

2017 State Tours in Review

California-Nevada Hereford Field Day and Tour

The California-Nevada Hereford Field Day and Tour took place April 7-8 in Bakersfield, Calif.

Attendees kicked off the weekend with an evening reception and social hosted by Dewar Farms. Snedden Ranch hosted the tour Saturday morning. Hereford breeders ate lunch at the ranch before heading to an afternoon tour at the West Kern Oil Museum. To close the events, breeders were treated to dinner at the iconic Woolgrowers Basque restaurant.



Richard Snedden and Mark Holt, American Hereford Association (AHA) field staff, welcome Hereford breeders to the Snedden Ranch for a tour.



Richard Snedden explains to attendees how they operate.

Mississippi Hereford Association Field Day

Joe Waggoner hosted the first Mississippi Hereford Association (MHA) field day in several years on April 29 at his farm near Lena.

The day included talks by Eric Walker, past American Hereford Association (AHA) president, and Shane Bedwell, AHA director of breed improvement. Mike Dobbins, MHA president, opened the program with a welcome and then introduced Joe Waggoner. Joe welcomed everyone to his operation and gave some general information about his breeding program.

A judging contest with expected progeny differences (EDPs) provided on all the classes and a lunch was offered to attendees. Other presenters included: Andy Berry, Mississippi Cattleman's Association executive vice president; and Cornerstone Genetics and Tommy Coley, AHA field staff, over reproduction.

Cattle from the Waggoner program were available for viewing including herd bulls, yearling heifers, embryo transfer (ET) calves and cow/calf pairs.



MHA President Mike Dobbins opens the program for the field day near Lena.



MHA board directors welcome attendees to the state's first field day in several years.

Wisconsin Hereford Association Field Day

More than 100 Hereford breeders gathered June 24 for the Wisconsin Hereford Field Day in central Wisconsin. The day began with a tour of Next Generation Genetics in Endeavor and ended at Pierce's Hereford Haven in Baraboo.

The Brancel family of Next Generation Genetics hosted the first stop on the tour, which included a judging class, cattle viewing, a demonstration from BioZyme® Inc. representatives and a discussion with Jack Ward, AHA executive vice president.

Attendees viewed cattle on display before being brought inside for a Certified Hereford Beef (CHB®) hamburger lunch. After the meal, participants heard from Ward on the importance of genomics, breed improvement updates

and the new genetic evaluation. Kevin Glaubius, director of nutrition and technical sales, and Kevin Arand, area sales manager for BioZyme Inc., were on-hand to discuss mineral programs and products as well as answer questions from attendees. BioZyme also donated heat and stress tubs as door prizes for the tour attendees.

Crystal Blin, BioZyme marketing programs manager, gave participants additional information about their role in the Hereford Youth Foundation of America's Feed the Future program and how breeders could get involved. After lunch, the tour headed to Pierce's Hereford Haven for a pasture tour, a lesson on economic practices and a brisket dinner.



AHA Executive Vice President Jack Ward addressed attendees at their first stop.



Attendees viewed cattle on both stops during the field day.

Whitehawk/Barnes Field Day

Whitehawk Ranch and Barnes Herefords hosted a field day for Hereford breeders July 29, at their farms in west central Georgia. The event was well attended by registered and commercial breeders from nine states.



Georgia Hereford Association President John Watson welcomes attendees to the field day.

The morning program began at Whitehawk Ranch, Buchanan, Ga., with a welcome by owner Gary Hedrick, County Commissioner Allen Poole, and Georgia Hereford Association President John Watson.

The attendees boarded trailers for a pasture tour of the Whitehawk cow herd and a discussion of the intensive grazing program utilized at

Whitehawk. The group enjoyed a CHB hamburger lunch at Whitehawk and then traveled north to Barnes Herefords in Cedartown, Ga. Roy Barnes, owner, and Kevin Akins, manager, welcomed them.

To start the afternoon program, the Whitehawk crew gave a tattooing and DNA collecting demonstration. Attendees then enjoyed a demonstration on utilizing the "Bud Box" by the Barnes crew at their working facility. Guests had the opportunity to tour Barnes Herefords and learn about their introduction of Georgia adapted-and-bred Alfalfa in their forage program. Trey Befort, AHA director of commercial marketing, gave an informative talk regarding marketing Hereford-influenced feeder cattle.

In conclusion, the group was served a CHB ribeye dinner followed by a presentation by Georgia Commissioner of Agriculture, Gary Black. The program concluded with announcements of door prize and judging contest winners.



Kevin Akins, manager of Barnes Herefords, demonstrates the proper way to utilize the "Bud Box."

North Carolina Hereford Association Field Day

John Wheeler of Double J Farm, Traphill, N.C., hosted the North Carolina Hereford Association field day Aug. 12.

The first session educated attendees about the Double J breeding program on a pasture tour. The second stop highlighted their pasture and forage program and the third stop was to view the working facilities and the cattle they had on display. From there, everyone moved to the assembly hall at a nearby church where a CHB hamburger lunch was served followed by the afternoon program.

Shane Bedwell, AHA director of breed improvement, led off the afternoon program by discussing making genetic selections using EPDs and the new selection tools to expect soon. Tommy Mead, AHA Board of Directors, discussed marketing Hereford bulls. Seth Church and Channing Gooden, commercial producers, led a discussion about what they look for when they buy Hereford bulls and ways to market Hereford-influenced feeder cattle. Bryan Blinson, Executive Director North Carolina Cattlemen's Association, discussed what the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) and the North Carolina Cattlemen are doing to help cattle producers and what producers can do to help them. Tommy Coley, AHA, summarized the day's programs and presentations.



Attendees enjoyed a pasture tour highlighting the pasture and forage program at Double J Farm.



CHB hamburgers were served for attendees during lunch.

Nebraska Hereford Association Tour

The Nebraska Hereford Association Tour took place Aug. 19-20, in northeast Nebraska.

Saturday's tour hosts included: Bar M Herefords, Hordville; Frenzen Polled Herefords, Fullerton; JMS Cattle Co., Cedar Rapids; Thistle Hill Herefords, Madison; Hula Herefords, Creston; TKR Herefords, Waverly; and Vernon Yost and Sons, Columbus. Attendees were treated to lunch at Frenzen Polled Herefords, and the youth had an opportunity to participate in a judging contest. Hula Herefords hosted the evening meal.

Sunday tour hosts included: Blueberry Hill Farms, Norfolk; JAS Satorie Farms, Herman; TWJ Farms, Carroll; Huwaldt Herefords, Randolph; Huwaldt Cattle Co, Osmond; JB Ranch, Wayne; Laible Herefords, Bloomfield; Melcher Herefords, Page; and Kester Herefords, Clearwater. Huwaldt Herefords hosted lunch and Kester Herefords hosted the evening meal. Results of the judging contest were announced at the conclusion of dinner.



Hereford breeders enjoyed a meal and educational programs at Kester Herefords in Clearwater.



Attendees were welcomed to Bar M Herefords in Hordville to kick off the Nebraska Hereford Association Tour weekend.

continued on page 68...

Southeast Wisconsin Hereford State Tour

The Wisconsin Hereford Association hosted the Fall Southeast Wisconsin Hereford State Tour Aug. 26-27.

Saturday stops included: Bacon Branch Beef, Platteville; Wildcat Cattle Company, Darlington; Thousand Hills Herefords, Stockton, Ill.; and Sand Rock Ranch, Benton. Attendees heard from Select Sires who demonstrated the Cow Manager Activity Monitoring System, and Shane Bedwell, AHA director of breed improvement, on the Young Sire Evaluation Program. Attendees enjoyed a CHB steak dinner with all the trimmings, co-sponsored by Zoetis.

Sunday stops included: Plum River Ranch, Pearl City, Ill.; and Owego Stock Farm, Argyle, Wis. Sunday included cattle viewing at each stop and a barbecued beef lunch with all the fixings. Closing remarks and drawing for door prizes concluded the tour.

Kansas Hereford Tour

The Kansas Hereford Tour was hosted Aug. 26-27.

The tour stops included: Oleen Cattle Company, Falun; Alexander Farms, Gypsum; Reed Seedstock, Clifton; Double S Cattle Company, Clay Center; Ringer Herefords, Concordia; Swenson Herefords, Concordia; Walnut Grove Farms, Agenda; and Jensen Brothers, Courtland. The emphasis of the weekend was the utilization of Hereford bulls on Angus cows to promote feed yard efficiency for commercial cattlemen.



Cattle were on display at Walnut Grove Farms by the Valek family in Agenda.

Missouri Hereford Field Day

The Missouri Hereford Association hosted the District 7 Missouri Field Day Sept. 9-10 in southwestern Missouri.

Saturday began at Bonebrake Herefords for breakfast, a cattle tour and ultrasound demonstration by David Aborn. Attendees then visited the College of the Ozarks for lunch, an overview of the college and beef programs, and several student-led educational demonstrations. The last stop was at Butler Polled Herefords, Republic, Mo. Attendees heard from: Jimmie, Andrea and Joel Butler; Cody and Jocelyn Washam; Ace's Polled Herefords, Danny Fanning; and Trailwood Cattle Co., Don and Kathy Sissel, on cattle tours before their steak dinner and night of entertainment.

After breakfast Sunday, attendees visited the Toothache Ranch, Walnut Grove, Mo., as well as the McCorkill, Rawie and Bolin families to view cattle on display. The field day concluded at High Prairie Farms; Buffalo, Mo. High Prairie Farms invited WMC Cattle Co., Triple H Acres and the Kleinman family to display cattle and host lunch. Attendees not only gained knowledge, but they also received door prizes over the course of the weekend for participating.

South Dakota Hereford Tour

The South Dakota Hereford Tour took place Sept. 15-16, in western South Dakota.

The Friday tour included visits to: Amdahl Hereford and Angus; Jim Baker Herefords; Snyder Ranch; Lonetree Ranch; McClure Polled Herefords; Mount Rushmore and Frederickson Ranch. Attendees enjoyed a CHB dinner at Frederickson Ranch.

On Saturday, Hereford breeders toured: Carmichael Herefords with displays by Longwood Herefords, Hermann Ranch, Weishaar Herefords and Tenold Ranch, Hawks Herefords, Hovland Herefords and Thorson Herefords. Carmichael Herefords hosted a CHB lunch, and attendees enjoyed a CHB supper at Thorson Herefords.

Tennessee Hereford Association Field Day

Jeremiah and Candace Malone of JM Cattle Company hosted the Tennessee Hereford Field Day Sept. 16, at their farm and sale facility in Lawrenceburg.

Ben Neale, a representative from VitaFerm, gave an informative talk on the importance of nutrition in relation to cow's productivity. Neale highlighted the importance of recognizing cattle's current nutritional levels and needs. The educational portion of the program concluded with Wesley Klipfel, Ph.D., of Cottage Farm Genetics. Klipfel outlined the services available at Cottage Farm Genetics and spoke about fertility in bulls. Additionally, he talked on the factors that influence bull's ability to settle cows. The group appreciated the CHB meal of ribeye steaks to finish the day. In addition to the other activities, attendees participated in a cattle-judging contest.

Deer Track Farm Field Day

Bob Schaffer of Deer Track Farm hosted a commercial breeders' field day on his farm in Spotsylvania.

Attendees began the morning hearing from Shane Bedwell, AHA director of beef improvement, on improving bottom line by using genetic tools and new technology. After a BBQ lunch, David Trowbridge, Gregory Feedlots manager, and Richard Lloyd, retiree of the Virginia Department of Agriculture, discussed the best ways to market Hereford genetics. Bom Harris, DVM, Old Dominion Veterinary, concluded the day with a program on herd health.

Youth in attendance enjoyed a fishing contest, and everyone was included in a drawing for door prizes. The grand prize was a yearling baldie steer.

Buckeye Hereford Association and Switzerland of Ohio Polled Hereford Association Field Day

Rick VanFleet and his family hosted a Hereford Field day Sept. 30, at their family farm in Pleasant City, Ohio.

The field day was co-sponsored by the Buckeye Hereford Association and the Switzerland of Ohio Polled Hereford Association. Guests were welcome to tour pastures and participate in a Hereford cattle-judging contest upon arrival. Christine Gelley, Oklahoma State University (OSU) agricultural Extension specialist for Noble County, led the group on a pasture walk where she gave

an informative talk on pasture fertility, pasture management, weed control and stocking rates.

Additionally, Steven Boyles, OSU animal nutritionist, shared his educational perspective on cow herd management. Everyone was treated to a CHB brisket meal with all the trimmings. At the conclusion of the day, the judging contest winners were announced and prizes were given to the top adults and all the kids in attendance.



Attendees enjoyed a pasture walk to learn about pasture fertility, management, weed control and stocking rates.