

Juniors, Don't Miss these Events

Up the ramp we went onto the green-carpeted stage in Stadium Arena at standing-room-only capacity, overflowing with Hereford enthusiasts. It didn't take long before the ringmen were calling bids right and left, and I could feel the overwhelming joy spread through the board members standing in the sale ring as the gavel fell and the auctioneer said, "sold."

The Mile High Lot 1 Foundation Female brought \$100,000, which will go to the Hereford Youth Foundation of America (HYFA) and the "Growing a Lasting Legacy" campaign supporting leadership and education for the next generation of Hereford youth.

The National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) thrives simply because of the support from

breeders like Churchill Cattle Co., Manhattan, Mont.; Stuber Ranch, Bowman, N.D.; and Iron Lake Ranch, Athens, Texas, who graciously donated the foundation female, along with Bushy Park Farm, Mitchell, S.D., and Cottonwood Springs Farm Cedar, Mich., who stepped up and purchased the lot.

These operations and the individuals who run them have my utmost respect for believing in the youth of our organization enough to support them in such a way. Their support allows our youth to continue to engage in leadership and character developing activities each summer during the Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE) and the Faces of Leadership Conference, which undoubtedly are what every NJHA member looks forward to year-round.

NJHA summer events

Visiting different parts of the country, gaining new friends, seeing old friends and making lifetime memories are just a few of the reasons you don't want to miss out on this summer's NJHA events. The first don't-miss event is the JNHE, June 27 through July 3 in Grand Island, Neb. JNHE is something that so many others and I spend all year counting down to. In fact, I recall seeing many Facebook statuses last year after Harrisburg already beginning a countdown for this year.

Imagine a barn filled with Herefords and Hereford enthusiasts from all over, and all are there for the same reason — passion for the breed. Each day is filled with a variety of contests and shows. Take some time and browse the "Contests/Awards" area under the "Juniors" tab at JrHereford.org to see more opportunities at junior nationals.

The JNHE is one of the most exciting and beneficial events for juniors, so take the time to attend this event this summer, and

I promise you will never want to miss it again!

Leave the cattle behind for a few days and plan to reunite with those friends you made at the JNHE when you attend the 2015 Faces of Leadership Conference July 25 to 28 in Estes Park, Colo. Juniors will have the opportunity to learn from industry professionals at Colorado State University. This event is a chance to get in to see businesses and colleges from a unique perspective.

I remember attending the PRIDE conference in Stillwater, Okla., which ultimately led me to attend Oklahoma State University. These opportunities really are once-in-a-lifetime events and will provide you with a chance to help you make decisions about your future. Faces of Leadership attendees also will have the chance to view some of the major cattle operations in the state of Colorado. Mark the date on your calendar, and stay tuned for more information about this event.

Juniors, whether you have never attended these two events or you have attended them many times, I challenge you to continue to stay involved with them both because when you look back in a few years, you will then realize the positive impact they made on your lives.

As I reflect on the impact the two events have had on my life over the years, I am taken back to the foundation female from this year as well as those of previous years. It is because of operations like Churchill, Stuber, Iron Lake, Bushy Park and Cottonwood Springs that the NJHA has had such a positive influence on the person that I am today. Thank you again to all of those who played a part in this year's foundation lot. **HW**



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