

FROM FIELD TO DESK . . .

by KURT GILMORE



At the time of this writing, most of the western plains area of Canada has at last received some moisture. Certainly it is too late to save this year's cereal crops, nor will it grow a crop of hay in 2002, but it may just provide some fall pasture in some areas and the smell of moisture instead of dust is a great attitude changer. With almost one-third of the total cow numbers in Saskatchewan and Alberta sold off over the past two years, we will face some challenging times in finding homes for the number of bulls we would normally market but, if the drought is truly over, it won't be long before traditional grazing areas start to restock and create a fresh demand for breeding bulls.

Farmers and ranchers in western Canada have faced the worst possible conditions that weather could present them with, and certainly the worst recorded in more than 100 years. Most people from other walks of life in other endeavors and industries faced with such challenges would have thrown in the towel long ago, but, people of the land are a stalwart and stubborn bunch and they will survive. Just recently I attended the Calgary District and Northern Alberta Hereford Club's bull calf futurities and field days, which saw record numbers of entries and large crowds of cattlemen in attendance. While the subject of weather is still the first topic of conversation, people are still excited and enthused about the future of the Hereford business and the cattle industry as a whole.

During the third week of July the British Columbia and Canadian Junior Hereford Associations sponsored the 2002 Bonanza activities and show which were held in Salmon Arm. As in past years, this event drew a large number of young people and their parents who are excited about the future of our breed. We certainly want to take the opportunity to congratulate all those who participated and the organizing committee including their adult advisors who helped make this year's Bonanza a success. Much of our September issue is devoted to reporting the results of this great event and I encourage you all to support and attend the Junior Hereford activities in your area.

The fall sale season gets underway this month with most of the activities taking place in the province of Ontario. Ontario Hereford breeders are hosting a total of five production and consignment sales and will also compete in numerous shows throughout the province this month. Cattlemen and farmers throughout Ontario have earned and deserve national recognition for their initiatives in helping to provide much-needed hay to their contemporaries in western Canada. Their actions exemplify the philosophy and the dedication that will keep our breed and our industry viable for many years to come.

Please note our new Email address:
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The Canadian Hereford Digest

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