

From the Field

In Passing



Thomas Bedwell

Thomas W. Bedwell, 86, Medicine Lodge, Kan., passed March 14. Thomas was born Jan. 21, 1940, in Wichita Falls, Texas, to Robert W. and Mary (Wilson)

Bedwell. Thomas married Barb Bedwell May 24, 1975. They were married for 50 years.

Thomas graduated from Medicine Lodge High School in 1958. He owned and operated the Medicine Lodge Sales Co. for almost 30 years, and then he continued buying cattle for customers and running a grower yard. He was a member of Medicine Lodge Methodist Church, a former Shriners International member, was president of the Peace Treaty board, and served on the co-op board and Rural Water District No. 1. He enjoyed farming, cutting wheat, running machinery, hunting and watching all his children's and grandchildren's ball games.

He is survived by his wife, Barb Bedwell; sons, Thomas Patrick (Anita) Bedwell of Lake City, Kan., and Ryan Thomas (Emerald) Bedwell of Medicine Lodge; daughters, Lori Beth (Greg) Pennock of Medicine Lodge and Holly Dale (Eric) Bannister of Wichita, Kan.; grandchildren, Shane (Lacey) Bedwell, Megan (Brad) Mattison, Matthew Hargett, Ethan (Aaliyah) Hargett, Grace Bedwell and Danielle Bedwell; great-grandchildren, Cealy Bedwell, Chisum Bedwell and Whitney Mattison; step-children, Cory Bieber, Joeleen (Charles) Akin and Darcy (CR) Clinton; step-grandchildren, Bobbie Akin, Ryan Akin, Salim Klinge and Jasmine Klinge.

Thomas was preceded in death by his parents.



Kay Birdsall

Kay Allis Birdsall, 82, Naples, Fla., and Scott (Homer), N.Y., passed March 29.

Born Jan. 27, 1944, in Cortland, N.Y., to the late

Minor and Doris (Reynolds) Allis. Kay graduated from McGraw Central School in 1962 and maintained long-lasting friendships with her classmates and friends.

She completed the CCBI secretarial skills program and worked as a secretary for Syracuse University, Agway, and Waymark before devoting herself fully to raising her family as a dedicated mother and homemaker.

Kay was deeply involved in the Scott Community Church, serving as former chair of the board, Sunday school teacher and coordinator of countless dinners and events. She played a key role in building the current church after the original church was destroyed by fire. She proudly provided fresh flowers from her garden for services each summer. An avid gardener, she cherished tending her greenhouse and gardens, finding joy in the beauty and scents of nature. She took great pride in caring for the family farm, knowing it would please her Aunt Geraldine and Uncle Harry Reynolds. Kay cherished serving others, whether family or friends.

She loved being in her kitchen, preparing meals and baking. She constantly tried new recipes that she saw in the paper, from magazines or from friends. It didn't matter if you liked it or not as you might not ever have it again as she wanted to try something else. One of her

many specialties was chocolate chip cookies, which she baked nearly every day for her sons and grandchildren to enjoy when they got off the school bus. She hosted many family and holiday gatherings. One of her greatest memories was hosting an annual Christmas season gathering for family and friends at the house. She prepared nearly all the food, including multiple cheesecakes.

Kay loved to reminisce about her upbringing, her family, cattle shows, and of course, riding her horse. She had fond memories of all her friends and the things they had done together. She treated everyone with a smile, dignity and respect, always kind and considerate of others. Kay had the God-given talent to always have a smile and be friends with everyone she met.

Kay was a true believer in the Christian faith and was raised in the Methodist Church. She seldom missed Sunday services. Growing up she was part of the Methodist Youth Fellowship. She raised her sons to attend Sunday school and church services on a regular basis. She is now in the arms of God with her family.

Kay is survived by her loving family: husband, Rod; sons, Brian of Virginia, and Dennis (Heather) of Wyoming; grandchildren, Sam, Sarah, Abbey and Ava; along with many cousins, nieces, nephews and longtime close friends.

Kay was predeceased by her parents; stepfather, John Breeds; brother, Richard Allis; sister-in-law, Janice Allis; sister, Diane Abdallah; and brother-in-law, Burt Abdallah.

Hereford Happenings

Hereford bulls high sellers out of all breeds at Michigan Beef Expo

The Michigan Hereford Association held its annual show and sale in conjunction with the Michigan Beef Expo Feb. 20-21 in East Lansing, Mich. The Hereford breed was well represented with high demand for the bald-faced consignments at auction. The two top-selling Hereford bulls had the two highest values of any bull to sell during the Michigan Beef Expo this year. Congratulations to McDonald Farm, Grand Rapids, Mich., which sold BK Proud 7523N for \$9,000, and Ventura Farms, Bath, Mich., with VF Profit Margin 508N, who commanded \$8,000 for 75% interest.

Grant honoring Bill House supports Hereford youth

The Community Foundation of Southeast Kansas (CFSEK) awarded a \$15,000 grant, in honor of the late Bill House, to the Hereford Youth Foundation of America (HYFA). This gift will support the National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) Fed Steer Shootout Program and Fed Steer Shootout Field Day, an industry leading educational program for youth to learn more about the feedlot and beef packing sectors.

“HYFA was thrilled when this partnership opportunity presented itself, as our mission of leadership and education aligns so well with the Community Foundation of Southeast Kansas. We look forward to putting the grant in motion in support of HYFA’s pillars of scholarships, leadership, education and research,” says Amy Cowan, American Hereford Association (AHA) director of youth activities and foundation.

The 2026 CFSEK Bill House Agricultural Grant honors a historic figure in the beef cattle industry and the Hereford breed. House

served as the AHA president from 1963-1964 and was highly involved in the Kansas beef industry. He exhibited champions at the American Royal and was named Kansas Stockman of the Year in 1992. This grant continues to honor his life and legacy through the Hereford breed and cattle industry.

“I did not know Bill personally, but as I learn more about him, it has become very clear to me that this program is a perfect fit to honor his legacy and leadership in the Hereford breed,” Cowan explains.

The NJHA Fed Steer Shootout provides NJHA members the opportunity to expand their knowledge of animal health, nutrition and marketing through educational programming and by monitoring performance of their entries in the feedlot and on the rail.

Participants enter single or pens of three Hereford or Hereford-influenced steers, which are fed at HRC Feed Yards LLC in Scott City, Kan. Participants have the chance to see their cattle on feed during the Fed Steer Shootout Field Day, which is a two-day interactive learning experience featuring industry leading experts. As participants learn how their genetics perform beyond the pasture and the larger industry, they also compete for more than \$15,000 in scholarships and prizes.

Founded in 2001, CFSEK has awarded more than \$23 million in grants through its donor-advised, unrestricted, designated, field-of-interest scholarship and agency funds. It is one of more than 800 community foundations in the country and is a member of the Kansas Association of Community Foundations. HYFA is honored to have received the 2026 CFSEK Bill House Agricultural Grant from the foundation to continue pushing Hereford youth forward.

Grab Hereford gear

ShopHereford is your one-stop shop for everything Hereford. Check out new apparel, home décor or other Hereford-branded items. Currently, ShopHereford also features the World Hereford Conference commemorative book. Not only does *ShopHereford.com* have branded items for your home, barn and office, but the online shop also offers breeders the opportunity to grab branded marketing materials to help promote the bald-faced breed.

With each purchase you are proudly representing Hereford and supporting the AHA, Certified Hereford Beef®, the NJHA and HYFA. Visit *ShopHereford.com* to place your order today.

Have ideas or suggestions about merchandise to include on ShopHereford? Email us at Shop@hereford.org. **HW**

Share what's happening

Do you have a fun “Hereford Happening” to share? Maybe Herefords were highlighted in your hometown, or a long-time breeder earned recognition in the community — regardless, we’d love to share the good news and how Hereford cattle and enthusiasts are making an impact.

Share your Hereford happening by emailing AHA assistant editor, Katie Miller, at kmiller@hereford.org.