

# Saskatchewan COW-MAN SENSE

by Marilyn Charlton

**H**ello everyone! Once again, Hereford-influence in the Agribition Commercial Show was strongly evident. Although numbers were down from last year, it did not affect the quality of the animals that were exhibited.

The Saskatchewan Hereford Association once again distributed Hereford-influence executive portfolio folders to each and every commercial exhibitor having Hereford-influence in their pens. Thanks to all of the Hereford supporters who donated to this much appreciated promotion.

First time Agribition exhibitor, Gordon Gerrard enjoyed the success that keeps commercial breeders of top quality cattle coming back to Agribition year after year. Gordon runs a 150 head commercial cow herd north of Southey, Sask. His cow herd is predominately Hereford on which he uses Black Angus and Charolais bulls. Last year, Gordon used only one Angus bull on all of his Hereford cows, resulting in 32 calves, 20 being heifers and 12 bulls. His grand champion pen of ten open heifers came from those 20 heifers. Gordon credits his success at the show to the Hereford genetics in his cow herd.

Steve Harty Jr. from Edam, Sask., runs a herd of 400 cows and he also enjoyed success in the showing. His pen of five bred heifers won their class and went on to be overall reserve grand champion pen of bred heifers. These heifers, sired by a Simmental bull and out of straight bred Hereford cows, topped the bred heifer sale at \$1,775 each. Steve's success carried through to the pen of steers where his pen of ten feeder steers, sired by a Hereford bull and out of Simmental Hereford cross cows, were reserve champion pen of ten feeder steers.

It is worthy to note that in the second class of pen of five open heifers, the first three placings in the class were either sired by Hereford bulls or out of Hereford cows.

The champion pen of three Hereford bulls exhibiting in Bull Pen Alley were exhibited by Braun Hereford Ranch, Simmie, Sask., with the reserve champion pen won by Poplar Dell Hereford Ranch, Edam, Sask.

Congratulations to all the Hereford-influence exhibitors in the 2001 Commercial Show at Agribition – see you next year!

Cowtown Livestock Exchange's "Money in the Bank

Sale" held on Dec. 6 in Maple Creek, saw 289 head of all breeds and crosses of commercial bred heifers average \$1,481. Prices ranged from a low of \$1,200 to a high of \$1,950. It was a premium sale and six lots of straight Herefords sold for over \$1,500 each. Cowtown was filled to capacity to see these top quality heifers sell.

Once again, Diamond K Cattle Co. Ltd., Lance and Bryce Weiss, sold the high selling pen for \$1,950 a piece. Last year, the Weiss team sold a pen of ten Charolais/Hereford cross heifers for a record setting price of \$2,025 at Cowtown.

Two of our four zones held their annual meetings in December. The North East Zone held their meeting in Foam Lake on Dec. 1, with a good turnout of their members. Brent Thorsteinson has stepped down from the SHA Board after six years. The Zone will send Delbert Kirsch as their new representative to the SHA Board. Thanks to Brent for your time and dedication to the SHA Board.

The N.E. Zone held another successful Stock Dog Raffle this summer. The Zone will once again be sponsoring their Spring Writing Contest for 4-H members, with prize money up for grabs.

The recipients of the N.E. Zone's Purebred Honour Roll Award were Dwight and Francis Zagrodny, a long-time Hereford breeders. The N.E. Zone has also established a Commercial Producer of the Year Award and the winner this year was Keith and Marilyn Barber and Family, Leslie, Sask. Congratulations to the Zagrodny and Barber families.

The South West Zone held their annual meeting on Dec. 8 in Swift Current. Two new directors were elected to the Board – Bernie Kemick and Greg Thatcher. Darwyn Wilms, secretary of the Zone for the past ten years has retired from his duties as secretary and Kevin Steinley, Rush Lake, will assume secretarial duties. Thanks to Darwyn for many years of work on behalf of the Zone.

Until next time!