



Keeping the Crown in the Family

Amanda Bacon named 2011-12 National Hereford Queen.

by *Kasey Lettunich*

A highlight of the American Royal National Hereford Show is the crowning of the National Hereford Queen. Prior to the selection of the champion bull, 2010-11 National Hereford Queen Bethany Nolan crowned Amanda Bacon of Prairie Grove, Ark., as the new queen.

Serving and representing the Hereford breed is a common quality among Craig and Debbie Bacon's family. All three of their children — Cassie, Justin and Amanda — have committed numerous hours to serving the breed and Hereford youth.

All three have been active in the National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA), and both Cassie and Justin served on the NJHA board. Amanda is not the first Bacon to wear the national crown. Cassie served as the National Polled Hereford Queen in 2006-07.

After watching her older sister serve as an ambassador to the breed and her older brother be just as involved, it is now little sister Amanda's time to shine. Since Cassie was crowned National Polled Hereford Queen the name of the title has changed, but the duties and the prestige associated with the crown have not.

Amanda says it is an honor to continue the tradition of wearing the all-white uniform as the National Hereford Queen. "I think it's a really great tradition and it's professional," she explains. "Everyone knows who the Hereford queen is, and she looks like no other association queens."

A senior at Har-Ber High School in Springdale, Ark., Amanda is an active member of 4-H and president of her FFA chapter. She is also very active in her community assisting with multiple



PHOTO BY CASSIE BACON

civic and community service projects. Amanda says she enjoys spending her time working with her animals and going to shows. She is highly involved with the Arkansas Junior Hereford Association and has served as president and secretary.

"As a little girl I would go outside and see these cows that were colored red and white," Amanda wrote in her queen application story. "Now, as I sit here and write this story, I know my fondness of those red and white cattle



Hereford royalty honored during the 2011 American Royal (l to r) are: **Bethany Nolan**, Gilmer, Texas, 2010-11 National Hereford Queen; **Amanda Bacon**, Prairie Grove, Ark., 2011-12 National Hereford Queen; **Alecia Knapp**, Waverly, Iowa, first runner-up; **Devann Gregory**, Houstonia, Mo., second runner-up; and **Sarah Katelyn Smith**, Waxahachie, Texas, Miss Congeniality.



Craig Huffhines, American Hereford Association executive vice president, congratulates Amanda as big sister Cassie watches.

was the onset of a passion that would stay with me for the rest of my life.”

Amanda competed against six other young women from across the U.S. for the title. The judges look for a responsible, well-rounded young lady who is willing to spend an entire year traveling all over the country to represent her breed to the best of her ability. The candidates are evaluated on their involvement with and knowledge of the Hereford breed, behavior, attitude, appearance and interaction with producers, as well as their résumés and interviews.

First runner-up honors went to Alecia Knapp, Waverly, Iowa. Devann Gregory, Houstonia, Mo., was named second runner-up, and the Miss Congeniality award was presented to Sarah Katelyn Smith, Waxahachie, Texas.

Traveling to national shows is nothing new for the Bacon

family, as they have been attending national shows for decades. Amanda, a seventh-generation Hereford breeder, will have no problem representing the breed and its breeders at various shows, sales and other events throughout the U.S.

“Becoming the National Hereford Queen is really exciting,” Amanda says. “I am most excited about traveling all over the country and meeting all of the breeders.”

Amanda plans on furthering her education at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, pursuing a degree in agricultural law. Amanda’s goal is to passionately represent the livestock industry in the U.S. legal system and to continue to raise Hereford cattle, proof that she is incredibly proud of her Hereford roots.

“I love my Hereford cattle and want to really help the breed grow and succeed,” Amanda says. “I have



Bethany crowned Amanda prior to the selection of the champion Hereford bull on Oct. 30.

found my passion in life, the thing that moves me and that I honestly could not live without.” **HW**