

## Spring Is Near

After digging out from a snowy winter, we welcome the sure signs of spring. A newborn calf frolicking in the pasture and trees bursting with life are signs the upcoming show season is just around the corner.

The Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE) is one of the highlights of the show season for many juniors and their families. As families are making preparations for a trip to Indianapolis in July, the National Hereford Women (NHW) organization is also preparing. Members are finalizing plans for scheduling and promoting contests, events and scholarship selections. Contest and scholarship information is available at [JrHereford.org](http://JrHereford.org). Be sure to take note of application due dates.

The NHW strives to make the best even better as it combines the contests and scholarships previously sponsored by both the American Hereford Women (AHW) and National Organization of Poll-ettes (NOP). NHW encourages junior participation and looks forward to a memorable JHNE.

The NHW board is also committed to improving communications with members via newsletters, articles in *Hereford World* and a newly created Web site. Members are encouraged to renew their membership and to promote new memberships.

Dues are \$20 (equal to previous \$10 for AHW plus \$10 for NOP), which enables the organization to continue all legacy programs of AHW and NOP.

The membership year is Jan. 1 through Dec. 31 and memberships

are considered delinquent after Aug. 10.

Life memberships are available at a cost of \$400.

Members may renew through their state organization or mail dues directly to Susan Rader at 3117 US Hwy 67E, Mt. Vernon, TX 75457.

The NHW mission is rooted in the tradition of promoting Hereford cattle, sponsoring youth activities and scholarships, and providing educational and leadership events for women.

### Meet NHW board members

Each month we'll introduce members of the NHW board. We hope you enjoy learning more about our NHW leaders.

**Shellie Moore Collins** is a fifth generation Hereford breeder, raised in southwest Kansas. Her parents, Charlie and Darla Sutor

Moore, engrained their love for Hereford cattle into their children — Dana Pieper, Kevin and Shellie — at an early age. Throughout Shellie's time in various aspects of the cattle industry — 4-H, FFA, Kansas Junior Livestock Association, NJHA, and livestock judging — her love for and devotion to the Hereford breed and its members have always been hard to miss.

Shellie was actively involved in her state association as a director and queen and was the 1999 National Polled Hereford Queen. The following year she was elected to the

NJHA board of directors and served as the 2002-03 president.

She was a member of the 1999-2000 Butler County Community College livestock judging team and the 2002 Texas A&M national champion livestock judging team. At the national livestock judging contest in Louisville, Ky., she was selected as an all-American.

Upon graduating from Texas A&M with a degree in agricultural economics in 2003, she obtained her master's in the same area at Kansas State University in 2005.

In April 2006 she married Colby Collins, and they reside on the Collins Ranch in southwest Oklahoma with their daughter, Cierra. Shellie works as an agricultural loan officer for BancFirst, Frederick.

Shellie says she is excited about continuing her involvement in the Hereford breed by helping with Junior National Hereford Expo show programs and as NHW treasurer.

NHW board member **Della Ehlke** and her husband, Mark, and daughters Lacey, 22, and Jane'a, 19, own and operate Ehlke Herefords

in the foothills of the Big Belt Mountains in southwestern Montana.

First generation Hereford breeders, Della and Mark also have a group of commercial black Angus cattle.

Both daughters attend Montana State University. "We are lucky that they are so close to home, as we rely heavily on their help," Della says.



Shellie



Della

### National Hereford Women

#### Officers and committee chairs

Cheryl Evans, co-president  
Susan Gebhart, co-president  
Jessye Goertz, vice president  
Ann Guess, secretary  
Shellie Moore Collins, treasurer  
Brook Herring-Gandy, parliamentarian  
Barbara Ernst, historian  
Margeaux Firestine, queen chairman

#### NHW start-up team

Cheryl Evans, *Winona, Miss.*  
Susan Gebhart, *Claremore, Okla.*  
Cindy Lambert, *Oroville, Calif.*  
Barbara Ernst, *Windsor, Colo.*  
Susan Rader, *Mt. Vernon, Texas*  
Donna Fulton, *Lexington, N.C.*  
Shellie Moore Collins, *Chattanooga, Okla.*  
Carolyn Wilson, *Anita, Iowa*  
Margeaux Firestine, *Womelsdorf, Pa.*  
Jessye Goertz, *Berwyn, Neb.*

#### AHW transition team

Deb Carlson, *Royal Center, Ind.*  
Ann Guess, *Jayton, Texas*  
Janelle Bischoff, *Huron, S.D.*  
Della Ehlke, *Townsend, Mont.*  
Gay Maddox, *Zionsville, Ind.*  
Beth Burns, *Pikeville, Tenn.*  
Paula Acheson, *Woodbine, Kan.*  
Denise Billman, *Newcomerstown, Ohio*

#### NOP transition team

Mary Ann Berg, *Dalton, Ohio*  
Katie Peebles, *Hotchkiss, Colo.*  
Jeanine Radel, *Spring Green, Wis.*  
Diann Strickland, *Merston, Ga.*  
Courtney Wirtjes, *Durand, Ill.*  
Brook Herring-Gandy, *Beaumont, Miss.*  
Gail Blagg, *Grass Valley, Calif.*  
Donna Curry, *McAlester, Okla.*

In addition to running the ranch, they own and operate a machining and fabrication business with locations in Helena and Missoula.

Della has a background in accounting and insurance. She has been involved in the Montana Hereford Association (MHA), serving on the board of directors for six years and as president for two terms. This past year, she was involved in putting together the MHA feeder calf sale.

She serves as vice chair on the seedstock committee of the Montana Stockgrowers Association and was a 4-H club leader and secretary/treasurer of the livestock committee for many years.

She loves working with horses and hopes to someday participate in local ranch horse competitions. She also enjoys the outdoors, her dogs and spending time with her family.

One of the newest NHW board members is **Denise Billman** from Newcomerstown, Ohio. Denise was elected to the board last October as the director at-large.



**Denise**

Denise and her family have been involved with Hereford cattle for the past 10 years.

She has been an active member of the Ohio Hereford Women for eight

years, serving as the director for six years, president two years, and assistant secretary/treasurer for the past two years.

Denise, her husband, Reb, and their daughter, Denelle, reside on a small farm with 15 registered Hereford cows. Her son, Derik, is deeply embedded in the Hereford industry with Grassy Run Farms in West Virginia.

The Billmans are currently the advisors for the Ohio Buckeye Junior Hereford Association. Denise is also employed full-time as an office manager for a small business, as well as a part-time employee of a national retail store. **HW**