

*Newsletter*  
*Winter 2025/2026*



# MONTANA HEREFORD ASSOCIATION

The Red & White in Big Sky Country

## 2026 Board of Directors

**Eric Lawver—President**

406-600-3118 | lawver93@gmail.com

**Denise Loyning—Vice President**

406-425-2252 | cdloyning@gmail.com

**Dave Hanson—West**

406-570-5519 | BZRiversideRanch@gmail.com

**Curtis Doubet—West**

303-681-7086 | curtisdoubet@gmail.com

**Ethan Beery—East**

406-979-5723 | eberry7@gmail.com

**Austin Frank—East**

307-631-6012 | arffrank@yahoo.com

**Lane Nickels—At Large**

406-785-7003 | lanenickels1997@gmail.com

Dear MHA Members,

As we close out another year, we would like to express our gratitude to each of you for your hard work, dedication, and commitment to this industry and organization. This past year has brought both challenges and opportunities, and your resilience has been inspiring. All of us here at the Montana Hereford Association would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

This year has seen an immense demand for Hereford genetics. Most of us never thought we would see cattle prices climb this high, and you should all be extremely proud, because it is your hard work and dedication to the breed creating the demand. Baldy heifers are topping most markets and even straight Hereford cattle are finally being valued higher than angus. Nothing makes me happier than seeing a load of Hereford influenced cattle top sales throughout the states.

This year we put together a wonderful tour through the eastern part of Montana. To say it was just a success would be an understatement. We toured for three days through eastern Montana and western North Dakota. The cattle were very well received at every stop, and friendships were made all through the three-day trip.

I would like to thank all the folks that took time out of their busy schedule to join us at the NILE this year for the annual meeting. We had a fantastic turnout and missed all of you who couldn't be with us. We had a great meeting, a fantastic meal, and enjoyed meeting and hosting all the great folks who attended the World Hereford Tour. We also had an awesome display of Hereford cattle on display out front of the Metra for everyone to see. The event was very fun, and a big thank you to everyone who helped pull it all together.

We would like to welcome Curtis Doubet, Lane Nickels, and Denise Loyning to the Montana Hereford Association board of directors. All three of these individuals are extremely qualified and have a deep passion for Hereford cattle and will be extremely valuable assets to the association.

I would also like to extend a big thank you to our former secretary/treasurer, Amanda Romine. She has done a phenomenal job for us for quite a while and will be missed. We all wish her well with her future endeavors. I am also very excited for everyone to meet our new secretary/treasurer. Devin McClayland has joined the association and will be a very valuable asset. He has deep roots in the Hereford breed, and is a FFA advisor in Conrad, Montana. We all think he will fit in very well and are excited to work with him.

As the new year comes, I hope that everyone has a very successful calving season, and maybe we can get back to a more normal weather pattern. Hopefully the drought some of us have been in will finally break and the whole state gets plenty of timely rains.

I hope you all get to enjoy this holiday season and wish you the best in 2026!

*Eric Lawver, President*

# 2026 HAPPENINGS



WELCOME DEVIN TO THE MONTANA  
HEREFORD ASSOCIATION

## NEW CONTACT DETAILS FOR CORRESPONDENCES

### New Mailing Address:

**Montana Hereford Association**

**619 S. Illinois**

**Conrad, MT 59425**

**Phone #**

**785-410-8345**

**Email:**

**infomontanahereford@gmail.com**

My name is Devin McClayland and I grew up on a small ranch in Alma, Kansas in the northeast part of the state. I grew up extremely involved in 4-H and FFA, showing cattle and hogs across the country and participating in the leadership opportunities that arose. We have raised, shown and been passionate about Herefords my whole life and I am more than aware that some of the best in the breed are members of the Montana Hereford Association.

After high school I made the great decision to continue my education at Montana State, GO CATS! I earned my degree majoring in Agriculture Education and minoring in Animal Science. I now serve as the Agricultural and Welding Instructor at Conrad Public Schools in Conrad, MT. I spend most of my days helping students achieve the goals they set and expand their leadership potential.

I am extremely excited for the challenge of promoting and advancing the Hereford breed in the state of Montana and beyond. As Executive Secretary I am committed to meet the members in our organization and improve their membership experience. I look forward to serving in this role and cannot wait to get started!

### 2026 Production Sale Dates

1/27/2026—Churchill Cattle Co Final Bull Sale | Manhattan, MT

2/2/2026—Pelton Polled Herefords Production Sale | Halliday, ND

2/5/2026—Stroh Hereford Ranch Production Sale | Killdeer, ND

2/6/2026—Baumgarten Cattle Co Production Sale | Belfield, ND

2/10/2026—Friedt Herefords Production Sale | Dickinson, ND

2/21/2026—Sparks Herefords & 7C Herefords Sale | Plevna, MT

2/25/2026—EF1 Cattle Co Sale | Online

2/26/2026—L Bar W Cattle Co Production Sale | Absarokee, MT

3/9/2026 - Holden Hereford Production Sale | Valier, MT

3/10/2026—Cooper Hereford Production Sale | Willow Creek, MT

3/19/2026—Bar Star Cattle Bull Sale | Musselshell, MT

3/23/2026 - Frank/Sidwell Production Sale | Columbus, MT

3/25/2026—NJW Polled Herefords Sale | Sheridan, WY

4/18/2026—Stuber Ranch Production Sale | Bowman, ND

The MHA would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to Cory Dutton and Brad Eik for their dedicated service on the Board of Directors. Your time and effort invested in the Montana Hereford Association were genuinely appreciated. Thank you for your commitment!

# “THANK YOU” to our 2025 Tour Sponsors.



The tour turned out to be a fantastic success, bringing in 61 registrations! Over the course of three days, we had the opportunity to see cattle from 11 operations spanning Eastern Montana and Western North Dakota. Our promotional efforts through Hereford World, Hereford America, and Facebook were quite effective. We had participants join us from Canada and ten different states: Tennessee, Montana, Kentucky, Wyoming, South Dakota, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, and Illinois. These events wouldn't be possible without the generous support of our sponsors mentioned above. Be sure to show your appreciation to them the next time you utilize their products or services!

## 2025 MHA AWARDS



Doubet Cattle  
2024 Champion Bull of the  
World CCD Kingsman 3K ET



Commercial Cattleman  
of the Year | David Pump  
Commercial Cattleman  
of the Year | Gene Granada



2025 MHA Heifer Grant  
Recipient  
Hadley Ergenbright,  
Shelby MT

Don't forget to "LIKE" Montana Hereford Association on Facebook!

# 2025 Annual Meeting Recap

## **\*\*Membership Committee Report\*\***

As of October 14, 2024, our membership count stands at 56 paid members for 2025. Of these, 12 individuals are Associate or Business members, and we're excited to welcome 2 new members to our community!

## **\*\*Promotion Committee Report\*\***

For 2025, we've invested in banners for the Open Hereford Show at the NILE and secured three belt buckles for the young achievers who showcased Hereford steers or females at county fairs. Additionally, we will distribute monetary awards to 5 youth participants during the banquet for the upcoming 2025 NJHA Fed Steer Shootout in Montana. Our organization has also secured a booth at the MSGA Convention & Trade Show, where we will display seven frames, directories, and other promotional materials. Furthermore, we purchased an advertisement in the MSGA's seed stock directory and gathered merchandise for the World Hereford Conference Banquet and MSGA booth.

## **\*\*2025/2026 Directory Committee Report\*\***

You should have received the directories in your mailbox by late August or early September. The 2025/2026 directory consists of 36 pages, and we printed 4,500 copies. Using the AHA's mailing list, we sent out around 4,200 copies to Non-Member Bull Buyers in MT, ND, SD, NE, WY, and KS, in addition to our Member Bull Buyers in MT, ND, and SD. The mailing list also included all MHA members and participants from the 2023 tour for whom we had addresses. Directories have been distributed to sale barns across Montana and were available during the World Hereford Conference Banquet. We will also provide copies at the MSGA booth.

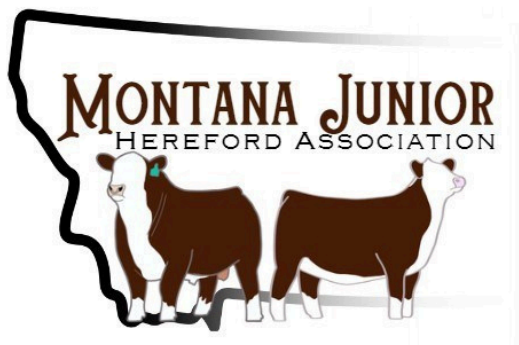
## **\*\*2026/2027 Directory Details\*\***

Eight priority pages (Inside Front Cover, Pages 1, 2, 3, Center Left, Center Right, Inside Back Cover, and Back Cover) were auctioned off during the World Hereford Conference Banquet at NILE in October. The committee will reach out to previous buyers for page renewal commitments starting in the new year. We plan to print the 2026/2027 directories by August 1, aiming for them to arrive in mailboxes by mid-August. **\*\*Heifer Grant Committee Report\*\***

Thanks to the \$1,770 raised from the frozen genetics auction in November 2024, we proudly awarded a \$1,500 grant this year to Hadley Ergenbright. A heartfelt thank you to the donors of the semen lots: NJW Herefords, L Bar W Cattle Company, Cooper Herefords, McMurphy Cattle, and Thomas Herefords.

## **\*\*2025 Montana Jr. Fed Shoot Out Committee Report\*\***

This year, six Montana youth participated in the NJHA Fed Steer Shoot Out at HRC Feedyards in Scott City, Kansas, with 24 steers showcased. The MHA membership voted to allocate \$2,500 in prize money to recognize Montana entries in several categories: High Marbling Purebred, High Marbling Commercial, High ADG Purebred, High ADG Commercial, and Constant of the Year. Winners will be highlighted in the Junior section of the newsletter, and we plan to award more funds in the fall of 2026.



## 2025 Junior Highlights

### MJHA 2026 Officers

Jacynta Bomgardner | President

Lexie Wichman | Vice President

Allie Knutson | Secretary

Makayla Knutson | Treasurer

Josie Mares | Reporter/Social Media

### MJHA 2026 Royalty

Megan Otis | Queen

Dani Hess | Princess

Sweethearts: Hennessy Murnin,

Scottlyn Romine, Jorie Miller, &

Chesney Doubet



2026 MJHA Members

## 2025 Junior Fed Steer Added Money Recipients

High Marbling  
Commercial |  
Harrison Murnin



Contestant of the  
Year |  
Lexie Wichman



High ADG  
Commercial &  
Purebred |  
Wyatt Wichman



High Marbling  
Purebred |  
Hennessy Murnin



### 2025 Montana County Awards

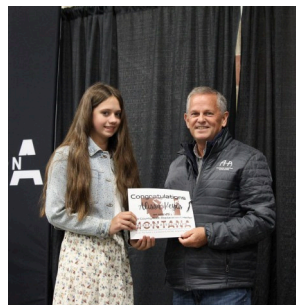
Park County Replacement Heifer | Alissa Keyes

Broadwater County Grand Champion Carcass | Rosyn Reynolds

Dawson County Supreme Female | Ashton Smeltzer



MJHA had a busy NILE week, they hosted a fundraiser dinner along with helping at the World Hereford Conference Banquet, and showing at the NILE Hereford Show.



# 2025 NILE Results

## Commercial Heifer Pen Show

Grand Champion Pen|

Frank Herefords

Reserve Champion Pen |

Josh Stroh



## NILE 2025 Merit Heifer Results

Grand Champion Overall Merit Heifer | Dani Hess—

Heifer Donated by Bar Star Cattle

Fourth Overall | Ashton Smeltzer—

Heifer Donated by Sidwell Ranch



Dani Hess & Carol

Grand Champion Female|  
Adalynn Grace Blankenship  
Reserve Champion Female |  
Rett Blume



## Junior Hereford Show



MJHA Member

Grand Champion Bull | Megan Otis

Reserve Champion Bull | Megan Otis



## Junior Hereford Showmanship

MJHA Members: Reserve Pee Wee Showman Lexie Egbert | Champion Junior Showman Dani Hess | Champion Senior Showman | Megan Otis

## Open Hereford Show

Grand Champion Female |  
Adalynn Grace Blankenship  
Reserve Champion Female |  
Adalynn Grace Blankenship



Grand Champion Bull |  
Storey Herefords  
Reserve Champion Bull |  
NJW Polled Herefords

