

by **Austin Matheny**

Looking Back, Moving Forward



The onset of spring is a time which members have been gearing up for since the end of last summer. Picking out new heifers or steers with which to start working fills the air with excitement. The familiar summer days in the barn are right around the corner.

Each year around this time, I get excited to start preparing for the highlight of my summer. Like many of you, I am excited to be “All Aboard the Hereford Express” in Grand Island, Neb. The National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) board of directors wants you to join us July 1-7 for a week of Hereford cattle, friends from across the nation and competition.



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prepare your cattle accordingly. Daily washing and blowing will have a reward sooner or later. If you want to learn more, don't hesitate to find an older junior to teach you so improvements are made each year.

If you are a high school senior or are currently attending college, remember to fill out scholarship applications by April 1. There is \$170,000 to be awarded this year, and \$30,000 of that will be awarded at the JNHE. Thank you to the Hereford Youth Foundation of America (HYFA) and the National Hereford Women for helping promote education each year.

Reflection

Taking a look back at the week the Hereford breed spent in the Mile High City, it is easy to see successful growth through numbers. There were 184 head of junior cattle exhibited by NJHA members from across the country.

Since 2008 a generous breeder has donated a female to be sold in the Mile High Night National Hereford Sale with proceeds benefiting the HYFA. This year Scott McDonald of McDonald Farms, Grand Rapids, Mich., donated the Lot 1 Foundation Female, Eve. A large thank-you goes out to Express Ranches, Yukon, Okla.; Buck Cattle Co., Madill, Okla.; and Moore Cattle Co., Madill, Okla., for purchasing this year's female. The success of this event would not be possible without generous donors and supporters.

Reflecting on the past few months and anticipating the months ahead, it looks like 2018 will be just as exciting as 2017. As the summer air starts to turn into excitement with the newfound bond between juniors and animals, don't forget to send in entries. Good luck, junior exhibitors, at state, regional and national shows this coming year. **HW**