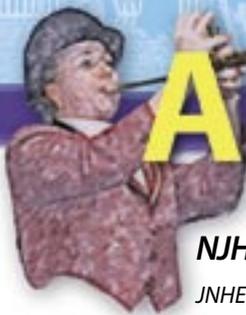


2006 Junior National Hereford Expo



# And They're Off ...

*NJHA members converge on Louisville, Ky., to participate in "It's Not Even a Horse Race."*

*JNHE section photos and articles by Melissa Leander, Teresa Oe, Amy Cowan and Angie Stump Denton*



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Despite soaring fuel prices and busy summer schedules, the

Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE) in Louisville, Ky., attracted a huge crowd and a high-quality showing of Hereford cattle July 15-22. This, the largest Hereford show in the world, featured more than 600 youth exhibitors from 38 states. The Kentucky and Ohio Hereford and junior Hereford associations hosted the event at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center.

Entries totaled 1,213, including 38 cow-calf pairs, 60 bred-and-owned bulls, 230 bred-and-owned heifers, 92 steers, 620 owned polled heifers and 173 owned horned heifers.

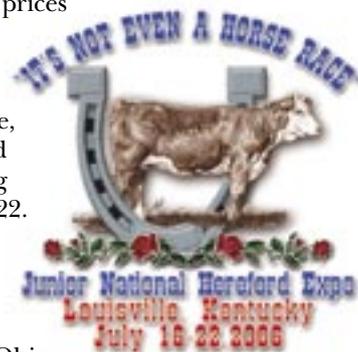
"The growth of the Hereford youth program and participation in the Junior National Hereford Expo is remarkable," says Craig Huffhines, American Hereford Association (AHA) executive vice president. "The Hereford breed is the perfect breed for young people to get involved with. The calm disposition, quality traits and excellent return on investment make the program ideal for young cattlemen and women."

Huffhines continues, "I was amazed at how many youngsters under the age of 9 were showing. They could barely reach the chins of their yearling heifers. It was almost as if their heifers were looking after them. Now that's testament to how a rancher can tame his cow herd."

In addition to exhibiting Hereford cattle at the JNHE, attendees participated in numerous skill-building contests and social events — speech, judging, team fitting and team marketing; bowling and basketball, to name a few. Juniors also interviewed for prestigious scholarships. The true value of the JNHE is in the skills and relationships developed through these activities, as well as the investment made in the future of the Hereford breed.

"It does not matter if they come to show, compete or just support their brother and sister," says Chris Stephens, AHA director of youth activities. "Watching juniors interact with their friends and have fun is what I enjoy the most. I urge families not to get so caught up in the winning but experience their time together as a family."

Take a look at the following pages from the 2006 JNHE — a week of fun, friends and memories.



# Hereford Style



Bringing in the supplies. Thirteen state teams competed in the team fitting competition.



Peewee, junior and senior team members work together during the team fitting competition.



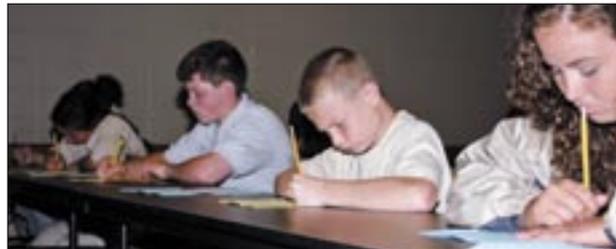
"And I think I'll color this one blue." Youth of all ages could participate in the creative arts contest sponsored by the Poll-ettes.



"Make sure everything is perfect." Junior members put the final touches on their state scrapbook before turning it in for competition.



"Our heifer exemplifies the best in genetics," says the Nebraska junior team during the team marketing contest on July 18.



Juniors concentrate on selecting the correct answers in the Hereford bowl written test on July 17. The top-scoring teams competed in the buzzer round later that day.



Is it going to be 4-3-1-2 or 3-4-1-2? More than 350 youth and adults participated in the judging contest on Tuesday morning.

Garrett Knebel, Winamac, Ind., wowed the crowd with his rendition of "Live Like You Were Dying." Eighteen junior members competed for the title of "Hereford idol."



Juniors exhibit their skills on the court during the 3-on-3 basketball tournament.



"Hmmm...do you know the answer?" The Wisconsin senior team is looking for an answer during the final round of the Hereford bowl.

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## 2006 Junior National Hereford Expo



To kick off the JNHE Louisville style, a bugler welcomed exhibitors, guests and parents during opening ceremonies.



"Someone call 9-1-1!" NJHA board members showed off their athletic ability during opening ceremonies.



Retired NJHA directors Wade Perks and Ashley Middleswarth race for first during the opening ceremonies skit.



The crowd gains excitement as the National Organization of Poll-ettes (NOP) draws the winner of the donated heifer. Brook (Herring) Gandy fit and showed the heifer. See page 64 for more information about the heifer.



"Please let it be me!"



"You need a brush and..." Samuel Lawrence, Kendallville, Ind., gave an illustrated speech on his showing experiences and explained how to get a heifer ready to show.



Judge Cody Lowderman visits with peewee showman Justin Young.



During the opening ceremonies each state's queen and last-year members traditionally carry their respective flags.



**Left:** North Carolina junior member Rossie Blinson sang the National Anthem during opening ceremonies.



Junior members mark their cards during the judging contest.



Juniors escape the Kentucky heat with snow cones available in the hospitality room, which the Ohio and Kentucky associations provided.



More than 100 ladies attended the Poll-ette breakfast to discuss Poll-ette projects and progress, and to take the opportunity to get reacquainted with their fellow Hereford friends.



State polled Hereford queens were special guests at the Poll-ette breakfast Tuesday morning.



National Polled Hereford Queen, Cassie Bacon, Prairie Grove, Ark., and state queens helped distribute awards during the show. The state queens have the opportunity to vie for the 2007 national queen title during the National Western Stock Show in Denver.



Samuel Lawrence, Kendallville, Ind., receives a \$500 check from the Poll-ettes for exhibiting the heifer he purchased with the Poll-ette heifer scholarship money he won at the 2005 JNHE in Milwaukee, Wis.



Missouri junior Jocelyn Butler won a "loaded" showbox donated by Sullivan Supply. Butler's name was picked during a random drawing of showmanship contestants.



"So this is what it's like to be a jockey?"



Juniors and adults gather for the Churchill Downs tour on July 18.

## Around the Barn

