

Delegates Elect Three Good Men

The 2006 American Hereford Association (AHA) Annual Meeting drew an amazing crowd as members from across the U.S. converged on Kansas City for the membership meeting, Hereford Youth Foundation of America (HYFA) Casino Magic Fundraiser, the American Royal and some of the finest steakhouse experiences in the country. More than 400 members, what seemed to be the largest crowd in more than a decade, arrived in Kansas City to reacquaint with old friends.

There is a certain amount of nostalgia each year as Hereford breeders come to the headquarters' city. It seems like during the American Royal weekend the blue skies turn gray, the mist starts to fall, the fall season officially arrives and the aroma of coffee beans roasting in the downtown Folger's plant permeates the downtown



Craig Huffhines

Kansas City skyline. The Midwestern town that's been running from its "Cowtown" image for more than 20 years puts its hat and boots back on and welcomes the stockmen for that one week of American Royal glory.

It's a time when breeders get away from their day-to-day activities and share their philosophies on life, debate cattle breeding and genetic trends, discuss their concepts about what type of person would make a good Board member, and finally, by golly, decide who that next Board member is going to be.

The AHA has been blessed with outstanding Board leadership through the years, as evident by the health of the organization and the rebirth of Hereford demand. The AHA Board has made tough decisions that were not always popular, but are beginning to pay off.

I guess, just as in all organizations, if there's a vote there's going to be politics involved because there are about as many ideas on direction as there are members. There are demographic and regional differences, differences in background and experience, in breeding programs and marketing objectives, in whether expected progeny differences (EPDs) matter or not; but the one thing that is not different is the love for the whiteface breed. Each area

wants to have its fair representation and get its person elected, and at the end of the day, some really good men get elected to the AHA Board and other really good men get to go home and get ready to try again.

I have great respect for the candidates, for taking the time to open themselves up to their peers, making themselves vulnerable to criticism, and committing themselves to the time and rigors of running an organization. This year, three good men were elected and three other good men will give the elected their gracious support. The three new Board members who will be serving your organization for the next four years are Marshall Ernst, Windsor, Colo.; Bob Harrell Jr., Baker City, Ore.; and Denny Hoffman, McArthur, Calif.

Happy holidays

During this holiday season let's not forget to remember the many fighting men and women who are spending their time away from family and loved ones in a foreign country, on dangerous back streets or threatening backwoods terrain, doing what they believe in for their country in a very professional manner.

There are a lot of folks in our business with loved ones in the line of fire in Iraq and Afghanistan, and we wish them and their military loved ones a safe and secure holiday season. Thank you for your sacrifice! **HW**



Newly elected AHA directors (l to r) are: Marshall Ernst, Windsor, Colo.; Bob Harrell Jr., Baker City, Ore.; and Denny Hoffman, McArthur, Calif.