

# Junior Programs Help Shape Lives



Jack Ward

Each year I especially enjoy writing the column for this month because it takes me a little off course from the normal performance information and allows me to talk about one of our greatest commodities – our kids. Of course the county fairs, most state fairs and junior nationals are over for the year and it gives us time to reflect on their importance.

Just this morning I was talking with a breeder whose family has been in the Hereford business for more than 100 years, and we were discussing our children.

He mentioned that his daughter had asked him a few years ago to get a couple of calves in for her son who was just getting ready to start 4-H. That young man took on the

responsibility of caring for these animals, which meant he was up in the morning doing chores and working a few extra hours after school to get things done. In the last two years his grades in school have gone up and he now participates in more activities.

This simple statement, that we all have heard or used, “Let’s get up a couple calves for our son or daughter or grandson or granddaughter to show,” has led to the development of more great storylines than anything I have ever been around. Let’s just think for a moment about our pasts and how these activities have shaped and developed our lives. Shaping kids to become good, productive adults is a duty of parents, and these programs arm us with the tools to do so.

My wife and I both grew up on livestock farms and were fortunate to have parents who believed in the 4-H and FFA livestock programs. Obviously with the development of junior breed associations, the opportunities for our kids have increased dramatically.

Our sons are involved at all levels. There is nothing more rewarding as a parent than seeing your children working hard and competing with their peers from around the country. My sons have made friends from coast to coast and these friendships will last forever.

I am proud to be a part of the American Hereford Association (AHA). The Board and staff have made a strong commitment to supporting the junior program. With the development of the

Hereford Youth Foundation of America (HYFA), along with the great leadership by the junior staff and the junior board of directors, the opportunities are endless for our children. I compliment all the parents and grandparents who realize the benefits of this program and I challenge you to continue to lend your support.

## Performance reminders

You need to have performance data submitted on calves prior to Nov. 1 to have it included in the spring analysis. Also remember to contact the AHA to get your bulls signed up for the Non-Certificate AI Sire Program.

We will also start the Online Hereford 101s this fall, covering a variety of different topics. If there is something you would like to see covered, please contact me at [jward@hereford.org](mailto:jward@hereford.org).

## Argentina trip

In late July, Jack Holden, AHA president, and I traveled to the Palermo National Show in Buenos Aires, Argentina. I had the honor of judging the Hereford heifer and bull shows.

We also met with leaders and breeders from both Argentina and Uruguay to share information about performance matters and AHA programs. They talked about the importance of whole-herd reporting and ultrasound, and explained the AHA’s Non-Certificate AI Sire Program and \$Profit Indexes.

The group also talked about opportunities for working together on a consistent Pan-American Hereford evaluation. **HW**

## American Hereford Association

# ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

The Annual Meeting of the American Hereford Association members will be held in the Westin Crown Center Hotel in Kansas City, Mo., at 9 a.m. on Monday, Oct. 23, 2006. You can make reservations at:

### Westin Crown Center Hotel

1 E. Pershing Rd.  
Kansas City, MO 64108  
(816) 474-4400 or (888) 627-8538  
Rate: \$113/night

Cutoff date is Sept. 30. All reservations must be made on or before this date. Ask for the Hereford Association room block when making reservations.

The purpose of this meeting is to elect new directors, hear special reports and conduct Association business.

Director candidate biographies are on page 116.

Complete schedule and annual meeting information will be included in the October issue of *Hereford World*. **HW**