

# Thank You for Three Great Years

I was working cattle with my uncle one day and asked him when he thought the application for the National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) board of directors was due. He wasn't sure.

I called Chris Stephens, director of youth activities, and requested an application. I filled out the application, sent everything to the Kansas City office and got set to go to South Dakota to run for the board.

I was unsuccessful in my first attempt. Encouraged to try again the next year, I once again sent an application in and went off to Indianapolis. That was a great year, but once again I had no luck, so I said to myself, "You made a go of it, but it wasn't meant to be."

So the next year in Tunica, I decided not to run, just to go to

the Junior National Hereford Expo and have fun. However, when I got there Cassie Bacon encouraged me to run again for a third time.

So I went to Milwaukee and ran for the board again. To truly understand the length of time that had passed from the first time I ran, you should know I received my board jacket from the same juniors I competed against in South Dakota.

The moral of my story is to just keep trying; set your goals, keep great friends around you and keep trying. I have been proud to serve Hereford juniors during the past three years, and the last year as president.

I would be remiss not to thank several people who have made my junior career possible. Chris

Stephens, our national advisors and all of the junior board members I have served with: you made it fun, exciting and unforgettable. To my state of Missouri, you have always supported me and fellow Missouri Junior Hereford Association members who have always been there. I thank all of you from the bottom of my heart.

Finally, I thank my family. Grandpa Phil and Uncle Richard Ewing, you have always helped me with my cattle and have helped make me who I am. Mom and dad, you have always been there the way great parents are, and I cannot thank you enough. Junior Hereford members, you are the future, and you can do whatever you put your mind to. I thank you for three great years.

— Jason Ewing, NJHA president

# Get Involved, Accept Challenges

When you are looking back at your youth, there are always milestones in your life that you will never forget — learning to ride your bike, attending your first day of school, getting your drivers license or moving off to

college. Smaller things that I did as a child and teenager prepared me for bigger fulfillments such as serving on the National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) board. Receiving my jacket is an accomplishment that will remain vivid in my mind for the rest of my life.

Working behind the scenes with the American Hereford Association staff has really made me realize the hard work and dedication that it takes to pull off a national show. The people are a great explanation for why the Hereford breed has continued to remain competitive in the beef industry.

The enthusiasm from the juniors at every Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE) and Program for Reaching Individuals Determined to Excel (PRIDE) Convention was by far my favorite part of serving on the board.

Attending the JNHE has become more of a reunion; the close bond we share with so many people makes us practically feel like family. The friends that I have made are unique in the way that

you can go months without talking but can still sit down with that person at a show and pick up right where you left off, having the best conversation ever. It's reassuring to know that I could be anywhere in the country and know that a Hereford friend is nearby.

By being an active junior, you have power to drive the association in the right direction. Don't ever be afraid to voice your opinion or get involved; the future of the breed is up to you. I encourage all of you to take advantage of the opportunities available through the NJHA.

I am proud of the person that I have become. As saddening as it is to think my term is almost up, I understand that life is all about moving on. I am excited to find out where this experience will take me in the future. Lastly, I implore you to never be afraid to take a challenge to strengthen yourself, because you never know where it might lead you.

— Nicole Starr, NJHA treasurer

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