

JNHE: A Resounding Success

In the eyes of the National Hereford Women (NHW) board of directors, the 2012 Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE) was a resounding success. From the stellar efforts by the juniors and their cattle and the hard work put forth by American Hereford Association staff to the gracious hospitality of Hereford friends and the Nebraska State Fairgrounds in Grand Island it was a wonderful week.

The frosting on the cake for NHW was the tremendous support we received from Hereford women who believe in what we do and support our programs through their membership.

Here's a quick rundown of NHW's recent successes.

The Queen orientation and tea was led by NHW board members Denise Billman and Jill Bielema and by 2011-12 National Hereford Queen Amanda Bacon and her family. We also appreciate the assistance of former national queen Bethany Nolan and her mother, Alise. Twelve state queens and their parents attended the event, participated in ice-breakers and reviewed protocol, procedures and guidelines involved

with the queen program.

Another big hit was the second annual "little queen" program held during the orientation and tea. Lots of little girls dressed up for the event and brought their mothers or grandmothers. The girls could meet and talk with the queen candidates, decorate their very own crowns, and receive a goodie bag.

Queen Amanda also initiated a community service project, "Lending a Helping Hoof," and coordinated three "queen" baskets for the states' silent auction tables. The queen program received \$300 in donations.

The Ways and Means booth, orchestrated by Denise Billman and Paula Acheson, was staffed by NHW board members (and some helpful husbands) encouraging JNHE families to shop for great take-home items including Hereford mouse pads, notecards, prints, t-shirts and wall calendars. The result was nearly \$3,000 in income to support NHW's programs for juniors.

A membership push was made with wonderful results: one lifetime and 252 annual memberships were received. Sonja Vandergriff, Colorado, was the lucky new member who won the drawing of a "Secrets" print. Lifetime memberships are \$400 and annual memberships \$20. More than 400 women are now NHW members.

More than 100 juniors applied for NHW-sponsored scholarships and awards and participated in contests. NHW presented a total of nearly \$3,800 in awards during the awards banquet. The scholarship program was led by President Mary Ann Berg, NHW representative to JNHE's organizational committee Susan Gebhart, and committee members Jeanine Radel, Lori Hambright, Ann Guess, Lauren Echols, and Denise Billman. Youth contests and awards were coordinated by committee members Shannon Mehaffey, Diann Strickland, Susan Hayhurst, Ann Guess, Barb Ernst, Jill Bielema,

Shellie Collins, Paula Acheson and Jeanine Radel.

NHW is so grateful for the many judges who stepped up to review scholarship and award applications and interview the many youth who participated in the events. We are also grateful for the perseverance and commitment the juniors made in applying for the awards.

A big thank you goes to Dale and Mary Barber of Barber Ranch, Channing, Texas, for generously donating a \$1,500 voucher for the NHW Heifer Award. Winning the voucher was Addison Jackson, Miller, Mo.

Membership

While we've gained a significant number of new or renewed members, NHW wants you to know each and every Hereford woman is important to our membership and in furthering our mission of providing valuable encouragement and programs to our youth.

Your membership dollars are strictly used for activities and purposes for Hereford youth. Paula Acheson, membership chair, would be happy to answer any questions you might have about membership or how you can get involved in a small or big way. The \$20 NHW membership dues can be sent to her at 3 North Chicago, Box 86, Woodbine, KS 67492, or you may contact her at 785-257-3541.

New or rejuvenated state programs

Some states have recently shown interest in reactivating a closed Hereford women's organization or in initiating a new state women's program. We are thrilled at the interest, and the NHW board is creating a helpful packet of information to help you launch your state's program.

If you are interested in starting a state group or have questions, please contact Mary Ann Berg at 330-857-7967. **HW**

National Hereford Women

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President elect – Denise Billman, Newcomertown, Ohio

Vice president – Gay Maddox, Zionsville, Ind.

Secretary – Ann Guess, Jayton, Texas

Treasurer – Shellie Collins, Chattanooga, Okla.

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Membership – Paula Acheson, Woodbine, Kan.

Queen co-chairwomen – Jill Bielema, Denise Billman

Ways and means chairwoman – Denise Billman

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