

## Spring into Action

Get your heifers genotyped for free by participating in ongoing fertility research and plan to attend the Beef Improvement Federation conference in June.



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I want to first congratulate all of the breeders who have been recognized as breeders of Dams of Distinction (DOD) and Sires of Distinction (SOD). In 2019 the number of DODs increased nearly 10% and the number of breeders recognized increased 16% from the previous year. This is a great testament to the focus and emphasis put on the mama cow. Herd foundations are built on the core principles qualifying DODs achieve, and it is really encouraging to see the success of this award program.

### Free genotyping opportunity

Jared Decker, Ph.D., at the University of Missouri is offering a great opportunity to genotype females for free. Yes, that's right, for free. Decker and his colleagues are researching how reproductive tract scores can predict pregnancy rate success. They have developed a scoring rubric that evaluates the size and tone of the uterine horns as well as the size and development of the ovarian follicles.

This research project is open to heifers only and tract scoring needs to be conducted 30 to 45 days ahead of breeding. I realize some of you may already have bred your heifers this year, but some later-calving herds still have time to participate. Fortunately, this project is ongoing through 2022, so even if you missed out this spring, you can still participate next year. Decker's goal is to get at least 2,500 Hereford females phenotypically scored and genotyped throughout the project.

This is a great opportunity for breeders to engage in fertility research that can make a substantial difference in identifying the number of females that actually get settled. Take a closer look to see if this project is a fit for you by visiting [Blog.SteakGenomics.org/2020/02/HeiferRecruitment.html](http://Blog.SteakGenomics.org/2020/02/HeiferRecruitment.html). If you have any

additional questions, please contact Decker at [deckerje@missouri.edu](mailto:deckerje@missouri.edu).

### Mark your calendars



Finally, I would like to invite everyone to the Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Research Symposium and Convention in

June. The conference will take place June 9-12 just south of Orlando, Fla., in Kissimmee. The BIF conference is an event I look forward to every year to learn and to engage in the emerging technologies which are advancing genetic evaluations.

There is no other conference that meshes people involved in the beef business better than the BIF conference. All segments of the industry benefit from the discussions and interactions between producers and researchers. This aspect is what I like most about this conference and is why this organization is successful.

It's an honor to serve on the board of directors for BIF, and I encourage you all to attend and to be active participants. It's critically important we have strong representation from the Hereford breed in attendance. There is no doubt our breed has some of the best thought leaders in the business, and we need to continue to showcase these talents through interactions and dialogue with other top cattlemen. Having a seat at the table is important for the breed, and I can't think of another platform that is more focused and significant for breed improvement. Take advantage of the early bird registration through May 15 and save \$100. For more information and to register, visit [BeefImprovement.org/library/general-information](http://BeefImprovement.org/library/general-information). I look forward to seeing you in Florida. **HW**