

Looking Forward to a Year of Renewal

by *Paula Tracy, NOP chairman*

As I write this column, Kenny and I just returned home from Denver, where we enjoyed the National Western Stock Show. It is always fun visiting with old friends and fellow Hereford breeders and watching a great Hereford show.

For me it was also the start of a new year serving on the National Organization of Poll-ettes (NOP) board as chairman. Perhaps more than most years, 2009 promises renewal, which is at the top of my mind. Over the next few months, watch for news, which I hope you will consider a sign of great things in store for Herefords and the women who raise them.

I know you'll join me in thanking the three recently retired NOP directors — Ruth Espenscheid from Wisconsin, Betsy Beck from Indiana, and Starr Whaley from Georgia — as they depart from our board. Each of them has worked tirelessly on behalf of the NOP over the last four years. All three of them will leave a lasting impression on our organization.

I'd like to welcome the three new board members: Jeanine

Radel, Spring Green, Wis.; Mary Ann Berg, Dalton, Ohio; and Diann Strickland, Mershon, Ga. Their willingness to serve on the board and share in the work we do is key to our organization's success. Our thanks go to them for offering to share their time and talent for the next four years.

We would all like to thank our retiring National Polled Hereford Queen, Lindsay Bielema from Michigan, for doing such an outstanding job in her role, and we thank her so much for being both a gracious lady and a knowledgeable cattiewoman while representing our breed. We wish her lots of luck in her promising future.

As an organization we also would also like to thank all the state queens who represented their states in the national queen contest. These ladies highlight the importance of youth, and especially young women, to our industry and breed.

Congratulations go to Kirbie Day, Waxahachie, Texas, as our newly crowned 2009 National Polled Hereford Queen (See Page 62). Kirbie joins a special list of

young women who have served as ambassadors for our breed through the years. Kirbie, we wish you all the best for a wonderful year.

As I mentioned earlier in this article, watch this column and the NOP Web site, www.poll-ettes.com, for news and progress reports on the work your national board is undertaking in 2009. Our goals are to ensure continued membership growth and support of Hereford youth through important programs.

Our first steps will include: 1) the by-laws were recently updated, 2) the board has asked the queen committee to rewrite the queen contest rules, eligibility requirements and policies, and 3) we have formed a strategic planning committee with the American Hereford Women (AHW) to explore common interests, goals and ways we can best serve our members.

The NOP board and I hope you will look at these steps as movement toward a national organization more responsive to the needs of the women in the Hereford industry. **HW**

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2009 NOP board members (pictured seated, l to r) are: Paula Tracy, Rupert, Idaho, chairman; Cindy Lambert, Oraille, Calif., vice chairman; Katie Peebles, Hotchkiss, Colo., secretary/reporter; Susan Gebhart, Claremore, Okla., treasurer; and Betsy Beck, Bainbridge, Ind., ex-officio. Directors (standing, l to r) are: Susan Rader, Mt. Vernon, Texas; Brook Herring-Gandy, Beaumont, Miss.; Courtney Wirtjes, Durand, Ill.; Diann Strickland, Mershon, Ga.; Jeanine Radel, Spring Green, Wis.; and Mary Ann Berg, Dalton, Ohio. Not pictured is Margeaux Firestine, Womelsdorf, Pa.

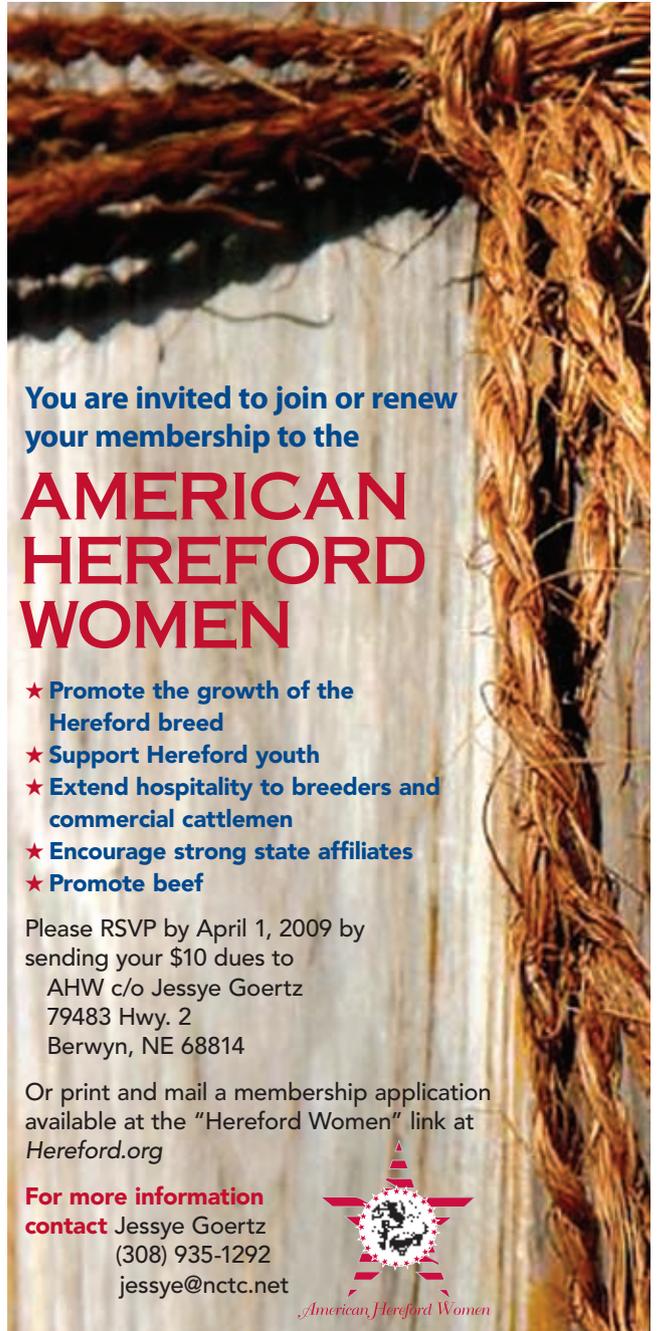


Over the past year, I have had many wonderful experiences serving the Hereford industry as the National Polled Queen. Although traveling 31,866 miles to attend more than 30 different events was time-consuming, I was able to have the opportunity to build countless relationships that will last a lifetime.

This positive experience would have been impossible if not for immense amounts of support I have received from the American Hereford Association, the National Organization of Poll-ettes, all of the breeders throughout the industry, and, of course, my friends and family. Everyone I met throughout this year has been so willing to give of their time and of themselves to assist me, and for that I am truly grateful.

I thank you once again for all of the love and support you have shown to me, as well as to my family, as I carried out my duties. It is such a blessing to be a part of this wonderful industry.

Sincerely,
Lindsay Bielema
2008 National Polled Hereford Queen



You are invited to join or renew your membership to the

AMERICAN HEREFORD WOMEN

- ★ Promote the growth of the Hereford breed
- ★ Support Hereford youth
- ★ Extend hospitality to breeders and commercial cattlemen
- ★ Encourage strong state affiliates
- ★ Promote beef

Please RSVP by April 1, 2009 by sending your \$10 dues to
AHW c/o Jessye Goertz
79483 Hwy. 2
Berwyn, NE 68814

Or print and mail a membership application available at the "Hereford Women" link at Hereford.org

For more information contact Jessye Goertz
(308) 935-1292
jessye@nctc.net



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