

New Junior Board Members, Officers Elected



2017-18 National Junior Hereford Association board of directors (pictured seated front row, l to r) are: **Steven Green**, Mundfordville, Ky., chairman; **Brooke Jensen**, Courtland, Kan., vice chairman; **Bailey McKay**, Marysville, Kan., communications chair; **Austin Matheny**, Mays Lick, Ky., membership chair; **Mason Blinson**, Buies Creek, N.C., fundraising chair; and **Brooke Hinojosa-Sidwell**, Carr, Colo., leadership chair. Directors standing are **Taylor Belle Matheny**, Mays Lick, Ky.; **Bailey Jones**, Darlington, Wis.; **Brandt Downing**, Culver, Ore.; **Nathan Hopkins**, Winchester, Tenn.; **Hannah Williams**, Kearney, Neb., and **Rylee Barber**, Channing, Texas.

The election of four junior Hereford members to the National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) board of directors was made, along with announcement of the new officer team, at the 2017 VitaFerm® Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE) July 14-21 in Louisville, Ky.

Rylee Barber, Channing, Texas; Brandt Downing, Culver, Ore.; Taylor Belle Matheny, Mays Lick, Ky.; and Hannah Williams, Kearney, Neb., received their maroon jackets as new NJHA directors during the awards ceremony July 19.

Two delegates from each state junior Hereford association voted for the individuals they wanted to represent the membership. The four retiring junior board members announced the results and passed their jackets on to the new leadership.

The 2017-18 officer team includes Chairman Steven Green, Munfordville, Ky.; Vice Chairman Brooke Jensen, Courtland, Kan.; Communications Chair Bailey McKay, Marysville, Kan.; Leadership Chair Brooke Hinojosa-Sidwell, Carr, Colo.; Fundraising Chair Mason Blinson, Buies Creek,

N.C.; and Membership Chair Austin Matheny, Mays Lick, Ky. Also serving as directors are Nathan Hopkins, Winchester, Tenn., and Bailey Jones, Darlington, Wis.

Rylee Barber is the 19-year-old daughter of Brett Barber, Channing, Texas, and Nicole Barber, Mason City, Ill. She is a sophomore at Texas A&M University, majoring in agricultural communications and journalism. She has been a member of the Texas Junior Hereford Association for 12 years, serving as

president this past year. Barber's main goal is to make every member feel included by encouraging all juniors to be involved. She hopes to increase communication between the board and the junior members while also advocating for the agriculture industry.

Mason Blinson is the 19-year-old daughter of Bryan and Beth Blinson, Buies Creek, N.C. Mason is a sophomore at Oklahoma State University (OSU). A member of the North Carolina Junior Hereford Association, Blinson has served as its president and has been active in the association for 12 years. While serving on the NJHA board, Blinson says she plans to instill passion among all juniors and to increase junior membership while focusing on communication with all states.

Brandt Downing is the 18-year-old son of Scott and Tracy Downing, Culver, Ore. He is a freshman at Butler Community College, majoring in animal science with hopes of becoming a feed nutritionist. He has served as the treasurer, vice president and president during his time as a member of the Oregon Junior Hereford Association. Downing hopes to increase membership and participation and ultimately to make a positive impact on the Hereford industry. Downing aims to keep NJHA events fun and engaging for all participants.



Retiring director Kelsey Powell, Mitchell, S.D., presents a jacket to Rylee Barber, Channing, Texas.



Brandt Downing, Culver, Ore., accepts his jacket from retiring director Kelsey Stimpson, Melba, Idaho.

Steven Green is the 22-year-old son of Don and Carol Green, Munfordville, Ky. He obtained a bachelor's degree in agriculture with a concentration in animal science from Western Kentucky University this past spring. He is currently preparing for veterinary school, which he plans to attend in the fall of 2019. Green has been a member of the NJHA for nine years and served as secretary and vice president of the Kentucky Junior Hereford Association while he was also a 2014-15 Kentucky Beef Ambassador. As a director, Green says his goal is to prepare Hereford youth to become industry leaders who are well spoken and engaged in sustainability in agriculture.

Brooke Hinojosa-Sidwell is the 19-year-old daughter of Bryan and Linda Sidwell, Carr, Colo., and has been a member of the Colorado Junior Hereford Association for seven years. She is a sophomore agricultural economics and accounting student at OSU. She hopes to work for a breed association or agricultural-accounting firm upon graduation. Hinojosa-Sidwell says as a board member, she plans to encourage other junior members to become more involved and to give back to an industry that has given much to her.

Nathan Hopkins is the 20-year-old son of Roy and Kim Hopkins, Winchester, Tenn., and has been a member of the Tennessee Junior Hereford Association for 11 years. He is a biological sciences major at Vanderbilt University and plans to continue his education in medical school upon graduation. Hopkins enjoys serving the NJHA and helping to move the breed forward.

Brooke Jensen, the 21-year-old daughter of Kevin and Sheila Jensen, Courtland, Kan., is a senior agribusiness student at Kansas State University (K-State). Jensen has been a member of the Kansas Junior Hereford Association for 14 years. She has attended many JNHEs and served as the 2013-14 National Hereford Queen.

As a director, Jensen hopes to reach all junior members, inspiring them to be well-rounded industry leaders by staying involved and trying new events all while making friends along the way.

Bailey Jones is the 20-year-old daughter of BJ and Kim Jones, Darlington, Wis., and has been a member of the Wisconsin Junior Hereford Association for 13 years. She is attending Madison College, pursuing a paramedic technician track. Jones says her overall goal while serving as a board member is to give all NJHA members a sense of ownership in the organization and a feeling of belonging.

Austin Matheny is the 21-year-old son of Andrew and Suzanne Matheny, Mays Lick, Ky., and has been a member of the Kentucky Junior Hereford Association for 10 years. He is an animal science senior at K-State and plans to return home to expand his family operation and to raise high-quality Herefords upon graduation. Matheny says he wants to prioritize developing junior members in to better leaders, cattlemen, showmen, speakers and individuals.

Taylor Belle Matheny is the 19-year-old daughter of Andrew and Suzanne Matheny, Mays Lick, Ky. She is a junior at K-State studying agricultural communications and animal science with the hopes of working for a cattle breed association as a youth activities director. She is a 12-year member of the Kentucky Junior Hereford Association

and served as the 2015-16 National Hereford Queen. Matheny's main goals for the NJHA are to increase contest participation, to continue junior membership growth and to promote Certified Hereford Beef.

Bailey McKay, the 22-year-old daughter of Grant and Linda McKay, Marysville, Kan., is a senior at South Dakota State University, majoring in agricultural communications. McKay has been actively involved in NJHA and the Kansas and Nebraska Junior Hereford Associations for 14 years. She has served as vice president in the Kansas junior association and has had numerous leadership roles in 4-H and FFA. As a board member, McKay plans to help juniors get more involved so they can gain the types of skills she has learned from Hereford youth programs.

Hannah Williams is the 18-year-old daughter of Jim and Sheila Williams and Aaron and Angie Kelly, Kearney, Neb. She is a freshman at K-State, studying animal science. She hopes to eventually attend veterinary school and to work in the animal pharmaceutical field. She is a nine-year member of the Nebraska Junior Hereford Association, serving as the historian and, currently, the reporter. Her main goal is to focus on the junior membership and to support the everlasting legacy of the NJHA by building a tremendous foundation for the future of the Hereford breed. **HW**



Taylor Belle Matheny, Mays Lick, Ky., receives her jacket from retiring board member Austin Cole, Bowling Green, Ky.



Jessica Middleswarth, Torrington, Wyo., retiring director, presents Hannah Williams, Kearney, Neb., with a maroon jacket.