

Crays Recognized as Hereford Woman of the Year



Sheila Crays was joined by her daughters when she received the 2018 Hereford Woman of the Year honor. Pictured (l to r) are: Linda McKay, Sheila Crays and Stephanie Jensen.

Sheila Crays, Tobias, Neb., was honored as Hereford Woman of the Year during the National Hereford Women (NHW) annual meeting in Kansas City, Mo. The award is presented each year to a noteworthy member of the NHW to commemorate her achievements, leadership, promotion and dedication to the Hereford breed.

A dedicated member of the NHW since the early 1980s, Sheila has volunteered countless hours of her time supporting the membership and

improving the organization. She served on the Nebraska Pollettes board for many years as the secretary/treasurer and vice president and was the queen chairman for four years. She supported all three of her daughters — Stephanie, Linda and Clara — during their reign as Nebraska Pollette Queen, as well as Clara's reign as National Hereford Queen.

Sheila's love for Hereford youth and the breed prompted her to serve as the state adviser for several years with her husband, Don. A talented cook, she always made the Nebraska

Junior Show's Friday night meal enjoyable by making and donating sloppy joes. Her organizational skills ensured the weekend's programs and events ran smoothly.

Additionally, Sheila's work in helping prepare and decorate the banquet hall of the hospitality booth at the 1990 National Junior Polled Hereford Show made the event successful. She continued assisting with the hospitality booth at the 2012, 2014 and 2018 Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE).

Still strong supporters of the Hereford breed, Sheila and Don can be found attending sales, tours and fairs in Nebraska and Kansas. Sheila enjoys watching her grandchildren show and compete in activities, and she always has her camera ready to take pictures of all the action. Sheila and Don attended JNHE in Grand Island, Neb., this year to watch their grandchildren compete in various events. They enjoyed reconnecting with friends of the Hereford family from across the United States and look forward to staying involved in the years to come.

"Sheila Crays is very deserving of this award," says NHW board member Trudy Nolles. "She is a dedicated individual for the Hereford breed and to the Hereford family. Sheila is always willing to lend a helping hand no matter what the event is." **HW**

NHW annual meeting

In addition to honoring the Hereford Woman of the Year, the National Hereford Women (NHW) elected new officers for the NHW board of directors, elected new board directors and honored retiring directors.

The 2018-19 NHW officers are:

- President** – Erin Lockhart, Bryan, Texas,
- President-elect** – Sharon King, Columbia, Miss.
- Vice president** – Dana Pieper, Zurich, Kan.
- Secretary** – Amy Taylor, Petersburg, W.Va.
- Treasurer** – Karen Smith, Gatesville, Texas
- Historian** – Sandra Ostgaard, Dayton, Ohio

Communications – Erin Lockhart

Ex-officio – Rhonda Eck, Putnam, Okla.

Queen co-chairs – Trudy Nolles, Bassett, Neb.; Betsy Pitstick, South Solon, Ohio; and Bonnie Reed, Hampton, Minn.

Newly elected directors to the NHW board are: **Shannon Worrell**, Mason, Texas; **Nikki Rogers**, Eatonville, Wash.; and **Betsy Pitstick**, South Solon, Ohio.

Completing their term on the board were **Jill Folkman**, Ixonia, Wis.; **Barbara Metch**, Canton, Texas; and **Kim Herinckx**, Lafayette, Ore. **HW**