

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 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 (AHA) members May 1 or via email (noreply@ballot.com) to members who opted for electronic participation. Replies must be postmarked or returned electronically by June 1.

Association News

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 2026 induction will be honored at the AHA Annual Meeting in Kansas City, Mo., in October.

The Hall of Fame honors 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 Claire Norris at cnorris@hereford.org for more information about submitting your nomination.

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 Claire Norris at cnorris@hereford.org.

2026 AHA Annual Meeting dates and hotel information

Make plans to join us for the AHA Annual Membership Meeting and Conference held Oct. 23-25, at the Kansas City Marriott Downtown. Registration and a detailed event schedule will be available by late summer. Find more information at Hereford.org/annual-meeting.

2026 Headquarter Hotel

Kansas City Marriott Downtown
200 West 12th Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64105
816-421-6800

Apply for the 2026 Hereford Seedstock Academy

The AHA will welcome its fourth class to the annual Hereford Seedstock Academy Sept. 7-11. During four intensive days of networking and interactive educational sessions, members of the Seedstock Academy will delve 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 cattle feeding, AHA breeder and commercial Hereford user tools and services, and the evolution of Certified Hereford Beef® (CHB).

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

Cook joins AHA as mail room and inventory associate



Molly Cook

The AHA welcomed Molly Cook, Kearney, Mo., as the mail room and inventory associate April 9.

In her position, Cook will oversee all mail room organization, including material storage and inventory of mail room supplies and promotional material, prepare packages for external shipment, coordinate deliveries and pick-up, and manage fulfillment functions for AHA and its subsidiaries.

"Molly's position is integral to the success of membership communications," says Shane Bedwell, AHA director of breed improvement and chief operations officer. "We are excited to have Molly join the AHA. She is equipped with a plethora of administrative experience and strong organization skills, making her well-suited for the role."

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Century and Golden Breeder nominations due June 1

Celebrating generational Hereford breeders is a highlight during the AHA Annual Meeting. The Century Breeder



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, 2025. 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 1.

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 1 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. 24 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**

With more than 15 years of experience supporting operations, logistics and administrative functions at Smithfield Foods, Cook brings astute attention to detail, organization and hands-on experience managing shipping, inventory and daily operational tasks to her post at AHA. She is a graduate of Briarcliff University.

“I am truly grateful for this opportunity to join the AHA team,” Cook says. “Being part of an organization with such a rich history in the agriculture community means a great deal to me. I’m excited to grow in this role, contribute wherever I am needed and be part of a team that plays an important role in serving its members.”

Industry News

Attend the 2026 BIF Research Symposium and Convention



Register for the 2026 Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Research Symposium and Convention that will be held June 1-4 in Boise, Idaho.

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

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 for the 2026 VitaFerm® Junior National Hereford

Expo (JNHE), which will be held July 4-10 in Madison, Wis. Visit Hereford.org to receive more information and enter online. Please note all entries must be completed online. 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.

Additionally, 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 steer DNA reminder

JNHE exhibitors must submit DNA for their steers. All steers showing at the JNHE must be registered by the AHA and are required to be parent verified to both sire and dam. A DNA profile of the steer, along with its sire and dam must be completed through the official AHA lab by the entry deadline. No steer certificates will be accepted, only registration papers.

Request a DNA test kit through your MyHerd account or send an email to aha@hereford.org. Make sure to include in the email your member number, the animal’s registration number and the reason for DNA testing.

Please plan ahead to ensure registrations and transfers are handled before the May 15 (early bird) and June 1 JNHE entry deadlines.



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.

Advertise in the JNHE show program

Advertising in the JNHE program gets your operation in front of a variety of audiences. Between spectators and attendees, the pages of the program are flipped through a countless number of times.

Upon event check-in, each exhibitor’s family receives a copy of the show program. Included in the program are the schedule, judges, awards program, showmanship breaks, all cattle entered in the JNHE, exhibitor listing, etc. Additionally, it’s published online.

For advertising specs, more information or to reserve your space, reach out to Bailey Clanton at bclanton@hereford.org. **HW**