

NJHA: It Begins with You

What if I told you that you have the key to unlock one of the most valuable treasures in the world? How would you respond? My guess would be that you would jump at the chance to have access to this precious gift, or at least, I would. Keep reading and you will discover that the key is truly within your reach.

Look at yourself in a mirror. Let's hope that the only person you see is yourself. I want you to look at yourself and say, "I *am* the key to unleash my potential." Everyone on this earth has gifts and talents, but it is our job to utilize them to make a difference — unlocking our treasure of life.

As a member of the National Junior Hereford Association

(NJHA), you are expanding your horizons to produce higher quality cattle, polish your showmanship skills and make lifetime friends with breeders and juniors across the U.S. The NJHA begins with you! Here is an acronym of YOU:

Y – youth. This is every junior member who takes the initiative to show Herefords and to assume an active role in the NJHA.

O – opportunities. With contests ranging from posters, the Hereford Grill-off, and public speaking to the Program for Reaching Individuals Determined to Excel (PRIDE) Convention, NJHA gives you a glimpse of how much you as a junior member can be part of.

U – unique. As part of the Hereford breed, we should

pride ourselves in our unique programs and leadership that allow us to set a positive example of how a junior breed association should be designed.

YOU are what defines the NJHA. I want to leave you with a quote that Dale Carnegie once said, "Treat everyone you meet today as the most important person you will meet today." If every junior member has this mindset, just imagine the impact that we could have!

I hope that you will take your special key and start sharing your treasure today.

— *Katlin Mulvaney, NJHA director*

Make Your Voice Heard in Your State Association

Have you ever had a great idea to help your state association accomplish but had no idea how to get the ball rolling? Most of us

have been in this predicament when in leadership positions or even just as a member of an organization. Though sometimes efforts may seem fruitless, there are ways to make your ideas heard and take small steps as a group to accomplish common goals.

First, if you have an idea for your organization, make sure you know why it is a good idea. Do you want to raise more money for your association by selling food at a local sale? Why? Perhaps you think it is a good idea because this year's trip to Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE) is particularly far away and will require more expense. Or maybe you have noticed people looking for refreshments at the sale previously and just see it as a good opportunity for your organization to make money. Either way, when presenting your idea, back it up with some strong reasons why the organization should consider it.

Then present a plan to put your idea into action. Create a committee. Create a timeline. Ask for volunteers. Give people specific tasks to accomplish. All of these steps can help you bring your idea into action without requiring you to do it alone.

If you have trouble getting others to agree that your idea is really great and worth some time and effort, consider rethinking your original premise and making a few small changes. Even simply presenting an idea to the group again at a later time can sometimes make a difference.

Of course, for larger goals these steps may take time and many people to help put plans into action. But if you are careful to think every step through along the way, you can accomplish a great deal even in the smallest of organizations.

— *Katlyn Howes, NJHA director*

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