

# Exciting and Memorable

Growing up a member of the Hereford association, my parents always made sure I was involved in numerous competitions. Mom would keep my siblings and me prepared for speech and team marketing contests while Dad would harp on us that we were there to show cattle and not screw around. Lots of friends were gained, stories were made, and more than our share of trouble was found.

My parents had the honor of being national advisors a time ago. They had no idea the chain of events this would set into place. They were there for the National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) board members back then, which enabled me to talk to the “boardies” and get to know them. This interaction sparked an idea into my mind – one day I would run to serve as president of the NJHA! This dream never faded in my mind, and each year I worked to better my chances of achieving it.

Three years ago I ran for the NJHA board in Louisville, Ky. When Wade Perks gave his retirement address and walked straight to me to give me his jacket, I knew I was closer to accomplishing my goals. My table was filled with family and friends, and they were very excited, yet my mother did not tear up the slightest, even though all my friends’ mothers did!

My first year on the board was filled with long van rides, during which we never knew what was going to happen or what we were going to see. When packed in a small area with too many people, an individual learns possibly too much about a person, or, at least, anyone riding in a van with me tends to.

When my second year came around, a catastrophe happened to the board. It became 10-2 ratio of girls to guys. This causes space problems, and Lord knows the group can’t get anywhere on

time! Conference calls took twice as long because we could never decide what to wear.

And now as my third year is winding down, I have had the honor of serving as your president. This has been my goal since I was knee high to a grasshopper, and it has been the time of my life. The past three years I have made 19 of the closest friends a person can have.

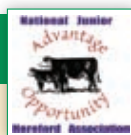
Each year I learned a new lesson:

- 1) **Be yourself** – it’s better for people to hate who you are than love who you’re not.
- 2) **Have patience** – a handful of patience is worth more than a bushel of brains.
- 3) **Persevere** – set your goals and always work toward them.

Once again I must thank my Hereford family for making the last three years exciting and memorable. Most of all I must thank my family for their support and for always being there.

— Roger Morgan, NJHA president

## National Junior Hereford Association



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# Reflections

The last three years while we served on the National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) Board of Directors have been some of the most memorable, life changing and important years of our lives. From spending time with young members, learning from sponsors, or listening to stories of cattlemen and women from across the nation, the years have been spent in admiration of the people in the Hereford breed.

Many times we regard our board years as “years of service.” The most important part about service is thanking those individuals who made it possible. Therefore, from

our servant hearts, we thank the following people and moments!

- S** – To all of the many sponsors and supporters – without you the NJHA would not be where it is today amongst the strongest in the entire cattle industry and the most influential place for juniors to be involved.
- E** – Every mother, father and guardian – thank you for all that you do for your children. We are all here because of an encouraging parent somewhere along the way.
- R** – Remember the memories, the lessons learned and the faces

# Seize NJHA Opportunities

*Carpe diem* — “seize the day.” A phrase that is saturated with so much meaning. I believe the National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) is an example of this phrase.

When I think of the meaning of these two words, I interpret the phrase to mean live life to the fullest and take every opportunity that comes your way because life is short. The NJHA has and does act as a venue for members to accomplish this task. Through my years of NJHA involvement, I have gained so much in leadership, personal and professional skills.

Ever since I was about 10 years old, the NJHA has provided me with opportunities such as the Junior National Hereford Expo, along with all of its contests, and the Program for Reaching Individuals Determined to Excel (PRIDE) Convention and a great leadership opportunity through serving on the NJHA board of directors. I have gobbled these opportunities up and have been

rewarded with many friends and life-long professional skills.

My point is not to look back at my involvement with the NJHA but to illustrate that the association provides valuable opportunities for all ages. There are so many contests that are applicable to all age levels. Returns are to be gained from the illustrated speech contest, Great American CHB Grill-off, team marketing and quiz bowl, and the list goes on. Just try one and you are guaranteed to have fun while actually learning something.

Not only does the NJHA provide opportunity through contests, but it also offers scholarships. College is expensive! If you are an involved NJHA member, the organization can give back to you through scholarships, which have very simple applications.

Last, but not least, are leadership opportunities. If you like to have fun, meet new friends, plan and organize events, and work with a great advisor, then the NJHA board is a perfect fit for you! Serving on the board

has been an awesome opportunity that has provided me with many valuable friendships as well as professional and agricultural skills.

The good news is you can still take this opportunity by storm and run for the board. I encourage all members to consider this opportunity.

As I leave this organization, I am walking away with friendships and life-long skills that can be appreciated on a résumé as well as in an interview. Most importantly and valued, I have received a number of priceless lessons and learned skills that will be used throughout the rest of my life.

My NJHA involvement has given me a strong work ethic, determination and perseverance. These learned skills hold a high value and are the tools needed for success. I highly recommend to any individual, no matter age, to become involved. The NJHA brings much promise and opportunity to members. The choice is yours. *Carpe diem!*

—**Roxane Gebhart**, NJHA vice president

of the people who have taught us all that we have learned over the years. It is these memories that help to shape each and every one of us into the person that we are.

**V**—Victories happen differently for different people. Whether you win a class, a division or a show or you are just proud to be competing in a speaking contest, be proud for your own victory!

**I**— There may be no “I” in “team,” but there is definitely an “I” in “service.” One important lesson to learn about service

is the importance of thinking, “What can I do to improve this?” It doesn’t matter if you are improving your state association, your church potluck, or just the day that your mom or dad are having. Take it upon yourself to make something better every day.

**C**—Let’s not forget about the cattle! They have taught us all something about competition, patience and trust. Cattle mean different things to different people. Whether they are friends, a sport, or a livelihood, they

are the center of what brings everyone to this association.

**E**—Educators, advisors, mentors and role models — thank you for making a difference in someone else’s life. There are so many people whom we have learned from and that we look up to within this organization and we can’t imagine our lives without them. We encourage all of you to keep up the good work, and this association will continue to grow and prosper.

—**Sarah Stream**, NJHA treasurer, and  
**Jessica Slone**, NJHA reporter