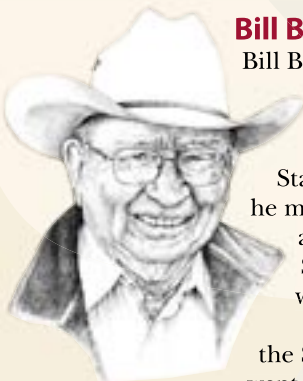


★ Hall of Fame, Merit Inductees Recognized

Bill Bennett, James Bennett and Rob B. Hooper were inducted into the Hereford Hall of Fame Oct. 22, 2007, in Kansas City during the American Hereford Association (AHA) Annual Membership Meeting. The Hall of Fame honor recognizes breeders who have dynamically influenced the direction and advancement of the Hereford breed.

Also at the Annual Meeting, the late Col. Stanley E. Stout was honored with the Hereford Hall of Merit Award. Hall of Merit inductees aren't necessarily Hereford breeders but have, in their own ways, greatly influenced the Hereford breed and cattle industry.



Bill Bennett

Bill Bennett, Connell, Wash., was born into the purebred Shorthorn business. After he attended Washington State College (now University), he married Norma Marsh, and they started their own Shorthorn business in western Washington.

Then in the mid '50s, they sold the Shorthorn business, and Bill went to work as the herdsman at his alma mater. During this time he contributed to a beef science book and showed cattle for the university.

By the time Bill moved to Connell, Wash., he and Norma had four children. They relocated to become partners in a registered Hereford operation, TT Herefords. They immediately became involved in performance testing their cattle and enrolled the entire herd in the AHA's performance testing program. In 1969 their partner's poor health forced them to liquidate much of their herd, and although they bought out his portion, they were left with only 15 head.

Although it started small, Bill and Norma's own ranch, BB Cattle Co., quickly grew in size and reputation. Cheryl Thomas, now an Oregon, Washington, Northern Idaho Hereford Association (OWNI) director, says even as a young girl she was very impressed with Bill. Cheryl says, "BB Cattle Co. produced bulls and heifers that were an enviable tribute to him, his work ethic and his knowledge of the breed."

His hard work paid off; the ranch now consists of about 1,000 acres of irrigated cropland and 5,000 acres of grass. BB Cattle Co. consigns cattle to national sales and hosts an annual bull sale of its own. Through the years BB Cattle Co. bulls have won the Jack Owens Ideal Range Bull Award three times and the ranch has shown numerous National Western Stock Show champion and reserve carloads. Bill was also awarded the Beef Improvement

Federation's (BIF) Seedstock Producer of the Year Award in 1988.

Bill has also been a leader in the cattle industry. He served as an AHA director from 1985-91, as well as being involved in the Washington Cattlemen's Association. In addition, he has been active in OWNI and the Western States Hereford Association.

James Bennett

James Bennett, Red House, Va., operates Knoll Crest Farm (KCF), which has long been known for its performance-based genetics. KCF consists of more than 500 registered cows in south central Virginia.

The Bennetts have been in the seedstock business since 1944, when James' father bought his first polled Hereford cattle. In 1963, after getting their feet wet in the business, they started collecting performance data and tracking beef improvement.

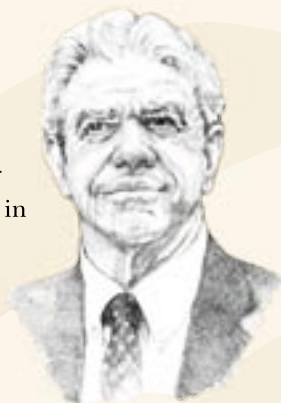
Not only have James and his wife, Barbara, strived to improve their herd, but they have also worked to help others test their cattle. In 1972 KCF started a bull test station for the Virginia Beef Cattle Improvement Association, which served breeders for 25 years. James became involved in BIF and in 1973 was elected to the board of directors. He served as BIF vice president in 1974 and president in 1978.

He was also involved in the American Polled Hereford Association, serving on the board of directors from 1983-86 and as chairman in 1987. His dedication to improving his herd and the Hereford breed is evident as KCF was named a spring 2007 Gold Total Performance Records (TPR™) breeder.

James Bennett has represented the Hereford breed well. KCF was awarded BIF Seedstock Producer of the Year in both 1978 and 1998.

Despite all the awards won and leadership positions served, most importantly, James is a true cattleman, says Don Trimmer, Accelerated Genetics beef genetics manager. "James is a true gentleman in the cattle industry. His friendly smile and firm handshake greet everyone he meets, whether they are an old friend or new visitor," Trimmer says.

James is also a family man. He and his wife, Barbara, have a daughter, Beth, and four sons, Paul, Jim, Brian and Jonathon. Fellow cattleman Sid Rogers, Rolling Hills Farm, Winchester, Va., says of Bennett, "Those who know James can attest to his outstanding character, love of family and church, and devotion to producing performance-improving cattle."





Pictured is Bill Bennett, Connell, Wash., (far right) 2007 Hereford Hall of Fame inductee. Also pictured are Hank DeShazer, 2008 AHA president, and Norma Bennett.



Pictured is James Bennett, Red House, Va., (center) 2007 Hereford Hall of Fame inductee. Also pictured are Hank DeShazer, 2008 AHA president, and Barbara Bennett.

Rob Hooper

Rob Hooper, Springerville, Ariz., was introduced to ranching in 1945 after he returned from 47 combat missions as a gunner in World War II. His wife, Mary, had grown up on a commercial Hereford operation in Oregon. They worked for her parents at first and then, with still very little experience, started their own small commercial ranch in Nutrioso, Ariz. They added to their outfit in 1953, when they purchased a nine-section ranch in Springerville. Although the ranch needed some work, they built a herd of well-bred Hereford cattle and, thus, began in the registered cattle business.



Since then Rob has produced quality horned and polled Hereford seedstock for 54 years on the Hooper Hereford Ranch. Throughout the years the Hoopers continued to expand and grew to encompass 31 sections in Arizona and New Mexico.

Fellow Hereford breeder, Lee Hutchens, Fallon, Nev., says since Rob started in the business, "He has never wavered in his devotion to the Hereford breed and has been tireless in mentoring, promoting and encouraging others." He has done this through being active in the Arizona and New Mexico Cattle Growers Associations and serving as president of the Arizona Hereford Association and advisor for the Arizona Junior Cattle Growers Association and the Arizona Junior Hereford Association.

He and Mary helped with countless 4-H, FFA and junior association field days and activities. They helped start the Arizona National Junior Heifer Show and Sale. Because of his involvement and dedication, Rob was named Arizona Cattleman of the Year in 1999.

Hooper Hereford Ranch was named premier exhibitor at the 1985 and 1997 Arizona National Stock Show. Its success spanned decades; its cattle topped sales



Pictured seated is Rob Hooper, Springerville, Ariz., (center) 2007 Hereford Hall of Fame inductee. Also pictured seated are Hank DeShazer, 2008 AHA president, and Vivian Hooper. Standing (l to r) are: Brent Bancroft, grandson; Sharyl Bancroft, daughter; Roxane Knight, daughter; and Daric and Patty Knight, grandson and his wife.

and won shows in Arizona and New Mexico and around the country starting in the '60s. Although the majority of the cattle now belong to his grandson, Daric Knight, Hooper still keeps about 20 head to stay involved.

Rob and Mary's children and grandchildren are involved in the cattle business thanks to their leadership in the industry. Their eldest daughter, Roxanne, and her husband run a Hereford-based commercial operation in Springerville and their sons, Daric and Lance and their wives, also raise cattle and help Rob. The couple's son, Steve, and his wife continue to raise registered Herefords at Hooper Cattle Co., Quemada, N.M. And, although their younger daughter, Sharyl, lives in Scottsdale, Ariz., she returns often to visit the ranch.

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Stanley Stout

When a sudden heart attack took Col. Stanley E. Stout on April 30, 2006, a deafening silence fell over the entire livestock industry. "The Colonel," as many called him, deeply affected all who heard his auctioneer's chant or, better yet, heard him declare "sold" for one of their cattle.

Many would agree Stanley made the auction more exciting and interesting. He was a purebred livestock auctioneer, but he was more than that to so many in the cattle industry.

Stanley was raised on a Hereford ranch in Cottonwood Falls, Kan. He graduated from Kansas State University (K-State) and then went to Walter Britton Auctioneer School in Bryan, Texas. After finishing his education, he worked for the AHA showing and managing a Hereford herd in Japan.

After his return to the U.S., Stanley worked in the livestock publications industry as a field representative for *Western Livestock Journal* and then *Drovers Journal* before being promoted to head of field staff for *Drovers*. He later worked as director of advertising



for the *Charolais Banner*. In 1975 he started Stanley E. Stout Auction Services.

Thus began more than 30 years of selling cattle with a joke and a smile. He was the premier auctioneer to have at a production sale and usually filled his calendar with between 140 and 180 sales per year. Keeping that schedule meant a lot of road time in his Cadillac.

He was more than an auctioneer — he was deeply involved in the industry. He worked to revitalize the American Royal Livestock Show. He served on the Board of Governors and worked the sale. Now the exhibitor of the supreme champion heifer at the Royal receives the Stanley Stout Memorial Scholarship.

"Stanley was one of those you never can replace," says John Vanier, CK Ranch, Brookville, Kan. "He created a lot of enthusiasm for the Hereford breed. He made each auction he called more exciting and there was never a dull minute when he was behind the microphone. He spent his lifetime making people laugh. He was one of a kind and is greatly missed."

At the time of his death, Stanley was a member of the AHA and a proud supporter of his alma mater, K-State, through the Ahearn Club and Block & Bridle. In honor of his life, K-State has begun a fund-raising effort to build a livestock-marketing center on campus. After the last K-State production sale Stanley conducted he mentioned the need for such a facility.

Stanley was also a member of the American Quarter Horse Association, National Auctioneers Association and Livestock Marketeers. He was a member of the board of directors of the American Royal and an active Chase County, Kan., 4-H alumnus.

His wife, Brenda; son, Justin Stout; three daughters, Jessie Stout, Jamie Felton and Jodie Brethour; six grandchildren; two stepsons and a stepdaughter, along with his friends in the livestock industry, continue to do as he would have wanted and celebrate his accomplishments in life. **HW**



The late Stanley Stout was inducted into the Hereford Hall of Merit during the 2007 AHA Annual Membership Meeting. Stanley was also recognized with the Livestock Publications Council Headliner award. Pictured during the LPC gala on Oct. 19 are his children: Justin, Jessie, Jamie and Jodie.

★ 2007-08 AHA Board of Directors



2007-08 American Hereford Association (AHA) Board of Directors (pictured seated, l to r) are: Hank DeShazer, Hearne, Texas, president; Bill King, Stanley, N.M., vice president; Bill Cox, Pomeroy, Wash.; Lee Haygood, Canadian, Texas; Craig Huffhines, Kansas City, Mo., executive vice president; and Paul Slayton, Bedford, Pa. Directors standing (l to r) are: James Milligan, Kings, Ill.; Marshall Ernst, Windsor, Colo.; Bob Harrell Jr., Baker City, Ore.; Jerry Huth, Oakfield, Wis.; Denny Hoffman, McArthur, Calif.; and John Woolfolk, Jackson, Tenn. Not pictured is Director Wes Hudson, Harrison, Ark.