

Hereford Connections

The Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE) is known for bringing friends and families together. The 2015 National Hereford Women (NHW) Youth Heifer Award reunited friends who haven't seen one another in nearly 20 years.

Becky (King) Spindle was a board member of the former American Junior Hereford Association (AJHA) and Rindy (Tipton) West was an AJHA member from the Nebraska panhandle who met through mutual friends.

"It is one of those neat Hereford stories, we just really hit it off," Rindy says. "It's all about making friends across the country."

Rindy and Becky reconnected when Jhett, Rindy's 10-year-old son, had his name drawn at the 2015 JNHE to receive the heifer credit, which was donated by Bill King Ranch of Stanley, N.M.

Jhett was very excited to win the heifer credit, especially after he realized what he had won. He and his older brother, Braden, have started showing Hereford cattle from their grandparents in the past three to four years. They want to start their own Hereford herds, and Jhett is

looking forward to adding his first owned Hereford heifer.

The West family, Sheridan, Wyo., have appreciated Bill King Ranch working with them to provide pictures and information about available heifers. Due to Jhett's busy sports schedule, they have not been able to travel to Bill King Ranch to select Jhett's heifer but will be making a final decision very soon.

Rindy noted how much they enjoy Hereford events. Braden and Jhett participated in their first JNHE in 2015 and are all geared up for traveling to Madison, Wis., for "A Hereford Scene in 2016." In 2015 they participated in the speech contests, basketball tournament, fitting clinic and much more.

Rindy appreciates how much juniors can gain in leadership, speaking opportunities and making connections across the country, while at JNHE. Jhett and Braden's

little sister, Wynn, 4, will also be in attendance to "help with fitting."

Becky Spindle noted that Bill King Ranch is proud to donate the credit for the heifer award. The ranch has been raising Herefords for 48 years. Bill King is a past president of the American Hereford Association, and Becky is a past director of the NHW, having served as vice president.

"The Hereford breed and people have been good to us and we are happy to help a junior continue to grow their herd and encourage their continued participation," Becky says.

The NHW Youth Heifer Award is selected by random drawing of all checked-in participants at the JNHE. The winner receives a \$1,500 credit toward the purchase of a heifer. An additional \$500 may be awarded if the junior shows the heifer at the next JNHE and submits an essay about his/her experience to the NHW.

For those interested in partnering with the NHW on future Youth Heifer Awards, please contact Jill Folkman. For more information, contact Jill at 920-474-7430 or nhwjillfolkman@gmail.com. **HW**



Jhett West, Sheridan, Wyo., was the lucky winner of the 2015 NHW Youth Heifer Award presented at the JNHE. Jhett received a \$1,500 credit toward the purchase of a heifer from the 2015 award sponsor, Bill King Ranch, Stanley, N.M.

National Hereford Women

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Pictured (l to r) at the 2015 Junior National Hereford Expo in Grand Island, Neb., are Jhett; Katie Nolles, 2015 National Hereford Queen; Michelle Beran, Clafin, Kan., NHW secretary; and Barbara Metch, Canton, Texas, NHW vice president.