

NHW Welcomes New Members

The lifeblood of any organization is membership, and National Hereford Women (NHW) is no different. The 2010 merging of two healthy organizations, American Hereford Women and the National Organization of Poll-ettes, into one, the NHW, has brought board streamlining, program revitalization and membership to new levels.

“Your membership is truly the backbone of the NHW,” Paula Acheson, NHW membership chair, says. “Over the last three years we have grown and plan to continue our growth and support of our Hereford youth with educational opportunities. We also plan incentives to strive for continued breed and industry improvement and involvement.”

When the merger occurred, the combined membership of the organization was significant. With any “new” organization, there are birthing and growing pains, but the NHW is a strong, viable and growing association of women who have Hereford youth at their heart.

“In July at the Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE), the NHW made a dedicated effort to increase membership,” Acheson says. “We sponsored a booth to showcase our prints for sale, t-shirts, mouse pads and notecards. We talked membership with many Hereford women and offered a print giveaway to one lucky new member. We were thrilled with the results of the drive. We doubled our membership from what we had going into the JNHE resulting in over 400 current paid members.”

She also noted that many who stopped by the booth were renewing their memberships, but workers also saw an increased number of young mothers wanting to support the organization and also some wanting to get more involved.

Membership benefits

What does your membership do for you? Membership entitles women to vote at NHW’s annual business meeting during the American Royal show in Kansas City, Mo., each fall; to receive the group’s e-newsletter, to serve on the board or volunteer in the organization; to support the National Hereford Queen program; to support Hereford youth and their activities; to fund and promote youth scholarships; to create and assist in program fundraising; and to promote the Hereford breed.

NHW dues are \$20 annually and payable Jan. 1 of each calendar year. Dues may be paid to a representative of a state Hereford women’s organization or may be sent directly to Paula Acheson, depending on the structure of the state organization.

According to NHW’s member handbook, young women who are no longer age-eligible to belong to the National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) will be given a one-year complimentary membership to NHW. This invitation will remain open for one year following the end of the NJHA membership. The

“membership information form” is available on the NHW website at HerefordWomen.com.

Lifetime memberships

NHW also offers a lifetime membership which is a one-time payment of \$400.

“This option truly benefits the young ladies that are joining now. This is worth 20 years of dues. Most of us have paid well over that during our membership years and with the lifetime membership you know you will always have a vote along with the other benefits.”

Acheson says becoming an NHW member is a “Stepping stone to helping the future of our youth and our Hereford cattle. We look forward to another great year of promoting the Hereford breed and all the great programs we sponsor. We also genuinely thank all the returning, renewing and new members. We are always open to new ideas and welcome your involvement at any time.”

For membership information, contact Paula Acheson at 785-257-3541 or at gpacheson@tctelco.net.

Starting a new state group

NHW has recently received requests to help reactivate state women’s groups or offer assistance in launching new groups. In response to the requests, NHW is developing a packet of information for women or groups that wish to organize under NHW’s leadership umbrella.

The packets will include “how-to” procedures, mailing list information and basic bylaws development. If you would like one of the packets, have questions about starting a state association or have ideas on what should be included in the packet, visit HerefordWomen.com or contact Susan Hayhurst at 812-696-2468 or hayhurstfarms@aol.com.

NHW board members look forward to our new state organizations forming in 2013. **NHW**

National Hereford Women

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