

# Altum RedRag

THE NEW ZEALAND HEREFORD ASSOCIATION MEMBER NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2012

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## Diary Dates

**26TH - 28TH OCTOBER 2012**  
WAIKATO ROYAL SHOW

**5TH - 6TH NOVEMBER 2012**  
NZHA COUNCIL MEETING

**14TH - 16TH NOVEMBER 2012**  
CANTERBURY SHOW

**17TH - 20TH MARCH 2013**  
2013 NZHA HERD TOUR

**11TH - 14TH MAY 2013**  
BEEF EXPO 2013

**HONDA**  
**BEST ON EARTH**



**NZ HEREFORDS**  
SPECIALISTS IN GRASSLAND GENETICS

## Jan Wills - Retiring Secretary General of the World Hereford Council

Courtesy of Jamie Ball, Straight Furrow

"Didn't you used to farm Herefords once upon a time?" I ask Jan Wills, Secretary General of the World Hereford Council.

"Not that long ago! It's not when there were fairies in the garden!" she comes back without a flinch.

The 72-year old from Matamata is well used to holding her own on all platforms, one of many reasons why she has held this prestigious post for the last eight years while also serving on the board of the New Zealand Hereford Association for the last 20.

Jan officially steps down from the world stage on December 31st, after which, she tells me, "I'm hoping to improve my golf, which has been sadly neglected!"

Jan first shone on the board of the New Zealand Hereford Association by essentially swapping roles with her husband: he returned to the land while she sat in on the meetings. No woman had ever been there before, let alone become president.

So how is she treated as a woman in other countries – 22 of which she has visited over the last 20 years - that are far more patriarchal?

"I'm a woman in a man's world, in that regard, and they often test me sometimes, but I don't worry because I can hold my own pretty well!"

"But my gender has never been a problem in the New Zealand Association, probably because they'd known me before I was ever on the board, and they knew that I could do whatever was required."



"I suppose I've never given it a thought, because my husband is about the least chauvinistic person that I know. He's always treated me as an equal and talked to me as an equal, so I just assumed I was. I've always been invited by my husband to participate fully in the decisions and after a while you just don't think about it."

Again, come 2004, she knocked off yet another two firsts: there had never been either a Kiwi or a woman as the Secretary General of the World Hereford Council. Such was the job she did that come Copenhagen in 2008, Jan was elected for a second, final term.

"We're not that central, but now with electronics it's not so difficult for a New Zealander to be on a world organization because we can do so much by email or internet."

"It's been my policy to try and make more countries aware of the mission statement of the World Hereford Council, which has been to

## OFFICE ENQUIRIES

**Donna Abbiss**- Acting NZ Hereford Manager, is available between 9.00am - 4.30pm, Monday and Wednesday OR

**Megan Ellett**- Tuesday and Thursday 8.30am - 5.00pm. hereford@pbbnz.com

**Natalie Campbell**- Phone: 0277 323 448 or herefordprojects@pbbnz.com

**Linda Shailer**- Hereford Registry, is available to assist with your Hereford registry enquiries between 8.00am - 4.00pm, Monday to Friday. lindsay@pbbnz.com

**DNA Services**- Sharyn Anderson, 8.30am - 4.30pm, Monday to Friday. sharyn@pbbnz.com

**Tag ordering**- through the PBBNZ office, Monday to Friday. tags@pbbnz.com

**Pivot Design**- Adele Gray, 9.00am - 4.30pm, Monday to Friday. adele@pivotdesign.co.nz

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COMPILED BY PIVOT DESIGN, PBBNZ.

ISSN 1177-0961

protect the purity and natural attributes of the breed so that they don't get watered down by crossbreeding or incorrect breeding.

"Since I've become Secretary General there have been three new member countries and more countries have become interested in the movement, and that's pleased me. If I've done nothing else then at least I've achieved that I suppose.

"There are now 20 countries in the Council and there are other countries that are applying to join. You have to have the software programme that I approve of for registrations and performance, and stuff like that. So I have to visit their country and look at their office and see that they're up to standard. All that sort of thing."

Overall, Jan is very optimistic about the future of her beloved breed as Herefords are an excellent convertor of feed to meat,

driving international demand across rocky economic conditions. Their passive temperament is legendary, helping also fuel demand at home by lifestyle block owners.

Most presciently for our dairy boom, Jan believes Herefords are, "the best breed to cross with Friesians for dairy beef. We did research at the Tuakau saleyards and 85% of the dairy beef was Hereford-Friesian."

Of the five leading Hereford nations, New Zealand comes fourth behind USA, Canada and Australia. The fifth, Uruguay, have their turn on the international podium next: José Bonica will be the Secretary General come January 1st.

"He's a very a good Hereford breeder himself and at the moment he's chairman of all the agricultural companies in Uruguay."

## President's Note

*Hello Members,*

It is spring again, and here in my part of the NZ it has been a very mild one. No storms to affect lambing or calving so I am expecting good percentages in both. August was wet and mild with plenty of mud and September very dry and cool. We have had good rain in the last two days and managed to get fertiliser on the day before it rained.

After being home for a week or two from the World Hereford Conference and our visits to regions in USA and Canada, it was good to reflect and think about what we saw over there. The cattle, the country-side, their farming operations, their weather patterns, the way they did things and of course the people themselves. I have since been speaking to people we met over there, and in southern Alberta there has been no rain since late July. The American drought has moved north and Montana is now tinder dry. Alberta has had record grain harvests and prices.

With Geof Brown we visited fourteen Hereford studs in Alberta and saw some very good cattle. I intend to import semen from two bulls, one from Bar Pipe, and the other from LCI Herefords. Geof is

also importing semen, so there will be some new bloodlines for NZ.

A very special highlight of our time overseas was the trip up to Queen Charlotte Island to visit Don and Lesley Richardson, TLlel stud. This visit was tremendous and one that Jill and I along with all the other Kiwi's that visited will never forget. Our grateful thanks to the entire Richardson family, for hosting us all.

At the time of writing this note, spring Hereford sales are in full swing, I hope you are all achieving great clearances and averages.

I am looking forward to attending the Waikato Royal Show this October and am pleased to see that the beef judging will be over a two day period - so hopefully will get a chance to talk you all. We will also be in Christchurch for their 150th A&P Show celebrations.

Until then or until I write again.

Yours in Herefords,  
Peter Smyth,  
NZ Herefords, President



## Registry Report

**GROUP RUN CUT OFF** is now the 3rd of each month with the return being towards the end of the month.

**DNA PROFILES** are required on all mating sires. They can be checked on the Hereford website under "Animal Enquiries". If you have not supplied required DNAs, registration of progeny will not proceed.

If you intend using an Imported AI sire, check for a DNA profile and Hypotrichosis testing on internet solutions prior to use.

Remember even if it's not your bull, you will need to ensure there is a profile to register progeny in your herd.

**PARENT VERIFICATION** changes of an animal resulting from DNA profiling, needs to be initiated by the Breeder, even if the test has been done through PBBNZ.

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE & TRANSFER** forms are available from the Hereford website. Association – NZHA Forms. Remember all male transfers must be tested for Hypotrichosis.

**\$1 SURCHARGE** per calf applies calves entered manually from May 1 2011.

### ONLINE REGISTRATIONS & PERFORMANCE RECORDING

Contact me at the Office if you wish to register and performance record your herd data online. You need internet and an email address to use this system. You will receive a 50c/animal discount on registrations when submissions are accurate.

I will be away on annual leave from 4th - 23rd October. Linda Rule and Kirsty Klue will be available to help with Hereford registry enquires.

Linda Shailer  
Registry



## SET YOUR COWS UP FOR A HEALTHY CALVING



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# Calving Ease Scoring and Calving Ease Reporting

There is a very low level of reporting of Calving Ease for NZHA animals.

The greatest vagary in the system is inaccurate reporting of actual calving ease/difficulty.

However there are several factors involved...

- Breeders not scoring calving ease at all.
- Breeders scoring calving ease inaccurately. If you hurriedly score all your cows the same calving score for example - 0 (no assist), the system defaults to a nil recording situation.
- Breeders must have greater than 10 cows (10 calving ease scores) entered for the system to acknowledge the records.
- The system does not accept that every cow has had the same calving experience.

**Understanding Calving Ease EBVs-** Calving difficulty has an obvious negative impact on the profitability of a herd through increased calf and heifer mortality, slower re-breeding performance and considerable additional labour and veterinary expense.

**Recording Information for Calving Ease-** Calving Ease EBVs are calculated from three main sources of information – calving difficulty score, birth weight and gestation length data. By far the most important of these sources is calving difficulty score.

Calving difficulty scores should be measured at birth by visually scoring females on the following scale of 1 - 6.

## Score Code Description

1. **Unassisted** - Cow calved unassisted / No difficulty
2. **Easy Pull** - One person without mechanical assistance
3. **Hard Pull** - Two people without mechanical assistance, One person with mechanical assistance
4. **Surgical Assistance** - Veterinary intervention required

5. **Mal-presentation** - eg. Breech

6. **Elective Surgical** -Surgical removal of calf before the cow has the opportunity to calve

\* Note that a blank score will not be interpreted as “unassisted”. Instead, it indicates that calving difficulty was not scored

Calving difficulty scores can be submitted to the Association when submitting your calf registration details.

When recording calving difficulty scores, it is important to consider:

- If you regularly check your cows (e.g. on a daily basis), it is reasonable to assume that a cow who calves without assistance between visits can be considered as unassisted (no difficulty) even though you did not see her calve.
- Record a score for all calves rather than just difficult or easy births. Scores should be recorded for dead calves, if possible.
- If calving difficulty score is either blank or [0], it is interpreted as no score recorded rather than “no difficulty”.
- There needs to be some level of calving difficulty in the herd for the scores to be used effectively by the BREEDPLAN analysis. That is, simply scoring all births in a herd with a calving difficulty score of [1] will not identify any genetic differences in ease of calving.
- A birth management group should be recorded if there are different treatments of the females prior to calving that may affect calving difficulty. For example, where one group of cows have had different feed availability.
- When calculating the Calving Ease EBVs, calving difficulty scores of [3] and [4] are grouped together. Calving difficulty scores [5] & [6] are excluded from the BREEDPLAN analysis as the problems are considered non-genetic in origin.

For more information, go to the Breedplan - tipsheets link on the NZHA website.

## Unled Bull Classes at Beef Expo 2013



### HONDA MOTORCYCLES Unled Impact Sires 2013

The Honda Motorcycles Unled Impact class will again graze as a mob alongside the Super Sires on their respective evaluation units.

The Honda Motorcycles Unled Impact sires are subject to the same conditions as the Super Sires with the exception being they do not have to be joined with 20 females. Unled Impact sires are to be grazed with the Super Sires. Any bull entered in the unled class cannot be displayed on a halter.

Both mobs of unled bulls will be asked to be at their respective evaluation units in late January or early February. Grazing charges will apply.

Could breeders who are intending to enter bulls this year please contact:

North Island	South Island
Kevin McDonald .....07 333 8068 (chairman)	David Morrow..... 03 303 9749 (chairman)
Rodney Jupp .....06 754 6764	Jimmy Murray ..... 03 319 4331
Mike Langtry .....06 328 5990	Robert Kane ..... 03 204 8236
Brian Clements ..... 09 433 7033	Anna Fisher ..... 03 329 7990

Please support these classes to show your support of the class sponsors – Tru Test and Honda Motorcycles.

### TRU-TEST Super Sires 2013

Expressions of interest are being called for the coming season of the Tru Test Super Sires.

If you would like to participate, your bull will need to be mated to at least 20 females in the spring, with 10 or more of the females registered.

To be eligible the yearling bull must be selected from a management group of 20 or more. The bulls must also achieve a conception rate of 75% or more after running with the females.

Now in its fifth year and on the success of this year’s class at Beef Expo your support is needed to continue the momentum and grow the class, proudly sponsored by Tru Test. The class commands respect from both stud purchasers and commercial purchaser alike, with solid support from both breeders and sound prices.

The Super Sires class offers bulls that are highly regarded by their breeders; have proven fertility and have had the same grazing opportunities as they are run in a mob on evaluation farms – the Langtry property at Kimbolton and on the Fisher property near Christchurch. The bulls are run as a mob for the three months prior to Beef Expo.

Other eligibility criteria include: a full set of performance records from a management mob exceeding 20 bulls. This information includes:

- » Calving-ease score
- » Birth weight
- » 200-day weight
- » 400-day weight
- » EMA and fat scans
- » Scrotal measurement

This information must be collected and submitted to the NZHA before the bull commences mating.

# Switzerland, Kazakhstan join Hereford family

*Courtesy of Laura Richards, Straight Furrow*

NEW Zealand delegates to the World Hereford Conference held in Canada in July helped to vote in two new countries into the association.

Switzerland and Kazakhstan were welcomed into the organisation, New Zealand Hereford president Peter Smyth said.

“Kazakhstan is the ninth biggest county in the world,” Mr Smyth said.

The conference, held in Calgary, Alberta, had two busy days plus the World Hereford Conference Cattle Show for the delegates who travelled from 20 countries.

The conference voted in their new executives and said goodbye to their long-serving secretary-general, a Kiwi. Mr Smyth said Jan Wills, from Matamata, who had been in the job for the past eight years had retired.

Jose “Pepe” Bonica, the new secretary-general, is president of the Uruguayan Rural Society. His term begins next year. The next World Conference - in four years’ time - will be held in Uruguay.

In the afternoon sessions at the conference, the delegate countries gave their reports. Mr Smyth gave the broad highlights at the conference and then there was a brief presentation of a book written by member John Morrison, of Ardo Herefords, called “The Story of Jonah the Giant Hereford”.

This book, filled with colourful photographs and graphics, follows the life of Jonah, the 11th calf of Hereford cow 99 at Locharburn Station, from paddock to plate.

Mr Morrison, who also attended the conference, said “I just wanted to get across that New Zealand farmers are green people, interested in animal welfare and we’re great at nurturing young things. “It’s a message the world wants.” Mr Morrison said it was important to tell other countries about the programmes within each country.

“I think it was the probably the best presentation there. It portrays what I think New Zealand is all about.” Mr Smyth said the New Zealand presentation received a lot of compliments. Delegates also listened to speakers offering new technical advice.

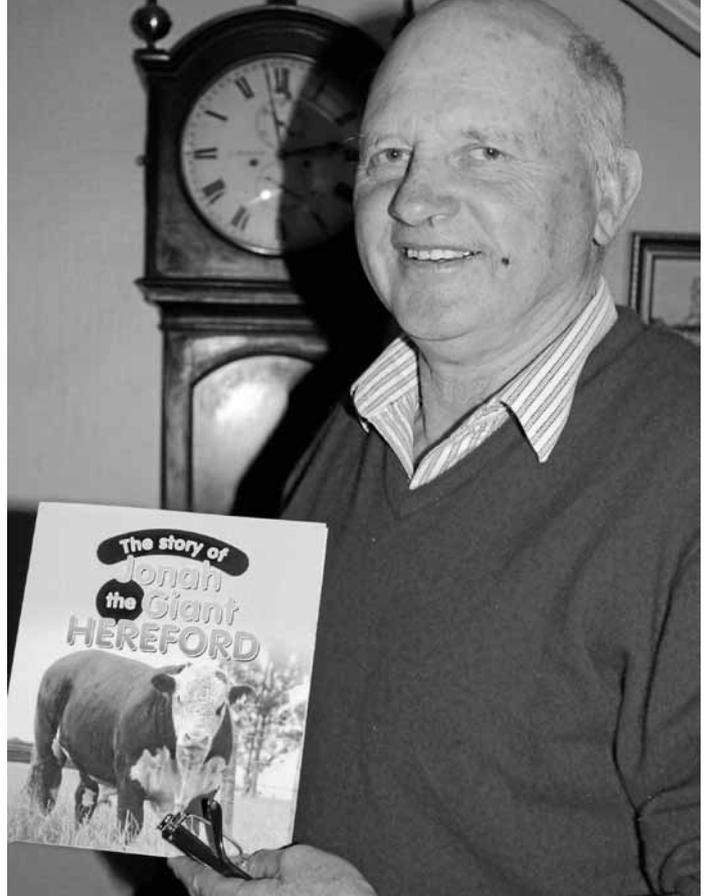
Mr Smyth said he was interested in the comments made by fellow New Zealander Dr Dorian Garrick, who was appointed as chair in animal breeding and genetics at Iowa State University in August 2007. Dr Garrick started his career at Massey University.

“He is one of the prominent animal genetic researchers and was at Massey University for many years. Dr Dorian put it (his research) into layman’s terms.”

According to the conference website, Dr Garrick is the director of the US National Beef Cattle Evaluation Consortium focusing on the development and application of methods using genomic information to predict genetic merit in beef cattle.

Dr Dorian was scheduled to talk about what was working or not in terms of predictions based on phenotype data in Herefords.

While the conference focused on all things Hereford, there



*Marton’s Ardo Herefords’ John Morrison with the book ‘The Story of Jonah the Giant Hereford’ he wrote as the New Zealand presentation at the World Hereford Conference held in Calgary, Alberta, in July.*

was also the opportunity to get reacquainted with friends made at previous world conferences. Mr Smyth said this was the third conference he had attended, having been to the 2004 conference in Australia and the 2008 in Scandinavia.

Following the conference, he and his wife joined friends and went on Hereford stud farm sightseeing tours through out Montana, Washington and Wyoming

## WORLD HEREFORD CONFERENCE

Presentations are gradually being added onto  
[www.herefords.com](http://www.herefords.com)

Currently the easiest way to access the presentations is...  
to go to the conference tab at  
[www.herefords.com](http://www.herefords.com) and click the link.

## PGG Wrightson Stud Tour 2012 Series 2

Series 2 of Stud Tour 2012 has kicked off recently and runs through until the end of January 2013. Each episode is available to watch free on-demand on Tuesdays 8:30pm on SKY channel, Country99TV.

Many Hereford Studs were highlighted in in Series 1 aired in March-July. They included Matariki Herefords, Earnsclough Station, Waiau Herefords, Glacier Horned Herefords, Na Puteputi Herefords and Orari Gorge Station. These previous episodes are available for viewing at <http://www.ruraltv.co.nz/category/2012studtour/studtourcattle/studtourhereford/>

CANTERBURY HEREFORD BREEDERS INVITE YOU TO JOIN THEM AT THE

2013 CANTERBURY HEREFORD HERD TOUR

# Herefords, High Country & More



## 17–20 MARCH 2013

### Day One

**Monday 18th March**

Eoin, James & Georgina  
McKerchar  
"Merrylea"

John & Liz McKerchar  
"Shrimptons Hill"

Ben & Yvonne Lee  
"Bluestone"

Paul & Fiona Scott  
"Matatoki"

AGM – NZ Hereford Assn

### Day Two

**Tuesday 19th March**

Graham & Rosa, Robert & Alex  
Peacock "Orari Gorge"

View gardens and historic  
buildings at Orari Gorge

David & Rosemary Morrow  
"Okawa"

Winslow Robotic Dairy Farm

Five Star Beef Feedlot

### Day Three

**Wednesday 20th March**

View the High Country as travel  
into the Lees Valley

Rob & Julie Stokes "Richon" &  
Roz Stokes "Lees Valley"

Ian & Carol Ford, Tim & Helen  
Molloy  
"Woodburn"

Lauchlan Mackintosh  
"WRM"

South Island Super Sires

### For further information please contact:

Doc Sidey (President)

Phone 03 314 4277

Yvonne Lee (Secretary)

Phone 03 6143 996 or e-mail: [lees@farmside.co.nz](mailto:lees@farmside.co.nz)

## ACCOMMODATION:

Please quote Hereford Herd Tour when making your bookings

### Sunday 17th March, CHRISTCHURCH

Registration night, tour of Christchurch and dinner  
Commodore Airport Hotel, Christchurch

### Wednesday 20th March, CHRISTCHURCH

Final night  
Commodore Airport Hotel,  
449 Memorial Ave, Christchurch  
Ph: (03) 358 8129

Hotel: 45 premium King/twin share rooms @  
\$220.00 per room

### Monday 18th March, TIMARU

NZHA AGM and dinner

Grosvenor Hotel,  
26 Cains Tce, Timaru  
Ph: (03) 688 3129

Hotel: 45 double rooms @ \$95.00 per room

### Tuesday 19th March, METHVEN

Youth Ambassadors Auction and dinner

Brinkley Resort,  
43 Barkers Rd, Methven  
Ph: (03) 302 8885

28 Studio with queen beds @ \$135.00 per room  
9 studios with 2 single beds @ \$135.00 per room  
6 x 2 bedroom apartments with 1 queen  
and 2 single beds @ \$210.00 per room.

## REGISTRATION:

Cost **\$375.00** per person gst inclusive, this covers:

:Breakfasts/Lunches/Dinners during the tour  
(including Sunday evening)

:Bus transport

I/We will be attending the

**Canterbury Hereford Herd Tour 2013.**

Full Name(s)

Herd Prefix (if applicable)

Postal Address

Phone: ( )

E-mail:

### REGISTRATION DEADLINE: 7th December 2012

Forward Registration and payments to;

Yvonne Lee, Bluestone Herefords,  
345 Guerins Rd, R D 14, CAVE 7984.

Phone: (03) 6143 996

Email: lees@farmside.co.nz

Please make cheques payable to:

**Canterbury Hereford Breeders Club.**

For online banking: 030674-0080393-00

Please use your surname and/or stud prefix as reference

Rooms have been reserved for the Herd Tour.

However, all attendees are responsible for arranging their own accommodation. It is recommended that reservations be made as soon as possible and to let the hotel know you are part of the Herd Tour.

Christchurch International Airport is the point of arrival and departure for those flying. A Hotel Courtesy coach is available to the Commodore Christchurch.



# Sheep, Beef Decline bottoming out

*Courtesy of Hugh Stringleman,*

*Farmers Weekly Vol 11 No 30 August 6th 2012*

A long decline in sheep and beef cattle numbers has bottomed out as farmers respond to better product prices with more breeding stock. The lamb crop could be up by one million if spring lambing conditions are favourable, according to the Beef + Lamb New Zealand Economic Service. It bases that expectation on reports of 5 to 10% better scanning results.

As a preliminary estimate, the Economic Service believes total lambs born will be 26.4 million, up 4% on the previous year. It will refine its forecast in November.

According to its annual survey of 520 commercial sheep and beef farms, breeding ewe numbers on June 30 increased by 0.6% to 20.61 million compared with the year before, the first slight increase since 2006. Total sheep numbers on hand increased 2.6% to just under 32 million, but the economists believe most of that was in carry-over hoggets (+7.1%) because of the excellent growing conditions, which would be slaughtered at higher weights during the winter.

However the slight improvement in estimated breeding ewe numbers follows a 6% fall the previous year and indicates that sheep farmers are more optimistic and that the sheep industry is competing for land and resources against the dairy industry.

The survey showed that beef cattle numbers increased 1% to 3.88 million on June 30, compared with a drop of 2.6% in the previous year. In the North Island beef cows and beef weaners both increased by 3.3%, in all regions, while in the South Island numbers went down by 5.6%. The South Island has around 30% of the national herd.

Some 50,000 cattle in Canterbury/Marlborough were finished earlier because of good feed conditions and breeding cow numbers fell by 9%, as dairying expands.

The feed conditions also considerably reduced the numbers of finishing cattle to be carried through the winter in Otago, the survey said. For total beef cattle numbers this survey result is the first

substantive increase since 2003, when the tally was 4.63 million.

However previous tally increases for both sheep and cattle have been short-lived, and the long-term graph in the survey report shows total sheep numbers at 55 million 20 years ago and a peak of 5.2 million beef cattle back in 1995.

Economic Service director Rob Davison said the latest bottoming out would not necessarily indicate any stock number increases in the future, as the focus for farmers now is lifting productivity from the livestock they have.

Although beef cattle numbers are falling, the crossover of dairy-origin cattle into the beef herd is one large aspect of the numbers. Each year about one-third of all calves born or brought on to beef farms are from the dairy industry and are counted as beef animals thereafter. Davison pointed out that New Zealand has 10 million cattle of all types and that total has increased about one million head each decade in recent times.

Presently, however, only about one million of the 10 million are beef breeding cows, about 20% decline over the past decade.

Within the North Island, the East Coast region recorded the largest increase in ewe numbers (+3%) because of more ewe hogget retentions and “good” though falling returns. Ewe numbers in Otago and Southland increased by 2.4% and 0.9% respectively indicating some flock rebuilding, while in Canterbury the 2.3% decline was a result of dairy conversions.

Total hogget numbers were up 13% on the East Coast, which the Economic Service said indicated the strong incentive to boost ewe numbers for the future.

Beef cow numbers and rising two-year heifer numbers increased by 4-5% in northern regions, which follow a lift in confidence due to good pricing signals.

Taranaki-Manawatu cattle numbers increased by 9%, but most of that was retentions to take advantage of good pasture covers. “Cows across most regions were in good condition at mating, due to good growing conditions. “However, the number of cows scanning empty for some regions was reported to be higher than expected and the result is a similar beef calving outlook for 2012 as 2011,” the report said.

## Mini Matters

*By Publicity Officer, Janet Poole*



At the delightful venue of Helen and Chris Russell's 'Red Barn' near the shores of Lake Okareka, Rotorua, the NZ Miniature Hereford Breeders' Group held its AGM on July 1st, 2012. It was attended by a variety of breeders all with the same enthusiasm for what these small Herefords can offer whether it be for large farms or lifestyle blocks.

Topics discussed were the importance of BVD testing and vaccinating with a recommendation that this be extended to females as well as males. The aim is to have the Miniature Hereford herds totally protected from the ravages of BVD as well as preventing it from being passed on. Breeders are also encouraged to ask for both the Diluter Gene and Idiopathic Epilepsy tests to be done at the same time as testing for Hypotrachosis – the last being essential when transferring bulls. The first two tests are included in the cost of the one for hypotrachosis. Definitions of these conditions can be found in the August 2012 issue of “Red Rag” which can be viewed online on the NZHA website.

It was decided to establish a “Friend of the NZMHBG” title which will be half the cost of full membership in order to encourage an interest in the Group. This will entitle such members to receive newsletters and have access to information. They will also be able to attend meetings although without voting rights and there will be a contribution towards costs for this.

More publicity of Miniature Herefords is needed by way of articles in local papers or magazines, exhibiting animals at Shows and Field Days or perhaps holding ‘on site’ days to which the public can be invited. The Group has an official banner which can be used at these different functions. Some members have entered the Steak of Origin at Beef Expo over the years and it was encouraging to see that the winner of Best of Breed – European, this year was a Hinterwald which is similar in size to Miniature Herefords. This means that the smaller animal does have a chance of doing well so this is another way of promoting our stock.

Future venues and formats for AGMs were discussed and some options listed in the newsletter which can be seen in the Miniature Hereford Breeders section of the NZHA website. Our quarterly newsletter also keeps members up-to-date with what is happening with NZMHBG.

# NOMINATIONS WANTED

## Honda Motorcycles - Herd of Excellence 2013

The Honda Motorcycles NZ Herefords Herd of Excellence is again open to nominations from clubs or individuals for the 2013 round. Breeders from anywhere in NZ can make a nomination, but the nominee must be a South Island breeder.

**The 2013 competition is open to any NZHA South Island breeder – irrespective of herd size. The overall winner will be deemed a ‘quality Hereford operation’ over and above other operations entered in the competition, regardless of herd size differences.**

A panel of judges will be invited to review all entrants based on the written farm profile submitted by all entrants. Depending on numbers, finalists may be selected based solely on the written profiles. However if small numbers (ie less than five) of nominations are received it is likely that all entrants will be visited. The winning Herd of Excellence will be announced in conjunction with the NZHA meal at Beef Expo 2013.

### Nominations:

All financial NZHA members are welcome to make a nomination. A nomination can be undertaken by an individual, syndicate or affiliated Hereford club. Breeders are also welcome to nominate themselves. A nomination form has been included with this edition of the RedRag for convenience. If nominating another party, it is crucial the nomination form be signed by the breeder being put forward. When considering breeders for nomination please keep in mind the following aspects; quality of the Hereford herd, performance of the herd, marketing, overall farm performance, farm presentation, sustainability (both financially and environmentally), the breeders’ contribution to Herefords and their own community. Once nominations have been received by the close off date, Friday

### Time Line

August 2012

Call for nominations.

Friday 26 October 2012

Nominations close.

Monday 5 November 2012

Written profiles sent to entrants.

Monday 10 December 2012

Deadline for return of written profiles.

Early January 2013

Copies of written profiles sent to judging panel for consideration.

Late January 2013

Judges lodge list of herds to be judged with NZHA office and all entrants to be notified of outcome of first judging round (if applicable)

February-April 2013

Judging panel to visit finalists at a time convenient to all parties.

Late April 2013

Judges to have lodged final decision with NZHA office.

May (Beef Expo) 2013

Winner announced!

October 26 2012, (see time line) all nominees will be provided with and asked to complete a written farm profile within a given time frame and return it to the NZHA office.

### The judging process:

The judging panel, appointed by the NZHA Council and office will be provided with copies of all written profiles from which they will select the herds and properties to be visited in person in late summer/early autumn. That same judging panel will visit all those finalists in consecutive visits before making their final decision for the category winners and the recipient of the Herd of Excellence title.

### Public Event:

A public event recognising and celebrating the achievement is to be hosted by the recipient/s of the Honda Motorcycles NZ Herefords Herd of Excellence title. All entrants are asked to indicate an approximate time of hosting such an event at time of entry.

### Testimonials from past entrants:

“Entering the Herd of Excellence Award has been a great experience, not only the satisfaction and pride of winning the award, but also the benefits we have captured from the process. The judges made a real effort to understand the objectives we have with our Hereford herd and how they contribute to our whole farming system. The judging process proved to be very enjoyable, and through their discussions also very beneficial to us. The three judges, all successful in their own businesses, were always very positive and provided some really interesting and valuable ideas for us to consider.

Cath and I recommend breeders to put any initial apprehension aside, and seriously consider entering the Hereford Herd of Excellence. At all levels and whatever the outcome, the experience can only be positive and beneficial for those entering.”

*Mike and Cath Cranstone, Riverton Herefords 2012 Honda Motorcycles NZ Herefords Herd of Excellence Winners.*

“The Herd of Excellence competition is a robust and valid competition which we would highly recommend breeders enter. The judges were outstanding doing a great job extracting meaningful information from our business model. The commercial reality of the competition gives it real credibility and we certainly learnt a lot from the process. We thank the sponsors for contributing to the success of the competition and we will definitely look to enter again in the future.”

*Sam and Gemma Hain, Hain Herefords.*

# Bull Sale Results 2012

## 12th Jun, 2012

**RICHON, R & J STOKES** No. Avg Top  
Top price purchaser: Florance Farms 14 \$4,957 \$8,500

## 19th Jun, 2012

**MATARIKI, DJH & RA Murray** No. Avg Top  
Top price purchaser: 44 \$7,111 \$15,000  
Monymusk Stud, Te Anau Comments: 44/44 sold.

## 28th Jun, 2012

**MOKAIRAU, P Reeves** No. Avg Top  
Top price purchaser: 28 \$5,803 \$9,200  
Waimaha Station, Gisborne Comments: 28/28 sold.

## 28th Jun, 2012

**WILENCOTE, P & S HUMPHREYS** No. Avg Top  
Top price purchaser: Potutu Station 23 \$5,800 \$8,800

## 11th Jul, 2012

**ARAHOU, W LAMBETH** No. Avg Top  
Top price purchaser: 24 \$2,680 \$4,000  
Comments: Total clearance - 5 In Calf Heifers also sold at an average of \$2,180.00

## 7th Sep, 2012

**MAHUTA, JV & ME ALLEN** No. Avg Top  
Top price purchaser: 54 \$2,050 \$4,000  
Andy Denham, Stoneburn Stud  
Comments: Other bulls with transfers were sold to Stoneburn and Craigmores studs. Those present commented on the consistent quality of the bulls.

## 10th Sep, 2012

**CRAIGMORE, DB & SE HENDERSON No.** Avg Top  
Top price purchaser: 65 \$1,980 \$6,400  
Narrandera Farm, Te Awamutu  
Comments: Stud bulls also sold to Matapouri, Otengi, Knightlands & Rocklea Studs

## 12th Sep, 2012

**NEWCASTLE, NMD & BA SMITH** No. Avg Top  
Top price purchaser: 16 \$1,825 \$2,050  
John & Liz Mc Kerchar, Cave, Lot 9  
Comments: Total clearance. Volume buyer, Charlie Innes - 5 bulls (has been buying Newcastle bulls for 25 years)

## 14th Sep, 2012

**HUKAROA, DP & LD Hansen** No. Avg Top  
Top price purchaser: 12 \$3,400 \$4,600  
Chris Pilkington, Oparau  
Comments: Total clearance. 3 bulls sold for Stud duties. Bulk purchaser - Ross Manning, Waerenga, bought 7 yearling bulls. 8 x 20 month bulls averaged \$2,380.00 - Top price \$2,600.00. 51 x yearling bulls averaged \$1,960.00 - Top price \$2,500.00. Half of the bulls on offer went to beef clients with the remainder being purchased by clients in the dairy industry.

## 26th Sep, 2012

**BUSHY DOWNS, RM & MP Port** No. Avg Top  
Top price purchaser: 70 \$2,166 \$2,700  
AM & YF Van Grootel, Otorohanga  
Comments: Volume buyers Akawai farms, Puahue purchasing 6 2yr bulls. Local King Country, Waikato & South Waikato buyers were the predominant buyers on the day.

## Bruce Henderson, Craigmores Hereford Stud

- Eulogy delivered by Jan Wills

The Hereford breed is renowned for the camaraderie that exists among its breeders. Bruce and Betty certainly enjoyed being part of that friendly community. They always welcomed fellow Hereford breeders to their farm and home and many good discussions were held over a cup of tea around their kitchen table.

Bruce was interested in all facets of cattle breeding and produced big numbers of prime steers. He was a very good judge of weights and I remember a South Auckland club competition where we were asked to judge live steers for a carcass evaluation competition.

Bruce's experience in this field came through and he was the overall winner. He earned a great deal of respect from his fellow breeders that day.

Bruce started Hereford breeding as a hobby and his first few Herefords were from Mick Tathams Lonsdale herd. Gradually over the next 40 years the Craigmores herd has turned from a hobby to one of the biggest and most successful herds of registered Hereford cattle in New Zealand.

The South Auckland Hereford club was launched in 1974. Bruce and Betty were regular attendees of all club functions. Bruce was a member of the committee for many many years. He was not one to seek the limelight but his sense of duty outweighed his shyness and he reluctantly became President of our club.

At that time our Secretary was Mrs Phyllis Atkins and she recalls Bruce's term as President quite clearly. She said "Bruce was easy to get along with, he liked things done correctly and was always polite. He was great to work with. A real gentleman".

Bruce was always reluctant to leave the farm but if Herefords were involved then exceptions could be made.

As with most Hereford breeders the annual Hereford tours had to suffice as annual holidays. Bruce really enjoyed checking out the farms and cattle of fellow breeders where ever the tour was being held.

Herefords and Hereford breeders have led both Bruce and Betty to many destinations which would not have been on the normal tourist routes.

One of the highlights for Bruce was his participation in the New Zealand tour group when we attended the World Hereford conference in Colorado in 1996.

Bruce especially enjoyed visiting Hereford ranches during the pre and post conference tours in the United States.

Bruce laid the foundation for the Craigmores Hereford Stud and he was proud of its achievements in recent years. His guiding hand and love of the breed has played a part in David's decisions as he continued what began as his Father's hobby and is now an important contributor to New Zealand's Hereford genetics.

Bruce was always interested in what other people had achieved and never promoted himself. He will be remembered as a quiet man, one who did not seek the limelight. Bruce will be missed by his fellow Hereford breeders and we hope he can now rest in peace.

The New Zealand Hereford Association wishes to express their sincerest condolences to the Henderson family following Bruce's passing.

Don and Leslie Richardson and their Tlell Herefords live on what was known as the Queen Charlotte Islands which is in the North of British Columbia in Canada. In 2009 the islands had a name change to the Haida Gwaii Islands meaning the islands of the people. Don and Leslie toured New Zealand last November and visited many Hereford studs at that time. Roy and Kaye Ward were among those visited and were invited to visit Haida Gwaii after the World Conference. A group of New Zealanders also visited the Richardson's, prior to the conference, but that is another adventure. This is Kaye Ward's story which describes the journey from the show grounds (Olds) near Calgary to the Richardson Ranch on the Island.

## Haida Gwaii Adventure, Kaye Ward

We were ready and waiting at 6am in the hotel lobby where Don picked us up to begin our journey to the Richardson Ranch. We were off in convoy. Don and Leslie first with their trailer and show team, then Trevor and Janice Tapp of the Copper -T Ranch with their caravan trailer followed by Don's brother Mike and daughter Heidi towing a trailer with Trevor's stock. The country side soon changed from golden fields of canola, grain crops and lush pastures grown for balage or hay to the drier sparse grasses at the foot of the Rockies.

Driving through Jasper National Park was beautiful with conifers hanging precariously to the sheer rock faces, snow slid down from the snow capped peaks and wild flowers grew along the road side. The mountains were stunning.

It was 8pm when we arrived at Trevor's Copper - T Hereford Stud. We stayed the night with Trevor and Janice and next day while the cattle rested Don refueled and serviced his vehicle. The house overlooked Lake Fraser; we could see glimpses of the lake through the conifers. It was hard to believe that this beautiful calm lake froze over in winter and cars could drive on it. Winter temperatures drop to between -10 and -15 degrees and at the coldest could be under -40. At which point the diesel in the vehicles will jell. On average there are 55 days without frost.

The cows are not housed over winter but brought into the yards where sawdust is spread over the snow and this is where they calve. They also have access to paddocks. The young stock are kept handy so they can be feed grain and hay. The older bulls live in a paddock with shelter trees. The only moisture they get is by licking the snow.

We spent our rest day on two quads with Trevor and Janice touring their 1000 acre farm. The cows were divided into 4 mobs of about twenty with one bull per mob. They were in excellent condition with good udders and strong straight backs. Two of the mating bulls were bought from the Richardson Ranch on line bull sale (Tlell 42S Super Dude 20w and Tlell 28m Ninga 2w) the other mating bulls were Remital Tarsands 17T. (Purchased as a calf) and a home breed bull Copper T 6N 3P Trapper.

The silage and hay paddocks were very lush and looked beautiful with the lucerne in full flower. The grass was orchard mix with a bit of wild canary grass. Trevor and Janice make 250 acres of hay and 20 acres of grain silage. The fields are grazed after the one crop is taken off about the 3rd week in September. Once the first frost has knocked the alfalfa back cows graze quite happily without the risk of bloat. A mob of cows was grazing in a stand of barked poplars and cedars. Trevor is able to log these trees but has to pay the Government a stumpage fee. It takes the conifers and pines 80 years to reach harvest size. In the open area there was a pink flowering shrub called fire weed, red flowering plants called Indian

feather, roses and wild strawberries. The fruit was small but very sweet. There were also Saskatoon's. They were like a big blueberry bush and produce sweet berries in autumn which the bears love.

Our night's rest was short as the alarm was set for 1.15 am. We were heading for Prince Rupert to catch the ferry at 11am destined for Haida Gwaii. The cattle went very willingly onto the trailer - as if they knew their way home. Just after day light - 5am, Don had to brake to avoid a moose and her calf crossing the road.

We drove between the river and the railway into Port Rupert. This is Leslie's favourite part of the journey and it certainly was beautiful with the snow capped peaks and calm waters mirroring the landscape. However we could appreciate that taking the cattle out in winter could be treacherous with fierce snow storms and ice to drive through.

Don backed the trailer onto the ferry. The lower deck was for vehicles and three upper decks for passengers. The crossing took 8 hours. Unfortunately we did not see any whales. The ferry arrived at Skidegate, pronounced Skid-e-gate. We had traveled over 1900 kilometres by road and sailed a further 8 hours by boat and we were now close to our destination. We drove for half an hour along the coast before arriving at Don and Leslie's home at Richardson's Ranch.

Haida Gwaii consists of 2 larger Islands and 150 smaller Islands. The population is approximately 3800 people and there are two populations of native people on the Island at Skidegate and Old Massett. Don's family has lived on their ranch on the edge of the Tlell River since 1919.

We spent three days at the ranch. The first day was spent checking out the array of buildings - we were intrigued by the old butchering facilities where Don's father Doug used to butcher animals and then sell the meat to the island people. The family still has a licence to kill 25 animals a year. Behind the sheds there are shelter trees, cattle are wintered there and fed silage from the silage bunkers. We visited the local store and café and felt right at home as the feel of the place was just like our home town Colville.

Leslie organised a licence so we could go crabbing and dig for razor clams. Something I have always wanted to do since seeing Rick Stein tipping salt down the razor clam hole and grabbing them. Leslie showed us how but we were pretty hopeless at first then we realised the technique was to dig like crazy with the little shovel, then get in and dig and grab with your hands. We weren't so lucky crabbing though as the waves were stirring up the sand making it hard to see. However we still enjoyed delicious razor clam for dinner. (Alaska could be seen to the North).

Taking a walk through Dons silage paddock with Carol and Rod Kirby, Hereford breeders from England we inspected the herd of

cows and calves. They were in good condition and feeding their calves well and it was good to see Tlell Red Zulu's dam and the bull calf that had taken our eye at the Conference show at Olds.

On our last day at Tlell, Don's brother David picked up Roy at 6am for a forestry experience. Firstly he traveled in a logging truck with an expat Kiwi from the Hokianga who had lived on Haida Gwaii for the past thirty years. He then visited different forestry gangs around the North West of the island with Nuf from Newfoundland. Nuf was an overseer checking on men and the forest equipment. Cedar, hem lock and fir trees were being logged and barged to Vancouver.

It was a real treat traveling and staying with Don and Leslie. They have a family operation to be admired. Leslie has an animal food supply and pet store. This shop is absolutely full to the brim with every item you could ever imagine and apart from Don's veterinary practice they also have a dog and cat stay kennels, Grandpa's House accommodation and a very good Hereford stud farm. Don and Leslie's daughter Jamie and partner Bill, Don's brothers and parents are all part of the team.

A two and a half hour flight over snowy peaked mountains and forest to Vancouver (Alaska could be seen up to the North) ended our trip to Haida Gwaii - a very special place.



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## Story leads and photos

All members are invited to submit story ideas and/or photos for consideration for use in the 2013 NZ Herefords magazine and future promotional campaigns.

If submitting an electronic photo, please supply it in a jpg format at a high resolution (or large file size).

The photos may also be considered for use in general promotional items as well as the next edition of the magazine. Photos may include purebred Herefords and Hereford first-cross animals. All submissions of the appropriate standard will be kept on file for use in the future.

If suggesting a story, please take into consideration the farming practices – ie are they thorough farmers. While they don't necessarily have to be using state of the art technology/practices, we would prefer a farmer with sound farming practices.

Please email your story ideas and photos to:  
[herefordprojects@pbbnz.com](mailto:herefordprojects@pbbnz.com)

## NZHA Structural Assessment Workshops

NZHA Council is initiating the facilitation of STRUCTURAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHOPS, potentially using crossbred cattle and Bill Austin's expertise.

Such a workshop would be of benefit and available to Hereford breeders and their commercial clients. The South Auckland club at this stage have shown interest in hosting a workshop. *(As a suggestion, a workshop could be combined with a Hereford club AGM).*

If your club is interested in hosting a STRUCTURAL ASSESSMENT workshop please contact the NZHA office. (NZHA funds are available to assist with workshop costs).

## PBB Tag Ordering Service

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