

# National Western Highlights

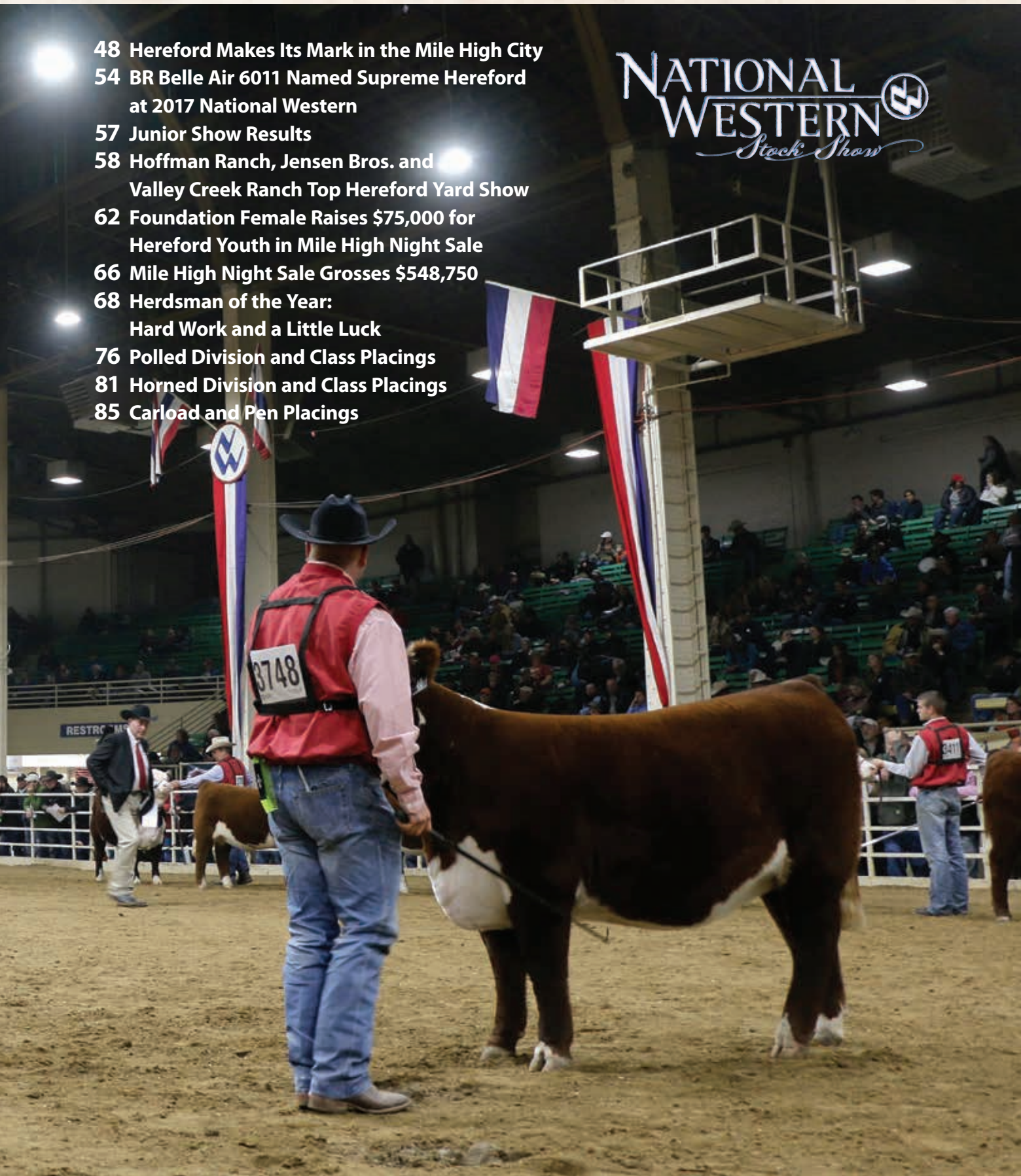




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# NATIONAL WESTERN

*Stock Show*





# Hereford Makes Its Mark in the Mile High City

Enthusiasm for the Hereford breed was evident as cattlemen and Hereford enthusiasts once again made a strong showing in the Yards and on the Hill at the National Western Stock Show (NWSS) Jan. 12-14 in Denver. A total of 735 Herefords was exhibited throughout the three-day event. There were 337 head in the open show, 179 in the junior show,

33 pens of bulls, 20 heifer pens and six carloads.

## On the Hill

Hereford activities got underway in the Stadium Arena on the Hill with the bull show on Thursday, Jan. 12, judged by Bill Conley, Clarksdale, Mo., and Kyle Conley, Sulphur, Okla. Hill champions are pictured on Pages

54-57, and Hill class placings can be found on Pages 78-84.

Following the bull show, Brandon Callis, Minco, Okla., evaluated the junior show. For results of the junior show, see Page 57, or for complete results of both the open and junior shows, visit [Hereford.org](http://Hereford.org).

The Hereford pen and carload show was Friday, Jan. 13, where Hoffman



Hereford breeders exhibited 516 head on the Hill.



Pictured (l to r) are judges Kyle Conley, Sulphur, Okla., and Bill Conley, Clarksdale, Mo., who sorted the bull and female shows.



Pictured is the polled bull grand drive.



Ranch, Thedford, Neb., took home champion carload honors; Jensen Bros., Courland, Kan., won the pen-of-three bull show; and Valley Creek Ranch, Fairbury, Neb., topped the pen-of-three female show.

Dale Micheli, Ft. Bridger, Wyo., Travis Pembrook, Fairview, Okla., and Ryan Rathmann, Slaton, Texas, teamed up to evaluate the Yard shows. A total of 219 Herefords competed in the Yards including six carloads, 33 bull pens and 20 heifer pens. For Yard show champion photos, see Pages 60-61, and for class placings, visit Pages 85-87.

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Hereford youth exhibited 179 head in the junior show.



Hoffman Ranch, Thedford, Neb., was presented a bronze trophy after their carload of junior bull calves were selected champion carload.



In the Yards, Hereford breeders competed with six carloads, 33 bull pens and 20 heifer pens.



The pen and carload show hosted a large crowd on Friday morning.





An estimated 5,000 attended the Mile High Night sale which averaged \$548,750.



The Lot 1 Foundation Female raised \$75,000 to benefit Hereford youth thanks to buyers Kolt Cattle Co. and kids, Carly, Michael and Maren, Garland, Neb.; JB Show Cattle, Joe and Dee Braman, Refugio, Texas; King Ranch, Bill King, Moriarty, N.M.; and David Shelburg, Jacksonville, Fla. The female was donated by Barber Ranch, Channing, Texas.

### **Mile High Night Sale**

A highlight of Friday's events was the Mile High Night National Hereford Sale in the Stadium Arena that grossed \$548,750. An estimated 5,000 attended the sale on the Stadium floor.

"The Mile High Night showed a strong demand for Hereford genetics this year at the National Western Stock Show," says Joe Rickabaugh, American Hereford Association (AHA) director of seedstock marketing.

The elite 30-lot Hereford offering brought forth prominent genetics from established operations across the country. When auctioneers James M. Birdwell and Cody Lowderman lowered the gavel for the final time, 30 lots grossed \$548,750 for an average of \$18,292. Six and one-half bull lots grossed \$131,000 and averaged



The Mile High Night National Hereford Sale has become a favorite of Hereford breeders and enthusiasts at the NWSS.





Judge Bill Conley, Clarksdale, Mo., selects BR Belle Air 6011 as supreme champion and recipient of the Tom Lane St. Memorial Trophy. The bull is owned by Rylee Barber, Channing, Texas; the Belle Air Group, Channing, Texas; Colyer Herefords, Bruneau, Idaho; and Bill King, Moriarty, N.M.



Jeremy Reno, Orovada, Nev., was announced as the 2017 Hereford Herdsman of the Year.

\$20,154. Twenty-three and one-half females grossed \$417,750 and averaged \$17,777. For more on the Mile High Night Sale, see Page 66.

Kicking off the sale was the Lot 1 Foundation Female, selling for \$75,000. BR Kate Rielle 5532 ET was purchased by Kolt Cattle Co. and kids, Carly, Michael and Maren, Garland, Neb.; JB Show Cattle, Joe and Dee Braman, Refugio, Texas; King Ranch, Bill King, Moriarty, N.M.; and David Shelburg, Jacksonville, Fla. All proceeds will benefit the Hereford Youth Foundation of America (HYFA) and the "Growing a

Lasting Legacy" campaign, supporting leadership and education for the next generation of Hereford youth.

The Foundation Female was donated by Barber Ranch, Channing, Texas. She is an Aug. 5, 2015, daughter of NJW 73S W18 Hometown 10Y ET and is out of BR Gabrielle 5082 by BR Lansing 3060. For more on the Foundation lot, see Page 62.

**Supreme and herdsman named** Saturday brought the crowd back to the Hill, where Bill and Kyle Conley judged the female show. Following the

female show, the Conley team selected the supreme champion, BR Belle Air 6011. First named grand champion horned bull, Belle Air is owned by Rylee Barber, Channing, Texas; the Belle Air Group, Channing, Texas; Colyer Herefords, Bruneau, Idaho; and Bill King, Moriarty, N.M.

Prior to the selection of the supreme champion, Jeremy Reno, Orovada, Nev., was selected as the 2017 Hereford Herdsman of the Year. To learn more about Reno, see Page 68.

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Pictured is the supreme champion drive.



**Thank you Hereford General Store and Lounge sponsors:** American Hereford Association, Kansas City, Mo.; BioZyme Inc., St. Joseph, Mo.; Certified Hereford Beef (CHB®), Kansas City, Mo.; Colyer Herefords, Bruneau, Idaho; Coyote Ridge Ranch, LaSalle, Colo.; Gene Source, Schulenburg, Texas; Hereford Youth Foundation of America, Kansas City, Mo.; Maple Edge Herefords, Bloomfield, Conn.; NJW Polled Herefords, Sheridan, Wyo.; and Rausch Herefords, Hoven, S.D.



**Hereford General Store and Lounge**  
Throughout the week, the Hereford General Store and Lounge in the Livestock Exchange Building in the Yards hosted Hereford breeders and enthusiasts, who enjoyed catching up with friends and shopping the latest Hereford apparel. **HW**

## Douthit families named 2017 Friend of the National Western

by Rachel Metzger

The Douthit families are no strangers to the National Western Stock Show (NWSS). The St. Francis, Kan., natives have been coming to the historic show for 74 years. This year marks an especially unique trip to Denver as the Douthit families, represented by Douthit Herefords and 4V Ranch Douthit Herefords, were recognized as the Friend of the National Western Jan. 12, by the Red Meat Club of Denver.

"It was kind of a shock," says Megan Douthit Downey, a fourth-generation Hereford breeder. "My dad, Walter, is the one who really deserves it. He is going to be 79 this year, and he has spent 74 years [in Denver]."

Frank and Mary Douthit settled in northwest Kansas in the 1930s, and shortly thereafter sons Jim and Thad bought the family's first hereford bull. Downey says her family chose to raise Hereford cattle due to their hardiness and the longevity of Hereford females.

After Thad turned to commercial operations in the 1970s, the Douthit Herefords tradition continued under brother Jim and his three sons, Walter, Roger, and Steve, who took over as partners in 1984. Primarily for estate planning purposes, in 2008 the brothers dissolved their partnership. While Roger turned to running commercial cattle after that, Walter and Steve continued the seedstock operation as Douthit Herefords and 4V Ranch Douthit Herefords, respectively. The brothers at the time divided the Douthit cowherd on a lottery basis.

Today, the fourth generation of the family is actively managing both operations. Roger passed in 2013, and Steve was lost in a tragic farming accident in the fall of 2015. The 4V Ranch is guided today by the family of Steve and his wife Melva, including their children Ana, Erica, Margo, Courtney and Thomas, their sons-in-laws Tyler Enfield and Matt Gattshall and their grandsons Zarik and Quade. Walter, his daughter Megan and her husband Chuck Downey direct operations at Douthit Herefords.

Though the family has been coming to the NWSS for 74 years, Downey says the show has changed since her grandfather and father began making the trek to Denver.

"When it started, they came here for the entire show and they would bring 30 bulls," she says. "It was totally different back then."



Today, the family continues the tradition for several reasons.

"It offers a lot to come," Downey says. "We always say it is hard to put a value on coming. It costs a ton of money to come out here and to bring the cattle, get them ready and have the help. A lot of it is the marketing and promoting the program, but we've always said too that a lot of it is the friends you make."

Those friendships forged at the NWSS have allowed the Douthit family to explore different genetics throughout the breed, and the ability to visit with other producers about what is and is not working in their programs.

Customer service is something the Douthit family takes to heart. Growing up, Downey says her father always taught her honesty and integrity goes a long way.

"I think those values and traditions of treating your customers right and, as the cattle change, you have to evolve with what your customers say," she says. "Honestly, our program goes toward what our customers need; we really try to listen to them."

As a longstanding seedstock operation, being flexible to customer needs has kept the Douthit family in business and has kept them coming back to Denver each year.

"For our customers from Mexico to Virginia to the high mountains, our bulls work," Downey says. "It keeps them coming back and it keeps us coming back." **HW**



