

# Hereford Youth Win Awards and Scholarships

by Sara Gugelmeyer

During the 2008 Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE) in Kansas City, Mo., July 14-19 more than \$24,000 was awarded in scholarships to National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) members.

Congratulations to the winners.

## National Junior Merit Award

The junior merit scholarships recognize outstanding NJHA members. The scholarship program is designed to encourage individual and cooperative effort, enthusiasm, excellence, leadership and achievement among youth in order to develop reputable breeders for the good of the Hereford business and beef industry. The first-place winners receive an expense-paid trip sponsored by Harding and Harding

### NATIONAL JUNIOR MERIT SCHOLARSHIP



Pictured (l to r) are: Jerry Gay, Harding and Harding Insurance; **Roxane Gebhart**, Claremore, Okla., first place; **Nicole Starr**, Manawa, Wis., first place; and **Josh VanDeWalle**, Cedar Rapids, Neb., second place.

Insurance to a Hereford operation in the continental U.S.

**First place — Roxane Gebhart**, Claremore, Okla., \$1,500, plus trip

**First place — Nicole Starr**, Manawa, Wis., \$1,500, plus trip

**Second place — Joshua VanDeWalle**, Cedar Rapids, Neb., \$1,500

## John Wayne Memorial Scholarship

John Wayne Memorial Scholarships are awarded to juniors in recognition of their contributions to agriculture and the Hereford industry, as well as their moral character. The scholarships are sponsored annually by the Hereford Youth Foundation of America (HYFA) and the American Hereford Women (AHW).

**Cassie Bacon**, Prairie Grove, Ark., \$2,000

**Katlin Mulvaney**, Opelika, Ala., \$2,000

### JOHN WAYNE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



Pictured (l to r) are: **Katlin Mulvaney**, Opelika, Ala.; and **Cassie Bacon**, Prairie Grove, Ark.

## Joe and Walter Lewis Memorial Scholarship

The Lewis scholarship recognizes junior members for overall achievement in leadership, teamwork, skills and competition. The selection of winners is based on a point system for NJHA programs and activities.

**First place — Cassie Bacon**, Prairie Grove, Ark., \$750

**Second place — Morgan Firestone**, Womelsdorf, Pa., \$750

## Ed Bible Memorial Scholarship

The Ed Bible Memorial Scholarships were presented by the National Organization of Polled-ettes (NOP) and the HYFA. The scholarship is designed to help finance higher education for NJHA members who excel in communication, leadership and Hereford and ag-related activities. Bible joined the American Polled Hereford Association staff in 1973 and for 25 years supported the senior, junior and Polled-ette associations. He positively influenced the Hereford breed and industry. Therefore, NOP and HYFA offer four annual scholarships in his honor.

**First place — Joshua VanDeWalle**, Cedar Rapids, Neb., \$1,000

**Second place — Drew Perez**, Nara Visa, N.M., \$750

**Third place — Katlin Mulvaney**, Opelika, Ala., \$500

**Fourth place — Nicole Starr**, Manawa, Wis., \$250

### ED BIBLE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



Pictured (l to r) are: **Joshua VanDeWalle**, first place; **Drew Perez**, Nara Visa, N.M., second place; **Katlin Mulvaney**, third place; and **Nicole Starr**, fourth place.

### GOLDEN BULL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Pictured (l to r) are: **Shelly Patton**, Danielsville, Ga.; **Audrey Hambright**, Chapman, Kan.; and **Josh VanDeWalle**. Not pictured is: **Bobby Mickelson**, Santa Rosa, Calif.

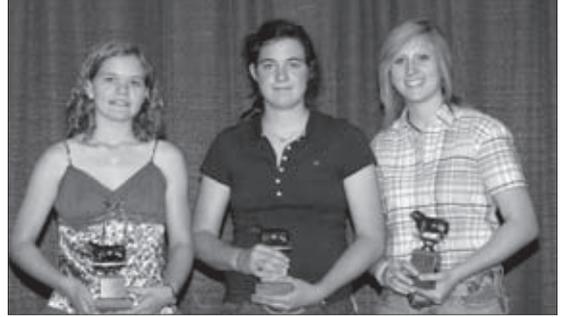
2008 Scholarship and Award Winners

**ED BIBLE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**



Pictured (l to r) are: **Peyton Schmitt**, Nichols, Iowa, third grade; **Brett Jones**, Darlington, Wis., fifth grade; **Koby Rogers**, Hamilton, Texas, sixth grade; **Karly Biddle**, Walcott, Iowa, seventh grade; **Shelby Rogers**, Hamilton, Texas, eighth grade. Not pictured is **Rylee Barber**, Channing, Texas, fourth grade.

**GOLDEN BULL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**



Pictured (l to r) are: **Katie Shultz**, Dillsburg, Pa., ninth grade; **Tamar Adcock**, Assumption, Ill., 10th grade; and **Reba Hurst**, Nevada, Mo., 11th grade. Not pictured is **Jamie Mickelson**, Santa Rosa, Calif., 12th grade.

**Golden Bull, Junior Golden Bull and Prospect Achievement Awards**

Young people are recognized with the Prospect and Golden Bull Awards each year for their involvement in the Hereford industry, agriculture and their communities with awards that are sponsored annually by the AHW and NJHA. Prospect awards go to students in third through eighth grade, and Junior Golden Bull Awards, to students in ninth through 12th grade. Prospect Award winners are given a leather halter with nameplate and Junior Golden Bull Award winners receive a bronze Hereford bull statue. Golden Bull Achievement Awards are given to college students; winners receive a statue as well as a scholarship.

**Golden Bull Achievement Award**

**Bobby Mickelson**, Santa Rosa, Calif., \$1,875

**Shelly Patton**, Danielsville, Ga., \$1,875

**Joshua VanDeWalle**, Cedar Rapids, Neb., \$1,875

**Audrey Hambright**, Chapman, Kan. \$1,875

**Junior Golden Bull Award**

**Ninth grade — Katie Shultz**, Dillsburg, Pa.

**10th grade — Tamar Adcock**, Assumption, Ill.

**11th grade — Reba Hurst**, Nevada, Mo.

**12th grade — Jamie Mickelson**, Santa Rosa, Calif.

**Prospect Award**

**Third grade — Peyton Schmitt**, Nichols, Iowa

**Fourth grade — Rylee Barber**, Channing, Texas

**Fifth grade — Brett Jones**, Darlington, Wis.

**Sixth grade — Koby Rogers**, Hamilton, Texas

**Seventh grade — Karly Biddle**, Walcott, Iowa

**Eighth grade — Shelby Rogers**, Hamilton, Texas

**Future Cattleman Scholarship**

HYFA and AHW sponsor two \$1,000 scholarships awarded to junior members who have made outstanding contributions to the Hereford industry.

**Roxane Gebhart**, Claremore, Okla., \$1,000

**Audrey Hambright**, Chapman, Kan., \$1,000

**Hereford Herdsman Scholarship**

Administered by the HYFA in cooperation with Hereford Herdsman, this scholarship honors NJHA members who take great pride in exhibiting and presenting their Hereford cattle.

**Drew Perez**, Nara Visa, N.M., \$500

**Jena Dimberg**, Charleston, Miss., \$500

**Poll-ette Founders Scholarship**

The Poll-ette Founders Scholarships are funded through the HYFA and managed by the NOP. They recognize

**HEREFORD HERDSMAN SCHOLARSHIP**



Pictured (l to r) are: **Jena Dimberg**, Charleston, Miss.; and **Drew Perez**.

**POLL-ETTE FOUNDERS SCHOLARSHIP**



Pictured (l to r) are: **Audrey Hambright** and **Drew Perez**.

one male and one female who have made great contributions to the NJHA. The scholarships also honor the women who laid the foundation for the NOP, which was first organized in 1965.

**Audrey Hambright**, Chapman, Kan., \$750

**Drew Perez**, Nara Visa, N.M., \$750

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### American Hereford Women Queen Scholarship

This scholarship is sponsored by AHW in recognition of the hard work and effort to promote the Hereford industry exhibited by young women serving as state Hereford queens. The AHW awards a \$250 scholarship to the individual who has exhibited enthusiasm, poise, dignity, cooperation and knowledge of the Hereford breed during her reign as a state Hereford queen.

**Katie Killian**, Stratford, Texas, \$250

**Tamar Adcock** was chosen as the 10th-grade Junior Golden Bull Award winner. She is an NJHA member as well as a member of the Illinois Junior Hereford Association (IJHA), one of the host organizations for the 2008 JNHE. Tamar served on two committees in preparation for this year's JNHE. She's also served as an IJHA director from 2006-2008 and in 2008 was elected reporter. In addition to her leadership roles, she has been successful in the showing, earning numerous champion titles at the state level and being named reserve champion intermediate showman at the 2007 JNHE.

**Cassie Bacon** received first place for the Joe and Walter Lewis Memorial Scholarship and was also awarded a John Wayne Memorial Scholarship. She was elected a NJHA director in 2004 and retired from her term in 2007. She also served as the National Polled Hereford Queen. Cassie has held several offices in the Arkansas Junior Hereford Association. She is now a student at Oklahoma State University (OSU), working toward her degree

in agricultural communications and animal science – livestock merchandising. Also as a student at OSU, she has competed on the livestock judging team and the meats judging team. She helped her meats team earn national championships at the National Western and Fort Worth Stock Show. After graduation, Cassie plans to develop her own livestock marketing business.

**Rylee Barber** won the fourth-grade Prospect Award. She was given her first registered Hereford as her first Christmas present from her grandparents. Now 10 years old, Rylee says she can fully realize all that being a NJHA member has to offer. She also participates in photography, poster, speech, showmanship, judging and fitting on the state and national levels. She has had much success in the showing; at the 2008 JNHE Rylee was named reserve champion peewee showman and exhibited the grand champion bred-and-owned female.

**Karly Biddle** was picked as the seventh-grade Prospect Award winner. She has been active in the NJHA and the Iowa Junior Hereford Association for five years. She says one of her favorite activities within the association is giving speeches. She has participated in the speech contest at the Iowa state preview show for four years and earned second place in the speech contest at JNHE as a fourth grader and third place as a fifth grader. In addition to showing, she also is involved in the junior AI (artificial insemination) program, and says she wishes more juniors would take advantage of the great opportunity.

**Jena Dimberg** was chosen as a Hereford Herdsman Scholarship winner. She has been a NJHA member and a member of the Mississippi Junior Hereford Association for nine years. Jena has competed in eight JNHEs. She is a student at Delta State University, where she is a sister in Delta Delta Delta sorority, among other activities. She is also an active church member and has been involved in 4-H activities. She plans to become a speech language pathologist.

**Morgan Firestine** was awarded the second place Joe and Walter Lewis Memorial Scholarship. Morgan is currently reporter for her state association, the Pennsylvania Junior Hereford Association. She has also served as president. In 2006 she earned second place in the junior division of the illustrated speech contest and in 2004 was chosen as a Junior Golden Bull Award winner.

**Roxane Gebhart** won a Future Cattleman Scholarship and tied for first place for the National Junior Merit Award. She has been a member of NJHA and the Junior Hereford Association of Oklahoma for 12 years. She has been a NJHA director since 2006, elected reporter in 2007 and this year was elected vice president. In the showing, she was chosen in the top 10 of her intermediate showmanship class at the 2006 JNHE. Roxane is currently a student at OSU, majoring in animal science. At OSU she is involved in many academic honorary organizations as well as Oklahoma Collegiate Cattlewomen and Block & Bridle. After graduation she plans to continue her education at law school and then specialize in agricultural law.

**Audrey Hambright** won a Golden Bull Achievement Award, a Future Cattleman Scholarship and a Poll-ette Founder's Scholarship. She has been a member of the Kansas Junior Polled Hereford Association (KJPHA) for 13 years. In 2000 the KJPHA chose Audrey as the senior herdsman award winner. She graduated from Colby Community College in May and currently attends Kansas State University majoring in ag



Hereford youth and their families gathered for the awards dinner and ceremony Friday evening.

communications. She says ideally she would like to find a career in which she can remain involved in the purebred beef industry.

**Reba Hurst** was given the 11th-grade Junior Golden Bull Award. She has served as reporter for two years and a director for six years for the Missouri Junior Hereford Association. She has also participated in team marketing competitions; her team won the junior division at the 2004 JNHE and the senior division at the 2006 JNHE. She has also won numerous titles in the showing with her Hereford cattle across the state of Missouri and on the national level. At the 2008 JNHE, her entry won the grand champion title in the carcass steer division.

**Brett Jones** was chosen as the fifth-grade Prospect Award winner. He says he appreciates showing Herefords because, "They are fun and gentle to work with." He has participated in three JNHEs in showmanship, speech, photography, poster, judging, quiz bowl and 3-on-3 basketball. He also competes with his Herefords on the state and regional levels. He won the peewee showmanship contest for three consecutive years, 2005-2007, at the Wisconsin state junior shows. At the 2007 Lafayette County Fair, his entry earned champion hereford heifer and was the reserve supreme champion over all breeds.

**Katie Killian** was chosen as the AHW Queen Scholarship recipient. Katie is currently the Texas Hereford Queen. Katie has attended more than 30 cattle industry events representing the Texas Hereford Association and the Texas Hereford Auxiliary. She has also made an effort to reach out to non-industry activities; Katie gave a speech about her experience with Hereford cattle at the Imagination Station Children's Museum in her hometown of Stratford, Texas. She also visited about Herefords with children from the Head Start program and Seagoville Elementary School, Seagoville, Texas. She says her favorite part of being queen is sharing with

and educating young people about Herefords and living on a ranch.

**Bobby Mickelson** was one of the recipients of the Golden Bull Award. He has been a member of the NJHA and the California/Nevada Junior Hereford Association (CNJHA) for 10 years. He has been successful at raising his own Herefords to exhibit. In 2007 he won reserve grand champion Hereford heifer at the California State Fair open show with a heifer he raised. Bobby was also awarded the 2007-2008 California

Seedstock Producer of the Year by the California Cattlemen's Association. He plans to attend California State University at Chico this fall.

**Jamie Mickelson** was chosen as the 12th grade Junior Golden Bull Award winner. She has been a member of the NJHA and the CNJHA for eight years. Jamie has served as a director of CNJHA for four years. She has won numerous titles at the California State Fair with her

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## In Honor of Wesley

Because of the late Wesley Rakestraw's enthusiasm for the Hereford industry, the Rakestraw family, JWR Land and Cattle Co. managers Tom and Tammy Boatman, and National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) advisor Chris Stephens made the decision to honor Wesley's memory by developing an annual scholarship in his name.

Rakestraw started his Hereford herd with just a few head 18 years ago and grew it into a nationally recognized seedstock operation. Tammy Boatman says, "He was really involved with the Hereford breed, so his family wants to give back." The scholarship will be funded by the John Wesley Rakestraw Memorial Fund.

The Rakestraw family, Tom, Tammy and Chris wanted the scholarship to reward qualities Wesley possessed. "He was one-of-a-kind, loved life and always had a good time," Tammy says. "He was such a happy person; he always left you with a smile on your face and made you feel good about yourself."

So, they decided to name the scholarship the Wesley Rakestraw Hereford Enthusiast Award and honor his fun-loving attitude by choosing a youth they felt had a personality like Wesley's. Four juniors were selected who fit that requirement, then Tom and Tammy found them in the barn at the Junior National Hereford Expo and asked them a few questions in a very informal interview process. "We were looking for someone who loves life and has a passion for Herefords," Tammy says.

This year, they found that person in Sarah Stream, Chariton, Iowa.

She will receive \$500 to use toward her college education as well as a hand-carved leather briefcase from Classic Leather Designs. Sarah has been showing cattle for 12 years and has been involved with the Hereford breed since 2001. She currently attends Iowa State University, majoring in agricultural communications with an emphasis in animal science. Showing cattle has been a huge factor in shaping Sarah's life, and she wishes to pass that on to youth through her family's production sale. Stream is responsible for everything in her Hereford operation including genetics, nutrition and management. Sarah's biggest accomplishment with the NJHA has been the opportunity to serve on the NJHA board of directors.

Sara says, "I appreciate the unique opportunity to win this award. I wish I could have known Wesley better, and I would like to thank the Rakestraw family for their generosity." **HW**



Pictured (l to r) are: Tom and Tammy Boatman of JWR Land and Cattle Co., Dallas, Ga.; and **Sarah Stream**, Chariton, Iowa.

Hereford cattle, including exhibiting several supreme grand champions. At the 2008 Red Bluff Bull Sale, Red Bluff, Calif., Jamie consigned the grand champion Hereford bull.

**Katlin Mulvaney** won the third-place Ed Bible Memorial Scholarship and a John Wayne Memorial Scholarship. She has been a member of the NJHA for eight years and the Alabama Junior Hereford Association for 12. She was elected to a position on the NJHA Board of Directors at the 2007 JNHE. She is an accomplished showman, having won the showmanship title at her state show every time she has participated with one of her Herefords. She is currently pursuing her bachelor's degree in agricultural communications with a minor in agricultural leadership and political science at Auburn University. She is very active in extracurricular activities and also works as an undergraduate assistant for Alabama Cooperative Extension.

**Shelly Patton** was one of the recipients of the Golden Bull Award. Shelly has been a director for the Georgia Junior Hereford Association for four years and is currently serving as the Georgia Junior Cattlemen's Association president. She has had great success showing her Herefords across the Southeastern U.S. and also maintains a high level of involvement in her community and school organizations. She hopes to be accepted into veterinary medicine school and to continue to be involved in the beef industry.

**Drew Perez** was awarded the second-place Ed Bible Memorial Scholarship, a Hereford Herdsman Scholarship and a Poll-ette Founders Scholarship. He was also named the 2008 Herdsman of the Year. Drew has been a member of the New Mexico Junior Hereford Association for 10 years. During this time he has competed in seven JNHEs, as well as numerous other Hereford events on the state and regional levels. Most recently he graduated from Butler County Community College, El Dorado, Kan., where he excelled

in the classroom and in judging competitions. He helped his team earn three national championships and was named to the National Junior All-American Judging Team. He plans to continue his education at Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas, where he will fill his spare time with judging and rodeo. He hopes to return to the ranch and continue to raise Herefords.

**Koby Rogers** was chosen as the sixth-grade Prospect Award winner. He has been a NJHA member since 1999 and a member of the Texas Polled Hereford Association (TPHA) for eight years. For the TPHA, he has served as a director since 2006. He is also an accomplished livestock judge; his team won the JNHE peewee division in 2006. He was awarded champion junior showman at his county fair. Koby is also active in many other 4-H projects.

**Shelby Rogers** was the eighth-grade Prospect Award winner. She has participated in JNHE contests since 2001 and won the illustrated speech contest in 2006. She has won numerous other awards for her speaking skills at the regional, state and national levels. She is also active in judging contests, evaluating meats, horses, livestock and horticulture throughout the state and on the national level. She successfully shows around the state of Texas and has grown her Hereford herd to about 20 head.

**Peyton Schmitt** was the third-grade Prospect Award winner. She has been a member of both the NJHA and the Iowa Junior Hereford Association (IJHA) for three years. She became involved with showing Hereford cattle because her father and grandfather raise Herefords. Peyton won her first registered Hereford heifer in a raffle drawing at the 2005 JNHE in Milwaukee. She participated in her first JNHE in 2006, where she showed in peewee showmanship and participated in the judging contest. Her judging team earned sixth place in the 2006 JNHE in Louisville. More recently she showed two heifers at the 2007 Iowa State Fair, winning first in

both of their classes. Peyton says she aspires to learn more about fitting cattle, wants to be a NJHA director and would love to be chosen the National Polled Hereford Queen.

**Katie Shultz** was given the ninth-grade Junior Golden Bull Award. She has been a NJHA member and Pennsylvania Junior Hereford Association member for seven years. She has competed in showmanship at four JNHEs and in 2005 earned honorable mention in the junior division. She also organized the AI Silent Auction at the Keystone International Livestock Exposition from 2004 to 2006. Katie says she would like to continue to raise Hereford cattle and be a livestock photographer.

**Nicole Starr** was a first-place National Junior Merit Award winner and received the fourth-place Ed Bible Memorial Scholarship. Nicole recently retired from the NJHA board. While on the board she served as treasurer and reporter. She is currently attending Michigan State University, where she is employed part-time at the purebred beef center. She plans to continue her education with a master's degree in communications or marketing. Nicole says she hopes to find a career in the livestock pharmaceutical sales sector.

**Joshua VanDeWalle** won the first-place Ed Bible Memorial Scholarship, second place National Junior Merit Award and a Golden Bull Achievement Award. He has participated in nearly every junior national for 14 years. He won the senior illustrated speech contest at the 2002 JNHE and in 2001 was part of the team that won the team marketing contest. Joshua also served terms as the Nebraska Junior Polled Hereford Association secretary, treasurer and director. He has been involved in a variety of activities at each event. Joshua has received numerous awards for his involvement in FFA and 4-H. He says his Hereford experiences helped him choose to pursue a career in agricultural education or sales. **HW**