

Honour Roll Ken Wray



The Canadian Hereford Association congratulates Ken Wray on his induction into the Honour Roll.

Like most Canadians, we have our ancestors to thank for uprooting themselves from their homeland before starting their new life in Canada. Ken's grandfather immigrated from Ireland as a teenager.

Ken's father got an early start in agriculture and started farming in the 1930's. In 1952 Ken was born on July 11 in Melita, MB and by 1971 he graduated grade 12 from the Pierson Collegiate school. Like his father, Ken started farming at a very young age and bought his first parcel of land in 1972. Ken and his brother Don continued to buy land and then in 1984 they bought out their father and created Til-Toba Polled Herefords. The foundation of the Til-Toba Polled Hereford herd came from a purebred Hereford Ken bought from the Habok Bros. in 1976 and 35 heifers Ken and Don leased from Walter and Shorty Johnson of Twin J Polled Herefords. Ken's first herd bull was purchased from Square-D Polled Herefords - Square-D Gainer 92R.

Ken married Judy (Lee) on November 17, 1973 and together they raised three children; Jamie, Derek and Brettney. All three of their children

were involved and shared in the family's passion for the Hereford breed, each showing Hereford steers and heifers for 13-14 years. Ken was a 4-H leader for the Tilston Beef Club for 20 years and daughter Jamie was the Manitoba Hereford Association Queen in 1991. Brett was the Manitoba Hereford Association Ambassador in 2000, the Manitoba Junior Hereford Association Delegate, and served on the Canadian Junior Hereford Association National Council. At Bonanza in 2004, Brett was overall Champion Show person and had Champion and Reserve Champion Bred & Owned. The next generation has been welcomed into the Wray family as Ken and Judy have 5 grandchildren - Lily, Lucas, Hadlee, Spencer and Sutton.

Ken's community involvement extends beyond the ranch as he is proud to support many local organizations where people come together and foster new friendships. The Tilston curling and skating rink, United Church and Antler River Ag Society are a few among many. Ken's passion for youth and baseball are demonstrated through his dedication to the many Pee Wee and Atom Pierson baseball teams he has coached over 10 years. He is a Level 3 baseball coach and is proud to take his teams to provincial championships. Ken especially enjoyed coaching Brett when she was on the Melita Beavers team in the early 2000's.

Over the years, Ken has served as a committee member and host for many Hereford events in Manitoba. Some of these events include the Herd Builders Sale in Brandon, MB, the Southwest Zone Fund Raiser at Tilston in 1984, the Manitoba Hereford Association board and Bonanza. Ken extended his Hereford involvement to the national level

when he became the president of the Moosomin Hereford Association and attended the CHA AGM in Calgary AB, Saskatoon SK, Russel MB, and Brandon MB.

As a cattlemen, Ken has traveled frequently to shows and sales throughout Canada and the United States. He was a consignor to the first Cream of the Crop bull sale in the 1970's and has consigned to many other sales over the years. Ken showed at Agribition for 10 years and had class winners along with Senior Bull Calf Champion in 2006. He has participated in the Manitoba Ag Ex extensively, winning Grand Champion Bull in 1995, Grand Champion Female in 2005, many class winners and Futurity Cow/Calf Champion in 1998. Til-Toba has shown cattle at the National Western Stock Show in Denver, CO and had a class winner there in 2010. In addition to his many successes at the various national and international shows, Ken has sold cattle to Russia, Kazakhstan and 8 different states in the USA.

He started to disperse his herd in January of 2015 to ANL Polled Herefords and continued to disperse in the fall of 2016 to Manns Polled Herefords and Trevor and Sara Airriess of Airriess Polled Herefords. In 2001, the CHA was happy to congratulate Ken on 25 years of membership and presented him with his 25 year membership service pin.

