

# Celebrating Fiscal Year 2013

*Hereford breeders were in Kansas City Nov. 1-3 for the 2013 AHA Annual Meeting.*

It was a weekend of celebration as well as education as Hereford members joined together in Kansas City to hear updates on American Hereford Association (AHA) programs, conduct Association business and attend Hereford activities at the American Royal. Friday afternoon the event kicked off with the educational forum at the Argosy Hotel and Spa.

A crowd of nearly 200 attended the event Nov. 1 that featured an update on genomics and the new udder trait and a presentation about cow herd efficiency.

Following the forum, members and guests enjoyed the Hereford Honorees Reception. During the event Hereford legacies — past, present and future — were honored including the Hall of Fame, Hall of Merit, Heritage Award and scholarship winners.

During the reception, Truman Lawrence, Somerset, Ky., and Conard and Nancy Stitzlein of Mohican Farms, Glenmont, Ohio, were inducted into the Hereford Hall of Fame and Jim Boyd, Abilene, Texas, and Dorian Garrick, Ames, Iowa, were honored with the Hereford Hall of Merit Award (see Page 30).

This past year three Hereford breeders recorded their 10,000th registration with the AHA. Those three ranches — CK Ranch, Dudley Bros. and Upstream Ranch — were

recognized with the Hereford Heritage Award (see Page 33).

To conclude the awards ceremony, the Hereford Youth Foundation of America (HYFA) distributed \$36,000 in scholarships to National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) members (see Page 38).

Following the award ceremony, HYFA kicked off its “Growing a Lasting Legacy” campaign to ensure the sustainability of future Junior National Hereford Expos (JNHEs) and leadership events for generations to come. A total of \$144,000 was raised that night.

Sue and the late Jim Rowland of G&R Polled Herefords, Marysville, Kan., contributed a very generous \$50,000 inaugural gift. See Page 36 for highlights of the evening.

## New directors selected

Saturday the Annual Membership Meeting started at 8:30 a.m. The meeting included the election of three new directors and announcement of new officers.

Elected to serve as AHA Directors for the next four years were Terri Barber, Austin, Texas; Dave Bielema, Ada, Mich.; and Joe Van Newkirk, Oshkosh, Neb. Leading the AHA during the next year will be Steve Lambert, Oroville, Calif., as president and Eric Walker, Morrison, Tenn., as vice president (see Page 28).

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](http://Hereford.org/AnnualMeeting).



During the Annual Meeting weekend, state Hereford queens vied for the title of 2013-14 National Hereford Queen. The queens assisting with the American Royal National Hereford Show on Sunday (pictured, l to r) are: Ella Meyer, Keswick, Iowa; Katie Burns, Coulterville, Ill.; Brooke Jensen, Courtland, Kan.; Nicky Folkman, Ixonia, Wis.; Whitney Andras, Checotah, Okla., 2012-13 National Hereford Queen; Amy Green, Munfordville, Ky.; Ashley Cline, Morgan, Texas; and Morgan Wood, Alba, Texas.

Retiring AHA President Cliff Copeland presented 2014 AHA President Steve Lambert with a bronze designed and built by Cliff's mother, Barbara. The bronze, “Baby Sitten,” will be a traveling award presented to the incoming AHA president each year.



Retiring after four years of service (pictured l to r) are: Dale Micheli, Ft. Bridger, Wyo.; Cliff Copeland, Nara Visa, N.M.; and Marty Lueck, Mountain Grove, Mo.



**Jerry Taylor**, University of Missouri Curators' distinguished professor of animal sciences and Wurdack chair in animal genomics, updated attendees on the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) feed efficiency and fertility grants and how AHA has participated in this research. He also talked about his fertility research, which has allowed him to whole genome sequence highly used artificial insemination (AI) sires of various breeds.



**Dorian Garrick**, Iowa State University Lush chair in animal breeding and genetics and National Beef Cattle Consortium executive director, gave an update on the AHA's genomic testing. He explained how AHA went from 1,081 Herefords genotyped in 2012 to 2,980 in 2013. "Hereford has had the fastest growth in population that I've seen with any association," he said. "Predictability is much better now than it was a year ago."

**Heather Bradford**, Kansas State University graduate student and an AHA member, did her master's work on the development of the udder trait. She explained the process of developing the udder expected progeny difference (EPD).



**David Lalman**, Oklahoma State University beef cattle specialist, shared his thoughts on cow herd efficiency and, specifically, how Herefords fit in the commercial cow-calf industry. He discussed milk production and the maintenance required to produce more milk. "More milk means higher year-long maintenance requirements," he said. "If you continue to select for milk, you are continuing to select for animals with higher maintenance requirements."

He also explained the importance of fertility and shared his thoughts on the commercial industry today. "Fertility cannot be treated as a secondary trait," he said. "From a commercial cow-calf perspective, the industry is on an unsustainable path relative to some traits. Cows are big and we can't seem to get enough milk or muscle. The result is input costs per cow and calf unit are increasing while limited data suggests production is not."

He added, "The Hereford breed stands on the brink of an era of opportunity" and encouraged Hereford breeders to:

- 1) Put priority on economically relevant traits (ERTs) related to fertility and forage-use efficiency;
- 2) Cull open cows;
- 3) Keep only early-born heifers;
- 4) Keep only early-bred heifers; and
- 5) Put environmental pressure on your cattle — weed out those that do not match your environment.



### NHW hosts meeting

The National Hereford Women (NHW) hosted its annual meeting Saturday afternoon. During the meeting, the 2013 Hereford Woman of the Year — Serena Boner, Red Cloud, Neb. — was recognized (see Page 41). Another highlight of the meeting was the election of new board members and the announcement of NHW officers (see NHW board photo on Page 41). For more NHW highlights, see Page 20.

### Sale averages \$6,924

Saturday afternoon was the Ladies of the Royal Sale at the American Royal complex. When the gavel fell for the last time, 21 heifers had averaged \$6,924, two flushes averaged \$8,350, and nine embryos gathered \$1,067 per embryo. For more sale highlights, see Page 35.

### Herefords in the ring

After the sale on Saturday, junior exhibitors paraded 58 entries before Ken Geuns, Bath, Mich. On Sunday Judge Kyle Colyer, Bruneau, Idaho, sorted the 194-head open show. For highlights of the show, see Page 46. For complete placings of both shows, visit [Hereford.org](http://Hereford.org).

Prior to the selection of the champion bull, the 2013-14 National Hereford Queen was crowned. Brooke Jensen, Courtland, Kan., will represent the Hereford breed during the next year as the National Hereford

Queen. Brooke competed against six other state queens for the title. First runner-up honors went to Amy Green Munfordville, Ky. Katie Burns, Coulterville, Ill., was named second runner-up and presented with the Miss Congeniality award (see Page 42).

During the open show, Hereford exhibitors were honored for showcasing their breeding programs at national and regional shows 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 forum would not have been possible without support from AHA partners. A big thank you goes to Biozyme Inc., CattleMax, GeneSeek Inc. and Trans Ova for their sponsorship of the forum. The pages that follow highlight the weekend activities. **HW**

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