

# Hereford Youth Receive Scholarships

by Sara Gugelmeyer

While at the 10th annual 2009 VitaFerm Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE) in Tulsa, Okla., National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) members were awarded more than \$15,000 in scholarship monies. Congratulations to all the winners.

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

Young people are recognized each year for their involvement in the Hereford industry, agriculture and their communities with the Prospect and Golden Bull Awards, which are sponsored by the American Hereford Women (AHW) and NJHA. Prospect Awards go to students in third through eighth grades, and Junior Golden Bull Awards, to students in ninth through 12th grades. Prospect Award winners are given a leather halter with nameplate, and Junior Golden Bull Award winners receive a bronze Hereford bull statue. The Golden Bull Achievement Award is given to college-age students; they also receive a statue as well as a scholarship.

### Prospect Award

**Third grade** — Garrett Phelps, Grandview, Texas

**Fourth grade** — Paige Longstreth, Royal Center, Ind.

**Fifth grade** — Harley Rogers, Hamilton, Texas

**Sixth grade** — Brett Jones, Darlington, Texas

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

**Eighth grade** — Jackson Mead, Concord, Ark.

### Junior Golden Bull Award

**Ninth grade** — Chandler Mulvaney, Opelika, Ala.

**10th grade** — Mallorie Phelps, Grandview, Texas

**11th grade** — Cameron Curry, McAlester, Okla.

**12th grade** — Sheridan Davis, Turkey, Texas

### Golden Bull Achievement Award

**Heather Bradford**, St. Marys, Ohio, \$1,125

**Staci Curry**, McAlester, Okla., \$1,125

**Ilissa Nolan**, Gilmer, Texas, \$1,125

**Lauren Schiermiester**, Buffalo, Wyo., \$1,125

### 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 AHW.

**Kandi Knippa**, Seguin, Texas, \$500

**Staci Curry**, McAlester, Okla., \$500

### Ed Bible Memorial Scholarship

The Ed Bible Memorial Scholarship is presented by the National Organization of Poll-ettes (NOP). The scholarship is designed to help

## JUNIOR PROSPECT AND JUNIOR GOLDEN BULL AWARD

Picture (l to r) are: **Garrett Phelps**, Grandview, Texas, third grade and **Harley Rogers**, Hamilton, Texas, fifth grade; **Koby Rogers**, Hamilton, Texas, seventh grade and **Jackson Mead**, Concord, Ark., eighth grade. Not pictured: **Paige Longstreth**, Royal Center, Ind., fourth grade, and **Brett Jones**, Darlington, Texas, sixth grade.



## GOLDEN BULL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



Pictured (l to r) are **Heather Bradford**, St. Marys, Ohio; **Staci Curry**, McAlester, Okla.; **Ilissa Nolan**, Gilmer, Texas. Not pictured is **Lauren Schiermiester**, Buffalo, Wyo.

## JOHN WAYNE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



Recipients of \$500 John Wayne Memorial Scholarships sponsored by HYFA and AHW (l to r) are **Kandi Knippa**, Seguin, Texas, and **Staci Curry**, McAlester, Okla.

## ED BIBLE SCHOLARSHIP



Pictured (l to r) are: **Madeline Moore**, Cove, Ore.; **Nicole Rosencutter**, Topeka, Kan.; **Heather Bradford**, St. Marys, Ohio; and **Ilissa Nolan**, Gilmer, Texas. Pictured presenting the awards is Paula Tracy, NOP chairman.

#### FUTURE CATTLEMAN SCHOLARSHIP



Pictured (l to r) are: **Ilissa Nolan**, Gilmer, Texas, and **Drew Perez**, Nara Visa, N.M.

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 Poll-ette associations. He positively influenced the Hereford breed and industry. Therefore, NOP offers four annual scholarships in his honor.

**First place — Madeline Moore**, Cove, Ore., \$1,000

**Second place — Nicole Rosencutter**, Topeka, Kan., \$750

**Third place — Heather Bradford**, St. Marys, Ohio, \$500

**Fourth place — Ilissa Nolan**, Gilmer, Texas, \$250

#### Future Cattleman Scholarship

The HYFA and AHW sponsor two \$500 scholarships awarded to junior members who have made outstanding contributions to the Hereford industry.

**Ilissa Nolan**, Gilmer, Texas, \$500

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

#### National Junior Merit Award

The junior merit scholarship recognizes 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 winner receives an expense-paid trip to a Hereford operation in the continental U.S., sponsored by American Live Stock

#### NATIONAL JUNIOR MERIT SCHOLARSHIP

**Reba Hurst**, Nevada, Mo., received a \$1,500 scholarship, plus a trip to any Hereford operation in the continental U.S., made possible by sponsor American Live Stock Insurance, Geneva, Ill. Pictured presenting the award is Stuart Wilson representing American Live Stock Insurance.



Insurance, Geneva, Ill., as well as a scholarship.

**Reba Hurst**, Nevada, Mo., \$1,500 plus trip

#### Hereford Herdsman Scholarship

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

**Seth Going**, Lyons, Neb., \$1,000

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

#### Poll-ette Founders Scholarship

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

**Madeline Moore**, Cove, Ore. \$500

**Heather Bradford**, St. Marys, Ohio, \$500

**Heather Bradford**, 19, was awarded a Poll-ette Founders Scholarship, the Golden Bull Achievement Award and was the third-place winner of the Ed Bible Memorial Scholarship. She will start her sophomore year at Purdue University in the fall. She has been an NJHA member and Ohio Buckeye Junior Hereford Association member for 12 years. In 2008 Heather earned reserve champion senior showman, reserve champion heifer and reserve champion bred-and-owned heifer

#### HEREFORD HERDSMAN SCHOLARSHIP



**Seth Going**, Lyons, Neb., received the \$1,000 Hereford Herdsman Scholarship.

#### POLL-ETTE FOUNDERS SCHOLARSHIP



Pictured (l to r) are: **Heather Bradford**, St. Marys, Ohio, and **Madeline Moore**, Cove, Ore. Pictured presenting the awards is Paula Tracy, NOP chairman.

honors at the Ohio State Fair. As a high school student, Heather received many academic honors. At Purdue she is a 4.0 GPA dean's scholar, Block & Bridle member and collegiate 4-H member. She is pursuing an animal science degree and plans to also earn a master's and pursue a career in beef cattle quantitative genetics.

**Cameron Curry**, 17, was awarded the 11th grade Junior Golden Bull Award. He is a 10-year member of the NJHA and the Junior Hereford Association of Oklahoma (JHAO). In the JHAO he has served as director and reporter and is currently the secretary. At the Oklahoma City Expo, Cameron exhibited the grand champion bred-and-owned Hereford in 2008, and in 2009 was the reserve grand champion senior showman. He also participated in livestock judging and team marketing at the national level. Cameron says the most beneficial part of being an NJHA member is the access to top-of-the-line genetics he gets through the Junior AI Program.

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Friday night NJHA members and their families honored contest and scholarship winners as well as recognized retiring board members during the awards dinner and ceremony.



**Staci Curry, 19**, was the recipient of a Golden Bull Achievement Award and a John Wayne Memorial Scholarship. She will begin her sophomore year at Oklahoma State University (OSU) in the fall. She has been a member of the NJHA and JHAO for 11 years. Staci has served on the JHAO board of directors since 2000 as director, vice president and president. In January 2009 she exhibited a division champion in the open show at the National Western Stock Show (NWSS) in Denver. At OSU, Staci is a member of the Oklahoma Collegiate Cattlewomen, Block & Bridle and works at the OSU Beef Research Center. She plans to complete her bachelor's degree at OSU and work in the ag sector, while continuing to build her Hereford herd.

**Sheridan Davis, 18**, was the recipient of the 12th grade Junior Golden Bull Award. She has been a member of the Texas Junior Hereford Association (TJHA) and the NJHA since she was 8 years old. She has served the TJHA as director, reporter and treasurer and is currently the president. She showed the reserve

grand champion bull at the 2008 TJHA state show and won the showmanship contest at the 2008 Hall County Livestock Show. She plans to attend Texas Christian University in the fall to study nursing and eventually earn her master's degree in nursing, specializing in anesthesiology.

**Seth Going, 21**, won a Hereford Herdsman Scholarship. He has been a member of the NJHA and the Nebraska Junior Hereford Association for 14 years. He graduated from Southeast Community College (SCC), Beatrice, Neb., in June and will be attending the University of Nebraska - Lincoln (UNL) in the fall. At SCC, Seth was a livestock judging team member and his final year served as assistant judging coach. He plans to graduate from UNL with a bachelor's degree in agricultural education. He would like to eventually work for a state beef council.

**Audrey Hambright, 21**, won a Hereford Herdsman Scholarship. She will be a senior at Kansas State University (K-State) in the fall. She is an 11-year member of the NJHA and has been a Kansas Junior Polled

Hereford Association (KJPHA) member for 14 years. Audrey has served the KJPHA as director and secretary. At K-State she is a member of Collegiate Cattlewomen and Agriculture Communicators of Tomorrow. She plans to graduate from K-State in 2010 with a bachelor's degree in agricultural communications and journalism and hopes to work for a beef cattle publication.

**Reba Hurst, 18**, won the National Junior Merit Award. She is an eight-year member of the NJHA and the Missouri Junior Hereford Association (MJHA) and has competed at the JNHE since 2002. At the 2008 JNHE Reba's steer, which she bred and raised, was chosen the grand champion carcass steer. Reba served the MJHA as director, reporter and vice president and is also active in the Vernon County Cattlemen's Association and Missouri Cattlemen's Association. As a high school student, she was in the National Honor Society, the marching band, Spanish club, 4-H and FFA and played basketball. She has been accepted to the University of Missouri-Columbia, where she plans to major in animal science. She hopes to be a large animal veterinarian and continue to help on the farm.

**Brett Jones, 12**, was awarded the sixth grade Prospect Award. He has been a member of the NJHA and the Wisconsin Junior Hereford Association (WJHA) for six years. Brett is a director of WJHA for the first time this year and says he enjoyed helping organize the state preview show. One of his biggest accomplishments was when he exhibited the champion heifer, co-owned with his sister, in the open division at the Wisconsin State Fair. Since his first JNHE in 2005, he's competed in speech, judging, basketball, photography, poster, quiz bowl and showmanship, in addition to showing cattle.

**Kandi Knippa, 21**, won a John Wayne Memorial Scholarship. She just completed her sophomore year at Texas A&M University. She is a 10-year member of the NJHA and

the Texas Junior Polled Hereford Association (TJPHA). She has served on the NJHA Board of Directors since 2007 and was just elected president of the association. She was also the president of the TJPHA from 2006-2008. Kandi showed the champion bred-and-owned female in 2007 and in 2008 finished in the top ten in senior showmanship at the JNHE. She plans to complete her bachelor's degree in animal science at Texas A&M and pursue a graduate degree in the animal science field.

**Paige Longstreth**, 10, was awarded the fourth grade Prospect Award. She has been a member of the NJHA and the Indiana Junior Hereford Association for two years. Paige exhibited the champion Hereford steer at the 2008 Hoosier Beef Congress and the 2009 Tennessee Agribition shows. Another of her accomplishments is helping this spring to deliver her first calf out of her first show heifer. Paige also enjoys 4-H, the National Junior Swine Association, the Junior Boer Goat Association, youth group, Girl Scouts, basketball, volleyball, swimming, book club and chorus.

**Jackson Mead**, 14, was awarded the eighth grade Prospect Award. He has been a member of the NJHA since 2002 and the Arkansas Hereford Youth Association (AHYA) for six years. Jackson is currently serving as vice president of the AHYA. He says one of his greatest accomplishments was winning grand champion Hereford heifer and supreme champion at the 2003 Independence County Fair at only nine years old. Jackson also serves as the president of his 4-H club and enjoys basketball, cross-country, band and hunting. He is also a young philanthropist, volunteering for the local humane society, outreach center and projects through church.

**Madeline Moore**, 21, won the first-place Ed Bible Memorial Scholarship and a Poll-ette Founders Scholarship. She is from Cove, Ore. She has been an NJHA member for

## Andras awarded scholarship in honor of Wesley Rakestraw

Geoff Andras, Connerville, Okla., was chosen the winner of the Wesley Rakestraw Hereford Enthusiast Award at the 2009 VitaFerm Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE) July 10 in Tulsa, Okla.

"I am honored to be chosen to receive the Wesley Rakestraw Memorial Scholarship," Geoff says. "I

would not have met their scholarship requirements if it were not for the many people through my junior years that have reached out and helped me along the way."

The award was started at the 2008 JNHE to honor the memory of late Hereford breeder Wesley Rakestraw. The Rakestraw family, owners of JWR Land and Cattle Co., and Tom and Tammy Boatman, JWR managers, wanted to honor Wesley by choosing a junior member with a similar fun-loving personality. Each recipient is given a \$500 scholarship and a leather briefcase made by Classic Leather Designs.

Geoff is a sophomore at Connors State College, Warner, Okla., majoring in agriculture communications/business. He has been active in the Montana Junior Hereford Association serving as director, vice president and president. In the showing, he has exhibited several champion heifers and steers at the state level. As a competitive showman he has placed in the top 10 of senior showmanship at the 2008 and 2009 JNHEs and was nominated for the 2008 Junior Hereford Herdsman of the Year Award. His fellow Oklahoma junior members voted Geoff as the 2009 Outstanding Junior Member.

Geoff is an appreciative recipient of this award saying, "The scholarship from JWR Land & Cattle will make a terrific difference and help me reach my goals. I am a fourth-generation Hereford breeder and I want to live up to the reputations of Mr. Rakestraw, my Dad and grandfathers." **HW**

seven years and is also a member of the Oregon Hereford Association, the Oregon Washington N. Idaho Hereford Association, the Texas Hereford Association and the Oregon Junior Hereford Association. Maddie attended Linn-Benton Community College from 2006-2008 and was on the livestock judging team. She is now working toward her bachelor's degree in animal science at Texas Tech University. At Texas Tech she is Block & Bridle historian and is on the livestock judging team. After graduation she plans to earn her master's degree in agriculture education.

**Chandler Mulvaney**, 15, was awarded the ninth grade Junior Golden Bull Award. He has been an NJHA and Alabama Junior Hereford Association (AJHA) member for seven years. He has been an AJHA director for four years and is currently the vice president. At the 2008 JNHE, Chandler exhibited his heifer to first place in her class in the bred-and-owned division and earned first place in the public speaking contest. He successfully competes in livestock judging, earning many team and individual honors at the state level. Chandler is also a talented baseball player and aspires to play professionally after college.



**Geoff Andras** (center), Connerville, Okla., was presented the Wesley Rakestraw Hereford Enthusiast Award by Tom and Tammy Boatman, managers of JWR Land & Cattle Co.

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**Ilissa Nolan**, 20, won a Future Cattleman Scholarship, the Golden Bull Achievement Award and the fourth-place Ed Bible Memorial Scholarship. She will be a junior at Texas A&M University in the fall. She has been an NJHA and TJHA member for nine years. In 2007 she showed the grand champion owned and the reserve champion bred-and-owned at the Texas Junior Hereford State Show. She served the TJHA as sweetheart, queen, junior director, senior director, reporter, vice president and president from 2002-2009. At Texas A&M Ilissa is a member of Zeta Tau Alpha, Memorial Student Center Council, College of Agriculture and Life Science Council, Conference on Student Government Associations and Freshman Leaders in Progress and host of Aggie Muster. She is majoring in agriculture leadership and development with a minor in business and horticulture. She plans to continue her education at Mays Business School of Texas A&M to earn a master's degree. She hopes to work for the Go Texan program, which promotes products produced in Texas.

**Drew Perez**, 21, won a Future Cattleman Scholarship. He will start his senior year at Texas Tech University this fall. He has been an NJHA and New Mexico Junior Hereford Association member for 12 years. At the 2009 JNHE, he was awarded the coveted Junior Herdsman of the Year Award, voted on by his peers. Drew attended Butler County Community College (Kansas) for two years and was a very successful livestock judge there. His success has led him to judge at Texas Tech, where in 2009 his team was champion and he was high individual at two contests: San Antonio and the National Meat Animal Evaluation contest. He will graduate in 2010 with a bachelor's degree in agricultural applied economics and a minor in animal science. Afterward, he plans to attend graduate school in animal nutrition.

**Garrett Phelps**, 8, was awarded the third grade Prospect Award. He has been a member of the NJHA for one year and TJHA for two years. He has been successful in the showing with first place heifers at the Houston Livestock Show and the San Angelo Stock Show in 2009. He also exhibited the reserve champion senior female at the Fort Worth Livestock Show in 2009. Garrett is also active in 4-H, Boy Scouts and Sunday school, and he volunteers at an animal shelter and participates in an ice hockey league.

**Mallorie Phelps**, 15, was awarded the 10th grade Junior Golden Bull Award. She has been a member of the NJHA and TJHA for six years. She was just elected to the NJHA board of directors at the 2009 JNHE. Mallorie has served the TJHA as junior director, senior director and reporter and is currently the second vice president. In 2008 she was chosen the outstanding Texas Junior Hereford Member, and in 2009 she exhibited the reserve grand champion heifer at the Houston Livestock Show. She also participates in livestock judging, team fitting, photography, scrapbook, team marketing and quiz bowl with much success.

**Harley Rogers**, 11, was awarded the fifth grade Prospect Award. She is a 10-year member of the NJHA and has been a member of the TJHA for six years and the Texas Junior Polled Hereford Association for nine years. Harley exhibited her heifer "Emerald" to reserve division champion at the Fort Worth Junior Livestock Show in 2009. She was also a finalist in 2007 and 2008 in the peewee showmanship at the Texas Junior Preview Show. Harley also competes in illustrated speaking, judging, team marketing and team fitting contests through NJHA.

**Koby Rogers**, 13, was awarded the seventh grade Prospect Award. He joined the NJHA in 1999 and has been a member of the Texas Junior Polled Hereford Association (TJPHA) for nine years and TJHA for

six years. Koby served as a director of the TJHA from 2006-2008. He was the grand champion junior showman at this county fair and was a finalist in JNHE showmanship in 2007. Koby has also earned success in judging and public speaking contests at the JNHE. He is active in 4-H, basketball, soccer and football, among others, and has attended Program Reaching Individuals Determined to Excel (PRIDE) Convention four times.

**Nicole Rosencutter**, 21, won the second-place Ed Bible Memorial Scholarship. She is from Topeka, Kan., and is currently attending K-State. She is a 12-year member of the NJHA and the KJPHA. She was the Kansas Polled Hereford Queen from 2004-2007. At K-State she is an Ag Ambassador and Alpha of Clovia, collegiate 4-H, intersarsity Christian fellowship and Pre-vet Club member. She also is the president of Alpha Zeta. She will finish her senior year in the animal science program and apply to veterinary school this year.

**Lauren Schiermiester**, 19, received the Golden Bull Achievement Award. She is going to be a sophomore in the fall at the University of Wyoming (UW). She has been a member of the Wyoming Junior Hereford Association (WJHA) for eight years and the NJHA for five. In 2008 she showed the champion Hereford female at the Fort Worth Stock Show and the champion spring yearling heifer at the NWSS in Denver. Lauren has served the WJHA as a director since 2008. She graduated with a 4.0 GPA and was first in her class at Buffalo High School in 2008 and has earned a 4.0 in animal science at UW her first year. Also at UW she is a college of agriculture ambassador and a member of the food science club. She expects to graduate with her bachelor's degree in 2012 and pursue a master's in agriculture. **HW**