

2009 BIF SEEDSTOCK PRODUCERS OF THE YEAR

The Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) recognized Champion Hill, Inc., of Bidwell, Ohio, and Harrell Hereford Ranch of Baker City, Ore., as the 2009 Seedstock Producers of the Year during its 41st Research Symposium and Annual Meeting, April 30–May 3, in Sacramento, Calif.

Traditionally, a single breeder is honored, but this year, the committee selected two producers deserving of the nation's top seedstock award, sponsored by *BEEF* magazine, Minneapolis, Minn.

CHAMPION HILL, INC.

Paul Hill and Marshall Reynolds of Champion Hill, Inc., run 220 breeding-age registered Angus females and 630 mostly half-blood Angus females, used as recipients, on 4,000 acres of owned and leased land in southeastern Ohio. Each year, the operation sells 300 females in two production sales and 200 bulls through a genetic partnership.

Reynolds owned the land, and in 1993, formed Champion Hill, Inc., naming Hill as its president. Their philosophy has always been to breed the kind of cattle that will not only perform in the showing, but will also make a positive contribution to the beef cattle industry. The team at Champion Hill has selected females from the top cow families in the Angus breed to use as foundation donor cows in order to consistently produce the quality of cattle that their customers have come to expect.

"Paul Hill is one of the best promoters of seedstock in the Angus breed. He should be complimented on what he has done to advance the breed," says Darrell Silveira of Silveira Bros., Firebaugh, Calif.

"We are honored to have been chosen as the Beef Improvement Federation's 2009 Seedstock Producer of the Year," said Paul Hill. "Lynn and I accept this award on behalf of our partner, Marshall Reynolds, and the entire staff at Champion Hill. We would also like to thank our genetic partners Kelly and Martie Jo Schaff of Schaff Angus Valley, Saint Anthony, N.D." Hill adds, "We are indebted to the Beef Improvement Federation for providing the guidance to the breed associations in order for them to provide the tools necessary to advance our herd."

The Ohio Cattlemen's Association nominated Champion Hill. For more information, visit www.championhillangus.com.



Champion Hill, Inc., Bidwell, Ohio, was named as one of the Beef Improvement Federation's (BIF) 2009 Seedstock Producers of the Year during its 41st Research Symposium and Annual Meeting, April 30–May 3, in Sacramento, Calif. Pictured receiving the award from BIF Outgoing President Tommy Brown (far left), Clanton, Ala., and *BEEF* magazine Senior Editor Burt Rutherford (far right) are Angus producers Lynn and Paul Hill of Champion Hill, Inc.

HARRELL HEREFORD RANCH

In 1870, ancestors of the Harrell family traveled the Oregon Trail, settling near Baker City, Ore. Three generations later in 1970, Bob and Edna Harrell established the Harrell Hereford Ranch along the foothills in eastern Oregon's Baker Valley.

The ranch is family owned-and-operated with Bob Harrell Jr. and his wife Becky and their daughter Lexie, sharing the duties with his mother Edna Harrell, and his sister and brother-in-law Beth and Wannie Mackenzie, who are also involved as partners in the Harrell-Mackenzie Quarter Horse operation.

"To be nominated by the American Hereford Association for this award was a great honor in itself, but to actually be recognized at this level is more than our family could have ever imagined," says Bob Harrell Jr. "To be voted one of the top seedstock producers in this country by the most prestigious body of performance-minded producers in the world is a feeling that will probably never be matched again in our lifetime," he adds.

The cattle ranch originated with 100 head of Hereford cows purchased from TT Herefords, Connell, Wash., and 80 acres of land. Today, the operation has grown to six ranches, consisting of 300 registered Hereford cows, 400 black baldy commercial cows, an 800-head feedlot for backgrounding cattle and 45 Quarter Horse broodmares. The cattle run on 8,000 acres of high-desert, native range and 3,000 irrigated tillable acres on which alfalfa and meadow hay, corn silage, earlage and small grains are raised.

The Harrell herd has been performance testing since its inception in 1970, and for nearly four decades the goal has been to produce performance cattle that work under a variety of management systems and branded beef programs.

The Harrell's celebrated their 30th anniversary sale in 2009, offering more than 100 bulls, 30 heifers and 20 Quarter Horses to buyers from 11 states and Canada. The successful event was driven by the program's adherence to the economics of the American beef industry and their role as a seedstock leader. Through their breeding and customer programs, the Harrells have emerged as a true genetics and marketing partner for their commercial customers.

"Harrell Herefords is one of the most progressive seedstock producers in the United States. They are the epitome of a family operation and understand what their commercial customers expect out of their program because they are also in the commercial cattle business," says Matt Macfarlane of Matt Macfarlane Marketing, Sheridan, Calif. "The Hereford genetics offered by the Harrell family are truly balanced and are backed by one of the great cow herds of any breed in the country," he adds.

To find out more about the Harrell Hereford Ranch, visit www.harrellherefordranch.com.



The BIF named Harrell Hereford Ranch, Baker City, Ore., as one of its 2009 Seedstock Producers of the Year. Bob Harrell Jr., his wife Becky and mother Edna Harrell are pictured receiving the award from Brown and Rutherford.