



by Jack Ward, chief operating officer and director of breed improvement

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Stahly NRSP Results Announced

Reported here are the final data on Stahly 2013-born calves.

Mike and Judy Stahly, of Stahly Ranch, Cavour, S.D., have participated in the National Reference Sire Program (NRSP) for 15 years, utilizing Hereford sires in their commercial herd. The Stahlys were featured on the cover of the August 2013 *Hereford World*, if you'd like to read more about their operation.

The number of progeny reflects those which had birth weight (BW) and weaning weight (WW) collected. That number is less for carcass. The

cattle were harvested on July 15, and 65% of the steers graded Choice or better; 90% were yield grade (YG) 3 or better.

For hot carcass weight (HCW) ratio, the bigger the ratio, the more weight.

If you would like to nominate a bull for the NRSP, look for the form on *Hereford.org*, in the January *Hereford World*, or contact me at 816-842-3757 or jward@hereford.org. **HW**

Hereford Genetic Summit: An event to remember

The Hereford Genetic Summit was Sept. 4-5, and those dates may be remembered as some of the most instrumental in the long-term success of the Hereford breed. Summits have given direction to the breed for decades, but in the past the focus has been "type." This Summit focused on genetics and how the beef industry will be challenged to produce a product that the consumer demands, to keep the industry sustainable and to feed a growing population.

To me, the message was clear and had four main components, including:

- 1) Keep putting pressure on calving ease.** Commercial cattlemen do not have time to deal with problems associated with dystocia. They are working a second job or are larger producers who expect to spread more cows over less labor force, so they don't have time for calving difficulties.
- 2) Work hard on adding end-product merit.** All speakers touched on marbling, ribeye area and tenderness. Two of these are easily measurable traits, and all are moderately heritable, so genetic progress can be made. Beef is at an all-time high for price, so the consumer is expecting quality, consistency and tenderness.
- 3) Keep working to identify efficient, low-cost cattle.** The consumer wants a product that leaves less of a greenhouse footprint; the feedyard wants cattle to gain efficiently; and the commercial cowman needs to increase numbers with the same or less resources — land and water.
- 4) Keep doing all of these things while not losing focus on what kept you in the game.** Hereford cattle need to be problem free and that includes disposition, cosmetic abnormalities, longevity, fertility and low maintenance. Do not try to do everything for everyone, but keep an eye on what your customers need.

Kevin Ochsner said it best: "The average size of the cow herd, both commercial and seedstock, is less than 100 cows. There are over 29 million cows in the U.S., and we really do not need them if they are just pets." No matter your size, you are part of this industry, and you should be making genetic progress. **HW**

Table 1: 2013-born calves at Stahly Ranch

Sire Name	Reg. No.	Total calves	BW ratio	WW ratio	HCW ratio	MB ratio	REA ratio	YG average
MCR Bluestem 977	43086834	37	98	99	96	102	100	3.5
Schu-Lar Red Bull 18X	43084009	44	100	99	102	92	103	3.2
SHF York 19H Y02	43180994	33	102	102	102	106	98	3.6

Table 2: EPDs of bulls used at Stahly Ranch

Sire Name	CE EPD	CE ACC	BW EPD	BW ACC	WW EPD	WW ACC	YW EPD	YW ACC	MM EPD	MM ACC	MG EPD	MCE EPD	MCE ACC	MCW EPD	MCW ACC	SC EPD	SC ACC	FAT EPD	FAT ACC	REA EPD	REA ACC	MARB EPD	MARB ACC	BMI	CEZ	BII	CHB
MCR Bluestem 977	6.1	0.34	-0.4	0.65	57	0.54	85	0.51	24	0.23	53	2.9	0.3	54	0.4	1.1	0.37	0.054	0.35	0.6	0.36	0.08	0.32	22	20	17	26
Schu-Lar Red Bull 18X	8.2	0.32	0.3	0.71	62	0.6	106	0.57	16	0.21	47	0.4	0.27	101	0.42	0.6	0.48	0.051	0.4	0.28	0.4	0.25	0.36	19	20	13	33
SHF York 19H Y02	6.5	0.34	0.5	0.79	72	0.72	108	0.7	22	0.22	58	2.9	0.29	96	0.44	1.4	0.55	-0.006	0.48	0.64	0.48	0.33	0.45	30	21	23	42