

Espenscheid Chosen Outstanding Woman of the Year

Ruth Espenscheid, Argyle, Wis., was honored as the 2012 Hereford Women of the Year during the National Hereford Women (NHW) annual meeting Nov. 3 in Kansas City, Mo.

Each year the NHW recognizes and honors one woman for her achievements and dedication to the Hereford breed.

Ruth is extraordinarily dedicated to Hereford youth, enthusiastic in the promotion of Hereford cattle and dedicated to education of youth in agriculture generally. She is very active within the Hereford breed and the cattle industry as well as within her community.

She served on the former National Organization of Poll-ettes (NOP) board, chairing many contests and committees. While on the NOP board, she was instrumental in starting the extemporaneous speaking contest at the Junior National Hereford Expo.

As a member of the Wisconsin Hereford Women's Association, she served as secretary and president. She also served multiple years as



2012 Hereford Woman of the Year Ruth Espenscheid (left), Argyle, Wis., is pictured with Susan Gebhardt, NHW ex-officio.

the Wisconsin state Hereford queen chairman.

Ruth also served as secretary of the Wisconsin Hereford Association for 12 years and 20 years as the executive secretary for the Wisconsin Livestock Breeders Association. She assisted the Wisconsin State Fair as a volunteer and as cattle superintendent.

She served as a Wisconsin Junior

Hereford Association advisor for more than 20 years and served on the host committees for two junior nationals hosted in Milwaukee, Wis.

Locally she served as president of her church council for two years and was a council member for 10 years. A retired school teacher, she taught 40 years and also served as athletic director and cheerleader advisor. Recently, she also served as president of the local Retired Teachers Association.

"Ruth Espenscheid was an early and influential supporter for the idea of a unified NHW," says Susan Gebhart, NHW ex-officio. "She served as an advisor to the American

Hereford Women/National Organization of Poll-ette's Strategic Planning Committee and has continued as a supporter and advisor to the NHW board on a variety of topics. Her advice is always thoughtful and informed by an extraordinary depth of experience and genuine interest in NHW's mission." **HW**



2012-13 National Hereford Women board of directors (pictured front row, l to r) are: **Denise Billman**, Newcomertown, Ohio, president; **Lauren Echols**, Arlington, Va., president-elect; and **Paula Acheson**, vice president. Middle row (l to r) are: **Lori Riffel-Hambright**, Chapman, Kan.; **Carol Priefert**, St. Joseph, Mich.; **Beth Blinson**, Buies Creek, N.C.; **Mary Ann Berg**, Dalton, Ohio, ex officio; and **Shellie Collins**, Chattanooga, Okla., treasurer. Back row (l to r) are: **Catie Sims**, Oklahoma City, Okla.; **Jill Bielema**, Ada, Mich.; **Alise Nolan**, Gilmer, Texas; and **Gay Maddox**, Zionsville, Ind.