

New Leadership Is Elected



2008-09 NJHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS — Front row (l to r) are: Roger Morgan, Burwell, Neb., president; Roxane Gebhart, Claremore, Okla., vice president; Kandi Knippa, Seguin, Texas, secretary; Sarah Stream, Chariton, Iowa, treasurer; and Jessica Slone, W. Manchester, Ohio, reporter. Back row (l to r) are: Rossie Blinson, Buies Creek, N.C.; Danielle Starr, Manawa, Wis.; Kimber Evans, Fall River, Kan.; Jacob Metch, Bainbridge, N.Y.; Justin Bacon, Prairie Grove, Ark.; Hannah Wine, Marshall, Va.; and Katlin Mulvaney, Opelika, Ala.

2008-09 JNHA Board

Justin Bacon, Prairie Grove, Ark.; Rossie Blinson, Buies Creek, N.C.; Jacob Metch, Bainbridge, N.Y.; and Danielle Starr, Manawa, Wis., were elected directors of the National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) at the 2008 Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE) in Kansas City. Two delegates from each state junior Hereford association voted these individuals onto the board.

At the awards banquet July 18, four retiring board members announced the election results and passed on their maroon jackets and responsibilities to the new leadership. After each retiring address, the board member took off his or her jacket and presented it to a new director. The retiring board members were President Jason Ewing, Fordland, Mo., and Treasurer Nicole Starr, Manawa, Wis., as well as directors Kara Eschbach, Skiatook, Okla., and Katlyn Howes, Taneytown, Md.

Also announced at the awards banquet was the 2008-09 officer team, chosen by the NJHA board members. The newly elected officers are Roger Morgan, Burwell, Neb., president; Roxane Gebhart, Claremore, Okla., vice president; Kandi Knippa, Seguin, Texas, secretary; Sarah Stream, Chariton, Iowa, treasurer; and Jessica Slone, W. Manchester, Ohio, reporter.

Other directors include Kimber Evans, Fall River, Kan.; Katlin Mulvaney, Opelika, Ala.; and Hannah Wine, Marshall, Va.

The NJHA board of directors is made up of 12 junior members from across the country; each director serves on various committees and plays an integral part in all activities associated with the NJHA. Major responsibilities include helping with the JNHE and organizing the Program for Reaching Individuals Determined to Excel (PRIDE) Convention.

New directors

Justin Bacon is the 17-year-old son of Craig and Debbie Bacon, Prairie Grove, Ark. He is a senior at Har-Ber High School and hopes to attend Oklahoma State University (OSU) to earn a degree in animal science and apply that toward a career in sales in the livestock industry.



Justin Bacon

JNHEs, competing in many of the contests, including twice being

named outstanding junior for the state of Arkansas.

Aside from his involvement in the Hereford breed, Bacon has been involved in 4-H, FFA and the Arkansas Junior Cattlemen's Association and has served as the Arkansas Beef Ambassador. Bacon's goal is to double the size of his Hereford herd, improving his genetics to produce high-quality seedstock.

Rossie Blinson is the 17-year-old daughter of Bryan and Beth Blinson, Buies Creek, N.C. She is a senior attending Harnett Central High School and plans to attend North Carolina State University to earn a bachelor's degree in animal science with an emphasis in agriculture communications/marketing.



Rossie Blinson

As a member of the North Carolina Junior Hereford Association, Blinson has served as vice president, secretary, treasurer and reporter and has claimed numerous championship titles in the showing. She actively participates in contests and activities at the JNHE including the mentor program, photo contest, poster contest and team fitting. She is a talented singer and is always a strong competitor in the JNHE "Hereford Idol" competition and sang the national anthem when the show was in Louisville.

Aside from her passion and dedication to Hereford cattle, she has been an active 4-H member, serving in leadership positions and being the state gold winner in cumulative records.

Jacob Metch is the 17-year-old son of Bill and Sue Metch, Bainbridge, N.Y. He is a freshman attending University at Albany, State University of New York, majoring in chemistry. He has served his state



Jacob Metch

organization as secretary, treasurer and a member of numerous committees.

He has participated on the national level in livestock judging, poster contest, showmanship and 3-on-3 basketball and was named outstanding state member three times.

A member of 4-H for nine years, Metch has been named state show master showman, state record book winner and beef education award winner. He was also captain of his high school's golf team, a starter on the basketball team and earned the Eagle Scout rank as a member of Boy Scouts.

Danielle Starr is the 17-year-old daughter of Joe and Amy Starr, Manawa, Wis. Starr is attending Purdue University, pursuing a degree in retail management. Upon graduation Danielle hopes to begin a career in visual merchandising and eventually be a buyer while maintaining her herd of Herefords.



Danielle Starr

Starr has been an active member of the Wisconsin Junior Hereford Association for 10 years, serving on several committees, and is the current president. This was her ninth JNHE, and Danielle has been involved in contests such as team marketing and fitting and in the mentor program.

Starr has served in many leadership roles in FFA and has won countless livestock awards including the Star Greenhand Award. She served on her high school's student council, played on its basketball team and sang in the choir.

2008-09 officers

President **Roger Morgan** is the 21-year-old son of Ron and Kay Morgan, Burwell, Neb. He grew up on a Hereford ranch in the Nebraska Sandhills and has been involved with the Hereford association since he was old enough to be a member.

He is a senior at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln majoring in animal science with a business option. He is a member of the livestock judging team and Block & Bridle. Morgan has been an active member of the Nebraska

Junior Hereford Association, serving in various leadership roles such as director and vice president, was the winner of the 2002 and 2003 state speech contests and was awarded the state sportsmanship award in 2004.

On the national level, Morgan has received multiple honors and scholarships. Some of these include winning the Junior Merit Award, Prospect Achievement Award, the Junior Golden Bull Award, Ed Bible Scholarship and the Future Cattleman Scholarship. He attended the World Hereford Conference in Armidale, Australia, where he was named third-place international youth judge.

Roxane Gebhart, NJHA vice president, is the 20-year-old daughter of Richard and Susan Gebhart, Claremore, Okla. She is attending OSU, majoring in animal science/business with a pre-law option. Upon graduation she plans to pursue a law degree from the University of Tulsa with the goal of one day working as a lawyer or lobbyist for U.S. agriculture.

She has been an active member of the Junior Hereford Association of Oklahoma for 12 years, serving in various leadership roles such as president, treasurer, district director, delegate, state queen and princess and was named outstanding state member.

Gebhart is also active in the Oklahoma Junior Cattleman's Association, Oklahoma Club Calf Association and FFA. In FFA she was awarded the state Beef Production Proficiency Award. She is also a member of the Oklahoma Air National Guard, serving in the 138th Fighter Wing, Services Flight, located in Tulsa.

Kandi Knippa, NJHA secretary, is the 19-year-old daughter of Sammy and Penny Knippa, Seguin, Texas. She is attending Texas A&M University, majoring in animal science. Knippa is an active member of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (COALS) Council, the COALS Freshman Leadership Experience Development Committee, and Saddle and Sirloin.

She has been a member of the Texas Junior Polled Hereford Association for 10 years, serving as president as well as holding other

leadership roles. In high school she was an all-state performer in volleyball and softball. She has experienced much success in the Hereford showing, and at the conclusion of the 2008 JNHE, received the premier exhibitor and breeder awards for her award winning string of cattle.

Treasurer **Sarah Stream** is the 20-year-old daughter of Rodney and Sue Stream, Chariton, Iowa. She is a senior at Iowa State University, majoring in agricultural communications. Following graduation, Sarah plans to work in the real estate industry and someday hopes to own her own brokerage firm or work with an agricultural publication.

She has been involved in the cattle industry and showing for 12 years and has been active in the Iowa Junior Hereford Association for the past eight years. Stream has served her state group as president, vice president, queen and princess. She is also active in the Iowa Junior Beef Breeds Association.

She has had much success in the showing, including seven-time champion or reserve female at the Iowa Junior Hereford field days and the Iowa State Fair. She was the reserve champion senior showman at the 2007 JNHE and sixth in 2008. Sarah was awarded the first Wesley Rakestraw Hereford Enthusiast Award because of her passion for Herefords.

Jessica Slone, reporter, is the 21-year-old daughter of Joseph Slone, W. Manchester, Ohio. She is a junior at the University of Kentucky (UK) majoring in agricultural education. After graduation she plans to attend Oklahoma State University to receive her master's degree in agricultural education with hopes to then become a high school agricultural education instructor.

She is currently serving as president of the Ohio Buckeye Junior Hereford Association. At UK she is an officer in CERES Sorority, vice president of the Agricultural Education Society, representative of the Agricultural Student Council and a member of the Collegiate FFA. In high school, Slone was active in 4-H and FFA, including serving as a state FFA officer. **HW**