

Day Crowned National Polled Hereford Queen



Kirbie Day, Waxahachie, Texas, was crowned the 2009 National Polled Hereford Queen during the National Western Stock Show (NWSS) in Denver.

Kirbie is not a newcomer to the Hereford breed. She has had much success in the showing during her years as a junior Hereford member. "I'm passionate about the Hereford breed," Kirbie says

with enthusiasm. "I'm excited about becoming even more involved with the breed as national queen, especially outside the showing."

She competed against 10 other state queens for the 35th national title, which was announced prior to the selection of the grand champion polled Hereford bull Jan. 17.

First runner-up went to Jessica Acheson, Woodbine, Kan., and second runner-up to Arika Bohnsack, Taylor Ridge, Ill. Mary Porter, Jesup, Ga., was selected Miss Congeniality.

The queen program is administered by the National Organization of Poll-ettes. Donors and sponsors, some of which have been with the queen program since its inception in 1974, allow it to continue and flourish.

Candidates are evaluated on their Hereford involvement, behavior, attitude, appearance and interaction with producers, as well as on their résumés and interviews, explains retiring program chair Betsy Beck. "Kirbie will make a great national queen because she is very passionate about the cattle industry," Beck says. "Her personality and knowledge will be a key asset as she represents our breed."

Kirbie will represent the breed and its breeders at shows, sales and other events throughout the U.S. "I have a passion for the Hereford breed," she says. "My goal is to be a leader, volunteer and Hereford promoter. I want to be an ambassador for the breed by being a good representative and role model and to help educate future leaders of the Hereford breed."

As a member of the Texas Junior Polled Hereford Association (TJPHA) for eight years, she has participated in the state photo and speech contests. She is currently serving on the TJPHA board. She's also been a member of the Texas Junior Hereford Association for four years, serving one year on its board.

"Our association is not a club; it is an integral part of helping young people learn the cattle industry and the importance of building a strong Hereford program," Kirbie says. "Being the national queen will allow me the

opportunity to work with people across the nation, representing our breed and what we stand for.

"I look forward to traveling to the national shows and sales and having the opportunity to meet new people. I want to continue the wonderful job that Lindsey Bielema has done representing the Poll-ettes and the breed."

Kirbie has also been active in school and community leadership activities, including FFA, National Honor Society, Academic Student Government and the Maypearl Church of Christ.

A senior at Maypearl High School, Kirbie has been accepted to Texas A&M University this fall, where she will major in animal science and specialize in embryo research. **HW**



Hereford royalty honored at the 2009 National Western Stock Show (l to r) are: Lindsay Bielema, Ada, Mich., 2008 National Polled Hereford Queen; Kirbie Day, Waxahachie, Texas, 2009 National Polled Hereford Queen; Jessica Acheson, Woodbine, Kan., first runner-up; Arika Bohnsack, Taylor Ridge, Ill., second runner-up; and Mary Porter, Jesup, Ga., Miss Congeniality.