

Distinct Dependability and Diligence

Dependability, diligence and hard work pay off on the ranch, in the cow herd and in the office.



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This is the Year of the Ox. The ox occupies the second position in the Chinese zodiac. There are 12 zodiac animals, and the most recent Years of the Ox are 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997, 2009 and 2021. Having an honest nature, oxen are known for diligence, dependability, strength and determination. The ox is a hard worker. Zodiac experts believe during a Year of the Ox that hard work will be rewarded more than usual.

Farmers and ranchers certainly understand the importance of hard work, dependability and determination. When much of the world was locked down in 2020, our farmers and ranchers stayed committed to calving cows, planting crops and working to produce food for the world.

Distinct dams

This issue of the *Hereford World* features Dams and Sires of Distinction (DOD and SOD), programs that recognize efficient, fertile and productive Hereford females and their sires. It's said, when you find a good sire, he will have a good cow — or several — in his pedigree. As you will read, there are very strict criteria for a DOD and SOD to identify cattle that meet the highest standards of commercial production.

A DOD will need to maintain a good calving interval combined with a nursing ratio that sets her apart from her contemporaries. To be honored as an SOD, a bull must produce at least seven DODs. In each case, you will find the DOD/SOD designation after honored animals' names when doing an animal or EPD inquiry on *Hereford.org*. You can search the American Hereford Association (AHA) database to find cows and sires that have qualified.

As Hereford genetics continue to see expanded use in the commercial



Year of the Ox

industry, we must stay committed to traits that have been the backbone of the breed for generations. Those traits include efficiency, longevity, fertility and disposition. Producers build upon these traits with calving ease coupled with the right amount of growth to push the needle for end-product merit. We need to be good stockmen, using all the tools to make genetic improvement while being committed to customers.

Best wishes

A tribute to Christy Benigno, AHA editorial designer/assistant, is also printed in this issue. After nearly 16 years at the AHA, Christy will be retiring. She is a hard-working, dependable person, and she will certainly be missed at the AHA. In retirement, Christy plans to do some traveling and enjoy life. I want to personally thank her for everything she has done at AHA. She is a wonderful person, and all of us will miss her smile. **HW**