

A Treasured Year

One of my favorite quotes from Texas A&M is "From the outside looking in, you can't understand it. And from the inside looking out, you can't explain it." My year as National Hereford Queen will always rank as one of the most treasured moments in my life.

That quote alone stands for how truly blessed I was to have served our great Hereford breed as its 2010-11 National Hereford Queen. I'll truly never be able to put in words how much that experience meant to me and my family!

As summer approaches many young girls turn their sights on the opportunity to represent their prospective states at the Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE). For the better part of six days, these young ladies, who proudly wear their crowns and sashes representing their state Hereford associations, will assist both in the ring and at functions as our Hereford royalty.

JNHE marks the first part of their journey toward running for National Hereford Queen. It is there that these girls walk miles upon miles in the ring assisting with the bred-and-owned and owned

shows, assist with the National Hereford Women (NHW) queen's tea, and attend etiquette sessions and socials from daylight to sundown.

All the while these young ladies are making sure they have a ready smile on their faces and, foremost, remember what an honor it is to represent our historic Hereford breed.

Like most girls, the thought alone of being a National Hereford Queen was exciting for me. Who wouldn't enjoy wearing a beautiful crown, all white suits, and boots and gloves? Every little girl in sight is wanting to meet you. But, honestly, it was always so much more than that for me.

Far beyond my time at JNHE were all the other national and state shows, field days, sales and Hereford events that I attended that cemented how important my title was. I'll never forget how a simple kind word, smile or handwritten thank-you note meant to people.

I will never forget the friendships I made with the Hereford fieldmen, American Hereford Association staff and National Hereford Women and how kind and supportive they always were to me at each show. And most of all, I will never forget the feeling of satisfaction I felt watching all the younger girls, who just one day may be our next National Hereford Queen. They relish getting to meet not only me but all of the Hereford queens from the great states in our nation and taking pictures with us while at my first annual National Hereford Queen Tea.

If the reasons above are not enough to make any girl want to be a National Hereford Queen, I honestly don't know what else I can say. What I can say is that it will be hard work but the most rewarding, tear jerking, smile evoking, and sweetest memory you will probably ever make in your young life. It means you'll have your place in Hereford history. Everyone will always



remember you as that National Hereford Queen, and that alone is a pretty fantastic accomplishment.

As they say, people will remember not what you said but mostly how you made them feel. I remember those moments the most in my year as National Hereford Queen when a simple gesture, helping hand or smile from a Hereford enthusiast made my day, my week and my year.

When and if you have the chance to run for your state Hereford queen, jump at the chance! And then, once applications come up for National Hereford Queen, make sure your applications are in on time, you "cross every 't' and dot every 'i'" and get ready for the time of your life because, in all honesty, just like the quote I mentioned above, "From the outside looking in, you can't understand it. And from the inside looking out, you can't explain it." Make your memories, because my motto before I was surprised and selected as a National Hereford Queen was "you never know until you try."

I thank God and my family each day for their love and support and am so happy I went out on a limb to become the 2010-11 National Hereford Queen. Nothing in life ever comes easy, and as Hereford breeders and show women, we know all about this. But with hard work and the support from your family and state associations, you'll never regret being a part of this amazing National Hereford Queen opportunity. Your journey could be just beginning and right around the corner. **HW**

National Hereford Women

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