

Teach a Man to Fish

The most important skill to master is the skill of learning.



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On the first day of an equine nutrition class, our professor condensed the objective of the course into a single quote: “Give a man a fish and he eats for a day. Teach a man to fish and he eats for a lifetime.” This class was not intended to teach us to feed horses, but rather to provide us with fundamentals to understand the nutritional requirements of any specie.

Over the past several months I have been bombarded with a recurring lesson — never stop learning. It makes me think back to that first day of class, when our professor essentially told us we would spend the quarter learning how to learn. This lesson on learning has proven the most valuable throughout my seven years of higher education, and is perhaps why I was able to make it through those seven years. Luckily, this is not a lesson only taught in school.

A timeless mindset

This was my first year to attend a junior national show. While taking photographs in the Five Points Bank Arena in Grand Island, Neb., I found myself empathizing with the peewee exhibitors as their eyes widened in amazement each time they entered the ring. The week was a whirlwind, and when I called home to Dad Sunday morning, only one line came to mind to summarize my experience: “I learned a lot.”

As always, he responded with some heartfelt tough love. “Well, if 40 years from now you’re not learning something new every day, it means you’re not trying hard enough.”

By now, I have learned his blunt advice is given with the best of intentions — to help me seek a new perspective. As I reflected back on the hectic days of the Junior National

Hereford Expo (JNHE), I realized I was not the only one overwhelmed with information overload. First timers and seasoned veterans alike learned valuable lessons each day of the show.

The JNHE is much more than a livestock show. It is a classroom for people old and young, and its most important lesson is establishing a mentality to equip its students for success inside and outside the showring. It provides a setting to teach pupils how to learn, as showmen will only find success if they take heed of the new lessons that present themselves every day.

In this issue

This historically youth-focused September issue of *Hereford World* takes readers onboard the 2018 JNHE in Grand Island. Full coverage of the weeklong show begins on Page 48, and showcases the newly elected and retiring National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) board members, show and contest winners, scholarship winners and everything in between.

Read about honorary members of the Hereford family, including a family with a museum exhibit dedicated to their showring success (Page 28) and one of our NJHA matriarchs (Page 40). Learn the story behind the author of “Harvey: A Ranch Birthday” (Page 154) and relive the Faces of Leadership Conference on Page 158. Finally, experience a behind-the-scenes look at the NJHA Fed Steer Shootout Program on Page 32.

Thank you for making my first JNHE one to remember, and I hope this issue does justice to the impressiveness of the show. May your day be bright, your smile brighter and your heart eager to learn. **HW**