

The Alberta INFLUENCE

by Brad Dubeau

In this August issue of the Canadian Hereford Digest, I'm pleased to report that the Alberta Hereford Association hosted a successful annual meeting in June. Calgary District Hereford Club played host this year and it was held at the Drumheller Inn in Drumheller, Alberta.

Approximately 60 members were in attendance, with the meeting beginning at 9:00 am. There was a great deal of discussion surrounding the possibility of changing the 4-H prize. At this point there has been no final decision on this matter, and we encourage any input from the membership in assisting the AHA board in their final decision. Another major topic of discussion was the new Hereford tags. Both pros and cons were discussed and the CHA invites members from across the country to give their input on this important issue. Murray Stauffer from Stauffer Farms Feedlot, where our Hereford Steer Trial has recently completed its second year informed the members that attended of the results. A great deal of discussion followed between the members on the direction we need to take in collecting data, but with support from the members we will continue again into a third year with the trial. We saw new interest and we would encourage anyone considering the Hereford Steer Trial to call the AHA to receive more information.

Many other issues were discussed and we solicit all Alberta members to call the AHA or their AHA directors to discuss at further length.

Congratulations to Dan Prichard, on being elected to the Alberta Hereford Association Board of Directors. Also, Scott Pahl was re-elected to the AHA and now has taken on the role as president with Stewart Crone serving as your new vice president. Jim Sutton has also accepted the role as executive director. After a year and a half Wilf Edgar has stepped down as president and will serve one year as your past president. President Edgar did a great job in raising important issues that concerned the AHA as well as the CHA and kept the AHA focused and centered down our new path of awareness and promotion. Next time you get the chance to visit with Wilf make sure you congratulate him on a job well done.

Blaine Brost is our new director from the Southern Alberta Hereford Club.

At the Canadian Hereford Association, the board of directors from Alberta has changed somewhat too. Brad Corbiell, after four years of service to the CHA has decided to step down. We appreciate all the hard work and time commitments put forth by Brad and wish him well. Taking Brad's place on the CHA board will be Steve Upham. Steve has been instrumental in the development of the new direction for the AHA and served as your first president under this new format. Steve and myself spent many hours discussing the AHA in that first year attempting to keep everything together and moving in the right direction. We wish Steve the best of luck as he enters into this new venture as one of Alberta's CHA directors.

Following the meeting, golf was organized for those who wanted to participate. Approximately 40 golfers took to the course at Rosebud in a best ball tournament and from what I could see everybody had a great time.

Following golf, there was a supper and silent auction. The silent auction raised over \$1,200 for promotion. A Bernie Brown picture, which was donated by Sutton Thomas, (Jim and Karen Sutton), was auctioned off and we raised over \$3,200. The money raised from the picture helps offset the cost of the 4-H prize given out to kids who show a Hereford or Hereford Influence animal.

A special thank you to Karen Sutton from the Calgary Club and all those who participated in helping to prepare stories for the annual meeting package.

Also, to Robert and Lori Jackson for planning the ladies continental breakfast, gathering sponsors and assisting in the general planning of the meeting in Drumheller.

The Peace River Hereford Club will host the 2002 AHA Annual Meeting and plans are in the works on renting buses to take members to the Peace to participate in the meeting.

Congratulations to the CHA and the SHA in hosting a very successful National Annual Meeting in Saskatoon. The commercial and industry panels were informative and interesting and Alberta enjoyed taking part. Job well done!