



# Becks Named Advisors of the Year

by **Bridget Beran**

There was a big surprise awaiting Andy and Betsy Beck in Harrisburg, Pa. During the 2014 Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE) awards banquet, the couple was honored with the Advisors of the Year award.

The Becks say they were in such shock they wanted to ask Amy Cowan, American Hereford Association (AHA) director of youth activities and foundation, if she was sure they had the right name.

"We are very humbled and honored to receive this award," Betsy says. "Every junior advisor deserves a gold medal for all the hard work it takes to fulfill the advisor responsibilities. This is our last year as the Indiana Junior Hereford Association (IJHA) advisors and receiving this award from National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) is very rewarding."

As third-generation Hereford breeders, Andy and Betsy own and operate Beck-Powell Polled Herefords with Andy's father, Gene Beck. In 1942 Andy's grandfather, Clarence Beck, traveled to Kansas to purchase Hereford cattle. He rode the train back to Indiana with the cattle, unloaded them and walked the cattle to the farm where the Becks currently reside in Bainbridge, Ind.

They raised their son, Cody, in the Hereford business. Since he joined the NJHA in 2000, they've never missed a JNHE or an Indiana Preview Show, attending 15 throughout his junior career. They've also attended a Canadian junior national and encouraged Cody to take part in contests, as well as showing. Over the years, Cody has had great success, exhibiting the reserve grand champion bred-and-owned female at the 2010



Andy and Betsy Beck, Bainbridge, Ind., were honored as the 2014 National Junior Hereford Association Advisors of the Year. Also pictured is Amy Cowan, American Hereford Association director of youth activities and foundation.

JNHE and the reserve grand champion horned heifer at the 2014 JNHE. At the 2011 and 2013 JNHE, Cody placed in the top 10 for senior showmanship, and he was named Herdsman of the Year at this year's JNHE. Cody credits his parents as being his role models, mentors and greatest support system.

Right after the Becks became advisors, Indiana was an integral part of hosting the JNHE. Indianapolis was home to the 2010 JNHE, and the Becks were all hands on deck. Andy, Betsy and Cody served on the host committee, working in facility set-up, bedding, stalling and any other necessary area to ensure that the JNHE was a success. The Becks say that it was wonderful to have the JNHE in their home state.

"We lived on the fairgrounds the week of JNHE and tended to any issues that arose during that week," Andy says, "Indiana had a great team to work with. It was a group effort in hosting a successful show."

The Becks have been involved in Hereford organizations for many years, and since becoming advisors in 2009, they have devoted their time

to bettering the junior association and encouraging members within their state. With their dedication, the IJHA has grown to be one of the largest junior associations in the country.

"This gave us an opportunity to work closely with our state juniors and the Indiana junior board," Andy says. "It's a great group of kids and refreshing to watch these juniors grow into responsible young adults."

Chuck Van Horn, Franklin, Ind., a close friend of the Becks, says they are great advisors because they always listen to what the juniors have to say and are open to their ideas.

"They have always put the kids first," Chuck says. "From the 7-year-olds to the 21-year-olds, they always take their ideas seriously and listen."

Bruce Everhart, Waldron, Ind., grew up with the Becks, showing and raising Hereford cattle side-by-side and he considers them his dearest friends, as well as an incredible influence on the Hereford youth of Indiana.

"Andy and Betsy have had a tremendous impact on the IJHA members," Bruce says. "They have given advice and developed young folks without doing it for them. They are leaving a lasting legacy with our young folks in Indiana."

IJHA member Payton Farmer, Brownstown, Ind., says she would not even be in the Hereford business if not for the Becks. From the time she bought her first heifer from them, they have helped to show her the ropes and make her feel welcome in the Hereford community.

"They've always been really great mentors for me and all of our juniors really," Payton adds.

Andy and Betsy say one of the most important things an advisor can do is



to listen to the juniors and help guide them, not to control them.

“The first year we were junior advisors, we asked the Indiana junior board officers what they expected from us. Their answer was, ‘We want you to advise us, be supportive of our decisions, make sure you’ve got our back, and don’t take control.’ That is the advice we have followed,” Betsy says.

Andy and Betsy say that working with the IJHA board is one of the things they love most about serving as advisors.

“Sometimes our junior board meetings can get long and drawn out,” Betsy says. “So, we always try to make sure everyone is interacting with each other, working together as a team to make the best decisions for our state association, but most of all, to have fun.”

Service is nothing new to the Becks. As far as Herford involvement, Andy is a past board member and president of the Indiana Hereford

Association. Betsy has served as a past board member and chairman for the National Organization of Poll-ettes (NOP), as well as having served on several scholarship committees, as National Polled Hereford Queen chairman and on the strategic planning committee during the merger of the NOP and the American Hereford Women (AHW). A past president of the Indiana Hereford Women, she currently serves as its treasurer.

Committed members of their community, the Becks say they are also supporters of their local 4-H program and FFA chapter. Andy also served on their local school board and as the livestock judging team coach. **HW**



The Beck family had a memorable JNHE. In addition to Andy and Betsy being named Advisors of the Year, their son, Cody, was chosen Herdsman of the Year and exhibited the reserve grand champion horned owned female.

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