



Hereford breeders were welcomed to an open house at the new headquarters to kick-off Annual Meeting.

Team Hereford Gathers in Kansas City

Hereford breeders celebrate a prosperous year at the 2018 American Hereford Association Annual Meeting and Conference.



Breeders enjoyed *Certified Hereford Beef* hors d'oeuvres during a cook-off during the trade show.

American Hereford Association (AHA) members, breeders, partners and staff gathered in Kansas City, Mo., Oct. 26-28, to celebrate the remarkable achievements and progress made in fiscal year (FY) 2018. The weekend was spent honoring distinguished breeders, learning about ongoing projects at the AHA, conducting AHA business and attending Hereford events at the American Royal.

This year's Annual Meeting and Conference kicked off with an open house at the new AHA headquarters. Attendees toured the office space and Hereford museum while mingling with staff members and other

members. The conference then headed downtown to the Westin Kansas City at Crown Center, with an industry trade show and a *Certified Hereford Beef*® cook-off between chefs Jonathan Scinto and Tim Norsten kicking off events.

The National Hereford Women met for their annual meeting Friday morning, where members elected new board members and announced NHW officers. Sheila Crays, Tobias, Neb. was presented with the Hereford Woman of the Year award. See Page 60 for more information.

The AHA Educational Forum took place Friday afternoon, and featured four sessions covering updates on breed improvement, the new MyHerd site, the new Hereford Publications Inc. (HPI) online sale catalogs and the *Certified Hereford Beef* program specification upgrade. See Page 38 for a recap of each session.

Honoring legacies and awarding excellence

Friday evening was spent recognizing outstanding members, dedicated breeders, passionate brand ambassadors and standout youth



The educational forum featured four breakout sessions offering pertinent information about the Hereford breed.

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The Honoree Reception highlighted the best of the breed from longtime members to passionate youth.

during the Hereford Honorees Reception. During the event, recipients of the Hall of Merit, Hall of Fame, Century Breeder, Golden Breeder, HYFA scholarships and *Certified Hereford Beef* awards were honored and winners of the 2018 Fed Steer Shootout contest were announced for the first time.

This year's Hall of Fame recipients are Greg Shaw, Caldwell, Idaho; John Loewen, Waukomis, Okla.; Dale and Mary Barber, Channing, Texas; and Clifford and Barbara Copeland, Nara Visa, N.M. Gay George, Lebo, Kan., was inducted into the Hall of Merit. See Page 45 for more details.

In celebration of 100 years in the business, the Bayers family of Bayers Hereford Ranch, Lavina, Mont., was honored as a Century Hereford Breeder. Recipients of the Golden Breeder award went to: Clarence and Maryellen Boettcher of Boettcher's Brookview Acres, Fairchild, Wis.; Mike and Becky Simpson of Simpson Polled Herefords, Redfield, Iowa; Bill King, Moriarty, N.M.; Scott and Judy McGee of Valley Creek Ranch, Fairbury, Neb.; Morgan and Morgan Polled Hereford Farm, Alvaton, Ky.; McDonald Polled Hereford, Jane Lew, W.Va.; Kevin and Kathy Stork of KLS Farm, New Richmond, Wis.; Paul and Sylvia Baker of Baker Polled Herefords, Elkhorn, Wis.; Marshall and Linda Walker, Los Molinos, Calif.; and Emmett and Margaret Langness of Lamar Polled Herefords, New Richmond, Wis. See Page 48 for more details.

The Hereford Youth Foundation of America (HYFA) awarded \$147,500 in scholarships to Hereford youth (Page 52), the National Junior Hereford

Association (NJHA) recognized the Fed Steer Shootout contest winners (Page 56) and BioZyme® Inc. presented \$30,000 to continue its support of youth in the 2019 contest (Page 44). *Certified Hereford Beef* also awarded its dedicated brand partners at the ceremony (Page 51).

Board directors elected

The Annual Membership Meeting was held Saturday morning to elect three new directors and to present AHA program updates to the membership. Delegates elected Craig Beran, Claflin, Kan.; Bruce Everhart, Waldron, Ind.; and Andrew Matheny, Mays Lick, Ky., to serve as the new directors. The Board elected Pete Atkins, Tea, S.D., to lead the Association as president, and Joel Birdwell, Kingfisher, Okla., to serve as vice president (Page 42). AHA Board committee chairmen also presented the achievements and end-of-year statistics achieved in FY 2018.

Ladies of the Royal Sale averages \$4,881

Following the Annual Membership Meeting, attendees headed to the American Royal complex for the Ladies of the Royal Sale. This year's sale boasted a strong set of females along with

frozen embryo lots. Auctioneer Monte Lowderman led the sale of 18 female lots for an average of \$4,881 and 17 embryo lots for an average of \$854. See Page 59 for more sale highlights.

Hereford show champions

Hereford junior exhibitors led 97 head before judge Alan Miller, Gridley, Ill., Saturday evening following the Ladies of the Royal Sale. The following morning, Daniel Fawcett, Ree Heights, S.D., sorted the 172-head open show. See Page 64 for the American Royal National Show champions and results. Complete placings are posted online at Hereford.org/Events/National-Shows/American-Royal.

Hereford exhibitors were also recognized during the open show for showcasing their breeding programs at national and regional shows during the 2017-18 show season. Awards for champion national and regional Hereford show bull, show female and premier exhibitor were presented. See this year's winners on Page 67.

National Hereford Queen

Following the selection of the champion female and presentation of the national and regional show awards, Emily Meinhardt, Marysville, Kan., was crowned the 2018-19 National Hereford Queen.

Emily will serve as the face of the Hereford breed and as an advocate for the beef and agriculture industries. First runner-up honors went to Melanie Fishel, Kernersville, N.C.; second runner-up went to Kira Sayre, Arenzville, Ill.; and Lillie Blissard, Water Valley, Miss., was selected as Miss Congeniality (see Page 62). **HW**



New Board members were elected and Hereford business was presented to the membership during the Annual Membership Meeting on Saturday morning.