

An Incredible Journey



It feels like just yesterday when my name was being called over the loud speaker in Hale Arena as the 2011-12 National Hereford Queen, but when the American Royal ended this past weekend, so did my term as queen.

Throughout the weekend in Kansas City, I was asked if I was ready to be done, and my response was always something along the lines of "It's been a great year, but it's time to pass the title on."

Being queen this past year has without a doubt been one of the greatest experiences in my life thus far. Being back home allows my mind to finally realize that I will never again be wearing those all white outfits, the crown or the sash. I have quickly discovered how much I am going to miss being queen.

This year I have had the opportunity to travel to all six national Hereford shows, the Junior National Hereford Expo, the World Hereford Conference, and numerous state shows and sales across the country. On each trip I had the chance to visit with old friends, meet new ones and see great Hereford cattle.

With that being said, there are numerous individuals who have gone above and beyond to help make this year possible for me, and I thank them for all they have done.

I would especially like to thank my family, who put up with all of my craziness during the year without a complaint. My mom, dad, brother and sister went out of their way to help pick up the slack in the barns when I was away

from home or to travel to the countless shows as my support team.

In Kansas City, I was honored to have the chance to crown Miss Whitney Andras as the new National Hereford Queen, and I'm thrilled for her and her family as they start this journey. I know that she will do a fabulous job representing and serving the breed we all love.

After this year, there is no doubt in my mind that I have benefited tremendously from my year of service. I cannot express how important it is for fellow juniors, and adults, to find a way to serve the breed and to become involved in every opportunity our organization offers.

I urge you to not be afraid to try something new because it will be worth your time. Whether it is running for national queen or the junior board or just helping fellow juniors with their cattle; it all makes such an impact on your life and those around you.

I am so blessed to have had the opportunity to serve the Hereford breed and cannot thank each and every one of you enough for this incredible journey. I hope to find another chance to continue my service in this organization with its outstanding breed of cattle and phenomenal group of people.

In Hereford spirit,
Amanda Bacon,
2011-12 National
Hereford Queen

