

Celebrating Demand, Research, Leadership

Members reflect on FY 2011 and conduct Association business.

Hereford enthusiasts from across the U.S. and Canada were in Kansas City, Mo., Oct. 28-30 to participate in the 2011 American Hereford Association (AHA) Annual Meeting activities.

On Friday morning, the AHA office was open for tours and a chance to visit with AHA staff. Friday afternoon, breeders attended an educational forum at the Hyatt Crown Center.

More than 200 attended the event that featured an update on Hereford genomics, a review of expected progeny differences (EPDs), and reproduction.

Following the forum, members and guests enjoyed the Hereford Homecoming reception at the Hyatt.

New directors selected, award winners recognized

Saturday the Annual Membership Meeting started at 9 a.m. The meeting included the election of three new directors, announcement of new officers, and recognition of Hall of Fame and Merit and Century and Golden breeders.

Elected to serve as AHA Directors for the next four years were Fred Larson, Spring Valley, Wis.; David Trowbridge, Tabor, Iowa; and Eric Walker, Morrison, Tenn. Leading the AHA during the next year will be David Breiner, Alma, Kan., as president and Cliff Copeland, Nara Visa, N.M., as vice president.

During the meeting, Charlie Boyd, Harold and Pat Carswell, Earl Forrest, Marvin and Ella Meek, Gino Pedretti and Harold Sidwell were inducted into the AHA Hall of Fame. Ed Meacham was also honored with the Hereford Hall of Merit Award (see Page 34).

In addition, AHA committee chairmen presented program updates. A pdf of the presentation slides, as well as the video played to kick off the meeting, is available online at Hereford.org/AnnualMeeting.

NHW hosts meeting

The National Hereford Women (NHW) hosted its annual meeting Saturday afternoon. During the meeting, the 2011 Hereford Woman of the Year — Sue Rowland, Marysville, Kan. — was recognized (see Page 40). Another highlight of the meeting was the election of new board members and the announcement of NHW officers (see NHW board photo on Page 40). For more NHW highlights, see Page 20. *continued on page 30...*

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Dorian Garrick, Iowa State University Lush Chair in Animal Breeding and Genetics and National Beef Cattle Evaluation Consortium executive director, gave an update on Hereford genomic research during the educational forum. "Genomic information can help with the accuracy of our lower accuracy bulls," he said. "You won't see as much difference with high accuracy bulls." He encouraged breeders to continue to collect DNA information. "We need more Hereford bull information to increase the accuracy of the Hereford data," he added.



Matt Spangler, University of Nebraska assistant professor and beef genetics Extension specialist, said during the educational forum, "The tools we use haven't changed, but how we use them has changed." Spangler



talked about the importance of EPDs and the collection of performance data even with the availability of DNA testing. He complimented Hereford breeders on their dedication to whole herd reporting and the steps the Board and staff have taken to research and develop a plan to incorporate genomics.

Bill Beal, Virginia Tech professor emeritus, kept the educational forum lively with his presentation on reproduction. He utilized members from the crowd to demonstrate the estrous cycle of a cow.



Sale averages \$6,580

Saturday afternoon was the Ladies of the Royal Sale at the American Royal complex. A standing-room-only crowd packed the Wagstaff Sale Arena as 28 heifers averaged \$6,580 and seven steers averaged \$3,386. For more sale highlights, see Page 38.

Herefords in the ring

Sunday, Hereford enthusiasts spent the day at the American Royal complex attending the junior Hereford show, followed by the National Hereford Show.

Junior exhibitors paraded 90 entries before Robert Alden of Hamilton, Mo. Jeff Gooden of Iberia, Mo., evaluated the 187-head open show. For highlights of the show, see Page 41. For complete

placings of both shows, visit Hereford.org.

Prior to the selection of the champion bull, the 2011-12 National Hereford Queen was crowned. Amanda Bacon, Prairie Grove, Ark., will represent the Hereford breed during the next year as National Queen. Amanda competed against six other state queens for the title. First runner-up honors went to Alecia Knapp, Waverly, Iowa. Devann Gregory, Houstonia, Mo., was named second runner-up, and the Miss Congeniality award was presented to Sarah Katelyn Smith, Waxahachie, Texas (see Page 46).

During the open show, Hereford exhibitors were honored for showcasing their breeding programs at national and regional shows



During the forum a drawing was done for three embryos donated by John and Mona Loewen from the dam of "Foundation," the bull donated to the Hereford Research Foundation (HRF) and leased to ABS. The lucky name drawn from the hat was Alex Mih, M-M Ranch of Kansas.



John Loewen was recognized during the Annual Meeting for his years of service on the HYFA board. Pictured with John is his wife, Mona, and Amy Cowan, AHA youth and foundation director.



During the Annual Meeting weekend, state Hereford queens vied for the title of 2011-12 National Hereford Queen. Queens helping at the American Royal National Hereford Show on Sunday (pictured, l to r) are: Atayla Witthuhn, Callaway, Neb.; Ashton Lierle, Ft. Cobb, Okla.; Bridget Beran, Claflin, Kan.; Devann Gregory, Houstonia, Mo.; Bethany Nolan, Gilmer, Texas, 2010-11 National Hereford Queen; Sarah Katelyn Smith, Waxahachie, Texas; Amanda Bacon, Prairie Grove, Ark.; Karen Roberts, Douglas, Ga.; and Alecia Knapp, Waverly, Iowa.



throughout the past year. Awards for Hereford show heifer, show bull and premier exhibitor were presented to recipients in each of four U.S. regions (see Page 44).

The Annual Meeting weekend and, specifically, the educational forums would not have been possible without support from AHA partners. A big thank you goes to National Beef Packing Co. LLC, *Drovers*/CattleNetwork, Select Sires, Modern Litho, PrintTime and Tribune Publishing.

The pages that follow highlight the weekend activities. **HW**

During AHA President John Woolfolk's retiring address to the membership, he compared the Hereford business to the Cardinals' season this year. "The Cardinals lost their best pitcher at the beginning of the season and began with a so-so season, but they proceeded on," John said. "This is just like the Hereford business seven or so years ago. When the manager saw weaknesses in the team, he found players to fill those needs — just as the Hereford association has done, finding researchers and professionals to fill the needs of the industry. Toward the end of the season, the Cardinals were still 10 and a half games out of the wild card for the World Series, but they didn't give up. We, as breeders of Hereford cattle, must not quit — we have a great thing going in this breed."



Hereford breeders had a chance to ask questions about AHA services and programs during the Board Q&A session on Sunday.

Century, Golden breeders recognized

In celebration of 100 years in the Hereford business, the Andras family was honored as a Century Hereford Breeder Oct. 29. Jack Ward, American Hereford Association (AHA) chief operating officer and director of breed improvement, presented the award to Cary Andras at the AHA Annual Meeting in Kansas City.

John Cennick Andras settled in the Murrayville, Ill., area in 1837. The Andras family's involvement in purebred cattle began in 1898 with the purchase of two "well-bred" heifers and a bull from Scott & Marsh, Belton, Mo.

In 1898, his grandson, J.C. Andras, then 13, paid \$600 for the three head with money saved from selling seed corn. Thus, Daylesford Farms was born.

The Andras family purchased their first registered Herefords in 1911. By the 1920s, the Andras family hosted annual production sales and were regular exhibitors at the Chicago International Livestock Exposition, American Royal, Fort Worth Stock Show and National Western Stock Show. In 1935, they were the first to have a Hereford bull — Don Axtell the 16th — win all three major shows.

Although the heirs of the Andras family have gone different directions, the fifth and sixth generations are still operating in the purebred cattle business.

Cary Andras Jr. maintains a herd of purebred Hereford cattle on the home farm. Steven Andras and his son, Will, manage a Red Angus and Hereford operation in the area, as well.

J.C. and Deb Andras and their children, John, Geoff and Whitney, are also actively involved in the Hereford industry.

Five breeders were honored as Golden Breeders Oct. 29. Jack Ward, American Hereford Association (AHA) chief operating officer and director of breed improvement, presented the awards at the AHA Annual Membership Meeting in Kansas City.

The 2011 honorees are:

Cottage Hill Farm, Petersburg, W.Va.

DaKitch Hereford Farms, Ada, Minn.

Kruse Polled Herefords, Harris, Minn.

Morrison Stock Farm, Lexington, Ohio

Orlin R. Oium, Towner, N.D. **HW**



The Andras family was recognized as a Century Hereford Breeder. Pictured (l to r) are Cary Andras and Dale Venhuizen, AHA director.



Cottage Hill Farm, Petersburg, W.Va., was recognized as a Golden Hereford Breeder. Pictured (l to r) are: Michael, Carole and W.C. Taylor along with Dale Venhuizen, AHA director.



Morrison Stock Farm, Lexington, Ohio, was recognized as Golden Hereford Breeder. Pictured (l to r) are: Robert and Karen Morrison along with Cliff Copeland, AHA vice president.