

On the Hill with the Hereford Family

In January I had the privilege of traveling to Denver to represent the National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) at the National Western Stock Show (NWSS). My first trek to the NWSS was with my family in 2015, but I had not been back since. On my first trip to Denver, I was so struck by the beauty of the mountains, the quality of the cattle and, most of all, the people. In preparing for my most recent trip, I anticipated the stock show might be different from what I remembered. I was surprised to find everything which awed me then still had me in awe now.

A sight to remember

It was early in the morning, and I found myself in official dress, trudging up the Hill for the junior show with my fellow board

members. When we reached the top of the Hill, I stopped in my tracks. For a moment, I stood taking in the view — the golden morning light catching the snow-capped mountains and shining down on the activity of people and cattle in the Yards. In the hustle and bustle of traveling, I had completely forgotten my destination and all the beauty it holds. I couldn't help taking it all in.

Eventually, I made my way to the Stadium Arena, where I spent the day tailing cattle through the showring. Each time I have the privilege of working in the ring I am so impressed by the excellence of our junior exhibitors. The NJHA has so many talented young showmen who never fail to present their cattle with pride and dignity. Throughout the week, I saw many young people in the ring, on the Hill, in the Yards and on the washrack working hard to prepare and to exhibit excellent Hereford cattle. As I observed each animal enter the ring, it was clear how much care our breeders, herdsman and Hereford families put into their cattle.

A night to remember

On my last night at the show, my fellow board members and I attended the Mile High Night Sale. That night — more than any other — I connected with my fellow juniors, saw old friends and enjoyed the company of the Hereford family.

At the start of the sale, I found myself on stage with the beautiful Lot 1 Foundation Female heifer, donated by Lowderman Cattle Co., Macomb, Ill., and Michelini Cattle Co., Peru, Ill. It was quite humbling to stand beside such a generous family and to watch as their beautiful heifer raised \$120,000 for the Hereford Youth Foundation of America. The donation heifer was purchased by a syndicate including Hoffman Ranch, Thedford, Neb.; Cort Scheer, Elsmere, Neb.; HME Herefords, Winterville, Ga.; Upstream Ranch, Taylor, Neb.; and Hopper Herefords, Maysville, Ky.

I have experienced so much over the past few months with the junior board, but the one thing which continues to amaze me is the culture and generosity of the families in our breed. The NJHA is fortunate to have such a supportive group of people behind it.

That first morning in Denver was the first of many times I stopped to pinch myself and to thank God for the amazing opportunity I have been given to travel and to serve my fellow juniors. It is such a joy to travel the country and to see Hereford families everywhere share the same work ethic, generosity and love for Hereford cattle. The NWSS is one of the breed's greatest get-togethers — a promise of great cattle, great people and great memories. **HW**



Chairman

Austin Matheny, austin.matheny61@gmail.com

Vice chairman

Brooke Hinojosa-Sidwell,
brookehinojosa10@gmail.com

Communications chair

Taylor Belle Matheny,
taylormatheny97@gmail.com

Leadership chair

Brandt Downing, downingshowcattle@gmail.com

Fundraising chair

Rylee Barber, ryraba@gmail.com

Membership chair

Nathan Hopkins, nhopkins3632@att.net

Directors

Brooklyn Adam, brooklynadam113@gmail.com

Montana Lawrence,
lawre474@morris.umn.edu

Samuel Lawrence, sflittingservices@icloud.com

Bailey Jones, baejones15@gmail.com

Abigail Spindle, abigail.spindle1@gmail.com

Hannah Williams, hnmwilliams13@yahoo.com

Director of youth activities

Amy Cowan
816-842-3757, acowan@hereford.org

JrHereford.org

