

# What's New? | Association News and Events

"What's New?" is a column designed to keep you in the know about Hereford happenings. You can sign up for *Hereford Headlines*, an electronic newsletter distributed the first Friday of each month by the American Hereford Association (AHA) highlighting Hereford news and events. You can also receive the *Bald Faced Bottom Line*, a commercially-focused electronic newsletter sent the third Friday of each month. To subscribe to these free newsletters, send an email to [outreach@hereford.org](mailto:outreach@hereford.org). Archived issues are posted at [Hereford.org](http://Hereford.org).

## Association news

### Nominate AHA Board of the Directors

The American Hereford Association (AHA) Board of Directors nominating committee is requesting volunteers to serve a four-year term as a director. Members are encouraged to contact representatives in their respective regions to submit nominees. This year's nominating committee is:

**Kevin Schultz** (chairman)

Haviland, Kan.

620-546-4570

[kevin@sandhillfarms.com](mailto:kevin@sandhillfarms.com)

**Wyatt Agar** (Northwest region)

Thermopolis, Wyo.

307-921-8825

[durbincreekranch@yahoo.com](mailto:durbincreekranch@yahoo.com)

**Curtis Curry** (Southwest region)

McAlester, Okla.

918-521-4629

[curtis.curry@american-national.com](mailto:curtis.curry@american-national.com)

**Whitey Hunt** (Southeast region)

Madison, Ga.

706-342-5353

[whitey@godfreysfeed.com](mailto:whitey@godfreysfeed.com)

**Fred Larson** (Northeast region)

Spring Valley, Wis.

715-495-0837

[fredlarson@mac.com](mailto:fredlarson@mac.com)

### Delegate selection process information

A nominating committee selects a slate of AHA Board nominees. However, all active adult AHA members may provide input to the election process via their selection of state voting delegates. Active adult AHA members should receive information about how to nominate themselves or another active adult AHA member to serve as a voting delegate.

Take part in the Board election process by nominating the active AHA member(s) from your state who will represent you in electing the next AHA Board members. The process will begin April 1, when the AHA will send out an email to all eligible active adult members to ask them whether they would like to participate in the election of voting delegates electronically or by traditional mail. Eligible members must respond to that email by April 22 if they wish to participate electronically. If they wish to participate by mail, they do not need to respond to the email. Eligible members are adult AHA members that have had at least one animal registered in the preceding calendar year where they were identified as the original owner of the animal.

On or before May 1, eligible members will receive information about how to nominate voting delegates. Replies will be due by June 2.

### Apply for the third annual Hereford Seedstock Academy

The AHA will welcome its third class to the annual Hereford Seedstock Academy Sept. 2–5. During four intensive days of networking and interactive educational sessions, members of the Seedstock Academy will delve into: the role of Hereford genetics in the current and future commercial cattle sector; adding value to Hereford cattle and enhancing client experience; value points in the cattle feeding sector; AHA breeder and commercial Hereford user tools and services; and the evolution of Certified Hereford Beef®.

Complete the application online at [Hereford.org](http://Hereford.org) by July 1.

### Attend the 2025 World Hereford Conference

The AHA looks forward to hosting the 2025 World Hereford Conference (WHC), accompanying tours and the Young Breeders Competition Oct. 23-26, in Kansas City, Mo. Find event details at [WorldHerefordConference.com](http://WorldHerefordConference.com) and register before prices increase on April 1.

### Breed improvement adopted changes and initiatives

The Board reviewed suggestions presented by the DNA policy task force (Dave Bielema, Sam Shaw, Mark Cooper, Mark Squires and Charlie Boyd) and unanimously supported the following:

1. In addition to AI sires, all embryo transfer (ET) donor dams and walking sires born after Jan. 1, 2026, will be required to have a genomic profile completed at the AHA official lab and be fully parent verified and tested for all recognized genetic conditions.
2. The Board voted unanimously to purge all DNA samples starting Jan. 1, 2026, after the requested testing is complete.

For other accepted DNA policy changes, please see [Hereford.org/Hereford-Handbook](http://Hereford.org/Hereford-Handbook).

### DNA sample storage policy

The AHA Board of Directors voted unanimously during the fall Board meeting to purge, starting on Jan. 1, 2026, all DNA samples submitted to AHA's official lab on or before Dec. 31, 2024. The AHA Board has determined to offer members the opportunity to request a return

of any sample that was submitted to the AHA official lab prior to Dec. 31, 2024. These requests must be made prior to Dec. 31, 2025, with the following understanding:

1. A member must submit a request for the DNA samples he/she would like to retrieve. Only samples that were originally submitted by a member will be returned.
2. The AHA does not guarantee a timeline for delivery of the samples after the request is made, and it is highly recommended that requests are only made on animals that are deceased and there is no other sample available, including semen.
3. The AHA does not guarantee that a sample can be found, or that there will be viable DNA available.
4. Please understand that DNA sample storage is different for each type of DNA (hair, blood card, TSU).
5. A fee will be charged for each sample that is requested to be returned. This fee will be determined from time to time by the AHA Board. At this time, the fee that has been established by AHA's Board is \$10 per sample plus packaging and shipping costs.

Moving forward, any DNA sample submitted after Jan. 1, 2025, the testing lab, in agreement with the AHA, will use the submitted sample for the purpose of conducting the testing requested by the member. After the initial testing is complete, the AHA, in agreement with the AHA official DNA testing lab, will store the remaining DNA for any additional testing that is available at the lab for a period of one year. After one year, the sample will be subject to disposition. There is no guarantee by the AHA or the AHA official lab that there will be any additional or viable DNA available from the submitted sample. It is understood that, while the AHA's agreement with its official testing lab requires the testing lab to store the remaining DNA sample for a period of

one year, the AHA has no obligation or responsibility to do so or to make such remaining sample available to the member for subsequent testing or use.

Moving forward, the AHA would encourage any breeder to collect and store an additional sample if they deem necessary. Most frequently DNA types submitted and storage method:

1. Hair or blood cards. These types of samples can be stored in a dark, dry place at room temperature.
2. Semen — it can be thawed semen — but it is suggested to keep it frozen until a DNA test is needed.
3. TSUs can be stored (methods shared from Merck representative):
  - The preferred method of storing is in a negative thaw cycle freezer, but they can be stored in a regular freezer.
  - There has been success in storing them in a cool, dry place. Some have been stored this way for three years and are still viable.
  - The biggest thing is to protect them from sunlight.

### Sharing of ISAG/ICAR parentage markers

Starting Jan. 1, 2025, the AHA Board adopted a policy to share ISAG/ICAR reduced panel parentage markers through a request submitted to the AHA from a World Hereford Council member, other breed associations or any AHA member. A fee, determined from time to time by the AHA Board of Directors, will be charged for any requests except for those from any World Hereford Council member. Currently, the fee for an AHA member is \$10 for each animal requested.

Please contact AHA customer service with any questions or requests at 816-842-3757 or records@hereford.org.

### Hall of Fame/Hall of Merit nominations due May 5

Nominations for the AHA's prestigious Hall of Fame and Hall of Merit are now open and due May 5. Deserving recipients for the 2025 induction will be honored at the AHA Annual Meeting and Conference in Kansas City in October.

The Hall of Fame honor recognizes Hereford breeders who have dynamically influenced the direction and advancement of the breed. The Hall of Merit commends individuals who have greatly influenced the cattle industry.

You may submit your nomination online by going to *Hereford.org*. You will find the nomination forms under the "About" tab. Contact Emily Wood at ewood@hereford.org or 816-842-3757 for more information about submitting your nomination.

### Century and Golden Breeder nominations due June 1

Celebrating generational Hereford breeders is a highlight during the AHA Annual Meeting and Conference. The Century Breeder recognition honors families and operations in the Hereford business for 100 years. Golden Breeders recognizes those in the business for 50 years. You will find the nomination form at *Hereford.org*, along with a list of those previously recognized. For questions or more information, contact Emily Wood at ewood@hereford.org.

### Youth

#### Spring scholarship applications due April 15

Hereford Youth Foundation of America and National Hereford Women team up each spring to offer various scholarships and prestigious junior awards that will be presented at the VitaFerm® Junior National Hereford Expo, held this year in Louisville, Ky. Applications are due April 15, and they can be found online at: *Hereford.org/youth/scholarship-opportunities*.

#### Team USA applications due April 15

As part of WHC, each country sponsors teams of young people to compete in the Young Breeders Competition. Contests, like cattle evaluation, fitting and showmanship, meat and carcass evaluation, public speaking and general beef industry knowledge, make up the event.

Applicants must be 18-26 years old and apply by April 15. The application and more details are available at *HerefordYouthFoundation.submittable.com*. **HW**