

Who Is Going to Fill Their Boots?



Ray Ramsey

Maybe the most important question we will ask ourselves is, "Who's going to fill the boots or shoes of the American farmer or rancher?" Or, more importantly, who will fill the leadership roles in all the agriculture related fields?

When considering by 2050 the world's population is projected to hit 9 billion, we will comprehensively count on agriculture to feed and clothe the world. Through that mandate, a global society will drive new technology and seek skilled laborers and imaginative brain power for this ever-expanding industry.

People currently in agricultural leadership roles are becoming more and more mature; thus many posts will be available. Who will fill these roles?

Important jobs in production, economics, marketing, agribusiness, technology, sales, finance, microbiology and communications must be filled. According to *AgCareers.com*, there were 52,862 jobs posted in 2013 containing agriculture related career opportunities.

- The HYFA awarded more than \$50,000 in scholarship support to NJHA members in 2014.
- The HYFA awarded more than 30 individual scholarships to Hereford junior members last year.
- Total assets have reached the \$2.6 million mark this year with the goal of \$5 million.
- HYFA unveiled the Growing a Lasting Legacy campaign in 2012 with the goal of \$1 million to support leadership programs and events.
- HYFA is proud to assist with funding the PRIDE Faces of Leadership conference. Last year 65 Hereford youth attended the event in Arkansas.

The stark reality is that we do not have enough people pursuing ag-related fields of study, causing a shortage of qualified job applicants. *AgCareers.com* indicates in its Enrollment and Employment Outlook Survey that less than 1% of college students are in an agricultural major. In 2013 there were more than 56,000 career opportunities in the industry, but only 29,000 graduates were trained to fill them.

With the agricultural industry increasing at such a rapid pace, there certainly will be a great deal of pressure to educate and cultivate high-quality people for every facet of agriculture.

As you look around the industry you will find several industry leaders that have been groomed through programs just like the National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA). Education is learning and experience. There is really no way of getting around the fact that each of us became who we are because of the people we met, the books we read and the trials and tribulations through which we have gone.

I truly believe that there is no better training ground than the diverse background we can provide to young adults through our junior Hereford program. For me, personally, it has opened up so many avenues that I would have never dreamed were available. These are the reasons why your Hereford Youth Foundation

of America (HYFA) board members spend their time and energy to help provide these experiences that can change horizons, expand possibilities and grow our next generation of leaders.

Please familiarize yourselves with our mission statement and a brief description of HYFA and consider supporting the future of agriculture.

Mission Statement

To provide financial support for youth scholarship, leadership and education within the Hereford breed.

What is HYFA?

HYFA was established in 1989 and is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation dedicated exclusively to scholarship and educational support of youth in the business of raising Hereford cattle. The foundation is governed by a board of directors who are heavily involved in the Hereford industry and who have a vested interest in and passion for educating youth, developing leadership and encouraging young people to return to production agriculture.

Lot 1 Female

HYFA has generated more than \$550,000 through the Lot 1 sale in Denver. The 2015 female sold for \$100,000 and HYFA is excited to announce the Jensen family from Courtland, Kan., is donating the 2016 female. **HW**