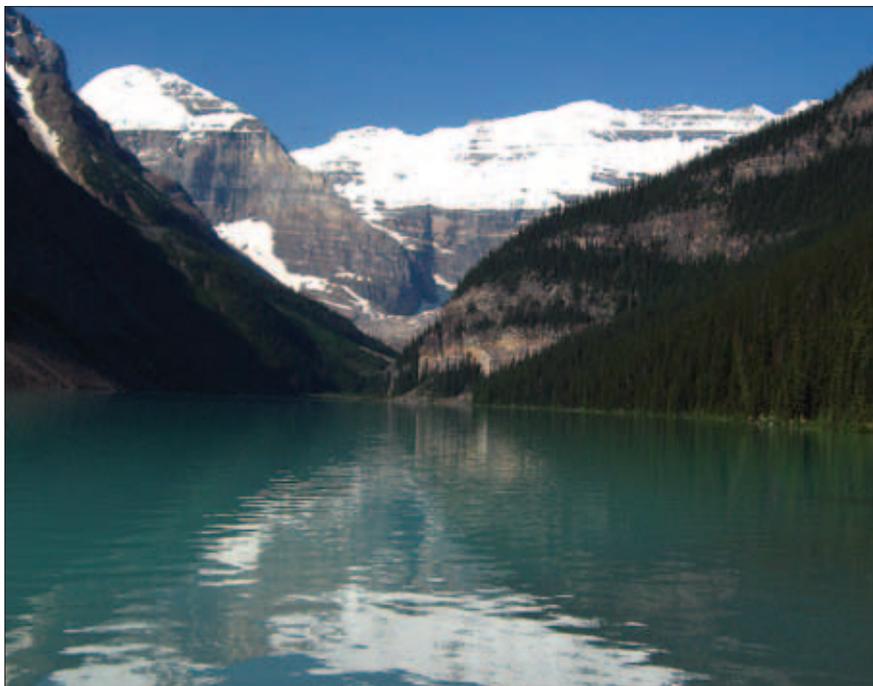
The Canadian-Pacific Railway spans Canada from coast to coast.



Shopping in downtown Banff.



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Guests on the pre-conference tour had a free day in Banff. While there many visited the beautiful Lake Louise.

see any of them. The Douglas family estimates that the ranch has access to over 750,000 acres of owned, leased and government land. Their ultimate mission is to convert grass into beef, which is accomplished by marketing stocker cattle.

Day three was the “Are we there yet?” day because it was a full-day bus ride from Kamloops to Banff. I’m not a fan of long car rides but survived just fine. We made a stop that morning at the location where the last spike was driven into the Canadian-Pacific

Railway. This railroad spans Canada from coast to coast, and the trains can be up to 2 miles long.

Our main stop for the day was at Three Valley Gap. The location used to be a swamp but was filled in with the dirt from building the Trans-Canada Highway. Here, a ghost town commemorates Canada’s past. Its buildings were physically moved to this site. There was everything from classic cars to old-fashioned tools used in the era.

The fourth day was a free day to spend in Banff, a popular tourist town. Banff National Park is situated on some 2,500 square miles in western Alberta. Banff Avenue is the place to go for all your shopping and souvenirs. I highly recommend sampling ice cream at Cows while you’re there; brownie explosion is pretty awesome. Also, chocolate addicts beware, there is an abundance of chocolate shops here too!

My mom joined me in Banff, and we drove up to Lake Louise to take in the beautiful scenery. The Fairmont Chateau hotel sits at one end of this teal-colored glacial lake, and white-capped mountains line the opposite end. We didn’t see any bears but did find a couple of rock climbers and many



A highlight of the conference was attending the Calgary Stampede and watching the chuckwagon races.

canoes on the lake. This outing brought an end to the tour part of my trip.

The conference

The conference itself began with the member countries giving reports about agriculture, the beef industry and the Hereford breed in each respective country. The officials were excited to announce Kazakhstan and Switzerland as new additions to the council this year.

One interesting fact: Kazakhstan has 10,000 head of Herefords and plans to import another 72,000 by 2015. Many of the countries in attendance have already exported cattle there. Another thing I took away from these presentations is an appreciation that the *Hereford World* is published monthly and not annually like in some countries. I'm not sure I could handle that wait! The U.S. was the final country, and Craig Huffhines had the pleasure of announcing that this year's junior national was the largest Hereford show in the world.

Day six was the technical conference, which I'd been looking forward to, at the Calgary Stampede. "Come Celebrate the New Hereford" was the theme, and the conference was a celebration of the resurgence of the breed in many countries.

The topics focused on the breed's strengths like docility and feed efficiency. One presentation regarding the new genomic evaluation was particularly relevant to American Hereford Association (AHA) members. I would encourage Hereford breeders to submit DNA samples on their young animals. The greatest benefit comes from improving the accuracy of young animals' expected progeny differences (EPDs).

The Association needs your help by you sending in hair samples for genomic testing while still performance testing those animals and their progeny. Due to the foresight of the AHA leadership, the samples you send will help us make the genomic test more accurate, aid in the discovery of new economically relevant traits and improve the genetic evaluation of our breed so we can continue to move forward.



The final day of the conference was Rancher Day. Judges on horseback evaluated groups of bulls and cow-calf pairs.

That evening we watched the chuckwagon races, which were amazing. Each race is basically about one minute of complete chaos. Each team consists of two outriders and four horses pulling a wagon. The outriders start on foot and have to run to a certain point before jumping on their horses and chasing the wagon. All involved make a figure eight around their barrels and race off around the track. The horses were retired Thoroughbreds, and there were hundreds back in the barn. I would go to the Stampede again just to watch the chuckwagon races!

Day seven was all about The Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth, the Calgary Stampede. This year also happened to be the 100th anniversary, where total attendance at the 10-day event exceeded a record breaking 1.4 million spectators. We watched the working horse competition, a performance by the mounted police, the rodeo finals and heavy horse pulls. The Stampede was very supportive of the WHC as was evident from the displays in the cattle barn.

The shows

The final three days consisted of the cattle shows in Olds. First up was Bonanza, Canada's version of our junior national. The open show was much

anticipated by the participants with about 320 head competing in polled and horned shows. Congratulations to the American exhibitors who had success in the shows.

The final day was rancher day, a first time for the WHC, with about 1,200 people in attendance. Three judges on horseback evaluated cow-calf pairs and pens of three bulls. The event was very well received by the spectators, who appreciated seeing cattle in a real-world setting. The festivities concluded with the awarding of bronze statues to the open and pen show champions.

The end was a little bittersweet as this conference marks the conclusion of my junior career. Thanks to all the people and organizations that have supported me and made this an incredible journey, starting with my first junior national in Lansing, Mich.

This truly was the experience of a lifetime. I had an absolutely fantastic time meeting fellow Hereford enthusiasts from all around the globe. Thanks to everyone for their hospitality and the memories.

For more pictures and details about my trip, check out my blog at www.thebradfords.com/blog.html. I encourage everyone to attend the 17th WHC in Uruguay in 2016.

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World Hereford Conference National Hereford Show Champions



Grand champion horned Hereford bull, UPS Uptown ET, by Hirsche Herefords & Angus Ltd., High River, Alberta; Upstream Ranch, Taylor, Neb.; and WSV Farm & Ranch LLC, Calhan, Colo. He's an April 21, 2010, son of CRR About Time 743.



Grand champion polled Hereford bull, Remital West Game Day ET 74Y, by Remital West, Olds, Alberta; Glengrove Farm, Rolla, Mo.; and Justin and Amanda Bacon, Siloam Springs, Ark. He's an April 16, 2011, son of SHF Wonder M326 W18 ET.



Grand champion horned Hereford female, SK Big-Gully 611 Hunny 553U, by Big Gully Farm, Maidstone, Saskatchewan. She's a Feb. 9, 2008, daughter of KSU Bounty Hunter 611.



Grand champion polled Hereford female, WLB 36N Beth ET 452S, by Caylyne Brown, Spring Brook, Ontario. She's a Feb. 4, 2006, daughter of HF 4L Beyond 36N.



Champion pen-of-three bulls by Merle Wyatt, Arrowwood, Alberta.



Champion cow-calf pair by Remital West, Olds, Alberta. HW