

by Taylor Belle Matheny

Fall is the time of year where there isn't just one thing I love about the season — each part makes me excited. I am not sure if it is the perfect cool breeze each morning or the beautiful colors outdoors that make fall the clear winner, but it is hands down my favorite season. I love spring, summer and winter for their own uniqueness, but there is something about fall that makes me excited for what is to come. This time of year offers a new perspective that I feel we don't always notice.

On farms and ranches across the country, grass is drying up, leaves are falling and preparation for winter has begun. I am positive my love for this season came from growing up raising cattle. I was always eager for this time of year because calving season was around the corner. Most importantly, I always found this

season to be the most peaceful time to take a ride across the pasture to look at the cattle grazing. Now that I am in college, I count down the days until I am back home to help on those cool fall mornings.

A look inside

Serving on the junior board has given me a few more reasons to love fall even more. Each October the junior board gathers for board meetings before the Annual Meeting in Kansas City, Mo. As a member of the National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA), I always wondered what board meetings were like for the junior board. I would like to give you a glimpse of what the board does year-round to help the NJHA.

At our fall board meeting, we continued planning the 2019 Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE) and the 2019 Faces of Leadership Conference and began looking at ways we could improve the NJHA. The board was also assigned articles to write for the *Hereford World*, the Advantage and our blog and was provided the opportunity to take over Snapchat or Instagram. Our meetings aren't all business; the board enjoys going out to eat and the occasional shopping trip. Serving alongside 11 dynamic individuals makes our time together so enjoyable. To sum it up, we have a lot of fun helping shape the future of the NJHA. As the junior board, we take time at our fall meetings to embrace the change that is happening because of the nature of the season to better our organization.

Start planning

Fall doesn't seem to stick around long, and before we know it, we will be ringing in the new year. Before that happens, take the time now to start planning for the new

opportunities and events you want to be part of next year. If you have been interested in a contest, the Fed Steer Shootout or attending Faces of Leadership, now is the time to start looking into those opportunities.

The junior board encourages you to read the fall Advantage newsletter to learn about each of the different aspects in which you can be involved. There are so many ways to be involved in the NJHA, and we want you to participate in as many things as possible. The junior board enjoys watching you give speeches or grill Certified Hereford Beef® as you put all your hard work to the test. If you start preparing now, I can guarantee there will be less stress in the summer.

For many of you, fall means preparing for the North American International Livestock Exposition, the American Royal, the Western Nugget or the National Western Stock Show. These shows are probably why many of you consider fall your favorite time of year. It is always exciting to prepare for shows and to meet up with your friends again. If one of these events is marked on your calendar, be on the lookout for junior board members who will be attending these shows. We are excited to see so many of you at these events each year. If you have been thinking about a contest or have any questions, be sure to ask us. Our goal is to help you in any way possible because we want you to be successful members of the NJHA.

As fall sets in, I hope you enjoy the taste of pumpkin pie, apple cider and a delicious Thanksgiving feast. Take this time to enjoy the simplicity of the season and to challenge yourself to see what new things the next season can bring. The junior board wishes you a happy start to the holiday season, and we board members look forward to seeing you around the country this fall. **HW**



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