



Kasey Herman, Skiatook, Okla., was named national champion senior showman at the 2008 JNHE and also exhibited the grand champion bred-and-owned bull and reserve champion bred-and-owned female.



Showmanship judges Robin Samsel and Mark Kelley visit with Kasey during the showmanship finals.



Kasey and her parents, Kim and Todd, embrace after the finals of senior showmanship.

Ring Presence

Kasey Herman wins top senior showman honors.

by **Angie Stump Denton**

No stranger to the showing, Kasey Herman topped the field of nearly 100 senior Hereford showmen Wednesday, July 16, in Kansas City. Judge Mark Kelley says Kasey's presence in the ring, including her ability to have her heifer presented perfectly at all times, is why she got the nod as top Hereford showman.

A fourth-generation Hereford breeder, Kasey is the 20-year-old daughter of Todd and Kim Herman,

Skiatook, Okla. She is currently attending Oklahoma State University, majoring in business management.

She attended her first junior national in 1996 in Louisville, Ky., when she was 7 years old, and hasn't missed one since.

The winner's circle is not new for Kasey. Through the years she's had numerous showing champions and was named national champion peewee showman in 1997 and won intermediate honors in 2003.

"It's an honor to win showmanship," Kasey said. "I've been lucky to be successful in the showing, but to win showmanship is so much more of an honor because it represents my individual qualities as a showman."

It starts at home

Kasey admits success in the showing starts at home. Working with her animals regularly and having a strong support system are keys to her achievements through the years.

"Ever since I was young, this has been our family vacation," Kasey says. "I'm so lucky to have such extremely supportive parents, who make showing so much fun."

Along with her parents, Kasey says her Star Lake family has been such an

important part of her life. "I have so many people to thank for their help through the years," Kasey says. "Josh and Ashly, Brad and Sherri, Dustin, Uncle Max and Aunt Karen, Keysto and Miranda, Montie, and Randy and Debbie, Jon and Jaci have all been so supportive through the years."

Kasey says she's done a lot of "watching and learning," through the years, picking up tips from people like Josh Taylor and Brad Seiss and all the other guys who have helped the ranch at shows. "I really look up to Josh," she says with admiration. "He's like a big brother. He's always given me great tips and advice."

Working with her cattle at home, Kasey has always tried to get her calves trained to "walk right into it," so she doesn't have to spend a lot of time setting them up using a stick. "Dad told me a long time ago that I need to be able to set my heifer in less than 10 seconds," she says. "When I was younger, Dad would count as I would practice."

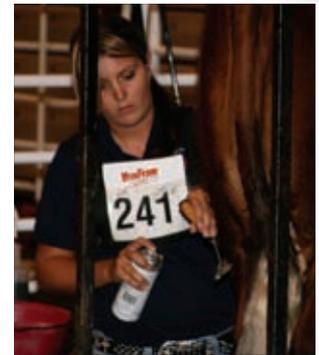
Josh says he's watched Kasey grow and mature through the years. "During that time she has accepted more responsibility and has become Keysto's and Miranda's leader," he explains. "I admire how much she loves to show cattle. She has a real desire to win and always strives to do her best."

An exciting year

Kasey summarizes 2008 as an exciting year. Her success started at the



Kasey has had a successful year in the showing. She started 2008 winning reserve champion honors in the National Western Stock Show junior Hereford show and later that week winning supreme champion Hereford honors.

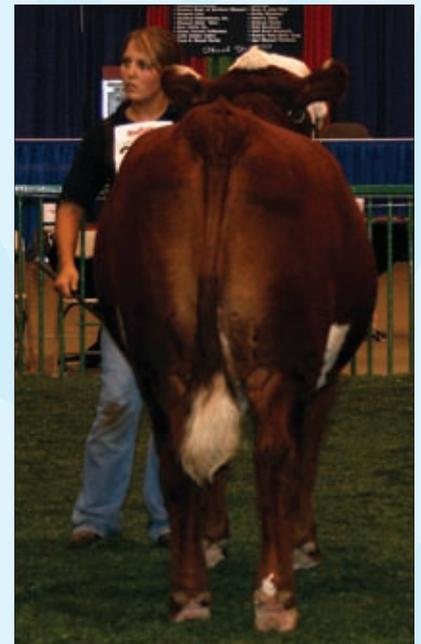


During the finals of showmanship contestants demonstrated their fitting and showing abilities.

National Western Stock Show as she exhibited the supreme champion Hereford; the same female, STAR KKH Valedictorian 298S ET, went on to be named champion female in Fort Worth.

Along with being named top showman at the 2008 JNHE, Kasey exhibited the champion bred-and-owned bull and the reserve bred-and-owned female.

Kasey's presence and success in the showing does not go unnoticed. Young Hereford breeders admire all that she has accomplished. "I've always admired Kasey's determination, work ethic and the way she handles responsibility," says Keysto Stotz. "I'm so glad she won showmanship. She truly deserves the honor." **HW**



Judges' final comments

Brother-and-sister duo Mark Kelley and Robyn Samsel evaluated the intermediate and senior showmanship competitions during the 2008 Junior National Hereford Expo in Kansas City, July 16

Mark says the final decision in the senior division came down to the question, "If Robyn or I couldn't show our own animal in a championship drive, who would we want to show it?"

Throughout the day, the pair looked for showmen who always had their animals looking fresh and extended. A tip Mark shares, "If a judge can't decide on a placing and goes to the off-show side, switch your back feet. If the judge is making a tough decision, you want to make sure you always have the animal looking its best."

During both finals of intermediate and senior showmanship, the judges took the show sticks away from the showmen. Mark says, "We were looking for the showman who uses their hands to do what they normally do with their show stick and look natural doing it — such as calming the heifer by scratching her neck."

The siblings agree the job of judging showmanship is not an easy job. "At no other junior national will you find the depth of quality in showmen as you find at the Hereford junior national," Mark says. "It is incredible." **HW**

Kasey's tips:

Stay calm.

Cattle can feel when you are nervous. If you are calm, your heifer will stand better in the ring.

Train your animal to walk in to it.

If you can walk your steer or heifer into the correct stance, you don't have to work at setting him or her up.

Start at home.

It is important to spend time at home working with your calves and let them get to know you.

Watch others.

It's important to watch others and learn from what they do.