

Bald Faces in the Big House

More than 550 head of Hereford cattle show on the Oklahoma red dirt.

Hereford breeders headed to Oklahoma City, Okla., for the fourth annual Cattlemen's Congress Jan. 3-6. From the red dirt in Jim Norick Arena — known as the “Big House” — to the bright lights in the Performance Arena, top-quality Herefords were hard to miss. Throughout the four days in Oklahoma City, breeders showed 566 head of Hereford cattle.

Junior show

Members of the National Junior Hereford Association began the festivities with their national show on Wednesday, Jan. 3. Judge Brian Fox, Fort Morgan, Colo., evaluated the 238 head of junior females.

For the second consecutive year, Maddie Jenkins, Athens, Texas, brought home a junior show banner. This year, she led HAW KLD Monique 413K ET to the polled female grand championship. Fallon and Gunnar Gohr, Madras, Ore., showed BK Keep It Simple 259K ET to grand champion horned female honors.

Pen show

On Thursday, Jan. 4, Jan Ward, Sheridan, Wyo.; Ryan Topp, Grace City, N.D.; and Jeff Gooden, Oak Grove, Mo., sorted the pen show, evaluating 10 female pens, one pen-of-five bull entry and five pen-of-three bull entries.

Like last year, the American Hereford Association (AHA) collaborated with the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association to organize a commercial cattlemen's luncheon. Approximately 600 Certified Hereford Beef® steak sandwiches were served to hungry Hereford breeders and spectators. Alongside the luncheon and pen show, the AHA joined forces with W-W Livestock Systems to

conduct a drawing for a Producer 640 Chute. Tressia Rakestraw, Oklahoma City, Okla., won the chute.

Burns Farms, Pikeville, Tenn., won the pen-of-five bull show, and GKB Cattle, Desdemona, Texas, showed the grand champion pen-of-three bulls. Both outfits were named grand champions in the pen shows last year, too. Delaney Herefords, Lake Benton, Minn., and Atkins Herefords, Tea, S.D., won the female pen show.

Bull show

The Hereford bull show is always an Oklahoma City highlight. Kyle Colyer, Bruneau, Idaho, evaluated the bull show with his son, Cruz, by his side on Friday, Jan. 5.

In the polled bull show, BK Jet Smooth J18 ET, shown by Buck Cattle Co., Madill, Okla.; Ella Weldon, Piedmont, Okla.; and 6 Mile Creek LLC, Yukon, Okla., grabbed the grand champion banner. BK Jet Smooth J18 was the high-selling bull in the 2023 National Hereford Sale and a member of last year's reserve champion pen-of-three bulls — a testament to the high-quality genetics that breeders bring to the show and sale each year.

RPC JCS 7119 007 Rubble 210, shown by Copeland and Sons LLC, Nara Visa, N.M., and Running P Cattle Co., Canyon, Texas, was named the grand champion horned bull.

Hereford Night in OKC

Hereford breeders and buyers gathered in the Super Barn Sale Arena for Hereford Night in OKC, Friday, Jan. 6. When auctioneer Eddie Burks tapped his gavel for the last time, 32.07 lots grossed \$438,000.

Lot 30, P 6MC 11E Benton 2L ET, consigned by Pratz Cattle Co., Stillwater, Okla., and 6 Mile



Creek LLC topped the sale, selling for \$32,750. Bradshaw Ranch, La Belle, Mo., and G&R Herefords, Spring, Texas, bought the bull, and a dozen breeders purchased semen packages. Averaging \$31,950, 2.41 bulls grossed \$77,000.

Lot 3C, JDH ND 19Z Miss Print 78L ET, a pick of the grand champion pen-of-three females consigned by Delaney and Atkins Herefords, topped the females, selling for \$26,000 to Ground Zero Farms, Watts, Okla. All-in-all, 21.66 females grossed \$251,000 and averaged \$11,588.

Hoffman Ranch's pick of the fall 2023 calf crop, Lot 5, topped the pick lots, selling to Lemmon Cattle Co., Manchester, Md., for \$21,000. Eight pick lots averaged \$13,750 with a gross of \$110,000.

Female show

On Saturday, Jan. 7, four days of national shows wrapped up with the national female show in the Jim Norick Arena. Kyle Colyer, with son, Cruz, alongside once again, evaluated the 220 Hereford females.

Before selecting the polled female champion, Kyle said, "A big reason why we're here, standing in this ring, is Jarold Callahan."

Jarold Callahan, a beef industry icon, passed away unexpectedly on Dec. 23, 2023. While he touched many lives spanning across all facets of the livestock industry, he was a pivotal part of the creation and current success of Cattlemen's Congress. The Hereford and Angus shows were dedicated to Callahan, and his portrait, adorned with flowers, sat in the corner of each showing.

NCC Rhea 2058 ET, shown by Madilyn Norvell, Tuttle, Okla., was named the grand champion polled female. In a fitting tribute to Callahan, Norvell received the inaugural Jarold Callahan Champion Polled Female award, in honor of his lasting legacy.

Fallon and Gunnar Gohr won the grand champion horned female banner with BK Keep It Simple 259K ET that also topped the junior show earlier in the week.

2024 Hereford Herdsman of the Year

After votes were cast by fellow Hereford herdsmen and breeders, Melissa Grimmel Schaake, Manhattan, Kan., was honored as the 2024 Hereford Herdsman of the Year. Melissa is grateful for the friends and fellow breeders who helped, guided and supported her along the way. She feels blessed to be a part of the Hereford breed and is honored to be Hereford Herdsman of the Year. **HW**



Cruz Colyer, Bruneau, Idaho, shakes the hand of Sara Sullivan, Dunlap, Iowa, after his father, Kyle, selected her as the reserve champion polled female of the open show.



Jay Creamer, GKB Cattle, leads GKB Conair K102 ET out of the showing after winning class 16.



Hereford breeders were busy in the stalls, prepping and putting together strings of cattle for presentation.



Delaney Herefords, Lake Benton, Minn., and Atkins Herefords, Tea, S.D., show their reserve champion pen-of-three bulls.