

“How ‘Bout them Cowgirls”

by **Susan Turner**, AHW reporter

“...Think I've seen it all, And all I can say is...How 'Bout them Cowgirls...”
— **George Strait**

The Cowgirl Hall of Fame in Ft. Worth, Texas, is a place you should definitely visit if you have the opportunity. The museum pays tribute to cowgirls and trails less traveled. In addition to historic preservation, it celebrates an outlook and an attitude embraced by women whether their daily rides are in a saddle, a Suburban or a Cessna.

Something has stuck with me since my first visit there a number of years ago. It was a definition of “cowgirl” rendered by a lady fortunate enough to make her living and her life under wide-open Western skies. She said that she believed the best definition of a cowgirl was of someone who knows what it takes to get a job done — someone innovative and creative who stays with a task until it is complete.

Certainly this definition fits within the scope of hundreds of Hereford women who ride hard every day promoting Hereford cattle and youth, following careers, taking care of families and giving thanks to the Creator, morning after morning, for the opportunity to do it all over again. You may think you have seen it all, but these Hereford women are really something.

In this spirit of getting the job done, we're excited to announce the completion of a joint project

between the American Hereford Women (AHW) and the National Organization of Poll-ettes to combine five applications for prestigious Hereford awards presented annually to members of the National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA).

The resulting application includes the following awards: Golden Bull Achievement Award, Future Cattleman Scholarship, John Wayne Memorial Scholarship, Poll-ette Founders Scholarship and Ed Bible Memorial Scholarship.

Essays applicable to each award will continue to highlight specific attributes and give juniors the opportunity to expound on their qualifications for individual awards. An online submission process is in development.

The annual deadline for this combined application is May 1. Hopefully the combined application will encourage more juniors to participate. Input from the NJHA board was a consideration in this process, and its response has been very positive. Additional information will be forthcoming on Hereford Web sites. Thanks to all who have made this project a success for our juniors.

The holidays have come and gone, but a year of birthdays and special occasions lies ahead. A gift of either the AHW Bud Snidow DVD or “Learning with Herefords”

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interactive CD would be the perfect solution. The AHW is pleased to offer these productions, creatively spotlighting a wealth of Hereford history and insight into the cattle industry. For more information or to order these and other Hereford items visit AHW.Hereford.org.

Our circle of Hereford women has great depth of talent and character. Each of you is a wonder of the world. There may not be as many wide-open spaces these days, but thanks to your innovative commitment, we continually discover new ways to present opportunities to Hereford youth. **HW**

Linking Together

by **Betsy Beck**, NOP chairman

I had only been home from the National Western Stock Show (NWSS) for two days when I was asked to write this column. My mind began whirling as I sat in front of a blank computer screen trying to decide what message I wanted to convey. I reflected on all

the activities during the NWSS. I then began searching various Web sites to get some ideas. After a few minutes of clicking on different Web site links, it hit me — Link!

There were some fellow Hereford breeders from Sweden and Finland who attended our

annual National Organization of Poll-ettes (NOP) membership meeting in Denver. Why would these international visitors take time to attend a NOP meeting? I think it is because our breed has linked all of us together — locally, nationally and internationally. To

have international guests attend a NOP meeting was quite an honor. These special guests were very excited to have an opportunity to see how this organization supports and promotes our breed and especially our juniors.

The American Hereford Association (AHA), American Hereford Women (AHW), National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) and NOP have a link that brings us together as one. Each organization has its own acronym, set of bylaws, mission statement, etc. But after reading the mission statements, anyone can see it truly is a link of one common goal — to promote the Hereford breed, to foster our youth, to educate, and to provide opportunity in our industry. We are all in this together. Let's continue to strengthen the link that keeps us together.

National speech contest changes

At its recent board meeting, the NOP made one change in the 2008 Illustrated Speech Contest rules. A minimum of one illustration or visual aid must be prepared and used. Some examples of the types of illustrations contestants are encouraged to use are charts, diagrams, props, inanimate models, puppets and posters. The use of electronic devices will not be accepted, which means no PowerPoints, videos, computers or slides. The reason for the change is to provide more avenues of creativity in presenting speeches, which will put more focus on the speaker and less on electronics.

Plans are also under way to begin an extemporaneous speaking contest at the 2008 junior

national. More information on guidelines and objectives of this contest will be forthcoming.

New board members elected

NOP officers and directors welcomed two new members to their January meeting.

Cindy Lambert, Oraille, Calif., is now representing the states of California, Utah, Nevada, Arizona and Hawaii. Cindy, and her husband, Steve, own Lambert Ranch and raise Herefords, Angus and hay. They are also involved in a retail business that includes pet, garden and livestock supplies, western clothing, and feed. Cindy and Steve have three children — Nathan, Clayton and Meghan. Steve is vice president of the California-Nevada Polled Hereford Association, and the family hosts an annual bull sale in October. The whole family is involved in 4-H and livestock exhibition. For recreation the Lamberts enjoy horseback riding and family trips.

Representing the New England and Eastern states is Margeaux Firestine, Womelsdorf, Pa. She is currently working at the Exeter Veterinary Hospital and plans to attend the University of Pennsylvania Veterinary School this fall. She is an active volunteer at her church and in other community organizations. Margeaux was the 2003 National Polled Hereford Queen and the 2004 senior prepared speaking contest winner. She has been awarded the Ed Bible Memorial Scholarship, the Walter and Joe Lewis Memorial Scholarship, the Junior Merit Award and the Pro-Performance Breeder Award. **HW**

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Over the past year, I have truly had the opportunity of a lifetime. There have been many miles traveled and numerous events attended. I have met people that I will never forget and seen places I had only dreamed of.

There is much more to the queen program than just getting the chance to travel. You get to be an ambassador for the breed and promote something we all love in a different way. The interaction with the breeders and exhibitors was by far my favorite part. I looked forward to seeing the familiar faces, yet knowing that I had endless possibilities for meeting many new ones.

I can't even begin to name all of the people that I need to thank. But I am grateful to be part of such a supportive Association. All of you have been very accommodating and genuine through the past year to not only me but my family as well. Thank you all for this amazing opportunity!

Sincerely,

Amber Schmidt, 2007 National Polled Hereford Queen

