



Achieving Her Goal



Champion senior showman Sara Beanblossom has found that success in the showing takes hard work, patience and dedication.

by **Andrea Paulson**

The senior showmanship contest is one of the toughest competitions during the Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE) every year. Hereford seniors — ages 18 to 21 — from across the nation vie for an opportunity to compete in the final round, which evaluates the contestants' fitting and

showmanship abilities to determine the winner of this prestigious title.

This year's winner, Sara Beanblossom, Bradford, Ohio, traveled to the 2014 JNHE in Harrisburg, Pa., with a goal of making the top 10 finals in showmanship and the dream of winning the title of champion senior showman.



During the finals of senior showmanship, Sara was evaluated on her showing and fitting abilities.

Sara has worked hard over the years and possessed a strong desire to achieve her goal of winning the JNHE showmanship contest. In previous years, she has made the semi-finals but never the cut for the top 10. This shortcoming motivated her to push herself even further toward accomplishing her dream of obtaining the title of champion senior showman.

Sara is currently a sophomore at Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio, majoring in business. The

location of Wright State allows her to live at home and work while she commutes to school. Her future goals are to graduate from college and to work for an animal health company close to home.

"Work hard, work really, really hard," Sara says when asked what advice she has to give younger showmen.

When she was younger, she was happy to not be standing at the bottom of the class. It is certainly safe to say that she has come a long way since those first years.

During her first year of junior showmanship, Sara told her mom that she was going to win showmanship someday, and she couldn't be happier now that she has achieved that dream through hard work and dedication.

Sara has confidence that spending time with her heifer from the very beginning helped her reach the top this year. A close relationship between the animal and herself is what Sara feels really helped give her an edge during the competition.

The strong desire she had to win this year is what Sara feels really carried her through to the final selection. In the past, she stated, her nervousness during such competitions has showed in the showing. This year she devoted even more effort toward outshowing her anxiety and staying calm while presenting her animal. She worked to relax and to maintain a calm demeanor while in the showring. She was surprised when people asked how she stayed so relaxed — because she wasn't and is still not certain how she came off that way.

She says the placing of the top 10 finalists was the most nerve-wracking moments throughout the competition. Sara's initial goal was to make the top 10 this year and her excitement and nervousness grew as the judges individually recognized the top 10 from 10th to first.

For the love of it

When asked why she shows cattle, Sara quickly answered, "Because I love it! Showing has helped me learn how to work with my family by helping my sisters when I was younger, and growing



up in the industry and developing my own passion for cattle has helped me grow as a person as well.”

Her favorite part of the Hereford breed is the family that comes with it. She is pleased to see the changes and improvements that have been made in recent years and looks forward to watching the breed continue to grow and to improve.

She encourages people to really take note of the quality animals presented at JNHE and the improvement the Hereford breed has seen through the years. She is proud of how little time it has taken to get in step with the recent advancements within the cattle industry.

The family aspect of JNHE is another thing she loves and appreciates. The friendliness amongst competitors and the willingness to help pick each other up with a smile, handshake or a hug is something she looks forward to every year. Seeing how other breeds interact makes her even more grateful for how the Hereford breeders support one another.

Family and friends

Each year, she says she looks forward to seeing friends and family and anticipates the experience of entering the showring. Her love for the competition and the adrenaline rush that comes with showing and being selected for the championship are what motivate her to continue exhibiting.

Working her way up from the bottom of the class has been a very rewarding journey.

“Although my dad isn’t able to make it to many shows anymore, I would never be the showman I am today without his words of advice and encouragement always waiting for me outside the ring,” she says.

Sara explains that one of the most influential people who has been with her from the very beginning is her mom — Leesa — who has always been willing to take her to cattle shows and has never told Sara she couldn’t do something. “My mother and father are by far the strongest people I know and I’m so lucky to have them as parents,” she says.

Leesa says she is overjoyed for Sara and glad to be able to share in her enjoyment of being selected. “Watching Sara’s dream come true was very fun to see ringside,” she says. “I am overjoyed that Sara’s hard work at home and in the showring over the years has paid off.”

According to Leesa, their family operation would not be as successful as it is without Sara’s hard work, as she has stepped up and become an integral part of the farm. There’s no doubt Sara’s passion, hard work and dedication have been key influences in her success. **HW**



One of the most influential people in Sara’s life has been her mom, Leesa, who has hauled Sara and her sisters to cattle shows across the country for many years.

Advice from the champion



- **Do your own work** – Working with their animals allows juniors to become comfortable with them as well as to learn responsibility. When you are able to feel the partnership between the showman and the animal, it really makes the show experience.
- **Do it with passion** – Anybody can go through the motions. When you put in the time and passion toward your goal, you appreciate your success even more and see results.
- **Don’t believe everything people tell you** – There have been many people along the way who said that I wouldn’t succeed and I couldn’t accomplish such a feat as champion senior showmen, yet here I am. Don’t listen to their comments, and reach toward achieving your goals.
- **Don’t expect everything at once** – Success takes time, and you need to be patient. I’ve never been able to reach this point before, and numerous other people have dreams of achieving top 10 and champion senior showman but haven’t yet. Don’t get discouraged if you don’t see success right away, and don’t let one year get you down. Keep trying.
- **Work hard again** – A hard work ethic and love will take you a long way. Your project and your work equal your success.