

Thanks, Aunt Sue

While growing up I was called "Little Sue." I think I was given the nickname because I spent so much time with my Aunt Sue Rowland, and I guess many thought I looked and even acted like her.

Sue was the one who got me started in Hereford youth programs. Growing up she hauled me thousands of miles to Hereford shows. I spent hours with Sue working on speeches, state display booths and scrapbooks. She taught me the importance of hard work, commitment and friendship. She fostered in my sisters and me a love for the breed that will last forever.

To Sue the true value of the showing is the friendships made. It is the experiences at the show, not the ribbons you take home, that count.

Sue's helping hand has extended far beyond our family. If there were juniors who needed a ride to a show or help on a project, Sue was always willing to help. Although Sue and her husband, Jim, don't have kids of their own, they've "adopted" many Hereford



Angie Stump Denton



Aunt Sue Rowland taught me many things while I was growing up, from how to do a tail to showmanship and public speaking skills. She was always there to lend me a helping hand.

kids and helped foster their Hereford involvement.

Big heart

Sue has always been a giver. She thinks of special things to do for others, from the "lucky pennies" she gives to the Kansas juniors each year at the junior national to the bags of goodies she'd send my FFA chapter before contests.

Last Christmas Sue gave my sisters and I special gifts. She took our old junior national T-shirts and had them made into quilts. They were such unique and precious gifts. Another Sue trademark is her video work. For the last several years she has put together a video of Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE) highlights and showed the video the following year at the Kansas junior Hereford show.

Recognized for her efforts

As you may know, Aunt Sue was named the 2006 National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) Advisor of the Year (see page 36) in recognition for her dedication and service to Hereford youth.

Sue serves youth because she cares. She instills such values as determination, passion, perfection, professionalism and responsibility in each junior member she works with. She helps others strive to be the best they can be. She's always encouraged her "kids" to do more than just show. From the speech contest to judging to team marketing, she helps youth develop their skills beyond the showing.

Others agree

Sue's specialty is taking youth under her wing and fostering their love for Hereford cattle.

Several former Kansas Junior Polled Hereford Association members submitted letters of recommendation for Sue to accompany her nomination for the advisor award. A common theme throughout was heartfelt appreciation for all that Sue does.

Excerpts from Dan Moser's letter are printed on page 38. A part of the letter that isn't included is about Sue's unique way of making newcomers feel welcome. As Dan wrote, "When she first met me I was an 'Angus kid,' but she made sure I got right in the middle of any and all activities that were going on. That made me a 'Hereford kid,' and in a hurry. Whether your heifer cost \$500 or \$10,000, whether you were 7 or 17, whether you were a legacy or a newcomer, everyone who wanted to be part of the group was welcome and encouraged."

That statement is so true. Sue doesn't know a stranger.

While I was showing, Sue spent most mornings "on the washrack." Although most people don't consider washing a fun job, Sue enjoyed every minute. At times she may have done more "chatting" than "scrubbing."

I can't write enough about Sue; it would take pages to describe the characteristics that make her so special. She's been my mentor, my supporter and my inspiration. I admire her dedication to the breed and specifically youth programs. In my mind there's no one more deserving of the Advisor of the Year award.

Thanks, Sue, for all that you do for Hereford youth; you've made a difference in so many lives. I'm honored to be nicknamed after you!

HW