

## Fellow Breeders

Hopefully everyone is having a great summer even though the weather this year is so unpredictable . All over the world floods, tornados and extreme drought in many countries.

This spring the prices at the bull sales were generally down from past years. Herefords have 2 consignment sales to sell their bulls at: Vanderhoof and Williams Lake but many other breeds host their own private sales prior to these two main sales. There were many of these bulls passed. The quality and soundness of some of the bulls offered for sale was unacceptable which did not help. Even the BC Angus President stated in the Angus newsletter how disappointed he was with the quality of the entries. At the BCHA annual meeting coming up in Vernon on the agenda is to establish a floor price for the Herefords at the BC sales as some breeders continue sell their bulls at these sales well below market price. Please attend and have your voice heard.

Earlier this year I wrote about Maple Syrup Urine Disease (MSUD). It came to light in late February reported in Black Hereford Assn. calves. Calves are typically born without symptoms but at 2-4 days of age become slow, dull and eventually recumbent. The calves will often throw their heads back, lying on their side unable to rise. The calves may have some swelling of the brain at autopsy, but a firm diagnosis requires laboratory investigation. The calves have a defect in an enzyme that breaks down complex amino acids in the diet and the build up of these in the body creates the urine odour and brain damage.

- Retrospective analysis of samples, found 19 Canadian carriers and 273 US carriers from over 38 000 samples prior to March 7<sup>th</sup>. Since then up to the end of July there have been 13 more identified carriers in Canada with over 300 more identified in the US. All breeders/owners of these animals were contacted and carriers have been dealt with in Canada; the majority have been culled.

Animals that are tested will show up with MSDUF or MSUDC status on the CHA web search and AHA web search. Be certain to check both CHA and AHA web searches for status of animals, as animals tested in the USA will not show on CHA web search.

The fall shows and fairs are about to begin. Please consider showing as we all need to show our Herefords to other breeders. The 40<sup>th</sup> Bonanza along with the annual CHA meeting is just over in Weyburn. Bonanza had 175 juniors showing 266 head of animals. 9 BC juniors showed animals. This is the largest number of juniors to show out of province for years. BC had Champion Intermediate Showman (Peyton Haslam) and Reserve Champion Bull (Billy Paul).

The CHA annual meeting had 54 members register to vote. Many questions were asked about Hereford Plus with the meeting directing the board to revisit the program making it commercial breeder friendly.

Certified Hereford Beef (CHB) is now being distributed by a wholesaler in Quebec and is being sold in stores in the Ottawa Valley. The beef being sold is American beef at this point but the CHA has a packer on board to kill Hereford cattle once we create a demand in the market. Please remember that thousands of our calves go south each year to be fed, plus there are many American feedlots here in Canada that slaughter our animals. The CHA has been working with the AHA to get this program started in Canada as the AHA have been selling CHB for over 28 years. We are tapping in on their past history in Marketing.

The executive of the CHA will not change for 2020.

President elect: Albert Rimke

Vice President elect: Nels Nixdorff

I remain Chairman of the Pedigree Committee. The next face to face board meeting will be in December. If you have questions or suggestions please call me.

Daryl Kirton, BCHA Director to the CHA