

Hereford Women | The Rare Breed

by Erika Evoniuk

An old movie starring Hereford rings true today.

What makes a good Western movie? Is it the boots, chaps and cowboy hats? Perhaps, it's the scenery of the vast countryside with the cattle drives. Maybe, it's the quick-draw matches in the middle of town after a disagreement in the local saloon. Today, I want to take you back to a movie you might not have seen for a while. It could even be a movie that has skipped a generation and has yet to be seen by today's Hereford youth.

A 1966 movie starring James Stewart and Maureen O'Hara called "The Rare Breed" deserves to be seen by your family. Here's a short summary to spark your interest. I will refrain from spoiling the ending, though. The movie follows an Englishwoman and her daughter. Together, they bring their polled Hereford bull named "Vindicator" to America.



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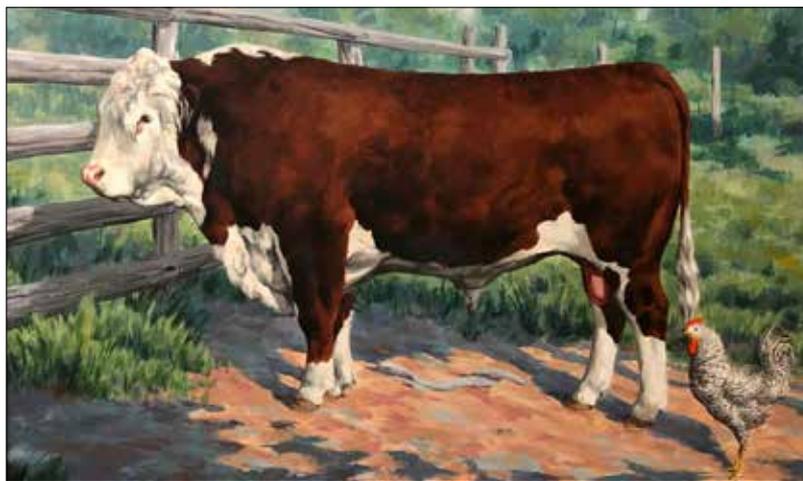
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Giant, the foundation bull of the Polled Hereford breed in the United States, was born in 1879. That was the same era as the fictional Vindicator bull portrayed in the movie, *The Rare Breed*.

"A bull without horns?" the naive ranchers questioned. At the time, cattlemen solely praised the Texas Longhorn breed.

Although the movie is not a 100% true story, it will still have you admiring our beloved Hereford breed. The bull represents what we still see as our children exhibit and work with Hereford cattle. Vindicator was docile, he was trainable, and he was an eye-ful. The bull captured what modern-day judges and meatpackers rave about when they assess our cattle.

Hereford breeders, too

The story is about more than the bull. The woman and her daughter possess the traits of today's Hereford breeders. They have gentle, careful demeanors, when interacting with the bull. These intelligent ladies are confident in Vindicator's breeding, genetics, stamina and hardiness to withstand adverse weather conditions.

They had great pride in the Hereford breed and convinced others to become fans of the

breed, too. This reminds me of the many Hereford breeders that I know, who are proud of their cattle and enjoy educating others about the breed.

While it's not difficult to figure out how the movie will end, you will still find yourself cheering for Vindicator the whole way through. After all, home is where your Herefords are, and we all enjoy coming home.

I encourage each of you to take 90 minutes, relax on the couch with your family and enjoy this movie. While the movie is old and the cast does not reflect any of today's Hollywood stars, it's a classic to be enjoyed by all ages.

I ask once more, "What makes a good Western movie?" In my opinion, a good Western movie includes cattle with red bodies and white faces. A Hereford sighting puts any good Western movie at the top of my list. I hope you enjoy your movie night! **HW**

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