

Powering Ahead

National Reference Sire Program identifies breed movers.



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The American Hereford Association (AHA) National Reference Sire Program (NRSP) is as unique as it is powerful, evaluating the genetic merit of young Hereford sires through large contemporary groups of their progeny head-to-head in the real world of commercial cow-calf production.

Proven sires are also evaluated in the test to further validate their values while providing more reliable data for comparing young sires to the Hereford population.

Bulls described here were tested at Olsen Ranches Inc., Harrisburg, Neb., which has been the mainstay NRSP herd for 27 years. Their cow base is commercial Hereford.

Ultimately, AHA's goal with the NRSP is to identify young sires that can positively affect the marketplace, measuring and documenting the profit potential of their genetic merit. AHA's partnership with commercial test herds like Olsen Ranches provides Hereford breeders and commercial users of Hereford genetics more reliable data to inform selection decisions.

Awesome performance

The results that follow represent the 2024-born calves at Olsen Ranches. This latest test is one for the memory book. As a group, NRSP bulls sired more than 300 steers — 90% graded in the upper two-thirds of Choice or higher with 31% grading Prime. Average yield grade was 3.7. Adjusted feed to gain was 6.6 pounds of feed to 1 pound of gain, on a barley-based ration.

See Table 1 for phenotypic averages by sire group for dry matter intake (DMI), average daily gain (ADG), and adjusted feed to gain (Adj. F:G). Table 2 lists the complete performance results from birth to harvest by sire group. It is important to note there are two distinct sire groups analyzed separately, as the first-calf heifers were managed differently from the mature cows. Consequently, two separate contemporary groups were formed, and data should only be compared within group.

Sire ranks by the measured phenotypic trait during the test are in Table 3. There are three distinct categories (divisions) that are highlighted by different colors that represent the top five in each category. The categories are growth total (BW, WW and YW), feed total (DMI, ADG and Adj. F:G) and carcass total (HCW, REA, BF and MARB).

For objective evaluation, bulls were ranked for each trait based on the

Table 1: Feed Efficiency Results

Reg. No.	Sire Name	No. Progeny	DMI	DMI Ratio	ADG	ADG Ratio	Adj. F:G	Adj. F:G Ratio
Bull used on heifers								
43799318	EFBeef C615 Equity E061	12	25.9	107	3.82	95	6.73	111
44235486	FTF Magnifico 120J	17	22.9	95	4.01	100	5.78	96
44372116	H Benton 2205 ET	21	24.4	101	4.20	105	5.67	94
44195235	OR L574 Groundbreaker B945	13	24.1	99	3.92	98	6.40	106
Bull used on cows								
44389480	/S Mentor 22023 ET	16	21.6	98	3.53	106	6.18	92
44358760	Birdwell New Standard 2912 ET	19	22.0	99	3.34	100	6.81	101
44378036	Churchill W4 Sherman 2157K ET	20	21.7	98	3.49	105	6.41	95
44434396	EFBeef B413 Validated J826	10	22.2	100	3.19	96	7.04	104
44310184	Injemira Robert Redford Q287	21	22.3	100	3.19	95	7.16	106
44383496	KJ IF 45C Confidence 609K ET	15	22.1	100	3.48	104	6.59	98
44382698	L3 MC Rocket Fuel 263	19	23.2	105	3.51	105	6.60	98
43268578	OR 3575 Husker N162 ET	11	22.0	99	3.39	102	6.57	97
44342453	Schu-Lar 61J Of 2B 4013 ET	16	22.2	100	3.23	97	6.97	103
44228488	SHF Insight F158 J354 ET	21	21.9	99	3.29	99	6.80	101
44341250	SHF Kilogram F158 K390 ET	26	21.8	98	3.32	99	6.59	98
42426386	UPS Domino 3027	22	22.3	101	3.15	94	7.21	107
44286554	Whitehawk 659F Balance 776J ET	10	22.8	103	3.48	104	6.55	97
44286757	Whitehawk 659F Harmony 783J ET	22	22.4	101	3.30	99	6.84	101

number of bulls in the test. The most favorable sire for a trait received a score of 1, the second most favorable sire earned a score of 2 and so on (golf score). Sums for each category were then calculated to identify the top-ranking sires within this test. You will see several sires represented across the three categories.

Hopefully this helps you identify specific bulls and/or traits of interest that you want to add or improve in your operation. Similarly, you will find a short summary for each bull and a QR-code linked to the animal details page on MyHerd, where you can more closely evaluate pedigree, EPD and progeny information. Just scan the QR code and it will take you directly to the sire's page.

See for yourself

World Hereford Conference participants had the chance to see the NRSP and its extraordinary cattle during a tour stop at Olsen Ranches. You can give them a call to schedule a visit most any time. My favorite times to visit are late fall and mid-June. Sisters of the steers evaluated in this most recent test will have calved out by June. Just like the steers, this will be a must-see group of females to evaluate.

Keep focusing on the traits that your customers need and keep them sound. **HW**

Table 2: Performance Results					
Reg. No.	Sire Name	No. Progeny	BW Ratio	WW Ratio	YW Ratio
Bulls used on heifers					
43799318	EFBeef C615 Equity E061	35	101	100	102
44235486	FTF Magnifico 120J	32	101	99	97
44372116	H Benton 2205 ET	42	97	100	102
44195235	OR L574 Groundbreaker B945	43	99	100	99
Bull used on cows					
44389480	/S Mentor 22023 ET	40	97	98	98
44358760	Birdwell New Standard 2912 ET	39	102	106	101
44378036	Churchill W4 Sherman 2157K ET	47	99	100	101
44434396	EFBeef B413 Validated J826	18	97	96	101
44310184	Injemira Robert Redford Q287	54	98	99	101
44383496	KJ IF 45C Confidence 609K ET	38	93	99	100
44382698	L3 MC Rocket Fuel 263	49	106	98	95
43268578	OR 3575 Husker N162 ET	32	100	101	103
44342453	Schu-Lar 61J Of 2B 4013 ET	49	102	99	98
44228488	SHF Insight F158 J354 ET	49	105	100	103
44341250	SHF Kilogram F158 K390 ET	54	101	104	103
42426386	UPS Domino 3027	36	97	97	98
44286554	Whitehawk 659F Balance 776J ET	35	99	100	96
44286757	Whitehawk 659F Harmony 783J ET	47	104	103	102

Table 2: Performance Results															
Reg. No.	Sire Name	No. Harvested	HCW	HCW Ratio	REA	REA Ratio	BF	BF Ratio	CYG	CYG Ratio	MARB	MARB Ratio	% Choice	% Upper 2/3s Choice	% Prime
Bulls used on heifers															
43799318	EFBeef C615 Equity E061	13	911	101	13.3	98	0.70	101	4.0	103	668	104	100	100	46
44235486	FTF Magnifico 120J	15	890	98	13.2	97	0.68	98	3.8	100	647	101	93	93	33
44372116	H Benton 2205 ET	19	931	103	13.8	102	0.71	102	3.9	101	604	94	100	89	11
44195235	OR L574 Groundbreaker B945	14	886	98	13.8	102	0.68	98	3.7	95	657	103	100	93	36
Bull used on cows															
44389480	/S Mentor 22023 ET	12	899	99	13.6	98	0.71	108	3.8	105	673	105	92	92	42
44358760	Birdwell New Standard 2912 ET	19	912	100	15.2	109	0.60	91	3.1	85	688	107	100	95	47
44378036	Churchill W4 Sherman 2157K ET	17	895	98	13.5	98	0.76	116	4.0	108	662	103	100	82	35
44434396	EFBeef B413 Validated J826	10	946	104	14.4	104	0.66	101	3.6	99	716	112	100	100	50
44310184	Injemira Robert Redford Q287	20	912	100	13.5	98	0.58	89	3.6	98	568	89	100	85	5
44383496	KJ IF 45C Confidence 609K ET	14	941	103	14.3	103	0.61	93	3.5	96	703	110	100	100	50
44382698	L3 MC Rocket Fuel 263	17	861	94	13.4	97	0.53	81	3.3	90	604	94	94	71	24
43268578	OR 3575 Husker N162 ET	11	944	104	14.4	103	0.72	111	3.8	104	686	107	100	91	36
44342453	Schu-Lar 61J Of 2B 4013 ET	14	899	99	12.8	92	0.63	97	3.9	107	605	94	100	93	21
44228488	SHF Insight F158 J354 ET	20	961	105	14.1	102	0.72	109	3.9	107	588	92	100	75	5
44341250	SHF Kilogram F158 K390 ET	24	932	102	14.5	104	0.67	102	3.6	98	622	97	100	96	25
42426386	UPS Domino 3027	22	904	99	13.3	96	0.70	107	3.9	107	652	102	100	95	32
44286554	Whitehawk 659F Balance 776J ET	8	879	96	13.3	96	0.68	104	3.8	104	619	96	100	88	25
44286757	Whitehawk 659F Harmony 783J ET	21	878	96	13.6	98	0.63	97	3.6	97	663	103	100	86	43

BF-Backfat; **CYG**-Carcass yield grade; **HCW**-Hot Carcass Weight; **MARB**-marbling; **REA**-Ribeye area

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Table 3: Sire Rank by Trait

Reg.	Sire Name	BW Rank	WW Rank	YW Rank	Growth Total	DMI Rank	ADG Rank	Adj. F:G Rank	Feed Total	HCW Rank	REA Rank	BF Rank	MARB Rank	Carcass Total	
Bulls used on heifers															
43799318	EFBeef C615 Equity E061	3	2	1	6	4	4	4	12	2	3	3	1	9	
44235486	FTF Magnifico 120J	3	1	4	8	1	2	2	5	3	4	1	3	11	
44372116	H Benton 2205 ET	1	2	1	4	3	1	1	5	1	1	4	4	10	
44195235	OR L574 Groundbreaker B945	2	2	3	7	2	3	3	8	4	2	2	2	10	
Bulls used on cows															
44389480	/S Mentor 22023 ET	2	11	10	23	1	1	1	3	10	8	11	5	34	
44358760	Birdwell New Standard 2912 ET	10	1	5	16	6	7	9	22	6	1	3	3	13	
44378036	Churchill W4 Sherman 2157K ET	6	5	5	16	2	3	2	7	11	9	14	7	41	
44434396	EFBeef B413 Validated J826	2	14	5	21	8	12	12	32	2	3	7	1	13	
44310184	Injemira Robert Redford Q287	5	8	5	18	10	13	13	36	7	10	2	14	33	
44383496	KJ IF 45C Confidence 609K ET	1	8	9	18	7	5	5	17	4	5	4	2	15	
44382698	L3 MC Rocket Fuel 263	14	11	14	39	14	2	7	23	14	11	1	12	38	
43268578	OR 3575 Husker N162 ET	8	4	1	13	5	6	4	15	3	4	13	4	24	
44342453	Schu-Lar 61J Of 2B 4013 ET	10	8	10	28	9	11	11	31	9	14	6	11	40	
44228488	SHF Insight F158 J354 ET	12	5	1	19	4	10	8	22	1	6	12	13	32	
44341250	SHF Kilogram F158 K390 ET	9	2	1	12	3	8	6	17	5	2	8	9	24	
42426386	UPS Domino 3027	2	13	10	25	11	14	14	39	8	12	10	8	38	
44286554	Whitehawk 659F Balance 776J ET	6	5	13	24	13	4	3	20	12	13	9	10	44	
44286757	Whitehawk 659F Harmony 783J ET	12	3	4	21	12	9	10	31	13	7	5	6	31	

Top 5 Growth

Top 5 Feed

Top 5 Carcass

Bulls used on heifers

Scan the QR code to learn more about each bull.



EFBeef C615 Equity E061

A son of Resolute, out of the C715 cow and from the heart of the Ellis program. Equity is homozygous polled and a great female producer. His sire group flat got it done and were the best overall carcass cattle with 46% grading Prime.



FTF Magnifico 120J

He is a son of Perfecto 84F and out of a Value Added daughter. Magnifico is homozygous polled and has multiple Dams of Distinction in his pedigree. His sire group tied for the best feed performance and still got it done on the rail. Adj. F:G less than 6 pounds.



H Benton 2205 ET

2205 is a son of Benton and out of the famed E066 cow from the Gerber program. 2205 followed in his sire's footsteps. They tied for the best on-feed performance with an Adj. F:G of 5.67 pounds. This short-marked bull offers calving ease and performance in all phases.



OR L574 Groundbreaker B945

Groundbreaker served as the reference sire in this year's heifer group. This well-pigmented bull is a son of L574 and out of a 3027 daughter that goes back to Beef 9059 and 552. His sire group ranked really balanced across the test. He consistently sires above average REA and MARB, while pushing down cow size.



Bulls used on cows

Scan the QR code to learn more about each bull.



/S Mentor 22023 ET

Mentor is a Final Test son out of the famed 5002C cow that has been a true matron in the Shaw program. His sire group dominated the on-feed test, ranking first in every category and finishing in the top five for MARB. Mentor's combination of calving ease and body make him an intriguing homozygous polled option. Some of his first daughters will be in production this fall.



Birdwell New Standard 2912 ET

New Standard is a son of Resolve and out of 7098, who needs no introduction. His sire group came right to the front in the carcass portion of the test, which may be one of the toughest to date. His combination of cow fertility, mature cow weight and udder quality with impressive carcass merit is rare. Homozygous polled.



Churchill W4 Sherman 2157K ET

Another son of Resolve and out of 079H, who has written her own chapter in the breed. Sherman's sire group lived up to their impressive phenotype with a great finish in the on-feed test, finishing second while still offering above average MARB. They were standouts in the pen. Homozygous polled.



EFBeeF B413 Validated J826

A homozygous polled son of the famed Validated and out of the Fellisity cow family, J826 flat out delivered. His sire group tied for first in the carcass portion of the test and was the number-one sire group for MARB with 50% of them grading Prime. This stylish son of Validated puts together a hard-to-find combination of MCW and CW with extra longevity. J826 was his dam's last natural calf at 10 years of age.



Injemira Robert Redford Q287

Robert Redford is a complete outcross from the Injemira Stud in Australia. ABS leased this bull because of his dominant performance in Australia. These cattle were very eye-catching on the World Hereford Conference tour stop and performed well across the board. I look forward to seeing the daughters in production at Olsen's in June. Homozygous polled.



KJ IF 45C Confidence 609K ET

Confidence is a son of Trademark and out of the famed 45C cow. Unsurprisingly, he lived up to his genetic profile, as his sire group ranked in the top five for both the on-feed and carcass portions of the test. Another sire group that went 50% Prime. Homozygous polled and top 1% for TEAT and UDDR.



L3 MC Rocket Fuel 263

Rocket Fuel is a son of Validated and out of a Desert Prime daughter from the storied Largent herd. His sire group narrowly missed the top-five list in the on-feed portion of the test, while finishing as the top group for BF and second best for calculated yield grade.



OR 3575 Husker N162 ET

N162 served as one of the reference sires in this test. True to form, this 3575 son delivered again with his sire group finishing in the top five for both the on-feed and carcass portions of the test. He just doesn't miss. It was very fitting to have his sire group on display during the World Hereford Conference tour.



Schu-Lar 61J Of 2B 4013 ET

61J is a son of 4013 and out of the Vivian cow family that Douglas picked out of the Schu-Lar program. This bull's genetic profile fits the low maintenance, highly fertile expectations of Olsen Ranches. It will be fun to see his daughters, and who doesn't like 93% grading in the upper two-thirds of Choice. Homozygous polled.

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Bulls used on cows (cont.)

Scan the QR code to learn more about each bull.



SHF Insight F158 J354 ET

Insight is a son of Foresight and out of the D03 cow, which is a donor in the Upstream program. His sire group ranked number one for HCW and narrowly missed the top five in the on-feed portion of the test, while finishing with an above average REA. Homozygous polled.



SHF Kilogram F158 K390 ET

Kilogram is a homozygous polled son of Foresight and out of the donor, G012, from the heart of the Sandhill program. His sire group stepped right up in this highly competitive test, finishing in the top five for both the on-feed and carcass tests. The Kilogram progeny had some extra pop to them.



UPS Domino 3027

3027 served as the other reference sire in this test. Douglas and I both thought it would be fitting to go back and use one of the more famous bulls discovered through the NRSP because of his sire group's performance in 2005-2006. Because of their curve-bending performance at Olsen's that year, ABS leased the bull, and as they say, the rest is history. There are more than 4,500 progeny in the database. Undoubtedly, he changed commercial acceptance of Hereford by making the top five of all semen sales of all breeds at ABS for several years. His progeny were easy to spot during the World Hereford Conference tour and his hallmark traits shined in the test.



Whitehawk 659F Balance 776J ET

Balance is a son of Vanguard out of a 4013 daughter named 659F, who is a donor. His sire group just missed the top five of the on-feed portion of the test and finished with one of the best Adj. F:Gs. Homozygous polled.



Whitehawk 659F Harmony 783J ET

Harmony and Balance are full brothers and performed similarly, for the most part. Harmony's sire group averaged higher on MARB score with 43% grading Prime. I'm looking forward to seeing both sire groups in production in June. **HW**



Hereford EPDs

- BW — Birth Weight
- CE — Calving Ease-direct
- CW — Carcass Weight
- DMI — Dry Matter Intake
- FAT — Rib Fat
- M&G — Maternal Milk & Growth
- MARB — Marbling
- MCE — Material Calving Ease
- MCW — Mature Cow Weight
- MM — Maternal Milk
- REA — Ribeye Area

- SC — Scrotal Circumference
- SCF — Sustained Cow Fertility
- TEAT — Teat Size
- UDDR — Udder Suspension
- WW — Weaning Weight
- YW — Yearling Weight

Hereford Selection Indexes

- BII\$ — Brahman Influence Index
- BMI\$ — Baldy Maternal Index
- CHB\$ — Certified Hereford Beef® **HW**

NRSP Nominations

The AHA's National Reference Sire Program (NRSP) is designed to identify and validate the genetic merit of young sires that offer seedstock producers and commercial users of Hereford genetics opportunities to improve their herds for specific traits and a combination of traits. It also provides ongoing confirmation of the profitability associated with Hereford genetics. Find more details and the nomination form at Hereford.org/genetics/breed-improvement/nrsp. **HW**