



For Immediate Release November 30, 2007:

Neil Wilson Inducted into Canadian Hereford Association Memorial Scroll

The Canadian Hereford Association was honoured to induct the late Neil Wilson to its Memorial Scroll on November 23, 2007 during Canadian Western Agribition, held in Regina. The Memorial Scroll recognizes those individuals who, although passed on, have made significant contributions to the Hereford industry for the betterment of the breed during their life.

As a youngster, Neil Douglas Wilson was passionate about farming and sports. In 1956, he convinced his father Harold to purchase five bred heifers from Foxland Farms and Haroldson's Polled Herefords was born. He played hockey, baseball and competed in track and field, being highly successful in all three. In 1974 Neil married his wife Lenna, and they went on to have two children, Kristy and Chad.

While he was growing his family, Neil was also building his reputation in the Hereford industry, both in Canada and abroad. In 1980, at the request of the Bulgarian government, Neil assisted with the selection and delivery of cattle to Bulgaria. While there, Neil gave Clipping, Showmanship and Beef Production seminars. In the years since, he exported semen, embryos and live cattle to several US states, Europe, Australia and Japan.

Back at home in Canada, he built his herd up to include 150 purebred cows, large enough to host a fall production sale for 16 consecutive years, from 1990-2005. In addition to their own sales, Haroldson's Polled Herefords was a loyal contributor to the Regina Bull Sale, where Neil exhibited numerous champions.

Neil's successes in the showing were no less impressive. Over the years, he was awarded: Champion Hereford Steer at the Calgary Stampede; 5 Grand Champions at Canadian Western Agribition; Premier Exhibitor at Canadian Western Agribition; Grand Champion Bull at NILE (Billings); Champion Bull at FarmFair International; Junior Champion Female at the National Western Stock Show (Denver); and numerous champions and division winners at Brandon Ag-Ex and Canadian Western Agribition.

One of Neil's bulls, HAROLDSON'S RAIDER P183 ET 2Z had tremendous international success, not only claiming the Reserve Grand Champion title at the National Western Stock Show in Denver, but was also named a US Gold Trophy Sire. In 1995, the whole Wilson family got in on the fun with their heifer HAROLDSON'S ROSE ET 74D. Son Chad won Champion Heifer at Bonanza with 'Rose' and Neil went on to win numerous divisional championships throughout Saskatchewan and Manitoba, Reserve Grand Champion Female and Champion of the Upjohn First Lady Classic at the 25th Anniversary Canadian Western Agribition. Ultimately, she was the top selling heifer of 1995 bringing \$20,000 at auction.

Neil's charismatic presence and sense of humour were always an addition to any room he entered or activity in which he participated. In his 'spare' time, Neil shared that energy and charm with many. He served as President of the Southeast Zone Saskatchewan Hereford Association for many years and of the Saskatchewan Hereford Association in 2005. He hosted international tours at the farm, coached minor sports, volunteered at community fundraisers and judged numerous cattle shows, both 4-H and open.

Neil had a tremendous memory in regards to pedigrees and ancestry information involving all Hereford bloodlines. Breeders called upon him regularly from Canada and around the world to provide pedigree information, sales results and show placings on animals other than his own. He always had something positive to say about any animal in question and he was highly respected for his knowledge of the breed.

When Neil passed away suddenly at the farm he loved on February 21, 2006 the Hereford breed lost a great ambassador and friend. It is with great respect that the Canadian Hereford Association inducts Neil Wilson into its Memorial Scroll.

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