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Champion owned females and their owners Lauren McMillan and Bailey Buck pose with the NJHA board following the 2010 JNHE. John Deere was a key sponsor of this year's event.

Hereford Youth Head "Home Again in 2010" for JNHE



Cody Beck and Kirbie Day are pictured following the champion bred-and-owned female drive.

There's just something about going home — the feeling that you can be yourself, share stories and laughs, and simply know that you belong.

At the 2010 Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE), July 4-10 in Indianapolis, Hereford youth from across the country came "Home Again in 2010," making memories, enjoying competition and showmanship, and once again renewing the bond that is the Hereford family.

And, what a family reunion this was! A record 1,161 entries entered the ring: 133 steers, 57 bulls, 34 pairs, 166 bred-and-owned heifers and 595 polled- and 176 horned-owned heifers. Participants also enjoyed the competition and education provided by 22 other contests and activities during the weeklong event.

Homecomings of this magnitude are only possible through the generous support of corporate sponsorships. The 2010 VitaFerm® JNHE was sponsored in part by

BioZyme Inc., St. Joseph, Mo., and John Deere, Cary, N.C.

The Indiana Junior Hereford Association hosted this year's event at the Indiana State Fairgrounds and welcomed more than 650 Hereford youth.

During the week, more than \$25,000 in scholarships was awarded to juniors, and then National Hereford Women gave away a heifer donated by Mohican Farms (Ohio) and Mohican West (Montana).

Each summer National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) members anxiously await the JNHE to reunite with friends from across the country and to take part in some of the toughest competition anywhere.

We asked NJHA members from coast to coast why they load up their trucks and trailers to make the journey to each year's event. Although the reasons may vary, the theme is identical: without a doubt, every mile is worth it, and they plan to return home for years to come.



Krissi McCurdy, 17, Chatsworth, Ga.

Has attended every JNHE but one since she was 4.

On why she keeps returning to the JNHE: “I was born into the Hereford family. I truly cannot stay away from showing, and I love it more every year. I’ve made so many friends, and I can’t wait to be around everyone, every time. It’s a great experience.”



Jae Van Horn, 20, Franklin, Ind.

Attended the JNHE for the tenth time in 2010 and served as co-chairman of the 2010 JNHE.

On what it is like to help plan the JNHE: It is fun, but it was also jam-packed with things to do. It was fun to meet and talk to people. Before planning the JNHE, I didn’t know how much money and goods went into a show like this.

On advice he would give to future hosts: Don’t wait until the last minute to do anything. Plan ahead — even up to the week or day.



Rope Stewart, 11, Sterling City, Texas

Attended the JNHE for the first time in 2010.

On the friends he’s made at his first JNHE: The JNHE has been really fun. I’ve never been before. I’ve seen people from all different states. I’ve met new friends from New York and New Jersey — I never imagined there would be cattle in those states!

On why he loves Herefords: My family has shown Herefords for a lot of decades, and Herefords are a lot gentler than the other breeds.



Newman Barrett, 15, Melba, Idaho

Attended the JNHE for the second time in 2010.

On why it’s worth the long drive to attend the JNHE: It’s worth the 31-hour drive to see people you see only once a year. I have friends from Indiana, Oklahoma, Wisconsin and Texas. It’s pretty nice to know if we’re driving through a different part of the country, we have friends we can call to ask if we can lay over for the night.

It’s a fun atmosphere. You get to show cattle at a national level. If I place at least above third from bottom of the class, it feels good! The people in the Hereford breed are nice people. To see this many Hereford cattle is pretty neat.



Lauren Prill, 15, Wichita, Kan.

Attended the JNHE for the second time in 2010 — this year she attended three national junior breed shows.

On how the JNHE compares to other national junior breed shows: There are a lot of people from Kansas who attend, and I get to hang out with them all week. Our state stays together at the same hotel, and the group cooks lunches together. There are more people who attend Hereford junior nationals from Kansas than the other shows, I think.



Abigail Lewis, 7, Taylor, Neb.

Attended the JNHE for the first time in 2010.

On her favorite JNHE contest: My favorite contest was Hereford Idol because I like to sing.

On what she thinks about her first JNHE: It’s been fun! I have been helping with heifers and playing with friends.

On the following pages, you’ll find highlights of the 2010 JNHE.



During opening ceremonies junior members who were exhibiting at their last JNHE were honored.



Hereford enthusiasts participated in the judging contest Tuesday morning.



Ohio Hereford breeders hosted a corn hole contest on Monday.

During opening ceremonies the showring was full of Hereford youth as Randy Owen sang the National Anthem and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.





Bob Norton, BioZyme Inc., encouraged youth during the awards banquet not to forget to thank those who help them. A big thanks goes to Bob and the BioZyme/VitaFerm staff for their help and sponsorship during the week.



During the mentor mixer experienced JNHE exhibitors are paired with younger members. The pairs participate in activities and work together to complete the mentor program autograph booklet.



Hereford youth filled the wash racks during the morning hours.



Singing and dancing skills shined during the Hereford Idol competition on Sunday.



The grills were hot as participants prepared for the Hereford Grill-off. Kansas juniors (right) made slider burgers, which earned them first-place honors.



Hereford youth demonstrate their design skills in the creative arts contest.



What makes the JNHE special is how it is a family event. Here Kyle and Lauren McMillan embrace after winning grand champion horned female honors.



Rebecca Frazier educated judges during the illustrated speech contest about the parts of a bovine stomach.



During the week Hereford youth sported Sure Champ t-shirts and tattoos.



Throughout the week state Hereford queens assisted National Hereford Queen Katie Killian distribute ribbons and awards.



Hereford enthusiasts participated in the first Hereford Youth Foundation of America (HYFA) golf tournament on Tuesday. Eight teams participated in the event and raised more than \$3,100 to support Hereford youth. Pictured here is the winning ladies team: Nicole Barber, Becky Allan, Nancy Keilty and Stephanie West.