

Bright Lights, Big City

Herefords brought excitement to the third annual Cattlemen's Congress in Oklahoma City.

Bald-faced enthusiasm and excitement abounded during the 2023 Cattlemen's Congress, as cattlemen and women from across the U.S. gathered on the red dirt Jan. 4-7 in Oklahoma City, Okla. Spectators buzzed ringside as judges sorted junior heifers, pens, bulls and heifers, and the Super Barn Sale Arena chairs were packed for the National Hereford Sale.

Over the four-day event, exhibitors presented 515 head of Hereford cattle. Continue reading to learn which cattle received grand champion honors and sold for top dollar.

Junior show

National Junior Hereford Association members kicked off Cattlemen's Congress for the Hereford breed on Wednesday, Jan. 4. Judges Tyler Cates and Kyle Shoufler, Modoc, Ind., sorted the 194 head of junior females in Oklahoma City.

"I knew that this was going to be a good show," Shoufler said during the selection of the champion junior horned female. "The Hereford breed is on top, and we've had good cattle all the way through these classes. Even better than the cattle, have been the kids."

Maddie Jenkins, Athens, Texas, grabbed the champion horned female banner with BACC 228Z Tara 108 ET, while Paige Lemenager, Hudson, Ill., won the grand champion polled female title with HAWK Myla 39J ET at the national junior Hereford show.

Pen show

On Thursday, Jan. 5, Sam Shaw, Caldwell, Idaho; Bruce Thomas, Gold Creek, Mont.; and Jeff Gooden, Oak Grove, Mo., evaluated the Cattlemen's Congress pen show entries. Hereford breeders exhibited nine female pens, three pen-of-five bull entries and seven pen-of-three bull entries for a total of 63 Hereford cattle.

New in 2023, the American Hereford Association (AHA) and Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association (OCA) partnered to host a pen show luncheon for commercial cattlemen. The AHA and OCA served 500 Certified Hereford Beef® ribeye steak sandwiches. A big thanks goes to WW Manufacturing for donating a working chute that was raffled off during the pen show.

Burns Farms won the pen-of-five bull show. GKB Cattle, Desdemona, Texas, topped the pen-of-three bull show. In recognition for their champion pen of bulls, GKB Cattle received the second annual Arlo Janssen Memorial Award. Matheny Herefords, Mays Lick, Ky., claimed top honors in the pen-of-three female show.

Bull show

Hereford bulls brought the heat when they hit the showring on Friday, Jan. 6; Jason Hoffman, Thedford, Neb., sorted the 72-head show in Oklahoma City.

"What an exceptional bull show we've had. It just tickles me," Hoffman said, before selecting the champion polled bull. "I'm proud that our breed is known for this ... the breed starts, and ends, with a herd bull."

The champion horned bull banner went to Barber Ranch, Channing, Texas, and GKB Cattle, Desdemona, Texas, with BR GKB Winchester 1314. In the polled bull show, Dry Creek Farm, Pell City, Ala.; Walker Herefords, Morrison, Tenn.; Landgren Ranch, Bartlett, Neb.; and Dirt Road Farms, Franklin, Tenn., claimed top honors with Land Slinger 2296 1046.

Hereford Night in OKC sale

On Jan. 6, the Hereford Night in OKC National Hereford Sale was held in the Super Barn Sale Arena. When auctioneer Eddie Burks dropped his gavel for the final time, the sale grossed \$583,000.



Lot XC, ASM 016H E33 Tera 207K, a member of Matheny Herefords' champion heifer pen, left Mays Lick, Ky., to be the high-selling heifer. The female commanded \$57,000.

Buck Cattle Co., Madill, Okla., consigned Lot 9, choice of their reserve champion pen-of-three bulls, which were full brothers. BK Jet Smooth J18 ET was the buyers choice and top selling bull, bringing \$55,000 for half interest and half possession.

Hoffman Ranch, Thedford, Neb., consigned Lot 3, the high-selling pick. Pick of the fall 2022 Hoffman calf crop garnered \$30,000.

Kansas State University consigned the high-selling embryo interest lot, with KSU Misty 151 ET. Half embryo interest was purchased for \$30,000.

Five and two-thirds bulls averaged \$27,974, 16 females averaged \$15,785 and seven picks averaged \$15,786.

Female show

Hoffman stepped back onto the red dirt to evaluate the 186-head Hereford female show on Saturday, Jan. 7, in Oklahoma City.

"All the good cattle here, staged at such a big event," Hoffman said during the selection of



Hereford exhibitors make their way to the showing on Jan. 4. Almost 200 head of Hereford females were presented by junior exhibitors during the 2023 Cattlemen's Congress.

the champion horned female. "So much quality throughout the show, it was unbelievable."

Ella Weldon, Piedmont, Okla., showed BK CMCC Jungle Cat 149J ET to champion polled female honors. Maddie Jenkins was once again awarded the champion horned female title with her junior show topping female, BACC 228Z Tara 108 ET.

Hereford Herdsman announced

Kyle Lemmon, Manchester, Md., was named the 2023 Hereford Herdsman of the Year. Lemmon owns and operates Lemmon Cattle Co., alongside his wife, Nicole, daughter, Blakely, and son, Kashton. Lemmon's passion for the Hereford breed began at 9 years old; since then, he has focused on raising high-quality cattle. **HW**



Hereford breeders were buzzing with excitement during the 2023 National Hereford Sale.



Land Slinger 2296 1046 was named the polled champion bull at the 2023 Cattlemen's Congress.



Judge Jason Hoffman, Thedford, Neb., selects BACC 228Z Tara 108 ET as the horned champion female at the 2023 Cattlemen's Congress.



There's no doubt that Hereford breeders brought their best to Oklahoma City.