

Moving On

After serving three years on the NJHA board, these four Hereford youth are ready for the next stage of their lives.



Retiring directors (pictured, l to r) are: Hunter Grayson, Andrew Albin, Mallorie Phelps and Kevin Ernst.

Saturday night, July 7, during the Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE) awards banquet, four Hereford youth passed their maroon jackets on to four new National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) leaders. Before they did so, they shared thank-yous with the many people who have touched their lives and aided them during their terms on the NJHA board.

Since 2009 this foursome — Andrew Albin, Kevin Ernst, Hunter Grayson and Mallorie Phelps — has traveled the U.S. representing the NJHA and assisting in shows and conferences.

During the JNHE, these “oldies,” as the retiring four are called, took time to answer some questions about their time in the NJHA as well as their future plans and goals.



Andrew

Andrew Albin

The 20-year-old son of David and Julie Albin, Newman, Ill., Andrew is a junior at Parkland College, majoring in animal science

and criminal justice. He has been a member of the Illinois Junior Hereford Association for seven years and is currently serving as a director.

Andrew has attended three Program for Reaching Individuals Determined to Excel (PRIDE) Conventions and five JNHEs. He is a member of the Saluki college bass team, as well as a forefather of the Southern Illinois Farmhouse Fraternity. As an active FFA member, he served as chapter president, vice president and treasurer.

Andrew says his goal as an NJHA board member was to help the Hereford breed and Hereford youth to be the best they can be. He adds that his favorite memory as a board member was when he worked the ring the first time during the grand champion drive in Tulsa.

He attended his first JNHE in 2005. He says his favorite part of the JNHE is the Hereford grill-off because of the enthusiasm the participants exhibit during the contest.



Kevin

Kevin Ernst

Continuing the family tradition in the Hereford business started by his father and continued by his sisters, Kevin has been an NJHA member since 1998. The 20-year-old son of Marshall and

Barbara Ernst, Windsor, Colo., served as the 2011-12 NJHA membership chair.

When asked why he wanted to be an NJHA board member, Kevin says, “I wanted to be able to give something back to the association, the breed and everyone in it who has done so much for me. I wanted to do something for them.”

Kevin has also served as president, vice president and reporter of the Colorado Junior Beef Association.

Recently graduated from Northeastern Junior College in Sterling, Colo., Kevin is beginning his junior year at Colorado State University this fall, studying ag business and animal science.

Showing cattle locally, regionally and nationally has been part of Kevin’s life for many years and will be for many more. “My future plans are going to be: graduate from college, find a job in the agriculture industry, settle down and raise my family in the Hereford breed.”



Mallorie

Mallorie Phelps

A fourth generation Hereford breeder, Mallorie decided to get her first show steer from the same family

her mother did when she started showing. And Mallorie says she’s been hooked ever since.

The 19-year-old daughter of Shannon Mehaffey, Grandview, Texas, Mallorie is currently a sophomore at Texas A&M University (TAMU), majoring in animal science, and is part of TAMU’s honors program. This year she will be serving on the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Council as well as being a member of the Aggie REPS

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(Recruiting Exceptional Perspective Students), TAMU Saddle & Sirloin and the meats judging program.

Mallorie is an active member of the Texas Junior Hereford Association, having served as vice president for 2011-12 and president for 2010-11. She attended PRIDE Conventions at Boise State, Washington, D.C., Mississippi State and Texas A&M University.

In addition to showing at the JNHE, Phelps has competed in many contests. She is looking forward to being an advocate for the Hereford breed and striving to educate beef retailers as well as the general public about the positive attributes of Hereford beef.

“I had always aspired to get a maroon jacket ever since my first JNHE and PRIDE,” Mallorie says. “NJHA board members are constantly giving back to the NJHA and are leaders — that was a role I strongly desired.”

This past year she served as the NJHA fundraising chair. She says her favorite JNHE contest is showmanship. “This is a contest when a junior’s skills are judged and it does not matter how good your calf is,” she says. “If you work hard and practice, anyone can win.”

After graduating from TAMU she plans to attend graduate school.



Hunter

junior, majoring in marketing, he plans to become an auctioneer and real estate broker.

A fifth-generation Hereford breeder, Hunter has been an NJHA member since 2006 and attended his

Hunter Grayson

The 20-year-old son of Richard Grayson, Watkinsville, Ga., attends Athens Technical College, Athens, Ga. A

first JNHE in 2007. He served as the Georgia Junior Hereford Association vice president.

Hunter is also the chairman of the Rope a Dream Foundation, honoring the late NJHA member Jordan Ellis. Hunter is passionate about educating junior Hereford members, as they are the future of the NJHA. He says his main goal as an NJHA board member was to continue the outstanding NJHA traditions and encourage members to reach their full potential.

He says his favorite part of the JNHE is “seeing old friends, making new ones, and eating the leftovers from the grill-off.”

This fall Hunter will be opening an auction company while continuing his education. **HW**