

Serving Her Country

The camaraderie people associated with the Hereford breed are known for parallels with the brotherhood felt by members of the United States military. We all feel a special pride when one of our own serves, especially when one of those is a National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) member. One such member is RyAnne Ransom, a senior airman in the 138th Fighter Wing of the Oklahoma Air National Guard, Tulsa, Okla.



Junior member RyAnne Ransom is a senior airman in the 138th Fighter Wing of the Oklahoma Air National Guard.

RyAnne hails from Claremore, Okla., and is the daughter of Michelle Leeson and Scott Ransom. She attends Rodgers State University, studying nursing, and has applied for her Associate of Nursing degree.

RyAnne did not grow up in the livestock industry but discovered her interest in Hereford cattle through her high school agriculture classes. Originally,

RyAnne voiced an interest in showing hogs, but this was not a feasible idea due to a lack of facilities at her home. Then RyAnne's FFA advisor, Matt Boyer, introduced RyAnne to his mother-in-law, resulting in RyAnne helping their family with the cattle. In this process, RyAnne was given a heifer to care for and show throughout that year.

"After the first year, I was hooked and was already talking about buying cattle when I got older," Ransom says. She has shown cattle for Beacon Hill Ranch for six years and is finishing her NJHA career this year. RyAnne is also a member of the Oklahoma Junior Cattlemen's Association and the Oklahoma Junior Hereford Association.

Military career

The influence of Susan and Richard Gebhart in RyAnne's life began with showing cattle for Beacon Hill Ranch and extended into her military career. RyAnne has watched both of her brothers serve as Marine Corps members. She was also influenced by the service

of Richard Gebhart, a colonel in the Army, and his daughters, Erica Boyer and Roxane Gebhart, who are both currently serving in the Air National Guard.

RyAnne credits the Gebharts with helping her to develop a strong work ethic through building skills in time management, situation awareness and dedication to a cause. These abilities easily transferred to her training and work with the Air National Guard.

RyAnne recently returned from her first deployment. It was a six-month tour in Kuwait, where she worked the night shift from 9 p.m. to 9 a.m. Her main duty on the base was inspecting food in the cooking division. She also helped the K-9 unit with training by acting as an enemy target.

RyAnne broadened her military knowledge by watching a regulated Explosive Ordinance Disposal demonstration as well as by riding in M-ATVs. On her days off, she traveled into Kuwait City, where she visited the Kuwait Towers, as well as the malls, many times. These positive experiences aided in her decision to remain in the military until retirement.

While many people in the cattle industry love both God and the country, few choose to serve. RyAnne's favorite quote "You can do anything you set your mind to" is illustrated in her life. The passion and drive she gained from showing cattle enabled her to reach her goals of being part of the Air National Guard. RyAnne's service is a source of pride for all members of the NJHA. **HW**

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