

Berg Named National Poll-ette of the Year

The National Organization of Poll-ettes (NOP) named Mary Ann Berg, Dalton, Ohio, the 2007 National Poll-ette of the Year for her contributions to the Hereford breed, youth and the NOP. Berg was bestowed with this honor during the 2008 National Western Stock Show.

Berg has been a member of her state Poll-ette association for 20 years. "My involvement with the polled Hereford breed began when my oldest daughter joined 4-H," she says. "That project turned into 50 cows, and now I have grandchildren in the showring."

On the state level, Berg has served on the board in various capacities, including queen chairperson, ways and means committee member, and co-chairperson for both the 2006 Junior National Hereford Expo hospitality room and showmanship award.

"Mary Ann was an excellent choice," says Ruth Espenscheid, NOP secretary, Argyle, Wis. "She has been very active in her home state organization and has done a wonderful job as CHB Ambassador."

Last year Berg was named one of the inaugural Certified Hereford Beef (CHB) Ambassadors; in that role she assisted CHB LLC staff at promotional events as a spokesperson for CHB® product and the breed behind the brand.

She has a bachelor's degree in home economics education. In her nomination, a fellow Poll-ette wrote, "Mary Ann has first-hand knowledge not only from a production standpoint, but also in turning our product into a taste-appealing meal."

Berg is also active in her church and community. She has taught Sunday school, served as president of her church's women's organization, been a 4-H advisor and also been involved in the local high school in many capacities.

Berg operates a Hereford cow-calf operation with her husband, Jerry. Berg Polled Herefords is a 200-acre family farm in the heart of Ohio. They have four grown children and 10 grandchildren. **HW**



Mary Ann Berg, Dalton, Ohio, was named the 2007 Poll-ette of the Year during the NOP annual meeting Jan. 17 in Denver.



2008 NOP board members (pictured seated, l to r) are: Betsy Beck, Bainbridge, Ind., chairman; Ruth Espenscheid, Argyle, Wis., secretary; Susan Gebhart, Claremore, Okla., treasurer; Starr Whaley, Dalton, Ga., ex-officio. Directors (standing, l to r) are: Susan Rader, Mt. Vernon, Texas; Brook Herring-Gandy, Beaumont, Miss.; Katie Peebles, Hotchkiss, Colo.; Margeaux Firestine, Womelsdorf, Pa. Not pictured are Paula Tracy, Rupert, Idaho; and Cindy Lambert, Oraille, Calif.