

by *Mason Blinson*

State Baskets: Fun for the Whole State

Has your state been looking for a challenge everyone can participate in at the Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE)? The state basket is the perfect way to get every family that comes to the JNHE with your state involved while raising money for your state association and for the National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA).

The state basket silent auction continues to be a success every year. This is something an entire state can look forward to. One of my favorite things to do during the week of the JNHE is to walk around while the cattle are tied down and to look at the state baskets, which have now turned into what look more like state tables. It is amazing to see what individuals bring to represent

their state and to raise money for their association.

This year alone, the baskets generated \$15,000 to be split between the NJHA and each state that entered a basket. State baskets are a great way to bring your state together to create a collection of items that everyone at the show will see.

My state has always enjoyed putting together a basket, and as my state association grows and becomes more involved at the JNHE, its basket gets bigger. My state's juniors like to take this opportunity to show off our state and our junior Hereford association. We always include items made in our state and things that you cannot get anywhere else. Throughout the year, we look for items to put in the state basket, and we talk about our collection at our state show before the JNHE. This is such a fun project for each family to bring a little something as a contribution to the state basket every year.

This year the auction was new and improved with the help of Lowderman Auction Options, providing the junior association with a new online auction platform. The NJHA had its usual silent auction throughout the week, and after lots of advertisement on social media and the new online platform, it was able to move the auction online. This feature allows people who are at home to see the progress of the auction and have a chance to participate without being at the show. With adding this element, members of your junior board hope to make the auction more competitive and to generate



a larger profit to benefit the states who participate and the NJHA.

Making memories

Some of the best memories I have at JNHE started with the state basket. At one of my first JNHEs, my family purchased a state basket. This basket had a cookout theme — my dad needed another grill to add to his collection. On the last night when everyone was packing up and loading trailers, we had a cookout behind the barn. Several families came together, everyone brought food, we ate dinner and got to spend time with our Hereford family. The kids ran around and played while parents talked and caught up. To this day, those that we gathered with that night are some of our closest family friends.

Memories like this are only possible because of the participation of all of the states and those who purchase state baskets year after year. On behalf of the NJHA board of directors, I would like to express our gratitude to all states who put together a basket and to give a big thank-you to Lowderman Auction Options for helping to move the auction online and to improve the process that allows more people the opportunity to get involved. We hope participation continues to grow so more states can benefit from this fundraising opportunity. **HW**



Chairman

Steven Green, gwherefords@yahoo.com

Vice chairman

Brooke Jensen, brookerjensen@outlook.com

Communications chair

Bailey McKay, baileymckay14@yahoo.com

Leadership chair

Brooke Hinojosa-Sidwell,
brookehinojosa10@gmail.com

Fundraising chair

Mason Blinson, meblinson@gmail.com

Membership chair

Austin Matheny, austin.matheny61@gmail.com

Directors

Rylee Barber, ryraba@gmail.com

Brandt Downing, downingshowcattle@gmail.com

Nathan Hopkins, nhopkins3632@att.net

Bailey Jones, baejones15@gmail.com

Taylor Belle Matheny,
taylormatheny97@gmail.com

Hannah Williams, hmvilliams13@yahoo.com

Director of youth activities

Amy Cowan

P.O. Box 014059, Kansas City, MO 64101

816-842-3757, acowan@hereford.org

JrHereford.org