



Ask the Ambassadors



From Ohio to Oregon, ladies with a passion for livestock bring unique skill sets to JNHE ambassador roles.

by **Brooke Roberts**

Like many know all too well, the Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE) does not happen without a wealth of support and hard work from many individuals. With all the contests, shows, meetings and various events going on simultaneously, the staff brings in additional individuals each year who help specifically during JNHE. The Ambassador team consists of six college-aged cattle enthusiasts who arrive a week prior to JNHE and stay through the event to keep the ball rolling in all areas.

This year, the all-girl team consisted of: Adison Niese, Shelby, Ohio; Dixie Miller, Farmington, Ark.; Jessica Juvinall, Central Point, Ore.; Kylie Patterson, San Antonio, Texas; Morgan Leefers, Otoe, Neb.; and Taylor Dorsey, Eaton, Colo. While it is clear they worked tirelessly during JNHE, we asked a few questions to learn a little bit more about their experience.



Taylor Dorsey, Eaton, Colo.
Oklahoma State University,
Animal Science

What was one thing you would not have survived the JNHE without?

The one thing I could not have survived without is Sonic.

“The JNHE ambassador experience allowed me the opportunity to further my skills and knowledge of what it would be like to work for an association. It also allowed me to meet some truly amazing people and to gain some lifelong friendships.”

What was a favorite JNHE event or competition you were involved with?

Dixie The livestock judging contest. Livestock judging is very near and dear to my heart, and it is very rewarding to see exhibitors participate and excel in that.

Taylor My favorite JNHE event I helped with was the bred-and-owned show. I was working the thank-you station, and I really enjoyed getting to watch the exhibitors take pride in their projects.

Morgan My favorite JNHE event that we were involved in was probably the Celebrate the 4th Tailgate Party. Adi, Taylor and I gave train rides. This event was neat to me because I was able to meet so many of the young exhibitors and their families while they were waiting in line.

Jessica My favorite event was probably just getting to see the show in action — from helping at the thank-you station, getting to see the class winners and division champions, all the way up to tabulating the Super States award and getting to be there when the grands were chosen.

Adison I really enjoyed the thank-you station. It gave me the chance to interact with exhibitors and to see the show ringside!

Kylie My favorite event I assisted with at JNHE was livestock judging. Making sure the cattle were tailed and cards were picked up helped the event run smoothly. However, getting to watch kids of all

ages judge top-notch, thought-provoking classes of solid Hereford cattle was pretty neat.

What was something you learned during your time as an ambassador?

Dixie I learned about the “Feed the Future” program and how it got started.

Taylor One thing I learned is patience is key.

Morgan It was amazing how many people it took to put on the JNHE and to see everything come to life from the very beginning to the end. I learned how much time and effort it takes to do the very last things that happen while we were in Grand Island.

Jessica First off, I learned the American Hereford Association (AHA) is full of incredible people that I am very grateful to have met and to work with. Secondly, I learned how much work and time goes into putting on an event like the JNHE. It takes an army, and the AHA staff and junior board are incredible at what they do.

Adison I thought I understood what goes on behind the scenes of shows, because I’ve exhibited and been on a junior board. I learned there’s so much that goes unseen and untold that I have so much to learn about putting on a big event like the JNHE.

Kylie One thing I will for sure take away from my experience at the JNHE is the importance of maintaining a positive attitude. The week got long, but in the end there was

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Dixie Miller, Farmington, Ark.
Hutchinson Community College,
Animal Science

What was one thing you would not have survived the JNHE without?
Diet Dr. Pepper.

so much to smile about and to be grateful for. Even when it seemed like we were extremely short on time, everything always seemed to have its way of working out. After all, it’s hard not to be upbeat when you are surrounded by good kids and good cattle.

Why was the JNHE ambassador experience beneficial to you?

Dixie The ambassador experience was beneficial to me because it not only gave me a new perspective of junior nationals but also made me appreciate the people behind

the scenes even more than I did before. I had the opportunity to make countless connections and to discuss Herefords with numerous cattlemen, as well as to learn new ways to improve my family’s herd.

Taylor The JNHE ambassador experience was beneficial to me because it allowed me the opportunity to further my skills and knowledge of what it would be like to work for an association. Besides just the work aspect, it allowed me to meet some truly amazing people and to gain some lifelong friendships.

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Adison Niese, Shelby, Ohio
Ohio State University,
Agricultural Communications

What was one thing you would not have survived the JNHE without?
Bang energy drinks. They woke me up every morning and powered me through the day!

“I loved the timespan and intensity of the program.”



Morgan Leefers, Otoe, Neb.
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Agribusiness

What was one thing you would not have survived the JNHE without? I could not have survived junior nationals without Adi's and Taylor's jokes.



“I wanted to have a chance to give another youngster the same attention that was given to me, which drove me to love showing and being around cattle as much as I do today.”

Morgan Coming into this experience, I wasn't sure what to expect with meeting all new people, but our team has turned out to be some of the best people I have ever met. The connections I made are something that I will be forever thankful for. Meeting and getting to know Amy, Bailey, Anna Grace and the rest of the AHA staff has shown me how being driven and passionate can lead to something bigger than myself and how I can turn my passion into a career.

Jessica I think it was beneficial for me to meet the people I met as well as to get to be involved in something I haven't had the chance to be involved with before. After a few weeks with the AHA staff and at the JNHE, it is something that I would want to be involved with again.

Adison I learned a ton. It's a lot of long days, but you get out of it what you put into it. It was such a special opportunity!

Kylie I felt like I learned so much in two weeks - not only about running a first-class livestock show but also about life. The ability to work in such a high-pressure situation, to complete your task, and to watch an event come together so seamlessly because of you and your team's hours of hard work is pretty special. **HW**

“It is no secret that it takes an army of driven individuals to put on an event like the Junior National Hereford Expo. However, you do not realize how long the late nights get and how fast the early mornings come until you work alongside Ms. Bailey Clanton and Ms. Amy Cowan!”



Jessica Juvinal, Central Point, Ore.
Oklahoma State University,
Animal Science

What was one thing you would not have survived the JNHE without? Redbull.

“I learned that the American Hereford Association is full of incredible people that I am very grateful to have met and to have worked with.”



Kylie Patterson, San Antonio, Texas
Oklahoma State University,
Animal Science

What was one thing you would not have survived the JNHE without? No question, I could not have survived junior nationals without my large can of Redbull every morning.