

Wide Open Spaces

World Hereford Conference post-tour, Sandhills Sights and Mountain Views, combines diverse American cattle country, research and the ranch.

Soak in Nebraska's Sandhills, view the historic National Western Stock Show Complex and snow-capped Rocky Mountains and take a firsthand look at world-class research facilities. Hereford enthusiasts from around the world will experience all of this and more on the World Hereford Conference Sandhills Sights and Mountains Views post-tour.

Attendees will kick off their stay in the West with an evening in Kearney, Neb., the heart of America and the Sandhill Crane capital of the world. They'll visit Hoffman Ranch, Thedford, Neb., a family-owned ranch representing multiple decades of Hereford genetics. Afterwards, Snowshoe Cattle Co. will host visitors at their Arthur, Neb., ranch, where the Buzanowski family has been raising Hereford cattle for more than 30 years.

Monday wraps up with a night in Ogallala, Neb., a former bustling cow town and key point for the Texas trail herds of old. In the gateway town to the Northern Plains, experience Old West watering holes, history and unique landscapes.

On Tuesday, guests will visit Van Newkirk Herefords, Oshkosh, Neb., where the Van Newkirk family has been ranching since 1892.

"What we're doing through the Sandhills tour is getting these folks in front of some of our elite seedstock producers," says Jack Ward, American Hereford Association (AHA) executive vice president. "Their customer base is predominately a black commercial cow herd. And their focus is producing the kind of Hereford bulls and genetics that will work on those."

Then, the tour will head to Olsen Ranches, Harrisburg, Neb., the mainstay test herd for the AHA's National Reference Sire Program (NRSP). The NRSP helps prove the genetic merit of young sires more quickly and has been the cornerstone for developing new selection tools, validating the efficacy of genomic tools and more.

"You'll get to see firsthand how the steer progeny are tested each year," says Shane Bedwell, AHA chief operating officer and director of breed improvement. "You'll see the equipment, from the feed intake units to the water intake units to the greenhouse gas collection units that we have and just how it all integrates."

Afterwards, tour attendees will stay in Cheyenne, Wyo., a city that's a testament to the true spirit of the American West. From the rugged country surrounding the town to its cowboy culture and unique downtown, Cheyenne combines the Wild West with the 21st Century.

On the final day of the tour, Coyote Ridge Ranch, LaSalle, Colo., will host guests at its third-generation Hereford operation situated in the shadow of the Rocky Mountains on the High Plains.

Then, the tour will wrap up at the National Western Complex in Denver, Colo., home of the National Western Stock Show. Visitors will meet AgNext and Colorado State University staff involved with the cooperative AHA research project exploring genetic differences related to beef's carbon footprint.

The Sandhills Sights and Mountain Views tour offers a glimpse of Western cowboy culture, unique AHA research, historic Hereford herds and the distinct, diverse and wide-open spaces that make up Colorado, Wyoming and Nebraska. **HW**

Sandhills Sights and Mountain Views Tour Schedule

Sunday, Oct. 26

1. Evening in Kearney, Neb.

Monday, Oct. 27

2. Visit Hoffman Ranch, Thedford, Neb.
3. Visit Snowshoe Cattle Co., Arthur, Neb.
4. Evening in Ogallala, Neb.

Tuesday, October 28

5. Visit Van Newkirk Herefords, Oshkosh, Neb.
6. Visit Olsen Ranches, Harrisburg, Neb.,
home of the National Reference Sire Program
7. Evening in Cheyenne, Wyo.

Wednesday, Oct. 29

8. Visit Coyote Ridge Ranch, LaSalle, Colo.
9. Visit National Western Stock Show Complex,
Denver, Colo., hosted by Colorado State University



For updates, please see WorldHerefordConference.com/Sandhills-Sights-and-Mountain-Views. **HW**

Sandhills Sights and Mountain Views Tour Herds



Hoffman Ranch
Thedford, Neb.
hoffmanranch.com



Olsen Ranches,
home of the National Reference Sire Program
Harrisburg, Neb.
olsenranches.com



Snowshoe Cattle Co.
Arthur, Neb.
snowshoecattle.com



Coyote Ridge Ranch
LaSalle, Colo.
coyoteridgeherefords.com



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