

It's a Small World after All

We all know that “feeling”: you are walking around a store looking for that perfect gift, and you turn around and see someone you never expected. It's truly a small world these days: the person you are standing behind in the grocery store check-out line could become your best friend; the e-mail you receive about a child in need could be about one who lives right down the street; and your favorite movie star could end up living in your neighborhood. The truth is that through the use of the Internet, e-mail, cell phones and new technologies, we are all truly closely connected.

As many of you know, your National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) board of directors travels all across the country serving all junior Hereford members. Even if we only see some junior members at shows or sales, we are constantly thinking of ways to better serve you and to grow the NJHA as a whole.

No matter how old you are or where you are from, we encourage you to be active in your own “world.” On the NJHA board, we currently

have outstanding members who are making a difference outside the NJHA. Currently we have members who are starring in nationally recognized theatrical plays, serving on competitive collegiate livestock judging teams, leading their student government and Greek organizations on campus, and, most importantly, working to promote Hereford juniors. No matter what activity or organization we are participating in, we are first and foremost members of the NJHA.

In your own “world” you have your cattle, school, friends and family. Try to make the most of that world and be the best person in each of those situations.

When you are in the showring, sweating, with an arm ready to fall off, a heifer that won't stop moving her feet and your stomach full of butterflies, you never quit. That same “no-quit” attitude you use in the showring can serve you well in many aspects of your life. As cattle breeders, we innately understand the importance of responsibility, hard work and self-confidence.

If your passion lies on the gridiron, then be the best wide receiver or quarterback you can be. If your heart skips a beat while thinking about starting a Bible study group, take a risk and start it. Though we each have our own activities that excite and inspire us, we can use one another's determination to push us further. Each of us should use this understanding to empower ourselves.

The truth is that each of us, no matter where we come from or how old we are, forms the “Hereford world.” This fact is proven at every Hereford show and every event. This year in Kansas City our Hereford breeders showed their continued support of every Hereford junior at the annual Hereford Youth Foundation of America (HYFA) Harvest Gala. Money raised went to the HYFA to better our breed and its future. Every dollar that comes in brings

us one step closer to giving more scholarships each year as well as supporting many leadership and educational activities. Please take the time to thank those breeders who have donated to HYFA and let them know the difference they are making in the lives of our junior members. Although a thank you seems like a small gesture, it can make a huge difference in the long run. There is nothing more important than showing others your appreciation for their support and kindness.

After our meeting during the American Royal, the NJHA board is preparing for our upcoming Hereford events. We are very excited to see all Hereford enthusiasts at these events. We strive to serve Hereford juniors in the best way possible, and meeting more of you increases our outreach efforts. This year at National Western be sure to stop by the Hereford suite and say “Hi!” There are always a warm conversation and smiling face waiting to talk about Hereford cattle. It is amazing to sit down, look around at all of the Hereford pride in the suite and realize that you are part of a group of people.

Maybe you would like to buy some brand new Hereford apparel and truly wear your heart on your sleeve and promote the breed! Remember, as you meet new Hereford juniors, your “worlds” outside of the showring and cattle barn might be very similar or they may introduce you to new and exciting things that you have never tried.

When you meet breeders and adult supporters in our association, make sure you thank them for their continued support. Without them we would not be able to do all that we do. All of us Hereford enthusiasts make up this “Hereford world,” and we should all stick together and learn from one another. If we do this, we can make the most of our world. **HW**

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