AMERICAN HEREFORD ASSOCIATION

Summer 2027 AHA Breed Improvement Intern

The American Hereford Association (AHA) and the Hereford Research Foundation (HRF) are seeking a motivated college junior or senior for a hands-on Summer 2027 Research Internship. This unique opportunity places students at the center of industry-leading beef cattle research, working alongside the AHA Breed Improvement team through the National Reference Sire Program (NRSP) at Olsen Ranches, Harrisburg, Neb., one of the most influential commercial cow-calf operations in the United States.

About the Internship

This immersive, field-based internship provides exceptional real-world experience across all phases of beef cattle production. This intern will assist with calving, breeding and comprehensive data collection on a 1,000+ head commercial cow herd, gaining exposure to cutting-edge technology including GreenFeed units, water intake monitoring systems and other tools used to evaluate growth, efficiency, carcass merit and emerging sustainability traits. Participants will play an active role in a full progeny test that follows cattle from birth to harvest.

About the National Reference Sire Program at Olsen Ranches

Since 1999, Olsen Ranches, Inc., has served as the cornerstone herd for the NRSP — one of the AHA's most impactful and industry-unique breed improvement initiatives. The Olsens collect comprehensive phenotypic and carcass data on all calves, a commitment that began in 1992 and continues uninterrupted today. What started as a conversation about evaluating young sires in a commercial environment has transformed into a data-rich engine for breed improvement. The NRSP's large, structured contemporary groups allow the AHA to identify the genetic merit of young sires faster and with greater accuracy, while validating genomic tools and driving innovation across the breed. With more than 300 NRSP-tested sires since inception, the program has influenced over 7% of the breed's two million performance pedigrees and remains a trusted source of high-quality data for genetic evaluation.

Olsen Ranches, Inc., continues to push the industry forward with pioneering efforts in sustainability research. Their Hereford herd was the first in the nation to measure methane emissions and nitrogen excretion through the AHA's collaboration with Colorado State University's AgNext program.

Internship Details

The paid, 12-week internship runs from mid-May to mid-August, with exact dates flexible based on applicant availability. The selected intern will be based at Olsen Ranches in Harrisburg, Nebraska, where they will assist with calving, breeding, data collection and day-to-day ranch operations as part of the National Reference Sire Program. The AHA will also assist with securing housing for the selected candidate.

To apply, please submit a cover letter, résumé and references to Shane Bedwell, AHA chief operating officer and director of breed improvement, at sbedwell@hereford.org. Applications are due **Friday, Jan. 15, 2027**.