The election of four new junior Hereford members to the National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) board of directors was made, along with announcement of the new officer team, at the 2016 VitaFerm® Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE) July 9-15 in Madison, Wis.

Brooke Hinojosa, Carr, Colo.; Nathan Hopkins, Winchester, Tenn.; Bailey Jones, Darlington, Wis.; Bailey McKay, Marysville, Kan., Nathan Hopkins, Winchester, Tenn.; and Mason Blinson, Buies Creek, N.C., received their maroon jackets as new NJHA directors during the awards ceremony on July 13.

Two delegates from each state junior Hereford association voted for the individuals they wanted to represent the membership. The four retiring junior board members announced the results and passed their jackets on to the new leadership.

The 2016-17 officer team includes Chairman Kelsey Stimpson, Melba, Idaho; Vice Chairman Jessica Middleswarth, Torrington, Wyo.; Communications Chair Kelsey Repenning, Mitchell, S.D.; Leadership Chair Brooke Jensen, Courtland, Kan.; Fundraising Chair Steven Green, Mundfordville, Ky.; and Membership Chair Austin Cole, Bowling Green, Ky. Austin is the former president and treasurer of the Kentucky Junior Hereford Association, and currently serving as the vice president. He is an active member of the Warren County Cattlemen’s Association. As a junior director, he says he hopes to keep younger kids active in the association from the very beginning.

Austin Cole, 22 years old, is a recent graduate of Western Kentucky University (WKU) majoring in animal science with a minor in business administration. He is the son of Don and Katina Cole from Bowling Green, Ky. Austin is the former president and treasurer of the Kentucky Junior Hereford Association, and currently serving as the vice president. He is an active member of the Warren County Cattlemen’s Association. As a junior director, he says he hopes to keep younger kids active in the association from the very beginning.

Steven Green is the 21-year-old son of Don and Carol Green, Mundfordville, Ky. A senior at Western Kentucky University majoring in agriculture, Steven plans to use his degree to perform reproductive services on cattle in the Southeast. Steven has served as secretary and vice president of the Kentucky Junior Hereford Association while he was also a 2014-15 Kentucky Beef Ambassador. As a director, Steven says his goal is to prepare Hereford youth to become industry leaders who are well spoken and engaged in sustainability in agriculture.

Brooke Hinojosa is the 18-year-old daughter of Bryan and Linda Sidwell, Carr, Colo., and has been a member of the Colorado Junior Hereford Association for six years. She will be a freshman animal science student at Oklahoma State University in the fall and hopes to work for a breed

Mason Blinson is the 18-year-old daughter of Bryan and Beth Blinson, Buies Creek, N.C. Mason is a freshman at Oklahoma State University. A member of the North Carolina Junior Hereford Association, Mason has served as the president and has been active in the association for 13 years. While serving on the NJHA board Mason says she plans to spread passion among all juniors and increase junior membership, while focusing on communication with all states.

Brooke Hinojosa, Carr, Colo., receives her jacket from retiring board member Amanda Bacon, Siloam Springs, Ark.
association or agricultural-based company upon graduation. Hinojosa said as a new board member one of her goals during her service is to create excitement and passion for Herefords and Hereford youth activities.

Nathan Hopkins is the 19-year-old son of Roy and Kim Hopkins, Winchester, Tenn., and has been a member of the Tennessee Junior Hereford Association for 10 years. He is a biological sciences major at Vanderbilt University and plans to continue his education in medical school upon graduation. Hopkins said he looks forward to giving back to the NJHA as a board member.

Brooke Jensen, the 20-year-old daughter of Kevin and Sheila Jensen, Courtland, Kan., is a junior agribusiness major at Kansas State University (K-State). Brooke has been a member of the Kansas Junior Hereford Association for 13 years and is currently serving as president. She has attended many JNHEs and served as the 2013-14 National Hereford Queen. As a director, Brooke plans to advocate and increase participation in JNHE contests that help members develop personal skills beyond the showring.

Bailey McKay, the 21-year-old daughter of Grant and Linda McKay, Marysville, Kan., is a junior at South Dakota State University (SDSU) majoring in agricultural communication. Bailey has been actively involved in NJHA for 13 years and the Kansas and Nebraska Junior Hereford Associations. She has served as KJHA vice president and has had numerous leadership roles in 4-H and FFA. As a board member, Bailey plans to advocate and increase participation in JNHE contests that help members develop personal skills beyond the showing.

Jessica Middleswarth is the 19-year-old daughter of Jay and Marsha Middleswarth, Torrington, Wyo., and is attending Oklahoma State University. She previously attended Butler Community College and participated on the livestock judging team. She says she is blessed to have the opportunity to be part of such a wonderful organization and will advocate the Hereford breed and continue to get others involved with the NJHA.

Retiring director Tommie Lynne Mead, Midville, Ga., presents a jacket to Nathan Hopkins, Winchester, Tenn.