

# Hain Named Herdsman of the Year



Kirk Hain, Seward, Neb., accepts the 2010 Herdsman of the Year award from Bob Harrell, Baker City, Ore., AHA president, and Craig Huffhines, AHA executive vice president.

**K**irk Hain, Seward, Neb., was selected as the 2010 Hereford Herdsman of the Year at the National Western Stock Show in Denver. Kirk was selected for the award by his peers — other Hereford herdsman and breeders — and was honored prior to the selection of the supreme champion Hereford Jan. 16.

Kirk and his two brothers, Kyle and Kory, grew up participating in 4-H and FFA and showing Angus heifers. The Hain family farms and has a commercial cow herd near Seward.

Denver, Ft. Worth and Houston.

Dave says Kirk learned at a young age that showing cattle is more than fitting and that Kirk's work ethic, integrity and abilities are why fellow herdsman chose to recognize him as one of the best in the industry.

In 2004 Kirk moved back to Seward and has been helping Hoffman Herefords during the show season, going with them to the American Royal, Reno, Denver and Ft. Worth. He's also helped Hoffmans prior to and during their annual production sale.



In recent years Kirk has started his own herd of Herefords, which he plans to continue to grow.

In 1998 when Kirk was 16, Tony Bye, a local friend who showed Herefords, invited Kirk to go with him to the Junior National Polled Hereford Show in Springfield, Ill.

There, Kirk became hooked on Herefords. Tony's uncle, Larry Hafer, Martell, Neb., introduced Kirk to several Hereford breeders including Kevin Jensen, Courtland, Kan. While in high school, Kirk started helping Jensen at shows, including Denver.

In 2002 after graduating from high school, Kirk went to work for Dave Allan, Bar A Cattle Co., Schulenburg, Texas. During this time, he also started helping Hereford herdsman Steve Osborne in

Jason Hoffman of Hoffman Herefords, Thedford, Neb., says, "Kirk understands cattle and how to deal with them better than anyone I know. He's very conscientious, level-headed, hard working and has a heart of gold."

Jason compliments Kirk's ability to manage the Hoffman show crew and the cattle. "He can take care of it all," Jason explains. "From hauling cattle to maintenance to feeding to never putting down a blower."

"While helping Kevin, I learned a lot about roading cattle," Kirk says. "How to keep them eating and looking full.

"Steve Osborne has been a huge influence in my life," he adds. "Since he died, his memory has been a big drive in my life. I was on the way to his funeral and a lady ran a stop sign and hit me and I rolled my truck. All I had was a bruise on my chest."

Kirk encourages youth wanting to improve their techniques as a herdsman to find someone they trust

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**— Kirk Hain**

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and just watch and learn from him or her. “You can learn so much from watching others,” Kirk says. “Learning how to fit is one of the last things you need to learn. Daily hair care, maintaining health and a good nutrition program are so important when showing cattle.

“Before working for Steve, I really didn’t fit,” Kirk adds. “Steve taught me how to clip and fit, but he also instilled in me that it is more than just what you do the hour before going to the showing that makes an animal look good.”

When not on the show road with Hoffmans, Kirk works for the Bill Schmitt family, assisting with their farming operation. Kirk says he appreciates the opportunities the Hoffman family has given him. “Jason is like a brother to



Kirk and his fiancé Raegen Hoffman.

me,” Kirk adds. “It’s because of Kaycee and him that I’m being recognized for this award.”

In recent years Kirk has started his own herd of Herefords and says he hopes to continue to build his herd. “It’s the people in this business who have kept me hooked on Herefords,” Kirk says. “It’s a great breed to be involved with, and I look forward to many more years as a Hereford breeder.” **HW**