

Shining Bright

Industry icons and those in the making.



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Despite the challenging weather in January, the new year blasted off with incredible displays of Hereford cattle and industry-wide attention. This issue of *Hereford World* recaps highlights from the National Show and Sale at the Cattlemen's Congress and the National Western Stock Show (NWSS).

Top-tier cattle and people

Cattlemen's Congress in Oklahoma City, Okla., featured an extraordinarily strong show with great attendance and plenty of enthusiasm. The quality of cattle in the junior, open and pen shows was stronger than ever. Wherever you turned, there were Hereford cattle with excellent type and genetic profiles that fit within a variety of breeding strategies.

The National Sale was loaded with a set of quality cattle that excelled genetically and phenotypically. Congratulations to all of the consignors and buyers. A special thank-you goes to C&L Hereford Ranch, Ixonia, Wis., Oleson Family Farm, Arkdale, Wis., and T/R Cattle, Glencoe, Okla., for their support of the Hereford Youth Foundation of America.

Special thanks also goes to the staff of the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association who helped us serve approximately 600 Certified Hereford Beef® (CHB) steak sandwiches during the pen show. We also are grateful to W-W Livestock Systems for their donation of a chute that was given away during the show.

Similarly, cattle quality and competition ran deep in the NWSS junior, open and pen shows, which featured significantly more entries in the pen and carload divisions compared to the past couple of years. The National Western Hereford sale was also exceptionally strong, featuring tremendous consignments and very active bidding.

For the second consecutive year, CHB was featured at the Stockyards

Beef and Wine Festival and received rave reviews.

Attendance was strong at both events. It was especially good to see more guests from abroad. I visited with breeders from New Zealand, Australia, Argentina and Mexico. As always, there was also a strong contingent from Canada.

Tributes to giants

During the Cattlemen's Congress, there was a great deal of reminiscing about Jarold Callahan who passed away unexpectedly a couple of weeks before this year's event (see *From the Field*, February *Baldy Advantage*).

Jarold had a huge impact on getting the Cattlemen's Congress started, and he worked with the show's staff and leadership to continue making improvements with a focus on the exhibitors' experience. It was inspiring to hear the judges pay tribute to Jarold throughout the week. It was especially heartwarming when Kyle Colyer — who judged the National Hereford Show — asked everyone to stand and recognize Jarold with a round of applause. Audiences on both sides of the ring stood and shared in the tribute. Jarold will be missed, but not forgotten as he has touched so many and has been a true advocate for agriculture across the country.

More recently, we received word of the passing of James Bennett, of Knoll Crest Farms, Red House, Va. (see page 97). James' vast knowledge and forward thinking in the beef cattle world was nearly unprecedented. He believed in genetic improvement and utilized all tools associated with genetic improvement. Even more important, James was an incredible example and role model as a husband, father and gentleman. James was an advocate for agriculture and a true friend and leader of the cattle industry. **HW**