

Get Involved with Youth

by *Janelle Bischoff*, AHW director

How time flies! We have all heard that expression many times. As I write this column, spring is rolling in, and its arrival reminds me of how our kids used to get a little tired of school about now and were ready to shift their focus to something else, like to start working in the showbarn full time!

I remember the kids telling some of their friends about looking forward to cattle shows. To which their friends replied, "With your parents, and you have fun?"

Those fun family times are past; now it is just Grandpa and Grandma here on the ranch, but "time flies," so before long we will have lots of grandchildren showing Herefords.

Get your kids involved in showing Herefords and participating in your junior state organizations. There is so much out there for them to learn, from a great work ethic to the confidence it takes to get up and speak before a crowd. They

can learn to work as a team as they serve on committees and also learn from example as they look up to those older juniors serving on the National Junior Hereford Association board of directors.

They learn about goal setting and winning as well as losing. There is a niche in the organization for everyone, even those who don't get into the calf showing! Maybe they would rather run for queen, do a speech, or help serve on committees. The best part of belonging to this organization is that there is something for everyone. So, before time flies away, get involved. This is a great organization to be a part of!

This summer the Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE) will be in Kansas City, Mo., July 12-19. Plan to take part in one of the many contests.

Ladies, remember to join your state women's organization as well as AHW. We need your help and support to promote the great

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(701) 574-3193

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Hereford Works at www.herefords.net

Hereford breed. We need your help, support and enthusiasm to promote our future — junior Hereford members! **HW**

The Importance of Our Junior Program

by *Paula Tracy*, NOP vice chairman

It's time to start making plans for the 2008 Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE) in Kansas City, July 12-19.

Thinking about the JNHE makes me stop and realize how important our junior program is and recognize the outstanding youth in our breed. The junior program is, and has always been, a big part of what we support as the National Organization of Poll-ettes (NOP). The future of our breed depends on a strong junior program, and we're confident we have opportunities that fit a diverse set of interests.

Junior shows make a difference in kids' lives, whether it is at the local, regional or national level. Families and friends get to do things together, setting good examples and teaching everyone about work ethics along the way. I can't think of a trip or show where we didn't have a learning experience related to "loading the trailer right" or "did you remember the water buckets."

Junior activities provide a positive atmosphere to meet industry leaders, role models and friends. People from all walks of life make the JNHE an important

part of their summer activities. It's a "can't miss" event for me, and I look forward to seeing my cattle friends that I sometimes only see once a year.

Juniors learn ways to market their product and look at genetics and, most importantly, they learn life skills that will help them in the future. They have the opportunity to better their educations by participating in the various contests and applying for scholarships available through the American Hereford Association.

I encourage all juniors to get active in your state junior shows and field days. Sign up for as many contests and scholarships as you can, and if you can spare the time, make it a goal to get to JNHE. I can't wait to see you all there.

I hope all will make plans to join us in Kansas City in July and watch our future in progress. **HW**

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Ruth Espenscheid
12044 Hwy 78, Argyle, WI 53504
(608) 543-3778

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