

Starting 2016 Right

The year 2015 was definitely one for the record books as I was elected to the National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) board of directors in Grand Island, Neb. Even though I have only been on the board for a short amount of time, I have already made some of the best memories imaginable.

My first board experience was going to Denver for the Faces of Leadership conference. I have been to Faces of Leadership and PRIDE (Program for Reaching Individuals Determined to Excel) many times, but the board experience made this the best one yet.

My last board adventure of 2015 was going to Kansas City, Mo., for the National Hereford Show and Annual Meeting during the American Royal. As a board, we met with the American Hereford

Association (AHA) Board of Directors and discussed the upcoming events for 2016. It was great to be able to sit down for a meal with the senior board and to get to meet them personally.

Another highlight of the American Royal was the Celebrate the Brand event and sale. The boardies, along with the AHA staff, worked all day in preparation for the arrival of all of the breeders, AHA Board members and all of the supporters of the Hereford Youth Foundation of America (HYFA).

The crowd finally started pouring in from the shuttles, and the junior board members, along with the Oklahoma State Culinary School students, put their final touches on the hors d'oeuvres. I was able to become very close with my fellow board members and our advisors in Kansas City and to make many good friends, as well as to find people to look up to, just in the span of one weekend.

The New Year came with a bang. Those subscribed to the *Hereford World* started the year by opening their mail to find the new and improved NJHA calendar. The 2016 calendar was bigger and better than ever. The board is very thankful to all who purchased an ad in support of the NJHA. We really hope everybody enjoys the practicality of the new calendar and continues to flip those pages each month.

The first thing I had on my calendar was the National Western Stock Show (NWSS) in Denver. I had never been to the NWSS but was amazed at all of the incredible cattle I saw on the Hill and in the Yards.

When I arrived in Denver, my first stop was the Yards — it was an amazing sight. There are countless cattle, surrounded by countless breeders standing on every color of shavings possible.

I was able to find my home when I saw the Hereford signs down the

aisle. I knew these were my people, and I was able to socialize with friends and breeders from across the country.

My next stop was the Hereford suite; this had the Hereford General Store and a great hospitality area. All of the Hereford breeders made sure to stop by the suite to get some salsa in support of the Lot 1 Foundation Female and to socialize with other breeders. They might have even eaten a few crème puffs in the process, if they were like me.

Up on the Hill, exhibitors were enjoying the awesome trade show in their free time, anxiously awaiting the show the next day. The boardies got to do my absolute favorite job, which is working the ring for the junior heifer show. It is a hard job, but it is worth it.

Although working the ring is one of my favorite things to do, the coolest memory of the weekend was being able to stand with my fellow board members in the sale ring along with Salsa, the Lot 1 Foundation Female. As a junior association, we are beyond thankful for all of the families that support the youth. We extend our upmost gratitude to the Jensen family and Dylan and Chelsea Evans for donating an amazing heifer that represents their operation as well as the Hereford industry as a whole.

We would also like to thank the tremendous support from Jonny and Toni Harris, Winton Jr. Harris and Oscar I. Harris; C&L Ranch, the Steve and Jill Folkman family; and RGR Cattle for purchasing the Lot 1 Foundation Female in the Mile High Sale. Without support like that from these families and individuals, we would not be the junior association we are today.

This has been a great start to the year, and I look forward to many more board and Hereford events that are coming up in 2016. **HW**



**NATIONAL JUNIOR
HEREFORD ASSOCIATION**

Vice chairman
Taryn Adcock, trose@adcockshowcattle.com

Communications chair
Kelsey Stimpson, kscattle@mindspring.com

Leadership chair
Jessica Middleswarth,
jess.middleswarth@gmail.com

Fundraising chair
Cody Jensen, cjensen8@ksu.edu

Membership chair
Kelsey Repenning,
kelsey.repenning@gmail.com

Directors
Amanda Bacon, amanda.bacon@okstate.edu
Mason Blinson, meblinson@gmail.com
Austin Cole, austin.cole132@topper.wku.edu
Steven Green, gwherefords@yahoo.com
Brooke Jensen, brookerjensen@outlook.com
Bailey McKay, baileymckay14@yahoo.com
Tommie Lynne Mead,
tommie_lynne@hotmail.com

Director of youth activities
Amy Cowan
P.O. Box 014059, Kansas City, MO 64101
816-842-3757, acowan@hereford.org

JrHereford.org