

## **BECKY SIMPSON**

The Iowa Hereford Breeders Association board of directors also has unanimously selected a 2nd individual to be inducted into the Iowa Hereford Hall of Fame this year.

This person was born and raised in a Hereford and 4-H family where she participated in both “boys” and “girls” 4-H clubs for 11 years. Her parents were both 4-H leaders and were the first husband-wife duo to have their respective clubs named “Club of the Year” at the same time.

While her family originally bred and showed their own central Illinois herd's production in state and national shows including the Chicago International and the American Royal, her parents went on to manage Polled Hereford herds in Missouri and Indiana. As a youth, this person was very active in her state junior association and attended the first National Junior Hereford convention in Kansas City, Missouri during the American Royal.

Becky Simpson of Redfield, IA is a proud graduate of the University of Illinois in Journalism. While her first job out of college wasn't in her major or Agriculture, she did soon become employed as a writer and Assistant Editor for the American Polled Hereford Association's monthly publication 'Polled Hereford World'. At the association she met and married her husband Mike who was the director of Youth Activities.

In December of 1979, the couple moved to Redfield, IA with their first son, 6 month old Travis. Mike took a position with the National Pork Producers and Becky and Mike decided that she would be a stay at home mom to raise their family. Their second son Kevin came along 3 years later. Also what went with that "stay at home mom" was the responsibility of "herdsman" for the Polled Hereford herd which has ranged from 20 - 30 cows as Mike's job required some travel. Becky though continued some freelance writing for Polled Hereford World and the Angus Journal.

Becky became leader of the Linnfield Pioneers in Dallas County during her older son, Travis', second year in 4-H and served in that capacity for 11 years, until her younger son, Kevin, completed his 4-H career in 2000. She encouraged her members to keep records and to also be involved in community service and communications. During her tenure, the club was honored with a Governor's Volunteer Award for 10 years of participation in the Adopt-A-Highway program and took four Share-the-Fun acts to the State Fair. Several members also were chosen to give educational presentations and working exhibits at the State Fair. The club was a perennial beef herdsmanship winner and members excelled in a variety of projects. The Simpson sons carried on the family 4-H tradition, filling various 4-H leadership roles in the county and state.

Although her “official” 4-H career ended in 2000, Becky continues to be involved with 4-H and Extension in Dallas County. She was the only volunteer who worked on all five referendum votes (over an 8-year period) for increased Extension funding. Dallas County recognized her efforts during the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of ISU Extension inducting her into their Hall of Fame and an Honorary Member.

Becky has also given tirelessly to her church serving in leadership and program roles on the governing body and chairman of the board of Education and Preschool committee for several terms.

Most importantly for this recognition, Becky has with dedication and untiring effort served the Iowa Polled Hereford and Iowa Hereford Breeders Associations and its members for a number of years. Her leadership and hard work is exemplified in the success of the many things that she has been involved. Those include:

- Board of director member from 2001-2007
- Officer/Secretary for all 6 of those years
- Administrative Secretary from Fall of 2007 to present
- Editor of the state newsletter from 1997 till present
- Editor of the state directory from 2001 to the present
- Co-Manager of the state sale from 2008-2013
- Dedicated to attending every board of director meeting since 2001
- Served as a willing contact to members and cattlemen seeking information on Iowa Herefords

Becky, is known as a "detail" person and for anyone - family or other - working with her knows that there is not much that slips by her. She annually has to have her "tanbark fever" treated with a trip to the National Junior Herford show which she has attended all but 2 or 3 since they began in the 1970's either as an association employee, with her children as exhibitors or today as an avid spectator to see many Hereford friends.

Becky has been a contributor to advancing the Hereford breed and Agriculture in general over the years and IHBA, the board and members are proud to recognize her accomplishments by this induction into our Hall of Fame.