

Live Your Life — Do It Now

Passion...Do what you love, love what you do. Passionate people get things done; they do not wait on others to take the lead. Passionate people energize others and build enthusiasm for the team.

Do you have passion in your life? We must expose ourselves to all forms of life, including church, school and social activities. Commonplace must be far removed from our everyday routine as there is no substitute for energy or enthusiasm. Live life right now ... be passionate about something worthy!

As an organization we are in an AWESOME position. Each of us in the Hereford family possesses a strong passion for the Hereford breed. The key reasons are the passions that drive our programs, the love of Hereford cattle and a deep friendship of the people involved.

We are a special group, not necessarily because of the red and white cattle that we enjoy but something much bigger, something much more profound. Sure, we travel to shows, sales and field days to compete, purchase and learn, but why are we really doing all of this?

What can each of us do to continue to set an awesome example for others? We need to

work hard at being friendly and making friends. Help others who are less fortunate. Get involved in association projects. Make a difference in another person's life. This will require personal sacrifice, but the rewards will be great.

The National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) just wrapped up two awe-inspiring events, the Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE) and the Program for Reaching Individuals Determined to Excel (PRIDE) Convention. WOW! The kids, the families, the cattle, the excitement, the contests, the friendships, the learning experience — what more could you ask for?

We are on a fast track, but where are we going? Are we moving in the right direction? Are we giving it our all? Why are we doing this? Will we accept status quo? Are we passionate about our future? Will you be a team player?

I feel confident saying that many juniors could not tell you who won a particular contest at the JNHE or who led out the champions in the final drive. However, I bet almost everyone made a new friend. That is what is most important — that is why we attend these events.

Sure it is fun to win, but only a handful of juniors walk away with a banner. Many more juniors are

influenced by complete strangers. Life is a great big book filled with numerous chapters. Each chapter is equally important to the strength of the book and you must make the most of each chapter. Are you going to complete the book or put it back on the shelf, not knowing the outcome if you would have stuck it out? Trust your soul and listen to what it tells you. You must live life right now. Leave no regrets — life is too short.

Each junior member is important to this organization. So are the parents, advisors, family members and sponsors who devote so much to the lifestyle that we all have grown to love and appreciate. What makes any group strong is the individualism of each member. Everyone has something to contribute, something not only to give but also to gain in return. I have the best seat in the house. I get to listen to others and put their opinions to work for the betterment of the organization.

Leadership requires at times the willingness to explore ideas and concepts beyond traditional ways. We must possess the willingness to take chances, to fail, and to get right back up and try again. At various points in our lives, we will be called on to take a risk. And I think you will find, as I have, these are the times of greatest opportunity. To quit is to fail.

Passion lives inside all of us and it can help open doors. I challenge each of you to live life now with passion. We can only gain what we set out to achieve, so set out to achieve the impossible. To accomplish great things in life, we must not only act, but also dream; not just feel, but also believe; and start to live life right. **Do It Now! HW**

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