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Take the First Step

by Marsha Middleswarth, AHW president

"A thousand mile journey begins with one step."

The above sentence is a typical line you read in an inspirational quote book while waiting to check out at the Hallmark card shop. Sounds great but I'm too busy with my daily life to even consider a "thousand mile journey."

Now stop and reflect on your daily life. Consider all the times you and your family have taken that "first step" and how it has changed your lives. Perhaps it was the decision to continue with the family ranching business, or to buy some land and purchase your first cows, or maybe attend your first Junior National Hereford Expo or PRIDE Convention. Stop and think of all the first steps you have taken and the journeys they have led to.

A number of years ago my family decided to not only continue to breed purebred Hereford cattle but also to take a "first step"

toward becoming more active with the American Hereford Association (AHA). We began attending events and meetings and getting involved in junior events.

That first step vaulted our entire family into a journey that has changed our lives — from the travels and friendships to the opportunities to work with an extremely talented AHA staff and incredibly dedicated group of volunteers. This journey has been, and continues to be, one of our most fulfilling experiences.

If you are not actively involved in the AHA, I strongly encourage you to take that first step. Encourage your children to jump into youth activities and watch them flourish. Step up and contribute your thoughts and ideas to one of the committees. Take the first step and embark on the journey. **HW**

See You in Kentucky

by Dianne Peebles, NOP chairman

The National Organization of Poll-ettes (NOP) is very thankful for Truman and Starr Whaley, Whaley Polled Herefords, Dalton, Ga., for graciously donating an October 2005 Key Master heifer to be given away at the Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE) in Louisville, Ky. This heifer is from the Stanley and Virginia Hathorn herd of Louisville, Miss. We also want to thank Dexter and Sherry Herring, Beaumont, Miss., for taking care of the heifer and getting her to the JNHE.

Don't forget the other \$4,000 that will be given away to four lucky juniors following opening ceremonies. See your area director for the drawing stubs or come to the arena prior to opening ceremonies and sign up. Juniors must be in the arena to win.

Plans in the works

The NOP breakfast during the JNHE will be held on Tuesday, July 18. Details of the

breakfast will be forthcoming. We hope to see all of you at the JNHE and especially at the NOP breakfast, which is open to all.

For information about NOP-sponsored scholarships and contests see page 40.

The NOP is dedicated to the promotion of our breed's junior program and the continuance of competent and faithful servants of the future of Hereford cattle.

We are currently undertaking a project to help fund some of these programs for 2006. Your area NOP director has the details on how you can obtain an entire house of floor covering of your choice (valued at \$2,500) for a mere donation to the NOP. Each director has information concerning this wonderful project and its climax at the JNHE. Please help us help our junior members make their dreams of success in this breed a reality. **HW**