

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. Archived issues are posted at Hereford.org.



WATCH FOR DELEGATE NOMINATIONS

Postcards will be mailed to eligible American Hereford Association members on May 1 or via email ("noreply@ballot.com") to members who opted for electronic participation. Replies must be postmarked or returned electronically by June 2.

Association news

Delegate nominations due June 2

Take part in the American Hereford Association (AHA) Board election process by nominating the active AHA member(s) from your state who will represent you in electing the next AHA Board members. Those eligible to serve as voting delegates are adult AHA members who have had at least one animal registered in the preceding calendar year where they were identified as the original owner of the animal. Keep in mind, eligible members can also nominate themselves to serve as a voting delegate. Nominations are due June 2. AHA members should have received information about how to nominate voting delegates by May 1.

Apply today for Hereford Seedstock Academy

Applications are open for Hereford Seedstock Academy — the AHA's elite leadership program. Selected participants will take a deep dive 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® (CHB). Over four intensive days, participants will gain insights from industry experts, build key connections and explore the tools shaping the Hereford breed.

Complete the application online at Hereford.org by July 1.

Register for 2025 World Hereford Conference

The AHA looks forward to hosting the World Hereford Conference (WHC), accompanying tours and the Young Breeders Competition Oct. 23-26, in Kansas City, Mo. Find event details and registration information at WorldHerefordConference.com. The registration deadline is Sept. 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.

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 they 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, tissue sample unit (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.

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AHA election process

Each year three American Hereford Association (AHA) Directors retire from the Board and three new Directors are elected to succeed them.

The election procedure is a multi-step process.

1) Nomination of board candidates

The AHA Board of Directors executive committee selects a five-member nominating committee at-large. According to Section 3(a) of Article VI of the AHA Bylaws that were amended Oct. 29, 2015, the nominating committee shall nominate no less than three nor more than six candidates for election as Directors of the Association, each of whom shall be an active member or a representative of an active member at the time of nomination and shall submit the names of those candidates to delegates at the meeting of delegates. In addition, any delegate present in person may nominate any active member (including himself or herself) or any representative of an active member as a candidate for Director at the meeting of delegates.

2) Election of voting delegates

Each state elects voting delegates to attend the AHA Annual Membership Meeting in Kansas City, Mo., to vote on the slate of nominees. Each state is entitled to one delegate for every 750 Hereford registrations recorded from Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2024. A state must have a minimum of 375 registrations to be entitled to one delegate. If the number of registrations exceeds 750 or any multiple thereof by 375 or more, the state will be entitled to an additional delegate or delegates. In addition, each state is allocated a delegate for the first 25 members and an additional delegate for every 100 members thereafter.

Voting quadrants for AHA Board of Directors



The U.S. is divided into four regions of representation, and each region will have at least one director.

3) State election of voting delegates

On May 1, delegate nomination postcards are sent to eligible AHA members. Replies must be postmarked by June 2.

Each active member is asked to nominate one state candidate to be elected to serve as a delegate to the AHA Annual Membership Meeting. An active member is defined as a member that registered at least one animal in the calendar year preceding the year of the election.

In states where more nominations are received than voting delegates are allocated, a state delegate ballot will be sent to each active member to vote from a list of state nominees. Each active member will vote for the entitled number of state delegates.

Weighted votes

Each AHA member vote for their delegate will be weighted based on the number of registrations from the AHA member, as follows:

Number of registrations	Weighted votes
1-20	1
21-50	6
51-100	15
101-200	30
More than 200	60

Principle place of doing business

Each active member must vote in the state that is his or her principle place of doing Hereford business, i.e. ranch or farm address must be in the same state in which he or she is voting.

Election schedule

- May 1 AHA mails delegate nomination postcards.
- June 2 Delegate nominations are due.
- June Delegate ballot will be sent out to each active member. Each active member will be asked to vote for the corresponding number of delegate candidates allocated to each state.
- Aug. 1 All delegate ballots must be returned.
- Oct. 1 Elected state delegates are announced.
- Oct. 25 Election of Directors by the delegates will take place at the assembly of state delegates during the AHA Annual Membership Meeting in Kansas City, Mo. **HW**

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.

Industry news

Attend the 2025 BIF Research Symposium and Convention

Registration is now open for the 2025 Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Research Symposium and Convention that will be hosted June 10-13 in Amarillo, Texas. Participants can save \$75 if they register by May 9.

Each year the BIF symposium draws a large group of leading seedstock and commercial beef

producers, academics and allied industry partners. The attendance list is a "who's who" of the beef value chain, offering great networking opportunities and conversations about the issues of the day. Program topics focus on how the beef industry can enhance value through genetic improvement across a range of attributes that affect the value chain.

For registration and more symposium details, including hotel information, visit BIFSymposium.com.

Youth

Entries open for JNHE

Online entries opened in April for the 2025 VitaFerm® Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE) July 12-18 in Louisville, Ky. Visit JrHereford.org to receive more information and enter online. Please note all entries must be completed online.

To accommodate the growing contests, JNHE participants must pay \$5 to participate in showmanship and judging.

All showmanship and judging contestants must pre-enter by June 1 and pay the entry fee at that time. JNHE participants must be members of the National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA).

JNHE entry deadlines

The early-bird online entry deadline (\$20 discount per entry) is May 15, and the final ownership and entry deadline is June 1. If you have questions about the online entry process or anything related to JNHE, contact Bailey Clanton at bclanton@hereford.org or Amy Cowan at acowan@hereford.org.

NJHA board applications open

Twelve outstanding Hereford juniors serve on the NJHA board of directors. Each year, four board members are elected to three-year terms at the annual membership meeting, which is held in conjunction with JNHE. During their term, directors develop and implement programs and events that serve junior Hereford members from across the nation. Candidate applications close June 1. Find more details at Hereford.org/youth/NJHA/board. **HW**