

# Meet the Ambassadors



Ambassadors pictured with the 2013 NJHA Intern Luke Bolin (l to r) are: Jessica Lancaster, Sarah Wright, Rashele Blakely, Bolin, Andi Carlton and Andrea Paulson.

Checking in cattle and people. Managing contests. Preparing for the awards banquet. Assisting with press releases, photos and social media. During the 2013 Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE), a team of five ambassadors helped make sure this list was accomplished and so much more.

In 2012 the National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) introduced the JNHE ambassador program to assist American Hereford Association (AHA) staff and the NJHA board.

The five ambassadors worked throughout the week to make the JNHE run smoothly. They arrived in Kansas City, Mo., early to assist with setup, getting the facilities ready and organizing awards. Throughout the week, they helped make sure the 2013 JNHE was a huge success.

"Throughout the week the ambassadors worked behind the scenes making sure that everything was ready for an unforgettable event," says Amy Cowan, AHA director of youth activities. "They were great additions to our Hereford leadership team and helped out tremendously."

Let's meet this year's ambassadors:

**Andi Carlton** is a junior at the University of Arkansas, where she is studying animal science and agriculture business. Andi reflected on her time at junior national, saying, "I enjoyed

getting to experience the Junior National Hereford Expo and getting the opportunity to meet all of the people I have. Amy and all of the American Hereford Association staff were phenomenal to work with. The knowledge I have gained through the ambassador program will stick with me. Best junior national experience yet!"

Andi's passion for cattle and strong leadership background made her a great asset to the team. Working as the events coordinator, she made sure everything was set up for opening ceremonies, the awards ceremony and anywhere else necessary.

**Andrea Paulson** attends South Dakota State University, where she is majoring in animal science and agriculture education. She currently works in the South Dakota state 4-H office, an experience that gave her an edge as she prepared all of the contests for this year's JNHE. She worked to make sure all of the contests ran smoothly and worked closely with the junior board members.

**Jessica Lancaster** attends Allen Community College in Iola, Kan., where she competes on the livestock judging team and is majoring in agriculture education and agriculture communications. Jessica grew up in the Hereford breed and added Hereford and previous JNHE-attendee

knowledge to the team. Serving as the communications ambassador, she took pictures throughout the week, as well as wrote articles and press releases and assisted with the daily newsletter.

"I had the amazing opportunity to serve on the team as the communications ambassador. It was an unforgettable experience. Throughout the week I was able to capture unforgettable moments on camera, so families can cherish the memories for years to come."

**Rashele Blakely** recently graduated from Oklahoma State University, where she majored in animal science and agriculture education. She is looking forward to student teaching this fall. Rashele has a strong background in the Maine-Anjou industry, serving as a member of its junior board. Her experience was a valuable addition to the team. As the operations ambassador, she facilitated cattle and people check-in, as well as kept the tie-outs and showering in order and functioning smoothly.

**Sarah Wright** returned for her second year as an ambassador. A graduate of the University of Arkansas, Sarah received her bachelor's degree in agriculture education with minors in poultry science and agriculture communications. She managed the show office, data entry and social media updates. She also played a vital role in keeping the "jumbo-tron" updated with show results.

"After having gone through my second JNHE as ambassador I am certain that there is no greater breed association to be a part of. The people that I have met never ceased to amaze me with their kindness and generosity towards one another. Even during what I would consider to be a highly stressful week there was always someone with encouraging words and a sweet 'pick-me-up' to get the ball rolling again."

Individuals interested in applying to serve as a 2014 ambassador can download the application online or contact Amy Cowan at [acowan@hereford.org](mailto:acowan@hereford.org) for more information. **HW**