



For Immediate Release November 15, 2007:

Ron Batho Inducted into Canadian Hereford Association Honour Roll

The Canadian Hereford Association was proud to induct Ron Batho to its Honour Roll on November 1, 2007 during the Manitoba Livestock Expo, held in Brandon. The Honour Roll recognizes those individuals who have made a significant contribution to the Hereford industry for the betterment of the breed, and Ron has certainly done that.

Ron's father E.H. purchased his first registered Hereford female in 1942 and registered his first calf that same year. A decade later, the herd had grown to 65 head and relocated to Oak Lake, Manitoba, a move made to specialize in cattle. A year after that, in 1953, E.H. purchased his first Polled Hereford bull.

After graduation from the University of Manitoba, Ron returned to the family farm, which progressed from E.H. Batho to E.H. Batho & Son (Big Hill prefix), and finally to Batho Farms Ltd. (BFL prefix) in 1967. By that time, Ron had already exhibited the Reserve Supreme Champion Bull of All Breeds (1955) and the Champion Pen of Five Steers (1956) at Manitoba Winter Fair and the Junior Champion and Grand Champion Female at the Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba (1955).

Ron also began his extensive involvement with bull test stations in the 1960's. When Douglas Bull Test Station opened its doors in 1964, Ron had a bull entered, and he has been the only breeder to have a bull enrolled each year since. His cattle stood out at Douglas, setting records for ADG and WDA for Hereford bulls and influencing the genetics of many other participants' bulls. In the 1978-79 test year, 42 of the Hereford bulls on test at Douglas were sired by bulls that carried either the Big Hill or BFL herd prefix. His involvement extended to serving as a director and ultimately, President of the station from 1973-1976. Ron's involvement with bull testing did not end with Douglas, and for the past 13 years, he has managed the Southwest Bull Development Centre at Batho Farms Ltd.

In addition to excelling close to home, Ron has been recognized provincially, nationally and internationally as a premier cattleman. His cattle have sold across Canada, the US, Japan and Czechoslovakia. Collectively, Batho Farms was awarded the Premier Purebred Beef Producer honour in 1984 by the Manitoba Minister of Agriculture; named to the Seedstock Producer Honour Roll of Excellence by the Beef Improvement Federation in 1985; and won a Manitoba Conservation Farm Family award in 1996. Individually, Ron was awarded a Certificate of Merit from the Manitoba Ag Grads Association for achieving outstanding accomplishments in the Manitoba agriculture industry.

Besides the farm, the test station and the grandchildren, Ron's volunteer work, both in the agriculture field and out, is extensive. Ron has served on the Manitoba Hereford Association, Canadian Hereford Association and Oak Lake Ag Society boards. He is a member of the Oak Lake United Church, and has participated in the Oak Lake Curling Club, Oak Lake Rodeo Association and was Chairperson for the Oak Lake Homecoming in 2000. He has hosted tours on the farm for the University of Manitoba Aggies, the CHA Annual Meeting attendees, a Grasslands Grazing Tour, and local elementary school classes. His commitment to both children & agriculture was evident during the BSE crisis in 2003 -2004 when Batho Farms donated a free lunch of a cheeseburgers and milk to all students and staff at Oak Lake Community School to promote both Canadian beef and the importance of nutritious eating.

The Canadian Hereford Association is very pleased to have breeders such as Ron in its membership, and offers sincere thanks for all his hard work and dedication to the Hereford breed. Congratulations!

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