

What a Summer

It's state fair time, which only means one thing, my favorite time of year has come and gone. Hereford junior activities have come to a close, only to be followed by text messages/phone calls from new friends reminiscing about the memories made and a certain buzz of excitement building for next summer's events!

For those of you who were unable to join us for the 2012 Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE), "Livin' The Hereford Life," you missed out on another successful and competitive show.

I think that our owned show judge Eldon Krebs summed up the event during the selection of the grand female when he said, "I have never seen so many good heifers all under one roof."

Not only were the livestock exceptional but also a great week was had for all the juniors who participated in contests throughout the week. It is truly a week that is long awaited each year by many juniors across the country, and it would not be possible without the help of our generous sponsors.

This summer was also a Program for Reaching Individuals Determined to Excel (PRIDE) Convention year. "Lighting the

Way to Leadership" was hosted in East Lansing, Mich., at Michigan State University (MSU). A total of 60 juniors from across the country toured the MSU campus, visited the MSU Purebred Beef Unit, listened to motivational speakers, completed workshops and rounded out the week with an afternoon on Lake Michigan and farm tours at Grand Meadows Farm and Ridgeview Farms.

We thank the MSU staff for being such great hosts, as well as the Bielema and Goble families for welcoming our group to your farms.

Finally, the 2012-13 board of directors kicked off the new year right with a retreat to Lake Michigan, where we were fortunate enough to spend a few days at a lakehome owned by Tim and Nancy Keilty's family. It was a great way to develop relationships and build our National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) board team.

We also conducted a JNHE wrap-up meeting and are already working on ideas for next year. We had the opportunity to tour Cottonwood Springs Farm on our way back to East Lansing to prepare for PRIDE Convention.

As another Hereford summer comes to an end and NJHA

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members are heading back to school, we have to remember how truly blessed we are to have the opportunities to gain friendships and enjoy the company of people from all over the country in our Hereford family. Until next summer, keep "Livin' the Hereford Life." **HW**

Prior to PRIDE Convention, the NJHA board members participated in a retreat to plan for the next year and to do team building activities. Directors pictured here on Lake Michigan are: Elise Hackett, Tuscola, Ill.; Matt Woolfolk, Columbia, Tenn.; Tamar Adcock, Assumption, Ill., chairman; Keysto Stotz, Skiatook, Okla., membership chair; Courtney Tribble, Puyallup, Wash., leadership chair; Austin Buzanowski, Pompeys Pillar, Mont.; Jaime Hanson, Comfrey, Minn., communications chair; Krissi McCurdy, Chatsworth, Ga., vice chairman; Jason May, East Randolph, Minn.; Kristin Bielema, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Brady Jensen, Courtland, Kan.; and Shelby Rogers, Hamilton, Texas, fundraising chair.

