

Being Good Stewards

Consider how stewardship leads to building greatness that can stand the test of time.



Cristin Tavernaro is the managing editor of *Hereford World*. She can be reached at ctavernaro@hereford.org.

When fall moves into November, I typically reminisce on the past year and anticipate what is to come in the year to follow. I have come to find the American Hereford Association (AHA) and I have this thought process in common.

Much like the changing seasons, the AHA can count on applying improvements and implementing necessary change to accomplish membership goals outlined at the Annual Membership Meeting and Conference. At the conclusion of each fiscal year (FY), the AHA reflects on its accomplishments and the good work of the membership. Some of this is summarized in the AHA Annual Report, which you will find in this issue of the *Hereford World*.

Helping put this annual report together made me think more about the legacy of the Association. The Hereford breed has existed for almost 300 years, and the AHA serves to support cattlemen and women who promote the breed. We see that stewardship is a worthy characteristic to acknowledge for the longevity of the breed and the AHA.

In the agricultural industry, we are no strangers to the concept of stewardship. Each day farmers and ranchers work responsibly to manage their resources and place great care into what they have. Everyone knows nothing lasts without stewardship; everything that exists today is here because someone has taken care of it.

Among other things, the AHA has taken excellent care in stewarding their work and their relationships. Beyond the Hereford breed and the AHA, we can take note of this to promote the stewardship of the work and relationships in our own lives.

I say to take care of your work rather than your job, because it

is important to understand the difference between the two. Your work — good work — serves people, develops character and gives you a sense of purpose. Your job is different, because the reason why you work matters more than where you work, and meaningful work can take place outside of your everyday job. It is also worth noting that some of the most satisfied people are those whose work serves others. Likewise, our relationships also help to accomplish the goals of service, character and purpose in ourselves and others.

Consider your own work and relationships and whether or not you are treating each one with intentional and exceptional care. I think you will be surprised to see what happens and what lasts because of how you decided to improve your mindset of work and your relationships. So, take care of them.

In this issue

As I mentioned earlier, this issue includes the AHA Annual Report for FY 2021. “Come Home to Hereford, Where Grit Builds Greatness,” was the theme of this year’s Annual Meeting, which we carried over for the report. It’s another reminder of how stewardship and perseverance make for the perfect combination over the course of time. In addition, you will find a feature on retiring AHA President Mark St. Pierre, someone else who believes in living a life of intention and in the people who make the Hereford breed what it is.

It is hard to believe we are approaching 2022, but I know that the AHA will set its sights for another year of working for the benefit of the membership and the breed, just like they have for decades. Stewardship, perseverance and grit really do build greatness. **HW**