

Thank You, Hereford Family

Merry Christmas, Hereford breeders, and thank you for all you do for Hereford youth. We find it fitting this holiday season to say thank you to the many supporters who give to the Hereford youth program throughout the year.

The National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) board of directors sends a special thanks to all the Hereford breeders and enthusiasts who supported the 2010 junior calendar project. From the 12 large ads to the numerous small ads, we raised more than \$25,000 to supplement our board's travel expenses to the events we attend during the year.

Without your continuous support of the calendar, we would not be able to experience all of the leadership conventions, national shows and annual meetings that help set future direction for your association. The calendar was mailed with this issue of the

magazine, and we hope that you will use it as reference for all of the important Hereford dates in the new year.

Thank you for celebrating Halloween Hereford style at the Hereford Youth Foundation of America (HYFA) "Boots and Brew" reception during the American Royal in Kansas City. Close to \$20,000 was generated through the silent and live auctions to benefit Hereford youth, and all proceeds will support scholarship and education.

The Oklahoma Hereford Association presented a special gift to HYFA — a check for \$20,000, given to support future Junior National Hereford Expos (JNHEs). This money was residual income from past junior national events in Oklahoma and will go a long way in funding future events. Our hats are off to Oklahoma for having the foresight to make this contribution and for believing in Hereford youth and the importance of the JNHE. From my personal experience, I have seen first-hand the opportunities HYFA provides such as scholarships, which allow juniors to continue their educations and involvement in the Hereford industry.

We would also like to thank Cody Lowderman, Macomb, Ill., who judged the American Royal junior show and Randy and Jamie Mullinix, Toulon, Ill., who judged the open show. These three individuals grew up in the Hereford junior program, and we thank them for their continued support.

The first National Hereford Queen was announced during the American Royal, and there were numerous deserving young ladies. Kirbie Day, the 2009 National Polled Hereford Queen, crowned Katie Killian as the 2009-10 National Hereford Queen. The

junior board looks forward to working with Katie and Kirbie in accomplishing their endeavors this next year. Congratulations, Katie, and thank you, Kirbie, for your outstanding work this past year that continues until the National Western Stock Show.

Coming up this summer is the JNHE that will be in Indianapolis July 3-10. We are so excited to take the JNHE back to Indianapolis, "Home Again in 2010." For those of you who attended the JNHE in 2003, this event promises to be even better than before. This JNHE has the potential not only to be the largest show in the country but also to have the highest caliber of cattle.

Another exciting event I encourage Hereford juniors to attend is the Program for Reaching Individuals Determined to Excel (PRIDE) Convention that will be in Boise, Idaho, Aug. 2-4, 2010. Highlights of PRIDE will include team building leadership workshops, farm tours, an up close look at agriculture in Idaho and white-water rafting. Attending PRIDE is a life changing opportunity, and I encourage all juniors to participate. For more information, visit JrHereford.org.

Junior AI program deadline nears

Jan. 15 is the deadline for the junior AI heifer nomination forms. Watch your mail in December for a list of bulls and more information about the program. The junior AI program is a neat opportunity for youth to build their Hereford herds and gives juniors access to breed-leading genetics. The JNHE offers a junior AI bull and female class for offspring from this program. Junior AI progeny have gone on to be crowned champions in the bred-and-owned female show for their owners. **HW**

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