



Jean Priefert, Fairmont, Neb., was honored as 2017 Hereford Woman of the Year. Pictured (l to r) Suzanne Matheny, Mays Lick, Ky., NHW board member; Jean Priefert; and Donna Riffel, a longtime Hereford friend.

Priefert Named Hereford Woman of the Year

Jean Priefert, of Priefert Farms, Fairmont, Neb., was recognized as Hereford Woman of the Year Oct. 28 during the National Hereford Women (NHW) annual meeting in Kansas City, Mo.

Each year the NHW recognizes and honors one woman for her achievements, leadership, dedication and promotion of the Hereford breed.

A “die-hard Hereford breeder,” Jean has promoted Hereford cattle, supported Hereford youth and welcomed new breeders to the Hereford family for many years.

Jean and her husband, Neil, got their start in the Hereford business with a wedding gift. In the 1950s when they got married, Jean’s parents offered her a choice between a registered polled Hereford cow or an electric automatic washer and dryer — Jean chose the cow and set the foundation for their Hereford operation.

While attending numerous shows and sales, Jean saw a vision for a Hereford women’s organization that would serve breeders by promoting the breed and fostering opportunities to support youth programs and provide a

means of fellowship and networking for women in agriculture.

Jean was one of the 12 founding members of the National Organization of Poll-ettes. She served on, chaired and co-chaired numerous committees including the ways and means, and cookbook committees. Jean served as

president of the Nebraska Poll-ettes from 1968-1969 and stayed active during the mergers of the women’s Hereford organizations at the national and state levels.

“One thing I have counted on with Jean is that she is always willing to lend a helping hand to promote Herefords and beef to the public,” says Melissa McGee Buehler of Valley Creek Ranch in Fairbury, Neb.

Jean was instrumental in developing the hospitality booth at the Nebraska State Fair, and at Husker Harvest Days she has helped serve Certified Hereford Beef (CHB®) to the public.

In her local community, Jean is a 50-year member of the Fairmont Community Church and has held offices in the Fairmont Federated Women’s Club. She continues to serve as the beef editor for Women Involved in Farm Economics’ quarterly newsletter to help educate women in the group about the beef industry.

Today, Jean can still be seen at most cattle events in Nebraska and Kansas, talking with new and potential Hereford breeders, and promoting beef to the public.

Lori Riffel Hambright of Kanza Cattle & Vineyards, Chapman, Kan., says, “Jean is not one for spotlights, but a steady, loyal supporter who has made big differences that today’s people in agriculture benefit from.” **NHW**



2017-18 National Hereford Women board of directors pictured front row (l to r) are: **Rhonda Eck**, Putnam, Okla., president; **Trudy Nolles**, Bassett, Neb., president elect; **Karen Smith**, Gatesville, Texas, treasurer; and **Jill Folkman**, Ixonia, Wis., ex officio. Back row (l to r): **Amy Taylor**, Munford, Ky.; **Erin Lockhart**, College Station, Texas; **Barbara Metch**, Canton, Texas; **Kim Herinckx**, Lafayette, Ore.; **Bonnie Reed**, Hampton, Minn.; **Dana Pieper**, Palco, Kan.; and **Sandra Ostgaard**, Dayton, Ohio.