

Epitome of Team



Known as "Team Legendary," this year's retiring NJHA directors have focused on serving as a team and leaving their mark on the Hereford breed.

by Luke Bolin

Often when you hear the saying "This thing is legendary," you think of the Fort Worth Stock Show, but for the Hereford breed, four extraordinary young people have put a whole new meaning to that saying.

Completing their journey on the National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) board of directors at the 2013 Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE) were Tamar Adcock, Assumption, Ill.; Austin Buzanowski, Pompeys Pillar, Mont.; Jaime Hanson, Comfrey, Minn.; and Matt Woolfolk, Jackson, Tenn.

The group was nicknamed "Team Legendary" because of the strong relationship the foursome developed starting the night they were elected to the NJHA board in Indianapolis.

"It was first brought up as a joke because of how well we were already getting along," Austin explains.

Tamar adds, "Our combined character and chemistry are what allowed us to develop a strong relationship as a team and led us to

go out and build strong relationships with other Hereford youth."

Matt says what made the team special was "Everyone valued the good of the organization more than personal accolades. Each of us all had times we had to step up and lead, and other times we had to take a backseat to others."

Jaime adds, "We set our priorities high and attempted to leave the association better than when we started. No matter what challenge we were faced with, we gave it all that we had to leave our mark in a positive matter."

Tamar Adcock

Tamar is the 21-year-old daughter of Jim and Jan Adcock. She is a senior at Kansas State University, studying animal sciences and industry and plans to go to graduate school for animal breeding and genetics.

At college she is involved in Collegiate Cattlewomen, Block & Bridle, College of Ag Ambassadors and College of Ag Scholars program. Tamar has been a member of the

Illinois Junior Hereford Association for 13 years, serving as director, reporter, secretary and president.

For Tamar, she says, running for the NJHA board was all about having fun, meeting people and enjoying the opportunities that God had presented her with. During her time on the board, Tamar encouraged juniors to not let a single opportunity pass them by. Additionally, she worked hard to continue to improve current NJHA programs as well as to develop new ones that would take the association into the future.

"I actually went into the campaign expecting not to get on the board and was using that year to 'learn the ropes' and then I was going to run again," Tamar explains.

People and opportunity were the two things Tamar says she would miss the most about leaving the board. "I thoroughly enjoyed getting the opportunity to travel and meet other breeders and people who share a

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passion for Hereford cattle. Also, I cannot even begin to imagine how much I am going to miss the people, especially my other board members. Probably one of the hardest things for me in saying ‘goodbye — or rather see ya later’ — is not knowing when we will see each other next, as I will not have to come back to board meetings or shows.”

Austin Buzanowski

Austin is the 21-year-old son of Bernie and Stacie Buzanowski. He is a senior at the University of Wyoming, where he has been involved in Block & Bridle and competed on both the livestock and meats judging teams.

Austin is majoring in animal science business along with minors in meat science and agriculture business and will be graduating in December. After he receives his degree, Austin says he would like to return home to help improve the family herd of purebred Hereford cattle.

Austin has been active in the Montana Junior Hereford Association for 13 years, serving as president,

treasurer, reporter and a director.

The decision to run for the NJHA board was simple for Austin. “I wanted to give back to the junior organization what it had given me.”

Austin served as vice chairman during his second year on the board. Amy Cowan, American Hereford Association (AHA) director of youth activities and foundation, says, “Austin and his team worked so well together, especially in the second year when he was vice chairman and Matt served as chairman. They tackled this huge responsibility of leading the junior organization as a team and to me that is what serving on the board is all about.”

Austin says he will never forget his years as a director. “I will miss the many trips with ‘Team Legendary’ the most,” he adds. “We have been a close group from the very beginning and shared a lot of memories in our three years together.”

Jaime Hanson

Jaime is the 21-year-old daughter of Jim and Jeri Hanson, Comfrey, Minn. She is a senior majoring in animal science

with a minor in agriculture leadership and communications at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL).

Jaime is active in Sigma Alpha Professional Agriculture Sorority, UNL Collegiate Farm Bureau, Nebraska Beef Scholars program, Nebraska Cattlemen and the Nebraska Beef Council’s Team Beef running team. She has been a member of the Minnesota Junior Hereford Breeders for 13 years, serving as president for two years.

When Jaime ran for the board, she said she felt like an underdog, but she followed her heart and explains, “My campaign slogan, that I continue to use every day, was People.Passion.Purpose — connect with the people, instill the passion and fulfill the purpose.”

Serving two years as the communications chair, she continually kept the board up to date on deadlines and other reminders while keeping JNHE attendees in the know with the Hereford Events app and daily newsletter.

“I feel that I have accomplished what I set out to do, but my time is

Tips from Team Legendary



“You may not realize it, but people always have an eye on what you are doing. From the youngest kids to the grandparents, somebody is going to notice nearly everything you do, even the little things. Use that as motivation to always do what is right: lend a helping hand, go say hello to the shy kid sitting in the stands. You never know how big of an impact a small act can have on someone.” — **Matt Woolfolk**



“My advice to future and current board members is to keep your head up. There will be times that things won’t work out the way you planned, but remember that all of you have the same goal in mind: to make the junior organization the best that it can be.” — **Austin Buzanowski**



“Take a chance, it may be something unbelievable. It may be a situation where you don’t realize the value of the experience until it is over; that is how it has been for me. There will be great times and rough times, but you have to find it in your heart why you want to run. Who do you want to influence? What do you want to improve? Not to

mention the opportunities become endless as you interact with possible future employers, travel the nation, interacting with our amazing Hereford breeders and having the ability to make a difference in the life of someone else.” — **Jaime Hanson**



“Take advantage. I was once a shy young girl and if it weren’t for taking a few extra steps and maybe trying something new, I can honestly say I would not be where I am today.” — **Tamar Adcock**



not done,” she says. “Even though I may no longer be wearing the maroon jacket, I will be around the barns and actively involved in the Hereford industry. It is an association that I could never see distancing myself from, especially at a time like this, as our future is so bright.”

Matt Woolfolk

Matt is the 23-year-old son of John and Pat Woolfolk. He is a graduate student at Texas A&M University, pursuing a master’s degree in animal breeding and genetics.

A member of his state association for 14 years, Matt served as president, vice president, reporter and junior fundraising chairman for the 2007 Southeastern Regional Junior Hereford Show.

Matt explains his decision to run for the board was “Simply to help as many

people in any way that I could and make their NJHA experience better.”

During his three-year term, he did just that. Amy adds, “Matt was elected chairman the beginning of his second year, so it forced him to step up and take the reins earlier than most chairmen who serve in their third year. I think this made him a stronger leader and he ended his junior board career just like he started it, always helping younger junior members to be the best that they could be.”

Serving on the NJHA board is a three-year commitment. “What I’m going to miss is the interaction with all the junior members and their families,” Matt says. “I’ve met a lot of great people of all ages in the last three years because of this program. Some of my best friends I never would have met if it weren’t for opportunities I had while on the board.”

Moving forward

On July 20 “Team Legendary” fulfilled the last of their duties as NJHA directors and passed their jackets on to four new Hereford youth leaders. Although their time as NJHA directors has come to an end and all four have now progressed to the ranks as adult AHA members, their time as Hereford leaders is just beginning.

“There is no doubt that Jaime, Tamar, Austin and Matt have made their mark on the NJHA and our Hereford youth,” says Angie Stump Denton, AHA director of communications. “Their leadership will continue even after they take off their maroon jackets. The future of our breed is strong because of young leaders like Jaime, Tamar, Austin and Matt.” **HW**