

# Sustained Commitment

Hereford's maternal progress underscores breeder dedication.



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As spring begins and we celebrate the Easter season, we have the opportunity to reflect on the recent calving season and get a glimpse of how the new calf crop looks. Most importantly, this new calf crop provides a true picture of how cows are performing.

Over the last 10 years, the Hereford breed has continued making significant progress in maternal traits. The genetic trend has increased 27% for Sustained Cow Fertility (SCF), 15% for TEAT and UDDR, and 23% for Baldy Maternal Index (BMIS). During the same time, the genetic trend for the Certified Hereford Beef Index® (CHBS) has increased by 16%.

## Consistent excellence

American Hereford Association (AHA) Dams of Distinction (DOD) and Sires of Distinction (SOD) recognize maternal excellence and the sires behind it. You will find the latest list of dams and sires earning recognition in this issue of *Hereford World*.

More specifically, the DOD program recognizes superior cows in the breed and the producers who manage them, based on data submitted on a timely basis to the AHA. Efficient, fertile and productive females are the foundation of successful cow herds.

For perspective over time, 1,619 dams were recognized in 2001, according to Stacy Sanders, director of the AHA records department. Those dams represented 517 breeders from 43 states. This year, AHA recognizes 2,488 dams representing 635 breeders from 40 states.

To qualify as a DOD, a cow must have:

- Weaned a calf born since Jan. 1, prior to the qualifying year.
- Produced at least three calves.
- Initially calved at 30 months of age or younger.
- Had an interval between the first and second calves of no longer than 400 days. In addition, a 370-day calving interval must have been maintained after her second calf. The longer initial

calving interval allows breeders to calve 2-year-old heifers prior to mature cow herd.

- Had weaning records submitted to the AHA Whole Herd Total Performance Records (TPR™) for every calf produced that was born before June 30 of the qualifying year.
- Had a progeny average 205-day adjusted weaning weight ratio of at least 105.

The AHA Board of Directors established the SOD program in August of 2007 to recognize Hereford bulls that sire efficient, fertile and productive females. To qualify, a sire must have produced daughters that have received at least seven DOD awards.

Qualifying dams and sires are recognized with the “DOD” or “SOD” designation in Hereford pedigrees.

Undoubtedly, Hereford's continued maternal progress and excellence is part of the commercial cow-calf sector's growing demand for the breed. Spring production sales have been strong with higher averages on more bulls selling through sales reported to the AHA. Commercial female and feeder calf sales have also been very strong, even when considering the record prices cleaved by consistent consumer beef demand relative to dwindling cattle supplies.

## Plan to attend the WHC

In this issue of *Hereford World* and in future issues leading up to the World Hereford Conference (WHC) coming to Kansas City, Mo., in October, you will find overviews of the dynamic herd tours planned before and after the WHC conference itself.

I encourage you to consider the schedule at [WorldHerefordConference.com](http://WorldHerefordConference.com), make plans to be part of this historic event and share insights with our international visitors.

Here's wishing a very blessed Easter to each of you. **HW**