

A Valuable Experience

As we reflect upon the past three years as members of the National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) board of directors, it is hard to recap the value of the experience in just a few pages. The male half of “team legendary” mentioned the board’s unique taste in music; therefore, we turned to music to help us explain the experience of being a “boardie.” Jason Aldean is a popular country music singer who summed it up by leaving “Tattoos On This Town.”



“It’s where we loved, lived and learned real life stuff.

It’s everything we’re made of.”

We hope it has been obvious that we not only love cattle, but we hold Herefords and the people very

close to our hearts. Both of us were actively involved in 4-H, athletics and other extracurricular activities, where the true leaders in ourselves began to sprout.

Taking the right steps to move up the ladder of success, we blossomed as we chased after our dreams of wearing that maroon jacket. As we were elected in 2010, an unbelievable journey began. We loved, lived and learned, sometimes the hard way, yet enjoyed the ride as it molded us into well-rounded individuals. We now have further developed our real life skills through numerous meetings, social gatherings, fundraising events, and traveling our great nation along with several other activities that we had the chance to experience while on the board.

To put it simply, our time on the board has taught us to keep a positive attitude, to communicate and to cooperate.

All of you have become more than just colleagues, but are true friends and respected individuals, who day in and day out have believed in our abilities.

To our fellow board members, we could not have done it without you. Through the laughs, tears and arguments, we all have grown and are leaving our marks on this association. To our families, thank you for your unconditional love, for believing in us and for all of your hard work. The experience would not have been as valuable if it was not for all of your assistance in the barns and behind the scenes preparation.

Last but not least, to our Hereford family, thank you for your support and simple words of encouragement followed by a genuine smile and offerings of a snack, drink or chair whenever we seemed to need one. You are the reason we do what we do.

We hope that our time and efforts as NJHA board members have made an impact on you and your families. We hope that we have set the example of what it means to embody the maroon jacket and all of its responsibilities. We hope that one day you, the junior members, will want to wear that maroon jacket and leave your own impressions on this wonderful association.



“We laid a lot of memories down, like tattoos on this town.”

From day one, nearly strangers we seemed, we created an endless list of memories. We have watched the popularity of this association grow not only because we have great cattle but because we have amazing people!



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“It sure left its mark on us, we sure left our mark on it.

We let the world know we were here with everything we did.”

The NJHA and the American Hereford Association have left their marks on us as we looked to the leaders who came before us to show us the way while we also continue to grow with the leaders who are beside us today.

To our advisors — the Buchholzes, McMillans, McClintocks and Gobles — along with our fearless leaders Amy Cowan and Bailey Clanton and past board members, who gave us the inspiration to run, we say thank you for your support, guidance, expertise and patience.

Time and time again, we always comment on the people we meet and the relationships we build. Our Hereford family goes unmatched. We have grown to know you from the barn to the showing, from the contests to the meetings, from JNHE (Junior National Hereford Expo) to PRIDE (Program for Reaching Individuals Determined to Excel) Convention,

and we would not trade this experience for the world.

From meeting the board members for the first time to cramming as many board members as we could into a vehicle and then getting lost, to endless hours working the ring, to relaxing evening bonfires on the shores of Lake Michigan, a valuable experience it has been.

Dr. Suess said it best, “Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory.” The past three years have been packed into that moment. It is bittersweet to think that our journey is coming to an end, but we both know that our maroon jackets will be passed on to others who will leave their own “Tattoos On This Town.” **HW**