

by **Shane Bedwell**

A Prime Position



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The legacy of the late Allan Shumaker will live on through a generous donation to the Hereford Research Foundation.

December is here and the journey to this point in the year has been one filled with ups and downs, but I must say Hereford business has ridden through in resilient style. Positivity breeds success. Frankly, I believe Hereford genetics and, most importantly, the people behind this breed, are what propels this industry forward. There are many strengths this industry needs from us, and I am excited about what is ahead.

CHB\$ Update

During the week of the Annual Membership Meeting and Conference in Kansas City, Mo., the American Hereford Association (AHA) conducted virtual educational sessions in place of the typical educational forum. While I missed the great interactions and group discussions, these virtual sessions offered a lot of great content, and I encourage you to watch these sessions at Hereford.org/events/annual-meeting/.

During the breed improvement session — Utilizing the Tools for Victory — I shared an update to the Certified Hereford Beef profit index (CHB\$) that was implemented in the genetic evaluation released Nov. 9, 2020. Under a policy implemented by the AHA Board of Directors, the AHA profit indices are reviewed every three years. During the most recent review process, an error was found in how the economic value of marbling was scaled in relation to the value of the marbling expected progeny difference (MARB) when calculating the weight of MARB in the CHB\$. The take-home message is the importance, or weight, of MARB has increased in the CHB\$ index.

Honoring Allan Shumaker

During the Annual Meeting, I had the great privilege to announce a \$116,932 gift on behalf of the late Allan

Shumaker. Allan was a lifelong Hereford breeder from Wetmore, Kan., with a great passion for the breed. A believer in the value of collecting actual data from birth to harvest, he emphasized all traits needed to make Hereford genetics work for the commercial beef industry in his breeding program. He gained tremendous respect amongst commercial cattlemen because his genetics benefited their bottom line.

Allan went well beyond capturing basic phenotypes by collecting actual feedlot and carcass data while never losing sight of fertility and longevity. He was an active participant in the Kansas Hereford Association's National Hereford Feedout program and used this valuable data to improve his herd. As DNA technology entered the scene, Allan deemed it necessary to start the Hereford Prime Foundation to collect DNA on all cattle in the National Hereford Feedout program in a central location. His vision was to tie this valuable data together, to use it for the further promotion of the Hereford breed and to build upon the predictability of key growth, efficiency and carcass traits.

To further Allan's mission of utilizing valuable data for breed improvement, a gift was pledged to the Hereford Research Foundation (HRF) on his behalf. A lot can be taken away from Allan's breeding philosophy and his desire to utilize all data and technology to make improvements. What I respect most about Allan is that he had the commercial man in mind with every decision he made. His legacy will live on through his generous gift to the HRF and will allow for more concentrated efforts to further enhance the tools and value the Hereford breed has to offer the commercial beef industry.

Merry Christmas! **HW**



The late Allan Shumaker, Wetmore, Kan., was honored at the 2020 American Hereford Association Annual Membership Meeting and Conference for a gift of \$116,932 made on his behalf to the Hereford Research Foundation.