

Thanks for Helping Make JNHE a Huge Success

It seems like it was just yesterday when I was finishing my last final for the spring semester and hurrying home to start working with the cattle, anxious to get to Tulsa. Before I could blink, the 2009 Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE) had blown by, and I was back home, unloading a trailer full of cattle, wishing they were back in the great weather that Tulsa, Okla., provided us.

With more than 1,600 entries, I knew July 4-11, 2009, was going to go in the record books as one of the best junior national shows that any breed has ever hosted. And I was not disappointed! On behalf of the National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) board of directors, I would like to thank everyone for doing their part in making the week a success.

Once again, VitaFerm was our title sponsor as well as Sure Champ.

Thank you to Bob Norton and the VitaFerm staff for your continued support of our juniors. Sure Champ T-shirt Day was a hit, and juniors enjoyed wearing their shirts throughout the day.

If you were fortunate to be awarded a division champion during the show, you were given a bucket of the popular Sure Champ product. I strongly encourage everyone to try the Sure Champ products and support VitaFerm as the people there have supported us through the years.

There are many people who need to be thanked numerous times for their parts in making JNHE such a huge success. To the state of Oklahoma, particularly the Junior Hereford Association of Oklahoma and all of the Oklahoma breeders: thank you.

The amount of time, hard work and dedication that each of you put into making the week unforgettable was evident in every detail. A special thank you goes to Tennessee River Music Inc. for its sponsorship of our show shirts.

Thank you to all of our sponsors, from the gold, silver and platinum levels as well as those who sponsored the grand and reserve grand champion, division and reserve division champion, class winner and showmanship awards. You can find a detailed list of our sponsors at *JrHereford.org*.

Each year the American Hereford Women (AHW) and the National Organization of Pollettes (NOP) sponsor contests for our youth, including the Great American CHB® Grill-off and illustrated and extemporaneous speaking contests.

I greatly appreciate the help from these wonderful ladies in making these popular contests

possible. Also, thank you to the AHW and NOP as well as the Hereford Youth Foundation of America for their parts in donating scholarships to deserving juniors within our association. Being a recipient myself, I know and understand the importance of scholarships in helping us to continue toward achieving a higher education, and I strongly encourage all eligible juniors to apply next year.

To the American Hereford Association (AHA) staff, including Craig Huffhines, Jack Ward, Sara Faber, Angie Denton, Joe Rickabaugh, Andee Marston and Adam Cotton, I would like to thank each of you for your help in making the week run smoothly as well as taking the time to line up cattle and take amazing pictures.

Perhaps no one had quite the stress nor worked as hard as Amy Cowan did, not only throughout the week but leading up to JNHE, as well. A lot of what Amy does is behind the scenes and is extremely important to the success of the week. Nicole Starr, AHA junior activities intern, did a great job of working with Amy and the junior board to keep everything in line. Thank you, Amy and Nicole, for everything that you have done!

Last, but certainly not least, thank you to all of the juniors and their families who made the haul to Tulsa. The week was full of fun and excitement, from the contests to the shows. The cattle looked as good as ever, and it was great to see old friends and make new ones. Congratulations to all of our champions and winners, and I hope to see everyone in Indianapolis next year! **HW**

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