

Hereford Breeders Honored for 100 Years and 50 Years of Heritage



Noack Herefords, Rockdale, Texas, was honored as an AHA Century Breeder at the Annual Meeting on Oct. 23, in Kansas City, Mo. Pictured (l to r) are: Steve Noack, Shiloh Doehring and Darla Weaver.



Smathers Hereford Ranch, Llano, Texas, was honored as an AHA Century Breeder. Pictured is: Rick Smathers.

Century and Golden Hereford Breeders were recognized for their long-term commitment — often multi-generational — to building Hereford genetics. Both were recognized Saturday, Oct. 23, during the AHA Annual Membership Meeting and Conference, in Kansas City, Mo.

This year's Century Breeders with 100 years in the Hereford business are Noack Herefords, Rockdale, Texas, and Smathers Hereford Ranch, Llano, Texas.

Golden Breeders with 50 years dedicated to Herefords are: Atkins Herefords, Inc., Tea, S.D.; B&D Herefords, Claflin, Kan.; Blume Herefords, Frankfort, S.D.; Circle Y Farm, West Liberty, Ohio; Neilyne Genetics, Pine Island, Minn.; Parker Bros. Polled Herefords, Bradyville, Tenn.; Prestwood Beef Cattle, Lenoir, N.C.; Schuette Land & Cattle, Inc., Highmore, S.D.; Windmill Acres Farm, Barnardsville, N.C.; and Y Cross Herefords, Bonanza, Ore.

"Raising Hereford cattle for 50 or 100 years is a tremendous achievement," says Shane Bedwell, AHA chief operating officer and director of breed improvement. "The operations recognized have often passed the legacy

of the Hereford breed through multiple generations, while remaining committed to making better cattle."



Century Breeders

Noack Herefords, Rockdale, Texas

Noack Herefords was established in 1921 by E.H. Noack, who registered the 7- brand. When E.H.'s only son, Leon, returned home from Texas A&M, his graduation was rewarded when he was named the cow herd manager. After E.H.'s untimely death a few years later, Leon assumed full responsibility for the ranch and made it into the operation it is today.

Leon spent countless hours studying pedigrees and collecting performance data. Noack Herefords was an early adopter of the Whole Herd Total Performance Records (TPR™) system.

The operation focused on creating the ideal mama cow, improving birth weights, milking ability and longevity.

Leon spent time working as a meat grader, which taught him the value of consistently producing delicious, tender meat. He was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in 2000 and lost the battle in 2015.

Today, the family ranch consists of three separate cow herds that cooperate on genetics and marketing. Noack bulls are guaranteed to work for four years.

Noack Herefords firmly believes form follows function, and the most functional cows are also the most profitable. They have been tremendously blessed and hope to operate another 100 years.

Smathers Hereford Ranch, Llano, Texas

The Smathers Hereford Ranch was established in 1886 by James Jefferson Smathers in the heart of the Texas Hill Country in Llano County, Texas. James purchased about 500 acres shortly after he married Harriet Spinks, and he purchased his first Hereford cattle shortly after. Over the past 135 years, the ranch has passed from father to son for five generations.

2021 ANNUAL MEETING AND CONVENTION COVERAGE

The Smathers Hereford Ranch has evolved from 500 acres of raw pastureland to highly managed, improved grasses, cultivated fields and rotational cell-grazing, which maximizes herd production and capacity.

Initially, Smathers Hereford Ranch was a commercial herd marketed through on-farm production sales. However, as times changed and fifth-generation heir, Slade Smathers, showed interest in raising, exhibiting and marketing his own show cattle, production progressed into an AI/embryo system targeted for registered Hereford cattle and show calf sales.

Today, the Smathers Hereford Ranch continues to grow and evolve under Rick's strong belief and commitment to leave things in good working order for future generations.



Golden Breeders

Atkins Herefords Inc., Tea, S.D.

Atkins Herefords is located near Tea, S.D., on the home farm. The Atkins maintain a select cow herd

and utilize AI and embryo transfer to leverage those genetics. Through their partnership with Delaney Herefords, cattle are marketed in two annual production sales — a bull and female sale in late January and an online female and embryo event in October.

With the Delaneys, the Atkins have been blessed to show cattle successfully at the National Western Stock Show, in Denver, Colo., and the Cattlemen's Congress, in Oklahoma City, including a national champion pen of heifers and carload of bulls.

Pete and Laura have three sons: Scott and his wife, Sarah, and their children: Isla, George and Louise; Paul and his wife, Sarah, and their son, Theodore; and Craig.

B&D Herefords, Claflin, Kan.

Settled in the heart of Kansas, B&D Herefords and Angus was founded in 1969. B&D Herefords hosted its first production sale in 1985 at the rodeo grounds in Odin, Kan. For 36 years, they have held annual production sales each March. Five years ago, B&D added the Fall Classic sale. These sales have focused on performance and production with cattle built to excel in the pasture.

The ranch is now owned and operated by brothers, Craig, Gerald Jr., Kevin and Terry Beran. Gerald Jr.'s son, Matt, returned to the ranch

full-time, and Craig's daughter, Bridget, is closely involved as well. Today, B&D runs approximately 800 cows spread across central Kansas. The ranch utilizes an extensive amount of AI and is committed to DNA testing the entire cow herd and each bull marketed in the sales to ensure the most accurate information is available.

Blume Herefords, Frankfort, S.D.

Gordon Blume and his brother, Gary, purchased their first registered heifer in 1964 from Gilbert Frankenstein, and that was the beginning of Blume Polled Hereford Farm. It continued to grow and expand until 1975 when Gordon and Gary dissolved the partnership. Gordon and his wife, Thordys, continued under the BPHF prefix until horned genetics were added. That is when they changed the operation name to Blume Herefords.

In the mid-1970s, AI was implemented to better the herd. Embryo transplant was added in the late 1980s, and they continue to use both. Today, Blume Herefords consist of three generations. Gordon and Thordys, along with their son, Michael, and his wife, Becky, and grandchildren, Jayna and Rett.

Gordon and Thordys continue with the calving and feeding of the herd, but they most enjoy watching their grandchildren compete in the show ring.



Atkins Herefords, Tea, S.D., was honored as an AHA Golden Breeder. Pictured (l to r) are: Pete and Laura Atkins.



B&D Herefords, Claflin, Kan., was honored as an AHA Golden Breeder. Pictured (l to r) are: Michelle Beran, Craig Beran, and Bridget Beran.



Blume Herefords, Frankfort, S.D., was honored as an AHA Golden Breeder. Pictured (l to r) are: Michael, Rett, Becky and Jayna Blume.

Circle Y Farm, West Liberty, Ohio

Carl E. Yoder and his family established Circle Y Farm in the fall of 1969. They purchased their first polled Hereford cow at the Walnut Hills Farm Dispersal in 1970. They focus on selling seedstock and freezer beef with freezer beef clients in five different states. They are particularly proud that Alizabeth Kurtz has started showing in junior shows, becoming the fourth generation to carry on the tradition.

Neilyne Genetics, Pine Island, Minn.

Dave Neil was 10 years old when his first polled Hereford heifer, Princess, was born on the family farm in Northfield, Minn. Princess became a 4-H beef project, which Dave showed as a fall calf in 1968 and a senior yearling in 1969. After, Dave was officially hooked on Herefords. Ultimately, Dave and his family established Neilyne Genetics.

As a young Hereford breeder, Dave set two goals for himself: show in the National Western Stock Show and earn a championship banner at that same show. In 2012, Dave achieved the goal he had set 30 years earlier.

The Neils look forward to continuing their Hereford business

and personal relationships with great Hereford people for the next 50 years and beyond.

Parker Bros. Polled Herefords, Bradyville, Tenn.

David L. Parker of Bradyville, Tenn., is a seventh-generation southern farmer, second-generation Hereford breeder and operator of Parker Bros. Polled Herefords. At age 9, David received his first Hereford heifer and has lived, breathed and bred polled Herefords for 62 years. Parker Bros. held its first

production sale in 1967 and continues to host production sales every third Labor Day. In 2013, the family started a retail beef sales operation, Parker Family Beef.

The most important thing in David's life is his family, who all work in some capacity to support the farming operation. Paula, his wife of 47 years, is the mainstay. He has three children, Krista, Brian, and Angela, along with six grandchildren.

Prestwood Beef Cattle, Lenoir, N.C.

Kim Yates Prestwood purchased his first Polled Hereford in 1970 from the North Carolina Hereford Association Spring Sale. That same year, Kim became a junior member of the AHA. His maternal grandfather, Joseph "Guthrie" Bumgarner, had a great influence on Kim's life and his love for cattle.

Kim has two children, Jennifer Smith of Statesville, N.C., and Kyle Prestwood of Walterboro, S.C. Both of Kim's children followed in his footsteps as participants in the National Junior Hereford Association when they were young.

Schuette Land & Cattle Inc., Highmore, S.D.

Bill Schuette purchased his first Hereford bull in 1940, and Hereford cattle have run on the ranch since. By 1947, the ranch had grown to nine



Neilyne Genetics, Northfield, Minn., was honored as an AHA Golden Breeder. Pictured are: Dave Neil (left) and family.



Prestwood Beef Cattle, Lenoir, N.C., was honored as an AHA Golden Breeder. Pictured (l to r) are: Lori Brown and Kim Yates Prestwood.



Schuette Land & Cattle, Inc., Highmore, S.D., was honored as an AHA Golden Breeder. Pictured (l to r) are: Peggy Schlechter, Judy and Jim Schuette.

quarters of land and had become a commercial Hereford cattle operation.

Bill and Ellen had three children: Leroy, Jim and Grace. By the time Jim graduated from high school, the ranch had grown to approximately 2,240 acres with about 180 cows. In 1961, Jim married Judy Wilcox, and they continued to live on the ranch, raising quality Hereford cattle. They raised three children on the ranch — Peggy, Sheri and Jerry. On Jan. 15, 1974, the family ranch was incorporated and became Schuette Land & Cattle Company Inc.

Windmill Acres Farm, Barnardsville, N.C.

Phil Fishel and his wife of 56 years, Brenda, established Windmill Acres Farm in the early '70s. They have two children, Neil and Andie, who grew up in the Hereford breed. Phil is most proud of his grandchildren, Clara, Melanie and Wesley Fishel, and their involvement in the Hereford breed, participating in local and national shows, making herd decisions and most recently Melanie serving as the 2020 National Hereford Queen.

Windmill Acres Farm is still managed today by Phil and Brenda, as well as Neil and his wife, Karen, Andie and her husband, Wes Carpenter, and the three grandchildren. Their focus is to raise productive, efficient cattle that exemplify the longevity and strong maternal traits of the Hereford breed.

Y Cross Herefords, Bonanza, Ore.

Greg Thomas has been in the purebred Hereford business his entire life. Greg, along with his wife, Maureen, raised their three sons, Rees, Zack and Garrett in Bonanza, Ore., on the Y Cross Hereford Ranch. It's a family operation, with the boys now grown and the grandchildren coming out to help with ranching duties. Y Cross Herefords has marketed its bulls all along the West Coast, mainly by private treaty, but has also taken bulls to consignment sales. Y Cross mainly consigns to the prestigious Red Bluff Bull Sale, where it has had the champion Hereford sale bull for seven years in a row. **HW**



Windmill Acres Farm, Barnardsville, N.C., was honored as an AHA Golden Breeder. Pictured (l to r) are: Wes and Andie Carpenter, and Melanie Fishel.

Not pictured: Circle Y Farm, West Liberty, Ohio; Y Cross Herefords, Bonanza, Ore.; and Parker Bros. Herefords, Bradyville, Tenn.