

Traditions

Reflecting on how tradition impacts our lives.

At many times in my life, I can recall asking, “Why?” and being answered with, “It’s tradition.”

Tradition often means something different to all of us. Even *Webster’s New World College Dictionary* has six different definitions for the word.

When I think of traditions, I think of holidays and seasons. I love fall and its traditions. Each autumn, pumpkins are carved, leaves change colors, and cinnamon and spice become abundant. We celebrate holidays like Halloween and Thanksgiving. Spring-born show calves move into the barn, fall cows calve, and auctions take place. Best of all — the weather cools off. I like to think of the changing of the seasons as one of Mother Nature’s traditions.

Traditions can be unremarkable — like grabbing a fancy coffee or donut on payday. They can be simple, like eating beef in lieu of turkey on Thanksgiving Day. Traditions can even be as iconic as pairing a red vest with a bald-faced calf on show day. Traditions are often based on days, feelings and meanings.

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Traditions can be created, broken, lost or changed. That’s the beauty of them. Traditions can be unique to an individual or shared by families, cities, states, countries, cultures and organizations. Traditions bring people together.

Every year, Hereford breeders and enthusiasts from across the country travel to Kansas City, Mo., for an American Hereford Association (AHA) tradition — the Annual Membership Meeting and Conference. The theme for the 2022 Annual Meeting was, fittingly, “Built on Tradition. Engineered to Sustain.” Look for 2022 Annual Meeting coverage in the December issue of the *Hereford World*.

Traditions can also be foundational. There’s no doubt that tradition is the bedrock of the Hereford breed. Almost 300 years ago, the Hereford breed was founded in Herefordshire, England, with ideals such as feed efficiency and reproductive soundness in mind. Today, those same values hold true. Our ranches and herds may have different goals, focuses and lineage — but they’re rooted in Hereford tradition. I’ve always admired and respected the Hereford breed’s rich history and dedication to tradition.

A look at November

In this issue, you’ll find the AHA Annual Report for fiscal year 2022; the report traditionally runs in the November issue of the *Hereford World* in addition to being showcased at the Annual Meeting. We tell retiring AHA President Bruce Everhart’s story, starting on Page 29. Featuring the retiring AHA President is another November *Hereford World* tradition.

By now, you’ve hopefully been able to take part in a fall tradition. Maybe it’s attending a neighbor’s annual sale or spending time with your family at a pumpkin patch, lighting a pumpkin-scented candle or enjoying a cup of apple cider. Whatever tradition means to you as we begin to look towards 2023, continue celebrating it and continue building on it. **HW**



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