

Providing More Than a Heifer

Record setting numbers of exhibitors and cattle continue to be a highlight of the Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE) each summer. The National Hereford Women (NHW) is proud to offer numerous contests, scholarships and activities for the exhibitors of this event. One unique award given each year is the Youth Heifer Award, a partnership award between the NHW and a gracious Hereford breeder that provides a credit to their sale or operation for a junior member to purchase a heifer. Each JNHE contestant is entered into the drawing at the beginning of opening ceremonies.

The chance of a lifetime

The 2013 recipient of the Youth Heifer Award was Kealya Harr of Jeromesville, Ohio. Harr's name was selected from several hundred entries, and she said she could hardly believe it was true when she heard her name called. "I was actually on my way back to the



The 2013 Youth Heifer Award recipient, Kealya Harr, Jeromesville, Ohio, exhibits the heifer she purchased from Churchill Cattle Co., Manhattan, Mont., who partnered with NHW for this award.

barn, as I have terrible luck and thought there was no way I would win the heifer," she said. "I couldn't actually believe it was my name being called."

Partnering with Churchill Cattle Co., Dale and Nancy Venhuizen of Manhattan, Mont., the NHW presented Harr with a \$1,500 credit to the World Class Female Sale the following September. Harr selected and purchased a January daughter of Golden Oak Outcross 18U.

Harr exhibited the heifer at numerous local and regional jackpots, state fairs, the North American International Livestock Exposition and the JNHE. The heifer was competitive on both local and national levels.

"The heifer was fun to show and she continues to prove that she will be a valuable part of my growing cow herd," Harr said. "She did everything she was supposed to by calving on time, being a great mother and has a beautiful udder."

Gaining more than good genetics

Harr has focused on networking and learning more about the breed and industry. "Being

able to get to know the Venhuizen family has been one of the greatest aspects of this award," Harr said. She is planning to attend Casper Community College in Casper, Wyo., in the fall, and being closer to Montana will allow her to visit Churchill Cattle Co.

Harr added, "I appreciate the heifer award from the NHW and Churchill Cattle Co., as it has given me the opportunity to make connections with new people, experience new

things and gain more knowledge of the industry while growing my cow herd."

Going forward, she hopes that future recipients of the award take advantage of the opportunity to create relationships with new breeders from around the country and to embrace the experiences as well as the learning opportunities that come with the award.

The 2014 Youth Heifer Award recipient was Cash Langford of Okmulgee, Okla. H2 Ranch and Cattle of Madisonville, Texas, was the contributing partner in the award. The NHW would like to thank all of the past partners of the NHW Youth Heifer Award and is excited to see this award continue to impact junior members' lives.

For those interested in partnering with the NHW on future Youth Heifer Awards, please contact Alise Nolan for more information. She can be reached at 903-841-2726 or at theranchkitchen@aol.com. **NHW**

National Hereford Women

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

President – Alise Nolan, *Gilmer, Texas*

President elect – Maddee Moore, *Pendleton, Ore.*

Vice president – Becky Spindle, *Moriarty, N.M.*

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

Secretary – Michelle Beran, *Claffin, Kan.*

Historian – Suzanne Matheny, *Mays Lick, Ky.*

Queen chair – Carol Priefert, *St. Joseph, Mich. (ex officio)*

Ways and means chair – Alise Nolan

Communications – Maddee Moore

DIRECTORS

Lauren Echols, *Breckenridge, Texas*

Rhonda Eck, *Putnam, Okla.*

Jill Folkman, *Ixonia, Wisconsin*

Kim Henrickx, *Lafayette, Ore.*

Barbara Metch, *Canton, Texas*