

The B.C. Hereford BULL-ETIN

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by Keith Miller

It has been really great to be involved in the Hereford business during the last six months. Because of the dry conditions, the Hereford breed is again proving it is the backbone of the beef industry. The trials being done by individuals who care about the breed is heartening. Instead of sitting back and fretting, breeders like Little Fort Herefords are feeding their cattle out and getting the feedback from the packers. And the proof they are getting back is what we all knew all along, that Hereford cattle can grade AAA just like any other British breed. A load of heifers all graded AAA and 83 per cent of the steers graded AAA or better.

At our BC Hereford annual meeting in Kamloops on Nov. 16, we saw a lot of upbeat optimism that makes everyone want to go out and tell the world about Herefords. All summer we saw Herefords win the Supreme Overall Female Championship classes, like at Vanderhoof and Armstrong. Our bulls stand up along the rest and, to top it all off, they have good temperaments.

With the dry conditions, the Hereford is proving to be the animal that will feed her calf and still come in bred, despite short grass conditions. All I can say is, "We told you so" to the doubters.

Our Association ran a lottery on a commercial heifer or \$1,250. The winner is a purebred breeder from Aldergrove, Phil Lalley. He is going to use the money to buy a heifer for his daughter for 4-H. If he had seen the heifer that would have been his, I am sure he would have taken her, as she was a good looking heifer. We plan on doing it again next year and may work the draw in with one of the female sales in the province.

We have some new faces on our board and the President for the next year is Simon Shaw of Temple Court Ranch, Sorrento. In the Vice President chair is Todd Berger of Aldergrove. Daryl Kirton of Abbotsford will sit as Past President and our CHA Director will continue to be Don Richardson of Tlell. Don is Vice President of the CHA and looks after the advertising for CHA and is doing a great job.

Also sitting on our Board of Directors are Dave Atkinson, Princeton; Wilson Clifton, Keremeos; Murray Gore, Surrey; Bob Gowans, Kamloops; Harvey

Halvorson, Brackendale; Thor Spencer, Abbotsford, (new); Doug Simons, Princeton, (new); Colin Springford, Nanoose Bay; Glen Wicklund, Prince George; and also new to the board is Maureen Ziemer of Lumby. Simon has asked the Board to tell him what direction they want the Association to go in the coming year and he has implemented some committees to get that job done.

At the West Coast Hereford Club meeting on Dec. 8, we saw some new faces come on stream as well. Now on the Board are Barb Frocklage, Aldergrove; Todd Berger, Aldergrove; Harvey Krause, Aldergrove; Thor Spencer, Abbotsford; Phil Lalley, Langley; Greg Peter, Langley; Al Jones, Victoria; Leona Wright, Aldergrove; and Paul Gibbons of Langley. Harvey and Suzie Krause are handling the duties of Secretary and Treasurer. The West Coast Club has an active Junior program and hold regular activities to keep the Juniors interested in Herefords. They are also planning for their regular Evergreen Sale in May. A presentation was made to Mollie Kissock in honour of her husband John Kissock. Mollie and John are both long time members of the West Coast Club and have worked tirelessly promoting Herefords and spearheading the club social events for years. Another plaque was presented to Patrick Huestis in honour of his parents, "Spud" and Jean Huestis who were founding members of the West Coast Club. Daryl Kirton received a jacket in recognition of his time spent as president and the effort he put into making the club a success.

The Thompson Valley Hereford Breeders held their annual meeting on Dec. 7 with a potluck dinner. This group was involved in making Bonanza 2002 the success it was and are to be congratulated for a job well done. Their Board of Directors remains the same with Rick Hyam, Salmon Arm as President, Maureen Ziemer, Lumby, Vice President. Directors are Simon Shaw, Sorrento; Keith Bostock, Salmon Arm; Geoff O'Brien, Sorrento and Dean Trenholm, Tappen. Joan O'Brien of Sorrento, is the Secretary/Treasurer. Joan has worked to better Herefords and the Thompson Valley Club for many years and is invaluable to the club.

May you have a good calving season and every calf be a potential champion.