

Q&A with NHW President Carol Priefert

This month, National Hereford Women (NHW) President Carol Priefert answers questions about the organization.

Q: What is NHW?

A: Overall, the NHW organization is comprised of women — mothers, grandmothers, sisters and friends — from throughout the country who raise and promote the Hereford cattle breed through their operations, their communities and their state organizations, the American Hereford Association and the National Junior Hereford Association. They provide leadership and educational opportunities for Hereford women and youth, and they educate cattle breeders and consumers about Hereford cattle.

Q: What are the priorities of NHW?

A: NHW not only supports our women members and their state organizations but has a special place in its heart for supporting our Hereford youth in various ways. The most significant effort is through our scholarship program. NHW presented more than \$10,000 in scholarships to Hereford youth in 2013. This money comes from member dues, donations and gifts

and through NHW's fundraisers such as our series of art prints, calendars, notecards and t-shirts.

NHW also presented awards and leadership opportunities including: the Junior and Senior Golden Bull Achievement Awards, the NHW Heifer Award, the Bud Snidow Award, the Junior and Senior Prospect Awards, the Walter and Joe Lewis Memorial Award, the National Hereford Queen program and scholarships, the Hereford Woman of the Year, and the Certified Hereford Beef Ambassadors.

During the annual Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE), NHW also sponsors and manages contests to develop skills important to young Hereford advocates. These contests include the creative arts contest; the extemporaneous speech contest; the illustrated speech contest; and the Hereford Grill-off contest.

NHW sponsors the National Hereford Queen program, in which young women age 16-21 vie for the title, a scholarship and a year's worth of travel throughout the country attending shows and sales and promoting the Hereford breed.

One of our newest and incredibly successful programs is the "princess tea" hosted during the JNHE. Dozens of very young ladies donned their princess garb and met the 2012-13 National Hereford Queen and queen candidates and were treated to refreshments, crafts and photos.

Q: How do you become a member of the NHW board?

A: Those interested in becoming a member of the NHW board may nominate themselves or may be nominated by another NHW member. The board is comprised of 12 women representing four geographical quadrants: Northwest, Southwest, Northeast and Southeast.

Each board member serves a four-year term with terms beginning and expiring at the NHW annual meeting in October. Directors must

be current members of NHW, live in the area which they seek to represent and be an active owner/breeder or representative of an active owner/breeder of registered Hereford cattle.

NHW publicizes through *Hereford World*, *Hereford e-News*, NHW's newsletter and its Facebook page when respective quadrants are seeking nominations. Nominations are always due by Sept. 1. We are always looking for Hereford women who enthusiastically want to support the breed and our youth.

Q: Why should every Hereford woman be an NHW member?

A: Our youth are the future of the industry so what better way to encourage and motivate them to be the best they can be than by joining forces with the organization that supports them so terrifically? We don't just provide financial resources and activities for them; we stand beside them collectively as mentors and go-to people to assist them in pursuing their passions.

Every one of us has a gift or skill that can be utilized at the state and national Hereford levels. NHW welcomes your presence and involvement. Joining this great organization only costs \$20. You may contact me at 847-226-5995 or carolpriefert@gmail.com for more information. If you are already a member, I encourage you to check to find if your membership is paid up and to think about how you would like to become active. To learn more about the organization, go to Herefordwomen.com and NHW's Facebook page.

We are an approachable group of ladies who would love to talk with you about how we can make the organization even better. Stop by our tables at events or give us a call. You will enjoy the fellowship with other Hereford women who are just as passionate as you about the breed and giving Hereford youth leadership and growth opportunities. **HW**

National Hereford Women

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

President – Carol Priefert, *St. Joseph, Mich.*

President elect – Alise Nolan, *Gilmer, Texas*

Vice president – Shannon Mehaffey, *Grandview, Texas*

Treasurer – Beth Blinson, *Buies Creek, N.C.*

Secretary – Susan Hayhurst, *Terre Haute, Ind.*

Historian – Lori Riffel-Hambright, *Chapman, Kan.*

Queen co-chairwoman – Carol Priefert

Ways and means chairwoman – Alise Nolan

Communications – Lori Riffel-Hambright

DIRECTORS

Denise Billman, *Newcomerstown, Ohio* (ex officio)

Lauren Echols, *Arlington, Va.*

Suzanne Matheny, *Mays Lick, Ky.*

Maddee Moore, *Pendleton, Ore.*

Catie Sims, *Edmond, Okla.*

Becky King-Spindle, *Moriarty, N.M.*