

A New Era Begins

National Western Stock Show attendees in Denver witnessed the end of an era and the beginning of a new era. Kirby Day, 2009 National Polled Hereford Queen, was honored as the retiring, and last, Polled Hereford Queen when she was presented flowers from the National Hereford Women (NHW) at the conclusion of the polled Hereford heifer show on the Hill.

Katie Killian, 2009-2010 National Hereford Queen, shared the limelight as the first National Hereford Queen. The girls represented the Hereford breed with dignity, poise and pride.

NHW, which sponsors the queen contest, was born in October 2009 in Kansas City. Members of the American Hereford Women (AHW) and the National Organization of Pollettes (NOP) voted to form NHW with the goals of advancing youth support through educational activities, awards and scholarships and also promoting professional development of young Hereford women.

The vote finalized 10 months of preparation by the Strategic Planning Committee.

All of the current 800-plus members of AHW and NOP have transitioned to the initial membership of NHW. Membership renewals are available at this time. NHW dues are \$20 per year or \$400 for lifetime membership, an increase of \$10 to help defray expenses for AHW's and NOP's existing programs.

The membership year is Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, and membership renewals will be considered

delinquent after Aug. 10 of each year. There is no longer a renewal for AHW or NOP since they are in a phaseout mode. These organizations will only be in existence until their individual business and programs are completed.

NHW members may renew through their state organizations or directly by mailing dues to Susan Rader, NHW membership chairperson. Contact Susan at 903-537-7600 or raders@hughes.net for membership information.

We welcome renewals and encourage new members to join NHW, an organization on the move! Become involved and help support our mission of promoting Hereford cattle by providing leadership and educational opportunities for Hereford youth and women.

Meet NHW board members

Each month we'll introduce members of the NHW board. We hope you enjoy learning more about our NHW leaders.

Jessye Goertz, NHW vice president, and her husband, Dave, own Double Heart Diamond Cattle Co., a Hereford cow-calf operation near Broken Bow, Neb. The couple are also partners in Heartland Herefords. They show and sell breeding stock at the Black Hills Stock Show and the Nebraska Cattlemen's Classic and sell bulls and heifers in the Heartland Hereford production sale.

For the past two years, Jessye has served as AHW membership chair. She is active in the Nebraska

Hereford Women and served as president several years ago.

Dave, Jessye and daughter Rachel have been active in the Nebraska Junior Hereford Association (NJHA). Rachel served as a director while Dave and Jessye served as advisors. Dave and Jessye received the NJHA Friends of the Juniors award in 2006. The tradition continues as granddaughter Mickayla Sheets is showing cattle at local, state and national shows.

Jessye is a registered dietitian and works as an Extension educator for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in Custer County. 4-H and nutrition education for youth are her two focus areas. She is currently serving on the Governor's Council for Health Promotion and Physical Activity, as co-chair of Nebraska Action for Healthy Kids, and on the board of directors of the Nebraska Dietetic Association, the Loup Basin Public Health Department and the Custer County Foundation. She also serves on Congressman Adrian Smith's Rural Health Advisory Committee. She recently completed the Masters of Beef Advocacy program.

"It is a great honor to serve as vice president on the first board of directors of the National Hereford Women," Jessye said. "The goals of the organization to promote the Hereford breed and support our youth are very important to our industry. I have enjoyed meeting so many ladies who are passionate about Herefords, and I look forward to working with all of the members of the National Hereford Women." **NHW**

National Hereford Women

Officers and committee chairs

Cheryl Evans, co-president
Susan Gebhart, co-president
Jessye Goertz, vice president
Ann Guess, secretary
Shellie Moore Collins, treasurer
Brook Herring-Gandy, parliamentarian
Barbara Ernst, historian
Margeaux Firestine, queen chairman

NHW start-up team

Cheryl Evans, *Winona, Miss.*
Susan Gebhart, *Claremore, Okla.*
Cindy Lambert, *Oroville, Calif.*
Barbara Ernst, *Windsor, Colo.*
Susan Rader, *Mt. Vernon, Texas*
Donna Fulton, *Lexington, N.C.*
Shellie Moore Collins, *Chattanooga, Okla.*
Carolyn Wilson, *Anita, Iowa*
Margeaux Firestine, *Womelsdorf, Pa.*
Jessye Goertz, *Berwyn, Neb.*

AHW transition team

Deb Carlson, *Royal Center, Ind.*
Ann Guess, *Jayton, Texas*
Janelle Bischoff, *Huron, S.D.*
Della Ehlike, *Townsend, Mont.*
Gay Maddox, *Zionsville, Ind.*
Beth Burns, *Pikeville, Tenn.*
Paula Acheson, *Woodbine, Kan.*
Denise Billman, *Newcomerstown, Ohio*

NOP transition team

Mary Ann Berg, *Dalton, Ohio*
Katie Peebles, *Hotchkiss, Colo.*
Jeanine Radel, *Spring Green, Wis.*
Diann Strickland, *Merston, Ga.*
Courtney Wirtjes, *Durand, Ill.*
Brook Herring-Gandy, *Beaumont, Miss.*
Gail Blagg, *Grass Valley, Calif.*
Donna Curry, *McAlester, Okla.*

Kirbie's Retiring Remarks

Serving as the 2009 National Polled Hereford Queen has truly been a blessing. I appreciate the honor, which allowed me to meet and serve hundreds of people.

Traveling around our country representing the Hereford breed and helping breeders is my dream come true and a great inspiration. My special thanks go to the National Organization of the Pollettes, the American Hereford Association (AHA) and both the Texas polled and horned associations for their support.

I began my amazing journey, which has taken me from the east to the west coast and many places in between, barely five days after being crowned at the National Western Stock Show in Denver. This journey has endowed me with the opportunity to meet many new people this year, and I have learned that there are so many different and amazing Hereford breeders and discovered that it takes all of these different points of view and opinions to make AHA the best and most successful cattle organization.

One of my most amazing and highly memorable experiences was the Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE) in Tulsa. It was the first show where I carefully juggled my responsibilities in the ring as queen and as a showman. While in Tulsa, I had the opportunity to meet many queens, princesses and state royalty from across the country. I also got the chance to meet many new junior members and work with them in the mentoring program. When the end of the week finally came, we were all very exhausted, but the many wonderful memories will stay with us forever!

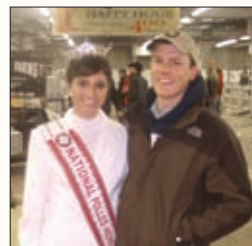
Subsequently, I had a three week break during which I got a lot of work done with my own cattle at home after the JNHE before I started the busiest fall of my life comprised of traveling to sales and shows at least twice a month as well as starting my freshman year at Texas A&M.

In October I had the opportunity to be part of several exciting historical events at the American Royal, which included the merger of the two national women's organizations, and the change in the queen program with the selection of the first National Hereford Queen. The selection entailed interviews with the queen candidates, interaction with the girls and some fun time spent with them such as bowling.

The end of 2009 found me in Reno, Nev., at the Western Nugget. I had never had the opportunity to attend the show in Nevada before, and the show and sale were as spectacular as I have always heard! I then headed back to college to face a week of exams and the end of my first semester.

As I reflect on 2009, I realize that this year provided many first and last opportunities. They span from spending my last day at Maypearl High School to starting my first year in college, not forgetting the opportunity to meet many amazing Hereford people from across the country for the first time and the chance to serve as the last National Polled Hereford Queen.

The return to Denver in January to finalize my reign was bittersweet. I will miss the whirlwind weekends, eating granola bars as meals and trying to explain my crown and sash to security at the airport. It would be impossible to forget the early mornings and late nights with my Hereford friends as well as working with the junior board and the other state queens in the ring. My best



wishes go to the new National Hereford Queen Katie Killian — it has been great fun working with her.

I encourage junior members to make the most of their years in the junior association. They truly have some great opportunities to learn, grow and, most importantly, have some fun. My challenge to them would be to try all contests including my favorite: the mentoring program. The aim ought to be to make new friends at each event, and the secret is to smile and say, "Hi," to any person one meets.

I love my Hereford family and friends. The incredible year would not be possible without the love and support of each one of you. Thank you so much for being a part in making this journey one I will cherish forever. It has been fun serving you.

Peace, love and Herefords,
Kirbie