

'Tis the Season

The holiday season is upon us, and it always seems to be a good time to reflect on the past year. Other than some drought conditions in pockets of the U.S, this year has been a good one and an especially strong one for the American Hereford Association (AHA) and its members.

In last month's issue, you read the *2007 Annual Report*, which outlined the financial stability of the AHA; but more importantly, you were given a brief update on the projects that are going on around the country. Proving the value of heterosis and how Hereford genetics plays in this arena has been a goal of the AHA the past few years. The support breeders have given to these projects through semen and resources has been a real blessing, and AHA staff appreciates all involvement.

Calves were born at Circle A and Genglebach Farms, and calves are being

moved to the University of Missouri Grow Safe feedlot from Amana Farms. This will be the beginning of controlled testing for feed efficiency on an individual progeny basis. This data will be used along with other feed efficiency data to make genetic improvement within the Hereford breed, prove the value of Hereford genetics as compared to alternate breeds and also be helpful in the discovery

and validation of new technology.

If you have not seen the first-year results of data from the Harris Ranch project, I encourage you to visit *Hereford.org* and click on the "Heterosis Report" tab or contact the AHA for a copy of the report. The Harris Ranch project has given the AHA a quick view of the power of the Hereford breed and certainly proves the claim that Herefords are "Efficiency Experts."

Annual meeting highlights

During the State Presidents' meeting, Jon Beever, along with AHA staff, gave a nice update on the progress of finding markers for genetic abnormalities. A copy of the AHA rules and regulations governing genetic defects was distributed. If you would like to review these rules, they can be found under Section IX. An updated version of the rules and regulations can be found on *Hereford.org* under the "Records" tab. You will also be able to find a list of carriers under the "Genetic Abnormalities" tab.

Beever has made tremendous progress

IE carriers

A recessive genetic defect, idiopathic epilepsy (IE), has been discovered in Hereford cattle. According to the rules and regulations of the American Hereford Association (AHA), any animal that has produced two known affected calves must be listed in the *Hereford World* and pedigrees will be identified.

Known carriers of IE

- K&B Advance 1638**
registration no. 42175189
- K&B Advance 1563**
registration no. 42175194
- HH Advance 252M 1ET**
registration no. 42281408
- HH Advance 255M 1ET**
registration no. 42281411
- Madsens David 0101**
registration no. 42362924

in finding markers to test animals for both idiopathic epilepsy (IE) and hypotrichosis (HY). You can read the rules to find out how the testing process will be handled or give me a call at (816) 842-3757.

The holiday season gives me an opportunity to reflect on the many blessings God has given me. I am blessed with a loving family, and I am blessed to be a part of an industry that I love and be associated with some of the greatest folks the beef industry has to offer. Continue to work hard and keep one another in your thoughts and prayers during this holiday season.

God bless. **HW**



Jack Ward



These calves were born this fall at Genglebach Farms, Plattsburg, Mo. The Genglebach family bred 80 commercial Angus fall-calving cows to Hereford bulls. Data will be collected on these calves and submitted to AHA's National Reference Sire Program (NRSP).