

Steps to Follow as a Black Hereford Breeder

1. **Develop a permanent identification system** – As a breeder you should select a permanent ID (TATTOO) system that best fits your needs.
 - A. The ID you assign to your calf should be used for the remainder of its life.
 - B. Develop an ID or Tattoo system that best suits your farm or ranch. Tattoos should be limited to no more than 5 digits as most tattoo machines have space for only five units.
 1. **Numerical system:** There are several ways to use numbers to make an animal ID. With a numerical system one digit is selected for the animal's birth year. Example: a calf born in 2013 would have the number 3 included in its Herd ID, designating the year of birth.
 - a. Herd of less than 100 head - first digit is the year of birth and numbering in sequence of birth of all calves, i.e. 301, 302, 303, etc.
 - b. Herds over 100 & less than 1000 – This numbering system could have four digits. The first digit is the year of birth and numbering in sequence of birth of all calves, i.e. 3001, 3002, 3003, etc.
 1. With the above numbering system, ear tags can be pre-made in advance thus simplifying the tattoo process in the pasture as you are tattooing in sequence and the next tag is always ready when a new calf is born.
 2. **Alpha-numeric or International Letter system:** This system incorporates elements of the numerical system but adds a different letter of the alphabet for each year of birth, i.e. A = 2013, B = 2014, C = 2015, D = 2016, (see list). *Example:* A calf born in 2013 would have the letter A included in its herd ID to designate its birth year (A038 would be the 38th calf born in 2013).
 - a. This system eliminates the possibility of repeating tattoos in cows over 10 years of age.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR/LETTER DESIGNATION

A = 2013	B = 2014	C = 2015	D = 2016	E = 2017	F = 2018	G = 2019	H = 2020
J = 2021	K = 2022	L = 2023	M = 2024	N = 2025	P = 2026	R = 2027	S = 2028
T = 2029	U = 2030	W = 2031	X = 2032	Y = 2033	Z = 2034	A = 2035	and so on

I, O, Q and V are not used

REMEMBER:

- Animals should be permanently identified prior to submitting their application for registration to the ABHA.
- The marks of an animal's ID (tattoo) should correspond with the animal's registration.
- The original animal ID should be no more than five units (including Arabic numbers and capital letters, or a combination of the two).
- Original tattoos should not be altered. If a tattoo becomes unreadable, it should be placed in a new and separate area of the ear.
- If you have specific questions about an animal's permanent ID, please contact the Association.

Note: The ABHA is developing an Information Sheet on the proper technic and equipment required for tattooing Black Herefords. This will be available when the new ABHA website is launched.

Registering your Black Herefords

1. As with a permanent identification system, breeders should maintain accurate registration records. On its website the ABHA has an easy to use "Order Form" and "Application for Registration Form".

A registration certificate shows other producers that you are willing to take the time and expense to document your herd's lineage, performance and production. A Black Hereford pedigree is an ancestral and performance record of an individual animal and is important information for prospective buyers.

REGISTRATION PAPERS AND PERFORMANCE RECORDS PROVIDE ADDED VALUE ON ALL BLACK HEREFORDS!

A. The Order Form is used to specify the service and cost of those services the breeder is requesting the ABHA to perform.

B. The Application for Registration is to be completed by the breeder and should include all the animals within the desired contemporary group. To avoid registration errors, it is best to register **ALL** the animals within a group at a relatively young age.

Naming your Black Herefords

1. Name your cattle so when people read the pedigree they can tell who the breeders have been.

A. Use a name that includes a two or three letter ranch prefix or ranch name, i.e.

Feltons Black Herefords (FBH).

B. Use a name that suggests certain bloodlines, i.e. Feltons Miss Advance

C. Consider names that show male vs. female, i.e. Advancer vs. Miss Advance

D. Incorporate the tattoo in the animal's name, i.e. Feltons Advancer 345

Performance Test your Black Hereford

1. **At birth:** Ideally it works best to weigh your calves within 24 hours of birth. Contemporary groups at birth are formed using herd, sex, and season.

2. **At weaning:** Contemporary groups are formed again as calves are weaned and data reported using sex, weigh date and management code (creep vs. non-creep). A proper contemporary group should not be more than a 90 day period. Calves should be weighed when the average age of the **group** is over 175 days and under 265 days.

3. **At yearling:** Contemporary groups are formed using the weaning contemporary group along with additional yearling information. Yearlings should be weighed on the same day when the majority of the animals are between 320 and 410 days of age.

Transfer of Ownership

1. When you sell an animal, it is best as far as good public relations between the seller and buyer to transfer the sold animal to the new owner within 30 days of the sale.

A. A transfer validates your breeding program by the Association. It is proof of what you are selling for ancestral records as well as for performance and the reason why your customer pays a premium.

B. The seller applies and pays for the transfer. The original registration certificate must be signed over and mailed to the Association for transfer.

Keep your Herd Inventory Updated

A. By deleting cows and bulls from your Herd Inventory that are no longer in production, it is easier for the breeder to maintain his records for Whole Herd Reporting as well as for keeping his records up-to-date.

Important Information about EPDs

How EPDs Work

When a calf is born, its EPDs are calculated by adding the sire's and dam's EPDs together and then divide by two. The calf EPDs remains an average of the sire and dam until a weight is reported for the calf.

Once weights are reported to the Association, the EPDs for the calf, the sire and the dam will change based on the performance ratios of the calf. Performance ratios above 100 will generally cause an increase in the EPD while ratios below average (average is 100) will cause the EPD to go down.

If no weight information is reported, then at some point future calves will be reported with zero as their EPD for the various traits. With AHA animals, if no weights are reported for AHA performance information on that animal,

the EPDs will be zeroed out after a certain point of time. Thus, by using an ABHA sire on a Hereford cow with zero EPDs, the resulting calf will have half the EPD value of its sire.

THE BEST EPDS ARE THE RESULT OF BREEDERS REPORTING PERFORMANCE INFORMATION IN A TIMELY MANNER WITH PROPER CONTEMPORARY GROUPINGS!

What EPDs Mean

EPD / Expected Progeny Difference

The EPD predicts how future progeny of each animal will perform as compared to the progeny of other animals listed with the Black Hereford data base. Use EPDs to compare animals in the same breed. They DO NOT predict actual weights. Black Herefords have been and are getting EPD predictions as a part of their performance records. These EPDs are calculated by the Animal Science Department at Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas. Since Black Herefords are a new breed, their performance data is limited when comparing it with some of the larger breeds. Because of the limited data and limited contemporary groups, the possible change values for Black Herefords will be higher than those from the larger more established breeds. Black Hereford breeders need to be aware of the possible change values associated with the breed's predicted EPDs.

BW / Birth Weight

Birth weight EPD predicts the difference in birth weight (in pounds) of an animal's calves compared to that of other animals with a birth weight EPD.

WW / Weaning Weight

Expressed in pounds, it predicts the difference in an animal's ability to transmit weaning growth to its progeny as compared to other animals with a weaning weight EPD.

YW / Yearling Weight

Expressed in pounds, it predicts the difference in an animal's ability to transmit yearling growth to its progeny as compared to other animals with a yearling weight EPD.

Milk

Milk EPD predicts an animal's ability to pass on genetic merit for milk production/mothering ability of a sire's daughters compared to the daughters of other sires. It is the part of weaning weight that is attributed to milk.

Milk and Growth

Milk and Growth EPD predicts the milking ability and growth potential of a sire's daughters. M & G is calculated with the milk EPD + $\frac{1}{2}$ the weaning weight EPD.

EPDs for Black Herefords in the Future

Calving Ease Direct (CED) is expressed as a difference in calving in percentage of unassisted births, with a lower value indicating greater calving ease in first calf heifers. It predicts the average difference in calving ease with which a sire's calves will be born when bred to first calf heifers.

Calving Ease Maternal (CEM) is expressed as a difference in percentage of unassisted births with a lower value indicating greater calving ease in first-calf daughters. It predicts the average ease with which a sire's daughters will calve as first-calf heifers when compared to daughters of other sires.

Scrotal Circumference EPD (SC) is expressed in centimeters and is a predictor of the difference in transmitting ability for scrotal size compared to other sires.

It should be noted that the measurements for these last three EPD predictions have just begun in 2012. Thus it will take several years to accumulate enough data for Black Herefords to be able to publish meaningful EPD values for CED, CEM and SC.