

# Accept the Challenge and Achieve Your Goals

This summer, I will be writing the last sentence for several chapters in my book of life. In May I completed the chapter of my college education and the college experience. In June I finish writing of my involvement with the Illinois Junior Hereford Association (IJHA) as I handle the show entries one last time at my last IJHA Preview Show. And, finally, in July I will attend my last Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE) and will be turning over my maroon jacket to another inspiring junior to write the chapters in his or her book of the opportunity to serve on the National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) board of directors.

While closing so many chapters in such a short amount of time brings about a great deal of change in my life, I am certainly excited to see what God has planned for the

next chapter as the Illinois Beef Association director of outreach and promotions. Without a doubt, my experiences as a Hereford junior and my service on the NJHA board have molded me into the individual I am today.

As I reflect on my time on the NJHA board, there is one quote that I feel rings true: “The best things in life are the people we love, the places we’ve been and the memories we’ve made along the way.”

When I was elected to the board in 2013, an unbelievable journey began. Being able to receive a maroon jacket from my sister was an experience I will always remember. Through all the meetings, fun times and challenging decisions, my service on the NJHA board has not only brought me closer to some incredible individuals but has helped me to develop skills that could not have been gained anywhere else. We have loved, lived and learned, sometimes the hard way, yet all the while enjoyed the ride as it molded us into well-rounded individuals. I have learned too many life lessons to count over the last three years and have also learned a lot about myself.

It just would not be right if I did not give gratitude to some of the people who have pushed me to be the best possible version of myself.

To our advisors — McMillans, Copelands, Gobles, and Becks, Amy and Bailey — thank you for the support, guidance, expertise

and patience. You all have become more than just mentors; you are true friends and people for whom I have the utmost respect. Thank you for your encouragement and having faith in our direction and decisions as a board.

To my boardies — This experience would not have been the same without you. Through the laughs, tears, arguments and countless memories, I feel so blessed to have served with such a powerful group of people, who no doubt have a big and bright future.

To my family — thank you for your unconditional love and support and for instilling in me first-class values and morals and, most importantly, an unwavering faith that He is the ultimate judge and has a plan for my life.

To my Hereford family — last, but certainly not least, thank you for your support and the simple words of encouragement that always preceded a genuine smile and offerings of Mountain Dew and a chair whenever we looked like we had reached the end. You are the reason we do what we do.

With that, it’s been the ride of a lifetime, and I am excited to close this chapter of my life on the red carpet in Madison with “A Hereford Scene in 2016.” See you all there.

— *Taryn Adcock,*  
NJHA vice chairman



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## Reflecting on Three Unforgettable Years

I could spend this entire article recounting the many memories I have made while on the National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) board, because I have

made many or telling you how much being on the junior board has impacted who I am as a person, because it has. However, I’ve already lived those stories and felt the

impact the board has had on my life. I'm a firm believer that you shouldn't waste time trying to live through someone else's experiences but, rather, go out and create your own.

When I started this journey, my image of where I would be today and the experiences I would have gained during my time on the board looked very different from what they actually have become, but life has a funny way of doing that to you. It is kind of like making breeding decisions — you like to imagine what kind of calf your breeding choices will produce, but you can never accurately predict what that calf will look like until it hits the ground.

Whatever your desires are, my biggest piece of advice to you is to take advantage of each and every opportunity that comes your way. You will never regret trying to get involved or trying to achieve goals you set for yourself.

You can't predict what will happen in your life, and you can never be sure of the challenges that will come your way. They often come at the most unsuspecting times, in the most unimaginable ways. I think it is in those moments that you have the opportunity to grow and to define yourself, merely in how you choose to deal with the things that come your way. One moment doesn't define you, but how you handle it can.

I have gained an extraordinary amount of memories, experiences and life lessons from my 23 years of being around Hereford cattle, Hereford breeders and the NJHA. I wouldn't be who I am or where I am today without the experiences and opportunities I have been given through the breed. Serving on the board is just one of those many opportunities that I have been given. My biggest hope is that I utilized this opportunity to the best of my ability and positively impacted at least one junior's life.

Always remember there is more to this breed and business than

what happens in the showring. Take advantage of the contests that are put on while at the Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE); you will gain more skills through opportunities like those than you will ever imagine. Take advantage of the opportunity to meet someone, because that person may become your new best friend or a connection that helps your dream become reality.

I cannot express a thank you big enough to my friends, family and the Hereford breeders who have stuck by me and supported me when I needed it most over the past three years. It is nearly impossible to accomplish goals on your own. Thank you to those who were selflessly there helping me achieve my goals. The people we surround ourselves with have some of the biggest impacts on our lives and the people we become.

Not everyone is going to support you and believe in you, and not every situation or goal you set for yourself is going to work out as planned or imagined, and that's OK. One of the most important things you can do for yourself is to ensure you are surrounded with people who genuinely care and cheer you on. We are lucky to be in a breed where high quality people are so easily found.

Set goals for yourself and work tirelessly to reach them, remember the important things in life when challenges come your way and always remember success doesn't come without a support system. Thank you for allowing me to serve these past three years on the board — it has been an honor. If I can ever help you in any way, please do not hesitate to ask. I can promise you, wherever there are Hereford cattle, I won't be far behind.

— **Amanda Bacon,**  
*NJHA director*

