

# Moving Forward with the NJHA

by Taylor Belle Matheny

Edward Everett Hale describes success in a way I feel reflects the National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) board of directors: “Coming together is the beginning, keeping together is progress, working together is success.” As our board of directors sat in meetings last summer, we began to dream big about what we could do for our junior membership to successfully fulfill these goals.

Our individual classes within the board made goals for what we wanted to achieve during our tenure as board members and planned ways we intended to implement them. As progress continues to be made behind the scenes and as changes are unveiled to our membership, these dreams are becoming a reality. During this

time of implementing changes, working together has allowed us to move toward achieving our goals.

## Big changes ahead

Our oldest group of board members had a goal to offer a college and career fair at the Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE) to provide an engaging pathway to network with a wide variety of individuals. During this year’s JNHE, colleges from around the area and industry professionals will be in attendance to help juniors “bridge the gap” between high school and higher education or the work force. Austin, Brooke, Bailey and Nathan are excited to see this event come together and to connect our members with potential opportunities. This is a great way to utilize many valuable resources to help set members up for success.

When it came time to discuss NJHA communications, our board felt we could update *The Advantage* newsletter. We had a great discussion about offering members a newsletter covering education, leadership and scholarship topics. To make sure we were on the right track, we met with juniors attending the Faces of Leadership Conference to hear what they would like to see in the newsletter. The junior board then teamed up with Hereford Publications Inc. to redesign our newsletter and to give it a fresh look.


We are excited to incorporate these recommendations and updates to take our newsletter to

the next level. When you get a copy this spring, I encourage you to look at the new changes and, most importantly, to look at the new content. *The Advantage* has many great resources to help you prepare for the JNHE and contests.

With the new design, there is now an opportunity to be featured on the cover. Simply submit a high-quality photo in the JNHE photo contest — your photo may be one of the two images from the contest selected as a cover photo. As an agricultural communicator myself, I understand the feeling of getting your work published. Start carrying your camera around with you to capture our next cover shot.

Often when we think of change, we are hesitant to take the leap because of the fear of the unknown. When I look at these two exciting changes our board has made for the NJHA, I feel the outcome is one that will take our association forward in many areas. Working together has made our dreams a successful reality for the NJHA.

As this year’s JNHE nears and spring turns into summer, I encourage you to find a new way to be involved at JNHE. Start preparing for contests early and get in contact with any junior board member with questions. I am looking forward to this being our best JNHE yet, and with the participation from our junior membership, this will be an easy goal we can all achieve together. **HW**



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