

Opportunities Abound

As I get older, I find myself doing things that I said I would never do. For example, I am sure that we can all remember something our parents did to us that we said we would never put our kids through.

When I was growing up and wanted to do something out of the ordinary, I would ask my parents, and for the next few minutes, I would hear them ramble on about how this was not how they were brought up or how this is so different than when they were kids. Even with this, they always seemed to give in to my request.

Well, I think my wife and I have fallen into that same routine, and I am sure many of you are in the same boat. The opportunities for our kids are endless, and the choices are tough.



Jack Ward

When I was a kid, we had 4-H and FFA, and we had animals that we started breaking in the springtime to get them ready for the county fair, and if we were lucky, we could go to a local open show and maybe the state fair. Nearing the end of my junior show career, I was able to attend a couple of national junior shows that included a heifer show and usually a showmanship contest.

Boy has this changed, and, I might add, it has changed for the better. What opportunities our kids have today and what a pleasure it is to see these youth in action. I was able to be a part of the recent Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE) and watch kids from around the country participate in contests and show off their talents.

My kids do the same, and it gives my wife and me a great feeling every time they step up to a microphone to give a speech or crawl out of bed at the wee hours of the morning to get a heifer rinsed, fed and ready to go for the show. But, the most important thing to us is when we see them headed off with a bunch of kids that we have never met from somewhere we have never been to go have lunch or watch a show or throw a ball or maybe even get into a water fight.

I want to commend and congratulate everyone who helped put on the JNHE, everyone who attended the JNHE and all of those who supported the event. Simply put, it was a great event, and it was another opportunity to have kids involved in good activities and be around good people.

As I worked the line up area for the show, I was able to see the smiles and the frowns, and I understand the importance of both. These are the activities that will enable our kids to grow up to be productive adults in a time that will really challenge them. I am not sure what the future holds for animal agriculture in the U.S., but I am much more comfortable knowing that kids like these will be our spokespeople for the years to come.

Finally, I would like to encourage everyone to consider coming to Kansas City for the annual meeting. On Oct. 31, prior to the delegate meeting, we will have some informational meetings.

Part of these meetings will be used to introduce two new traits that we have been working on for the past year. These will be heifer calving rate (HCR) and survivability. The event should be very informative, and I look forward seeing you there. **HW**

PACE released

On another note, the first Pan-American Cattle Evaluation (PACE) has now been launched. As you look through this, I hope you feel a little sense of pride as this is the first of its kind in the cattle industry.

In addition, you will have noticed a little difference in some of the numbers from the last run. The correlation between the spring and fall run were very high with some differences due to some of the following: 1) new data from the animals either from North or South America and 2) some slight changes in the model.

Something to look at would be to see if your animals have some linkage to South America that could have influenced change. Another thing is to remember that with a model change, the numbers from spring to fall may have changed slightly. The best way to evaluate the two numbers would be to see how they ranked from spring to fall. If the rankings are similar, then the numbers would be basically the same. **HW**