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*.

Annual Meeting/World Hereford Conference

2025 AHA Board of Directors candidate slate

The American Hereford Association (AHA) nominating committee is pleased to announce the six candidates nominated for election to the AHA Board of Directors. The candidates are:

Chris Beck
Genoa Livestock LLC,
Minden, Nev.
618-367-5397
chris.genoalivestock@gmail.com

Bryan Blinson
Blinson Hereford Farm,
Buies Creek, N.C.
919-422-9108
bkblinson@gmail.com

Ross Carlson
Carlson Farms, Murdock, Minn.
320-808-7095
rbmrc1@gmail.com

Joe Ellis
Ellis Farms, Chrisman, Ill.
765-366-5390
efbeef1@aol.com

Joe Dan Ledbetter
Ledbetter Cattle Co.,
Wheeler, Texas
806-236-0958
joedanledbetter@yahoo.com

Ryan McGuffee
McGuffee Polled Herefords,
Mendenhall, Miss.
601-668-1000
ryanmcgu@bellsouth.net

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. 22-26, in Kansas City, Mo. Find event details and registration information at *WorldHerefordConference.com*. The registration deadline is Sept. 1.

Attend Annual Meeting

Join us in Kansas City, Mo., for the 2025 AHA Annual Meeting, held in conjunction with the WHC. The Annual Membership Meeting and Hereford Honorees breakfast will be Saturday, Oct. 25, and will honor the 2025 Hereford Hall of Fame and Hereford Hall of Merit inductees. The Hereford Youth Foundation of America (HYFA) scholarship recipients and Young Breeders Competition participants will be recognized at a special awards luncheon on Friday, Oct. 24. The 2026 National Hereford Queen will be crowned on Sunday, Oct. 26.

There is no registration fee to attend the Annual Meeting, but please register to accommodate seating. The registration deadline is Sept. 1. Find the full schedule, hotel information, registration and more at *Hereford.org/Annual-Meeting* or *WorldHerefordConference.com*.

Commercial Programs

Hereford-influenced feeder calf sales

For a list of upcoming fall and winter Hereford-influence feeder calf sales, visit Page 168. Find a complete listing and details at *Hereford.org/commercial/programs/feeder-cattle-sales*.

Association News

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, 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.

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 used 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.

Biddle begins as customer service representative


Karly Biddle

Karly Biddle, a native of Walcott, Iowa, started with the AHA records department July 21.

In her position, Biddle plays a vital role, from communicating with users of Hereford genetics, helping resolve questions and interpreting discrepancies to conveying accurate information and promoting participation in AHA programs and services.

"We are really excited to have Karly join our team in the records department," says Shane Bedwell, AHA director of breed improvement. "With Karly's strong Hereford roots and excellent communications skills, she will be an asset to our team and Hereford breeders."

Biddle previously worked for First Trust and Savings Bank. She's spent a lifetime in agriculture, starting her Hereford herd in 2003 and transitioning her operation to miniature Herefords in 2012. She graduated from Western Illinois University in 2017 with a bachelor's degree in agriculture business and a minor in animal science.

"Being able to work with an Association that I have been a part of for more than 20 years is a true honor," Biddle says. "I am excited to get to work with some of the top breeders in the country, along with people I have previously met because of Hereford cattle, while also getting to work with people just starting out on their journey."

Biddle can be contacted at kbiddle@hereford.org.

Baker named creative content and editorial specialist


Kaitlyn Baker

Murdock, Kan., native Kaitlyn Baker started her duties as Hereford Publication Inc.'s (HPI) creative content and editorial specialist Aug. 4.

In her position, Baker will layout the *Hereford World* and *Baldy Advantage* publications in addition to assisting with creative services projects. She will also play a key role in managing and developing content for HPI's social media and digital platforms.

"We're thrilled to welcome Kaitlyn to the HPI team," says Kane Aegerter, AHA director of seedstock marketing. "Her strong background in agricultural communications and journalism will be an incredible asset, whether she's supporting our editorial efforts or advancing our digital marketing strategies. Kaitlyn's passion for the industry and her storytelling ability will strengthen our connection with members and the broader livestock community."

Baker attended Hutchinson Community College and graduated from Kansas State University in 2024 with her bachelor's degree in agricultural communications and journalism. She was a member of award-winning student magazines at both universities. She has a strong background in agriculture, growing up

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on an Angus cow-calf operation and participating in FFA.

"As someone who has always been inspired by the hard work behind agriculture, the chance to work alongside such creative and dedicated individuals at the AHA is incredibly meaningful," Baker says. "I'm eager to learn from the creative and dedicated HPI team and help shine a light on stories that make this industry so unique."

Baker can be reached at kbaker@hereford.org.

Youth

Enter the Fed Steer Shootout

Plan to learn more about the cattle feeding sector and how your genetics perform in the feedyard by participating in the 2026 National Junior Hereford Association Fed Steer Shootout. The contest entry deadline is Nov. 1, 2025, and delivery for cattle to HRC Feed Yards LLC in Scott City, Kan., is Dec. 13-16, 2025. For more information and to plan your cattle delivery, contact Trey Befort at tbefort@herefordbeef.org. Cattle can be entered individually or in pens of three and must meet the following qualifications:

- 2025-born steers
- Purebred Hereford and commercial Hereford-influenced steers
- 600-pound weight minimum
- Be weaned at least 45 days prior to delivery
- Received two rounds of vaccinations

Visit *Hereford.org/Youth/NJHA-Fed-Steer-Shootout* to enter and learn more.

Scholarship deadline approaching

The HYFA fall scholarship deadline is Sept. 1. HYFA will award more than $200,000 in scholarship money throughout the year, including $165,000 in scholarships and awards during the AHA Annual Meeting in Kansas City, Mo. Scholarships must be submitted online through Submittable. To learn more, visit the website: *HerefordYouthFoundation.org/scholarships*.

Deadline for queen applications

National Hereford Queen applications are due Sept. 1. For more information, email nationalherefordwomen@gmail.com.

Order JNHE photos

Be sure to order your favorite memories captured at the 2025 VitaFerm® Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE). To view and purchase photos, visit the Hereford Gallery at *HerefordGallery.shootproof.com*. HW



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