

A Small Price to Pay

by **Donna Koontz Fulton**, AHW board member

Having served as an agriculture education teacher and FFA advisor for 15 years, I spend a lot of time motivating young people to get involved in FFA.

One day, I was discussing with my class the value of FFA membership. I asked them, "What will \$10 buy you in our organization?" I asked them to list all the opportunities that would benefit them if they not only joined but also became involved.

As they worked, I started making my own list of those organizations that had an effect shaping my life. At the top of my list, along with FFA, was the American Junior Hereford Association (AJHA) and now the American Hereford Women (AHW). I listed all the leadership roles, conferences, conventions and competitions that I participated in as a member.

I shudder to think of how dramatically different my life would have been without the influence of the Hereford breed

and the people that I have met as a result of these great organizations. There are very few days in my teaching career that I have not spoken of the miles traveled supporting and promoting the Hereford breed. My membership in the AJHA then and the AHW now has been priceless!

I know I am not alone. There are other women who share similar experiences. AHW needs you to join us in our mission to continue to push our breed to the forefront of the industry. We need your involvement and participation on the local, state and national levels to support the Hereford youth in their pursuit of excellence. We need your enthusiasm, your energy and your ideas to propel the AHW into tomorrow.

I challenge every Hereford enthusiast to join his or her respective state association as well as the American Hereford Association and/or the AHW. Annual AHW

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Hereford Works at www.herefords.net

dues are \$10 — a small price to pay for a lifetime of rewards.

For more information about how you can join the AHW, visit <http://ahw.hereford.org>. **HW**

Reflections

by **Starr Whaley**, NOP director

As I come to the end of my tenure as Area 10 director on the National Organization of Poll-ettes (NOP) board, I find myself reflecting on the past four years.

I look around at my fellow board members and see great people doing great things to promote the Hereford breed with enthusiasm and dedication. I have learned a lot more about my fellow breeders across this great land and feel good about the future of the industry.

I see breeders who truly care about the land and the animals and what they, as

breeders, leave behind for future generations. I see an American Hereford Association (AHA) Board that has concerned and involved members who are working toward producing better animals to go into the food chain for consumer use.

I've watched the Certified Hereford Beef (CHB) program get off the ground with good results and have seen ambassadors crossing the country promoting the brand with the support of the American Hereford Women (AHW) and the NOP.

I've watched our queen program blossom with participation from a variety of states with dedicated and excited young ladies. All of these things have come about because we have members who love the land and what it produces. They have inspired another generation that is carrying on that banner as their own generation has done.

I leave behind a board that remains dedicated to promoting the breed and supporting and upholding the junior members. As we leave, three more dedicated women will be added this year to maintain the tradition. The joint goal of the AHW and the NOP has always been, and will remain, the support of our junior members to make sure they have the same opportunities as we do of owning and experiencing this wonderful Hereford animal. The future is bright for Herefords. **HW**

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