

by **Maddee Moore**

There is no question that the garland of roses is a signature of the Kentucky Derby. As we are approaching another exciting Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE), this iconic blanket will be taking on new meaning for all attending and participating in this year's event. As for the National Hereford Women (NHW), our determination of success isn't just the solid blanket of roses but the Hereford youth that we see blooming year after year.

### Queen's Tea

Excitement for the JNHE doesn't stop at the ring, as National Hereford Queen Annah Dobson is planning the 7th annual Queen's Tea event to be the biggest yet. Pre-registration has been encouraged for this wildly successful event. The tea will feature photo opportunities with state and national royalty, crafts and snacks.

The annual highlight of the tea is the selection of the junior princesses to assist the state and national queen in the ring during showmanship.

"This event brings ladies of all ages together, and allows us to spend time outside of the barn while still connecting and sharing our passion tied to Hereford cattle," Dobson says. "I am looking forward to seeing friends I have made throughout my reign at the tea, while meeting so many new Hereford enthusiasts."

Following the Queen's Tea will be the state queens' coordinator forum. This time is dedicated to sharing information about state queen programs throughout the country as we continually work to enhance the presence of the queen program. Planning for the week and any questions that state coordinators have on ring activities will be answered at this time.

### Scholarships and contests

It takes a team to get kids and cattle to the ring and to every event at the JNHE. The NHW is proud to be a part of the team behind the scenes making scholarship interviews and a multitude of contests happen. As the exhibitor list continues to grow so does the participation in these educational contests.

We are continuing to work on new scholarship opportunities and thank those who have generously contributed to the Lot 17 program this year. The NHW board members are looking forward to the great recipes, teamwork and focus that the Hereford youth bring to each opportunity.

### Ways and Means

The biggest fundraiser each year for the NHW is the Ways and Means booth at the JNHE. We have several new items that are sure to be of interest for all ages. Framed and unframed prints will be available for purchase

throughout the week. The highly sought after NHW annual T-shirt is sure to be a fan favorite for the whole family. Be sure to stop by the booth to check out all the great Hereford-themed items.

The time, energy and effort that it takes to make a successful JNHE trip can seem daunting for all of us. Without a doubt, these are the memories and experiences that are allowing our breed and tremendous Hereford youth to continue to bloom. Safe travels to all, and the NHW can't wait to see you all this summer. **HW**



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