



Nolan Crowned 2010-11 National Hereford Queen

by *Lisa Brown*



Bethany Nolan, Gilmer, Texas, was crowned the 2010-11 National Hereford Queen during the American Royal National Hereford Show in Kansas City.

Beginning the day bright and early to work the 199-head National Hereford Show at the American Royal, nine state queens anxiously awaited their name to be called as the next National Hereford Queen. Yet, after a long day working the ring full of shavings, smiles and the reapplication of lipstick, only one name was announced as the new queen — Bethany Nolan of Gilmer, Texas.

Deep Hereford roots, long hours in the barn and extensive community involvement crowned Bethany as the 2010-11 National Hereford Queen.

First runner-up honors went to Mary Porter, Jesup, Ga., who was also voted Miss Congeniality. Second runner-up honors were given to Laken Lierle, Ft. Cobb, Okla.

“It all went so fast,” Bethany says. “First I was like, ‘Why is she pulling off my tiara?’ Then, I realized as Katie Killian, 2009-10 National

Hereford Queen, put the crown on my head I was the new queen.”

As her daughter’s name was announced as the new queen, Alise Nolan teared up, anticipating the exciting, busy year Bethany is about to encounter.

“Bethany is a very personable, organized, driven but fun young lady,” Alise says. “She never meets a stranger and has such a love for the Hereford breed and associations.”

While Bethany is an active Gilmer High School senior in FFA, National Honor Society, student council and cheerleading, she stays even busier with her family’s Herefords.

“Throughout my life, Herefords have been the mainstay in my family’s social and daily lives,” Bethany says. “Our barn has become our second home.”

Bethany’s parents, Scott and Alise, started the family’s Hereford business in 1998, although her grandparents on both sides have a deep history in the Hereford business since the 1960s. Scott says Herefords were the only breed for his family because he believes the associations “have some of the best people in the world to involve your family.” Currently, the Nolan family has a 120-head Hereford ranch in east Texas.

“It was these types of people, those who would help mentor and guide them, that we felt our daughters should be associated with,” Scott says, “and our decision has proved to have been the right one.”

Following in her parents’ leadership footsteps, Bethany began involvement in the Texas Junior Hereford Association (TJHA) in 2001. Since then, her involvement includes serving as



Hereford royalty honored during the 2010 American Royal (l to r) are: **Katie Killian**, Stratford, Texas, 2009-10 National Hereford Queen; **Bethany Nolan**, Gilmer, Texas, 2010-11 National Hereford Queen; **Mary Porter**, Jesup, Ga., first runner-up and Miss Congeniality; and **Laken Lierle**, Ft. Cobb, Okla., second runner-up.



the TJHA president, vice president, secretary, senior director and junior director. In addition, Bethany shows Hereford cattle with her family, both nationally and locally. Currently she is serving as the Texas Hereford Horned Queen.

In her new role, Bethany will represent the breed and its breeders at various shows, sales and other Hereford events throughout the U.S. Bethany says she is excited to travel extensively across the U.S. to attend national shows, many of which she has never attended.

"I am looking forward to interacting with the youth and breeders at all the Hereford shows, sales and events," Bethany says, "It has become my turn to mentor these young members as a thank you for all those years of assistance I received."

Bethany says she owes her involvement in the National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) to older members and her mentors.

And, she hopes to make the same impact on young members as her mentors have made on her.

"My goal is to inspire members to become more involved in NJHA, by not only showing but taking advantage of the many contests and PRIDE (Program for Reaching Individuals Determined to Excel) events we hold each year," Bethany says. "Without a doubt, I can honestly say my involvement in NJHA has helped mold my life, and I know it can for other countless junior members."

Bethany says youth involvement in livestock shows gives young members the opportunity to showcase their livestock projects and learn valuable work ethics.

"The youth showing at livestock shows, such as the American Royal, are the future of our livestock shows and country," she adds.

There is also a possibility for the youth to compete for scholarships to aid with tuition costs, Bethany says.

In addition to inspiring Hereford youth members, Bethany will also serve as a spokesperson for Certified Hereford Beef (CHB) LLC and the American Hereford Association.

"I will serve as an ambassador for the Hereford breed to publicize and provide information to help promote Herefords in the showing, on our ranches and on our tables," Bethany says.

Alise says she knows Bethany will be a fantastic ambassador for the Hereford breed because of the presence she provides when she speaks of the Hereford industry. Both her parents agree she will be an asset in promoting and representing the National Hereford Women during her reign.

"The National Hereford Queen is just such a huge honor," Bethany says, "and the weight of the role hit me as soon as the crown was put on my head." **HW**