

Bethany's Retiring Remarks

Bethany Nolan, Gilmer, Texas, ended her reign as the 2010-11 National Hereford Queen in Kansas City during the American Hereford Association (AHA) Annual Meeting and the American Royal on Oct. 30.

"From the outside looking in, you cannot understand it, but from the inside looking out, you cannot explain it."

Representing the American Hereford Association as an ambassador for the breed has been one of the most extraordinary experiences of my life! Having the opportunity to work with members of the Hereford staff, fieldmen, judges and breeders across the country has been an honor.

Everyone was always very welcoming and supportive of me throughout the year. I could not have asked for a better group of people to surround myself with. From starting my first show in Louisville with just my dad and me, to ending my reign as National Hereford Queen by crowning Amanda Bacon of Arkansas as the new National Hereford Queen, this year has been an experience, to say the least.

There is nothing more I can say than simply "thank you." Thank you for making my year incredible. Thank you for taking me on such an amazing trip. Thank you for your continual support. I would recommend being a state queen or sweetheart to every girl in our association, as well as running for National Hereford Queen.

I never thought I would meet so many new and incredible people. When I was crowned, I simply thought I would hand out ribbons and smile in pictures, but there is so much more to the title. I realized more each day how I could make little girls smile and continually express my passion for the Hereford association.

At the Junior National Hereford Expo this past summer, I was able to have the first National Hereford Queen's Tea. This turned out to be a great way to get younger and older girls together with our Hereford royalty.

We learned about etiquette and many more things. It was great to have not only the support group of family and friends who helped me at my tea but everyone who helped me at all shows, sales and socials across our great nation.

It is hard to put into words how much this past year means to me. I am truly humbled to have had this experience. To all of the girls wanting to run for National Hereford Queen, realize that it is one of the best once-in-a-lifetime experiences you will ever have. And remember that no matter what the outcome is, you must be humble in success without bitterness in defeat. There is so much



to learn, so many people to meet and so much to gain in all life's experiences!

My year has now come to a bittersweet end, and I am excited for Amanda and her family. Thank you again to the National Hereford Women; AHA; Texas Hereford Association; Texas Hereford Auxiliary; Texas Poll-ettes; Texas Polled Hereford Association; queen coordinators, Margeaux Firestine, Jill Bielema, Denise Billman and Barbara Metch; my parents, Scott and Alise Nolan; my sisters, Ilissa and Audrey Nolan; and all my extended Hereford family across Texas and the U.S.

Without each and every one of you, this year as National Hereford Queen would not have been etched as strongly in my heart. As most of you know, Herefords have always held a special place in my heart. Now that Hereford will have a crown on its head!

— **Bethany Nolan** 2010-11 National Hereford Queen