

Hall of Fame Inductees Honored

The Chandler family of Chandler Herefords, Baker City, Ore., and Marlene and the late Jim Mrnak, Bowman, N.D., were inducted into the Hereford Hall of Fame Oct. 30, 2015. These families were recognized at the “Celebrate the Brand” event during the American Hereford Association (AHA) Annual Meeting in Kansas City, Mo. The Hall of Fame honor annually recognizes breeders who have dynamically influenced the direction and advancement of the Hereford breed.

Chandler family

The Chandler family has been raising Herefords in eastern Oregon’s Baker Valley for 126 years.

Currently the ranch is operated by Charles; his son, George; George’s wife, Janet; and their son, Duane, and daughter, Patti Hall, and her husband, Cliff.

“This honor means so much to us,” Duane says. “This has been our livelihood for 126 years and we plan on continuing it and raising the best cattle that we can raise and improve them every year. Hereford cattle have been very good to us and that’s the reason we’re still here.”

It was Charles’ great-grandfather who left Missouri in 1862 and headed

to California to find gold but ended up in Oregon only three miles west of the ranch’s headquarters today. The family has been raising cattle there ever since.

Duane and Patti represent the sixth generation to operate the ranch. They sell registered Hereford bulls, replacement heifers and feeders. Chandler Herefords touts genetics that excel in efficiency while adding size with correct type and appealing conformation. Chandler cattle have natural depth and thickness, with consistency gained from more than a century in the business.

Two members of the Chandler family — Herbert and George — served as AHA president. In fact, during Herbert’s second term as president in 1953, he introduced President Dwight D. Eisenhower, who then officially dedicated the new AHA headquarters in Kansas City. And in 1989, the same year Chandler Herefords celebrated 100 years in the Hereford business, Charles was inducted into the Hereford Honor Gallery.

Chandler Herefords has been known for producing some of the top cattle in the country. Most notably, Herbert Chandler bred Mark Donald

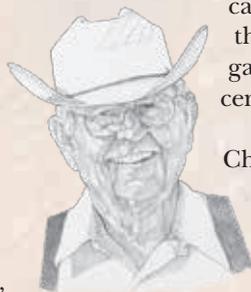
in the early 1940s. Mark Donald’s influence continues in the Hereford breed today.

Guy Colyer of Colyer Herefords in Bruneau, Idaho, says it is an honor for him to recommend the Chandler family for induction into the Hereford Hall of Fame.

“The Chandler family has continued to be very aggressive with their breeding program,” Colyer says. “Their cattle are known for their efficiency and doing ability. The Chandler family is rich in tradition but has kept up in the modern era and uses every modern convenience in today’s operation.”

Marlene and Jim Mrnak

Jim, who passed away in 2010, dedicated his whole life to the Hereford breed. He and Marlene were married for 57 years and raised their five children in the Hereford business.



The Chandler family of Chandler Herefords, Baker City, Ore., were inducted into the Hereford Hall of Fame Friday, Oct. 30, 2015. Pictured (back row, l to r) are: Eric Walker, 2015 AHA president, Morrison, Tenn.; Lacey, Maddee and Margaret Moore, Cove, Ore.; Janet, George and Duane Chandler, Baker City, Ore.; Patti and Cliff Hall, Baker City, Ore.; Sam Shaw, 2016 AHA president, Caldwell, Idaho; and Joe Van Newkirk, AHA Board member, Oshkosh, Neb. Front row (l to r) are Morgan and McKenzie Hall, Baker City, Ore.

Jim was born on the family ranch near Bowman, N.D. After graduating from high school, he purchased five registered Hereford heifers and began to realize his dream of being a Hereford breeder. He also raised wheat, barley, oats, corn and alfalfa. Jim and Marlene married in 1953, and they made their life together breeding and selling Hereford cattle.

Mrnak Herefords embraced technology along the way. The Mrnaks enrolled in performance testing programs and used artificial insemination and embryo transfer.

Each February for the past 47 years, Mrnak Herefords has hosted a bull sale and has been successful in the showring as well. At the National Western Stock Show in Denver, the Mrnaks exhibited the champion Hereford female in both 2001 and 2003.

But possibly the couple's biggest accomplishment has been raising their children — Connie, Wayne, Terry, Loren and Carla — with a love for the breed. Each has stayed involved in the cattle business. Wayne and Terry, along with Marlene, operate the original ranch at Bowman. Loren owns and operates Mrnak Herefords West in Nevada and California. Connie and her husband have a Hereford-based commercial operation, and Carla and her husband ranch in South Dakota.

"My father lived, breathed and ate Hereford beef his whole life," Wayne says. "All of us kids were indoctrinated



Huffhines honored for years of commitment to Hereford

A highlight of the "Celebrate the Brand" event was the unveiling of an original Bruce Huxol portrait of Craig Huffhines, former American Hereford Association (AHA) executive vice president. The painting will hang permanently on the walls of the AHA office in honor of Craig's 18 years of commitment and dedication to the Hereford breed.

Originally hired in 1992 as director of feedlot and carcass programs for the Certified Hereford Beef (CHB®) program, he transitioned to CHB director in 1995.

"I think all of us would agree there's been no bigger cheerleader, driver or promoter of the program than Craig," says Jack Ward, AHA executive vice president.

Craig was named AHA executive vice president in 1997, and under his leadership, the AHA has incorporated the Whole Herd Total Performance Records (TPR™) program, developed the National Reference Sire Program and valuable real-world commercial research programs. He announced his resignation in February as he accepted the position of executive vice president of the American Quarter Horse Association with offices located in Amarillo, Texas.

"Because of his leadership the Hereford breed is experiencing the success it is today," Jack says. "He's been a true leader and friend." **HW**

at a young age to the breed of cattle that we run today. Herefords have been very rewarding to our ranch and to our family."

The entire Mrnak family is involved, led by Jim and Marlene's example. Roger Stuber of nearby Stuber Ranch recommended them for this honor. He said, "They have both given their leadership skills and advice to the Hereford industry in many ways. County and state fairs, many Hereford tours, state and national leadership, along with many other endeavors.

Both have given time and support to many other local and state activities."

Fellow Hereford breeder Bill Bennett summarized their stamp on the Hereford breed nicely in his recommendation letter. He said, "The Mrnaks epitomize the quintessential Hereford cattle family. Jim and Marlene have dedicated their entire lives to the betterment of the Hereford breed. Their cattle have always been distinctive competitors within any arena the Mrnaks have chosen to place them." **HW**



Marlene and the late Jim Mrnak, Bowman, N.D., were inducted into the Hereford Hall of Fame Friday, Oct. 30, 2015. Pictured (l to r) are: Joe Van Newkirk, AHA Board member, Oshkosh, Neb.; Eric Walker, 2015 AHA president, Morrison, Tenn.; Andy Mrnak, Bowman, N.D.; Carla Coplan, Watertown, S.D.; Terry, Marlene and Wayne Mrnak, Bowman, N.D.; Connie Hurlbut, Sturgis, S.D.; Robyn Mrnak, Bowman, N.D.; Loren Mrnak, Whitmore Calif.; and Sam Shaw, 2016 AHA president.