

Three Months and Counting

Believe it or not, we are about three months from the Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE). Everyone is clamoring to jump aboard the Hereford Express. The early bird entry deadline is fast approaching, and everything is falling into place for a record event July 1-7 in Grand Island, Neb.

Events

There are so many different events to get excited about. If you want to work on your public speaking skills, try extemporaneous speech. If you are the best cook in the house, consider the Great American Certified Hereford Beef (CHB®) Grill-off. There is something to suit everyone. If you want to put your Hereford knowledge to the test, then you should compete in the quiz bowl.

If you think you want to participate in a contest, but you aren't sure what it entails, ask your state adviser or a National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) board member. We pride ourselves on our various contests and love seeing the joy and competitive spirit they bring to our juniors. We have a little something for everyone and encourage everyone to try the contests.

We are also excited to offer several educational clinics, such as Sullivan Supply's Stock Show U clinic and the Sure Champ® nutritional clinic. Both events are chalked full of valuable information for the newest exhibitor to the most experienced.

Newcomers

We encourage all first-year exhibitors at the JNHE to attend our newcomer orientation. Rylee Schacher, a three-year NJHA member, remembers her first time attending JNHE and how welcoming everyone was. She loved getting to participate in some of the contests. Thinking back Rylee says, "I was so nervous, and I was afraid I wouldn't know anybody. But by the end of the week, I had made so many new friends, and I couldn't wait to come back next year."

One of everyone's favorite things about the JNHE is making new friends from all over the country and returning each year to reconnect. NJHA member Ethan Howe says, "The reason my family keeps coming back to the JNHE is because of the people. The people are what make coming to JNHE worth it every summer."

One way to meet new people and to connect with old friends is at the Hereford tailgate party. Several of the state associations gather and prepare signature food items from their state. It's a friendly contest to see which state has the most creative theme and best food. This

is a night filled with family, friends and a fun atmosphere. While it is a competition, most people stroll leisurely through each state's booth sampling the different foods.

JNHE has something for everyone to enjoy. Young exhibitors have many opportunities available to them including a division of showmanship called pre-peewee for kids ages 5 to 7. Pre-peewee gives kids the chance to receive some practice in the showing before they move up to the next age division.

Children not interested in showing may enjoy lunch with the National Hereford Queen. Each year the Queen hosts a tea and invites members to join the festivities. Another opportunity for younger members is Sullivan Supply's Stock Show U Boot Camp. This is a fun opportunity to hang out with other NJHA members and go through an obstacle course.

If you have reached the ripe old age of 21 and are no longer able to show at JNHE, we have plenty of fun alternatives for you, as well. If you really enjoy striding for the finish line, you should check out the 5K race. The race is open to all ages but was especially popular last year with our 21 and over group. If the 5K is not your thing, we have an adult age division for livestock judging. It is quite entertaining to see kids competing against their parents for the title of the best livestock judge in the family.

For many families, the JNHE is summer vacation and that's what they look forward to all year. The NJHA strives to provide the best experiences possible for junior exhibitors and their families. The quality of our juniors and their cattle is unmatched across all breeds all over the world. We can't wait to see many of our juniors this summer, as they are "All Aboard the Hereford Express." **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,
taylorbmatheny97@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