



'All Aboard The Hereford Express'

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Hereford families jumped aboard the Hereford Express for a week of fun and competition July 1-7, in Grand Island Neb. The record-setting 19th VitaFerm® Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE) hosted more than 900 youth and their families from 38 states and Canada. Those youth flocked to Nebraska not only to exhibit high-quality cattle, but also to try their hand in contests and make memories that will last a lifetime.

State group classes and the new produce-of-dam class kicked off the JNHE during opening ceremonies. In total, Hereford youth exhibited 1,840 entries, including 638 polled owned females, 266 horned owned females, 369 bred-and-owned females, 95 bred-and-owned bulls, 27 cow-calf pairs and 99 steers.

Throughout the week, exceptional juniors were awarded more than \$30,000 in scholarships. They were also able to participate in more than 20 contests outside of the showing, which challenged their Hereford knowledge, leadership skills and even cooking ability.

Fireworks and food were a highlight at the Celebrate the Fourth Tailgate Party. States shared tailgate treats from their home state, and their use of creativity narrowed the competition.

New this year, numerous youth attended the Hereford Pen-to-Pen program, which allowed new JNHE attendees to meet the National Junior Hereford Association board and learn about all that the JNHE offers. Icebreakers provided an opportunity for them to meet people from different states. In addition to fun activities, the Hereford Pen-to-Pen program will serve as a year-long mentor-protégé program and will help to develop our youth by giving them the opportunity to lead, learn and grow.

The JNHE would not be possible without the incredible support from title sponsor BioZyme Inc., St. Joseph, Mo., as well as a multitude of corporate and breeder sponsors. Thank you to all the sponsors for continued support of the JNHE.

"All Aboard The Hereford Express" undoubtedly afforded families the opportunity to spend quality time together in healthy competition with others in the Hereford family, and it set the bar high for next year. On the pages that follow, check out the highlights from this year's JNHE. **HW**



Sunday



Families arrived in Grand Island, Neb., on Saturday and Sunday. Saturday night arrivals weathered a "mild" downpour.



NJHA members await their turn to interview for HYFA scholarships, which exceeded \$30,000 this year.



Professional development contests like illustrated speech provide additional opportunities for success at JNHE.



People and animal check-in on Sunday went smoothly even with record-breaking participation.



Michelle Weber hosted a reading and book signing for her new children's book "Harvey: A Ranch Birthday."



Seasoned NJHA members paired up with newcomers for some team building exercises in the Pen-to-Pen program startup.



NJHA board candidates interacted with NJHA delegates at a roundtable dinner.



The NHW put on a hilarious skit during the Queen's orientation.



Monday



More than 80 runners hit the ground running for second JNHE 5K race. Proceeds from the race totaled more than \$6,000 and benefits HYFA and the "Growing a Lasting Legacy" campaign.



Hereford youth tested their knowledge of the industry in the written component of the Hereford Bowl contest.



Young master chefs showcased their cooking skills and Certified Hereford Beef® knowledge in the Great American CHB Grill-off.



Youth demonstrated their marketing skills in the individual and team sales contests.



Teams presented their CHB recipes to the judges before answering their questions.



National Hereford Queen Abbygail Pitstick hosted past, present and future royalty at the NHW queen's tea and reunion.



Cupcake decorating was the activity at this year's NHW queen's tea.



Monday



The 2018 NJHA board of directors rode into the Five Points Bank Arena onboard the little engine that *almost* could.



A wave of anticipation swept through the crowd as opening ceremonies kicked off with a video courtesy of The Showtimes.



Retiring NJHA board president Steven Green delivered the opening speech before the start of group classes.



Produce-of-dam, adult breeder group of three, junior breeder group of three and state groups competed during the opening ceremonies.



Tuesday



The Five Points Bank Arena was filled with youth participating in the judging contest.



Contestants finessed their public speaking skills in the extemporaneous speech contest.



Sullivan Supply/Stock Show University hosted a fitting demonstration.



Junior and senior teams competed in the Hereford bowl final "buzzer" round.

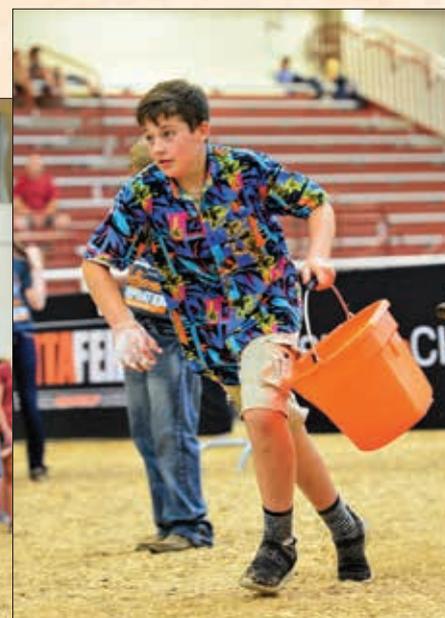


The South Dakota Hereford bowl team celebrates a victory in a preliminary heat.

Tuesday



State teams participated in the Sullivan Supply/Stock Show University fitting contest.



There is never a dull moment during the Sullivan Supply/Stock Show University boot camp.



After listening to NJHA board candidate speeches, state delegates voted for new NJHA directors at the NJHA membership meeting on Tuesday evening.



JNHE celebrated the 4th of July with a day full of fierce showmanship competition.



Piper Colyer, Bruneau, Idaho, competes in the junior showmanship division.



Cora Belle Chapman, Seneca, Ill., shakes hands with Peewee showmanship judge Brady Jensen.



Competition came down to the wire in the top 10 senior showmanship finals.



Thursday



Payton Vogel, Hartley, Iowa, shakes hands with judge Chris Mullinix in the bred-and-owned heifer show.



Exhibitors line up their bulls as judge Ryan Rathmann sizes up the class.



In the barns, families were hard at work fitting cattle to look their best in the showing.



Beau Ann Graves, Chillicothe, Mo., positions her steer in the middle of the ring.



Retiring NJHA fundraising chair Mason Blinson exchanges a hug and a jacket with newly-elected Montana Lawrence, Princeton, Minn.



Brooklyn Adam, Lathrop, Mo., receives her maroon jacket from Steven Green, becoming the fourth and final candidate elected at the Thursday night awards ceremony.



Friday



Scott Schaake and John Mrozinski judged the two-day owned female show.



Cruz Colyer, Bruneau, Idaho shows his owned female.



Division champions and reserves were selected on day one.



The 2018 Hereford queens sat ringside each show day to assist in leading classes in, handing out awards and supporting Hereford youth.



Saturday



The last day of the owned female show wrapped up the last day of the JNHE.



Mason Allan, Schulenburg, Texas, leads his owned female through the showing.



Board members were an asset to young exhibitors both in and out of the showing.



Judge Schaake complimented exhibitors on their high-quality cattle throughout the owned show.



Madeline Braman, Refugio, Texas had her game face on during the owned show.



Competition was fierce as Scott Schaake of Westmoreland, Kan., and associate John Mrozinski, Marion, Kan., evaluated the owned female show.