



Swedish Hereford Association annual report

By Miranda Lysell

WHC web co-ordinator and former secretary of the Swedish Hereford Association

The Hereford year in Sweden has been dominated by long periods of rain and long queuing time to the slaughter houses. The rain has made it difficult for our farmers to harvest grass from the 2nd cut and onwards and crops. In many cases the straw has had to remain on the fields because the machinery couldn't get to it for sinking. Due to our laws in Sweden all animals must have a shelter available in the winter time. Most cattle are totally indoors though. Not all are on straw, but a large amount of cattle are, especially in the very south of Sweden where the rainfall has been way over the norm.

There is a controlled Ranch Management program that you can apply for though, but it costs just over 2000 euros per year. This means that you can have land approved for keeping cattle out all winter as long as they don't calve until the beginning of March. There are a few criteria that the land must live up to, to be approved, like being well drained, have adequate natural shelter etc. My farm got some land approved for this program in the autumn which was a relief in the beginning having only been able to buy half the straw we needed for the winter but on Christmas day my husband could not get the loader out onto the field to feed them because of the rain and we had to bring 30 head of cattle in the barn. Luckily we have been able to buy peat bedding which is a great help, but no good to calve on.

There has been a long wait to get cattle slaughtered. Our farmers have needed to plan far in advance and 3 months has been the usual waiting time, although I have heard up to 6 months! Despite this, to the best of my knowledge, people with a contract with a slaughterhouse company have still received 4.59 Euros per kilo for finished youngstock and 4.28 Euros/kilo for older cattle. (This is the price for non-organic and prices may differ slightly)

Highlights

Our year began with the Mila show in Malmö between the 16th–18th of February. A very disappointing number of Herefords were shown being three heifers and one bull divided into three classes. The show was judged by Johan Sandström and Karin Karlsson who also linear score cattle in-herd and at the performance testing station.

The winner of the older heifer class, being 13 months old was **670 Holly of Gylteboda** sired by AXA Golden-Oak Exceed ET out of 1672 Munka Holly ET, sire of dam AB JWR Demolition 6008 3510. Exhibited by Jan Nilsson
The winner of the younger heifer class was 12 month old **7420 Bårarps Miss Firefly ET** sired by Harvie Ringo ET 306U out of Harvie Ms Firefly ET 186W, sire of dam PW Victor Boomer P606. Exhibited by Miranda Lysell, Bårarp Hereford. This heifer was named **Champion female** and took the **bronze medal in the European Championship**, Miss World competition.

The only Hereford bull to be shown was 3 year old **Buck av Folkestorp**. Son of Golden-Oak Fusion 3S and out of 455 Goldilocks av Folkestorp. Sire of dam, 7086 Hasse av Stendala. Buck was named **Best In Breed** and was exhibited by Miranda Lysell, Bårarp.



Sweden



7420 Bårarps Miss Firefly ET



Buck av Folkestorp



Good prices at the Performance test sale.

As I have written before, our performance test starts in August and ends the following March with a sale of only the bulls that met all the demands during the test. To explain more about these demands would take a whole page more, so please follow this link if you'd like to know more >>

<http://www.kottrasprovingen.se/english.html>

From the 32 Hereford bull calf's at the test station, 17 made it through. One was sold to Viking Genetics, (**Hamras Excellent**) the rest were sold at the sale together with the AI sire that Viking Genetics bought the year before, **VB Armor of Galtås**. The average price (excluding the AI sire) was 4.259 Euros and including the AI sire, 4.389 Euros. The high seller, was **7245 Safir of Gylteboda T-112** going under the hammer for 7.650 Euros to the former chairman Göran Johansson and wife Helena Jonsson, Galtås Herefords in Tranås. Safir is bred by Jan Nilsson, Vittaryd and is by Santana of Gylteboda a homebred son of NBG The Wonderer. For more information about the bulls like weights, pedigree etc, just follow this link >> <http://www.hereford.nu/en-GB/performance-test-2016-2017-33260978>



High seller, 7245 Safir of Gylteboda T-112



Jan Nilsson received the prize for Best-In-Test bull, Safir of Gylteboda

New AI sire available for delivery worldwide!

Hamras Excellent (called **VB Excellent**) was handpicked by Viking Genetics for semen collection. Excellent is a son of Triara Xcelerator 594X and out of Hamras Ms Nylon ET, sire of dam Harvie Dan Ricochet 167U. His weights are as follows; BW 40kg WW 386kg YW 674kg. Daily average gain 1861gr/day. He has a linear score total of 83, is free from Hypotrichosis, homozygote polled and has a great all-round EPD. He has good numbers for carcase and production traits, maternal traits including easy calving and milk. His hoof health status was high as was the measurements for marbling and ribeye and scrotal. For more information >>

<http://www.vikinggenetics.com/beef/hereford>



VB Excellent. Photo: Alex Arkink

We believe in our bulls and we hope you do to!

The Hereford breeders used more Swedish produced semen than any other breed last year according to statistics from Viking Genetics. In total 1520 straws were used within purebred Hereford herds. Top 3 within purebred herds; 1st VB Nando, 255 straws, 2nd VB Armor, 184 straws, 3rd VB Janne, 147 straws. All the Swedish AI sires at Viking Genetics have gone through the Performance test station.

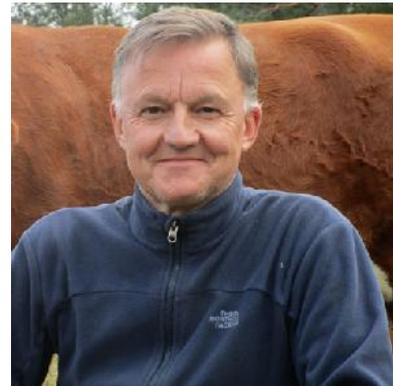
The annual meeting

I think "time for change" sums up the 2017 annual meeting in May. Our annual meeting runs over two days, the first day of which starts with a herd visit, this year at Olle W Larsson, Oden Polled Herefords in Skövde. Olle is our oldest polled Hereford breeder and a pioneer in the polls. Despite the changes known to follow the day after at the meeting, everyone was in good spirits. The chairman Göran Johansson and Vice Chairman & chairman of the Breed Improvement committee Roland Jansson, as well as the secretary (myself) resigned. We have all been active in the association for many years and felt it was time for change. Board member, Maria Andersson moved to the Breed Improvement committee as Catharina Olsson and Robert Skoglund resigned.

The new constellation; Board; Magnus Johansson, Chairman. Oskar Caster, Vice chairman. Henrik Widén, Secretary. Ingemar Svensson, treasurer. Other board members; Jan Nilsson, Samuel Karlsson and Christian Krokeus. Breed Improvement; Stefan Oweson, Chairman. Other members; Birgit Ahlström, Mats Roos, Lennart Svensson, Maria Andersson.

The contact page of the associations website is under construction at the moment so for now I link to the Swedish version

<http://www.hereford.nu/sv-SE/kontakt-23328525>



New Chairman, Magnus Johansson

Elite sale

The elite sale took place on the September 30th. A total of 12 heifers (of which two were in-calf 2 year olds and the rest calves born 2017) and one bull found new homes. The day began with an explanation of linear scoring held by Karin Karlsson which visitors thought was very interesting and educational. Visitors voted for the heifer they liked the best, or "Sale Champion". The highest number of votes fell on **694 Holly of Gylteboda**, 9 months old by the Swedish AI sire VB Nando with Harvie Dan Hidalgo as sire of dam. She was sold for 2.550 Euro (25.000SEK) to Maria Andersson, Vreta Kloster. The high selling heifer was **624 Ili of Folkestorp** who went under the hammer for 2.364 Euro sold to Lennart Svensson, Tvååker. Ili is by PP Galtås Masterpice 699 Wonder and sire of dam, Bårarps Las Vegas. The 12 heifers averaged at 2278 Euro and the bull, **7147 Kan Doo av Stendala** went for 3.060 Euros to Ingvar Svensson, Markaryd



Former Vice Chairman, Roland Jansson presenting the prize for the High seller to breeder Eva Nilsson and buyer, Lennart Svensson