

# An Amazing Week

July 9-16 was an amazing week to be involved in the National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA), as members from all over the country traveled to Kansas City, Mo., for “Kickin’ it in Kansas” and the 2011 Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE).

While everyone always looks forward to the four days of showing competition, the JNHE is a whole lot more than just a cattle show. It’s a combination of a cattle show, contests, and a weeklong Hereford family reunion. It’s always enjoyable to visit with juniors and their families whom we see only a few times a year. Catching up with old friends and making new ones are some of the core elements that make the JNHE the best junior livestock show in the country.

However, the NJHA could not undertake an event like the JNHE without the help of many volunteers. This year, the host state of Kansas did a fantastic job. All of the

juniors, parents and other Hereford breeders from Kansas worked extremely hard to make “Kickin’ it in Kansas” one of the best JNHEs in recent memory.

From the folks at the welcome gate to the hospitality area, the ring decorations and everything else that went into making it a great show, NJHA members say, “Thank You!” for all the work you put into hosting the largest junior cattle show in the U.S.

We could not put on the JNHE without the help of our many sponsors. Once again, we were fortunate to have VitaFerm agree to be the title sponsor. We can’t thank Bob and Lisa Norton enough for what they have done for Hereford juniors.

Once again VitaFerm T-shirt Tuesday was a huge success. The “Live It. Love It. Lead It” video Mr. Norton showed at the awards banquet was very inspirational, and it shows just how much everyone at VitaFerm cares about livestock industry youth.

We would also like to thank Sullivan Show Supply for their partnership with the NJHA. We look forward to working with the Sullivans and their Stock Show University program in the coming years.

Also, our greatest appreciation goes out to UMB Bank and Tyson Foods. The Kemper family and UMB Bank helped offset some of the costs of the American Royal facility, while Tyson donated the meat for our meals and the awards banquet dinner. Thank you to the staff at the American Royal Complex for all their help leading up to and during the JNHE. We also want to thank all of the Hereford breeders who sponsored classes, divisions, championships and all of the other awards presented during the week.

Congratulations to everyone who participated in the many contests offered throughout the week. From the exciting, fast-paced

basketball tournaments to the illustrated speech and photography contests, there really is something for everyone at the JNHE. If you did not participate in a contest this summer, find one that fits your interests and enter it next summer at the 2012 JNHE in Grand Island, Neb. For those who took part in contests, find a new one you have never tried and start preparing!

The JNHE brings together a great collection of cattle for a very competitive show. Starting with showmanship on Wednesday, the competition was extremely stout. Congratulations to all the showmen who entered, and special congratulations to those who were fortunate enough to make the top 10 in their age divisions. Also, thanks to Bob May, Cheramie Viator and Matt Copeland for evaluating the showmanship contests. The cow-calf, bull, bred-and-owned heifers and steer shows on Thursday were as deep and competitive as any JNHE has seen. We greatly appreciate Matt Claeys and Blake Nelson for their time and opinions sorting these shows.

Friday and Saturday brought forth two long days full of extremely impressive owned heifer classes for judge Brandon Callis to evaluate. The quality was unbelievable and deeper than ever before. All exhibitors are to be commended for bringing such a great set of Hereford cattle to Kansas City.

If any NJHA board member can help you out in any way, please let us know. We serve each member of the NJHA family, and we want to help as many people as we can in any way that we can. Feel free to give any of us a call, write us an e-mail or talk to us wherever you see us. We love to visit with juniors, parents, breeders or anyone who loves Hereford cattle as much as we do. **HW**

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