

Hereford Board Announces EVP Search Committee

The American Hereford Association (AHA) Board of Directors has announced the formation of a search committee to assist with the selection of a new executive vice president and Association secretary.

Former AHA Executive Vice President Craig Huffhines announced in mid-February that he would be stepping down after serving 18 years at the helm of AHA. The Board announced Feb. 23 that Jack Ward, current AHA chief operating officer and director of breed improvement, will serve as interim executive vice president during the search process.

Current AHA Vice President Sam Shaw, a Hereford producer from Caldwell, Idaho, will chair the national search. The search committee will review applications and then identify and recommend potential candidates for the AHA Board to consider.

“The next executive vice president will assume the role when AHA is experiencing exciting times in the beef industry. He or she will provide key leadership as the Hereford breed continues to gain market share in the beef industry as we continue to develop the tools and programs our members and

customers need to be successful,” says Eric Walker, AHA president.

“I thank the search committee members for their willingness to undertake this search and for the valuable service they are providing the breed.”

More information regarding the job description and application period is available on the AHA website, *Hereford.org*. Walker announced the following have agreed to serve on the search committee:

Chairman Sam Shaw
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Ward named interim executive vice president



Jack Ward has been named interim executive vice president of the American Hereford Association (AHA). Eric Walker, AHA president, announced the appointment following the resignation of Craig Huffhines.

“As a Board we agree that naming Jack as interim executive vice president is what is best for the Association during this time of transition,” Walker says. “We are confident that Jack will continue business in a seamless and effective manner.”

As interim Ward will lead, direct, manage or support all functions of the Association, including serving as the Association secretary.

Ward has served as AHA chief operating officer and director of breed improvement since he joined the AHA team in 2003. His leadership has created increased interest and participation in the Association’s National Reference Sire Program (NRSP) and testing Hereford genetics in real-world commercial settings. He was also instrumental in AHA’s development of genomic-enhanced expected progeny differences (GE-EPDs) and other breed improvement strategies such as the newly release udder EPDs.

“It will be a pleasure to serve as the interim executive vice president and secretary as the AHA Board of Directors works through this transition,” Ward says. “The AHA has an incredible staff and we will work together to continue the service and the development of tools to enhance the demand for Hereford cattle.”

Along with his solid background in Association work, he also has real-world seedstock experience, having spent 16 years managing several prominent seedstock operations and most recently was managing partner of Maple Lane Angus.

Ward is recognized throughout the industry for his ability to communicate and educate effectively. He has traveled across the U.S. and overseas to lead educational forums. Ward is currently serving on the Beef Improvement Federation board of directors and the Ultrasound Guidelines Council.

He graduated from Purdue University with a bachelor’s degree in agriculture economics and also has an associate of science degree from Black Hawk East College.

Jack and his wife, Mary Ann, have two college-age sons — Cameron and Carter. The family resides in Plattsburg, Mo. **HW**