

All Hail the Queen

by *Betsy Pitstick*

The National Hereford Women (NHW) queen program is unlike any other program in the industry. Hereford queens are held to the utmost set of rules and regulations, many of which have continued from the beginning of the program. Hereford queens pride themselves in what they represent — the cattle and their breeders.

Exciting times

The current queen, Emily Meinhardt, of Marysville, Kan., has done an extraordinary job representing the American Hereford Association (AHA). She has attended the fall and winter national shows and is gearing up for the Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE) in Denver.

Emily is currently collecting items for her basket as part of the state basket auction. She is also organizing the Queen's Tea and a

service project taking place at the JNHE. Emily has been hard at work attending shows and sales, and NHW members greatly appreciate all of her time and effort. We also want to thank all of the supporters of this program.

Without the support of donors, breeders, parents, state associations and many others, our program would not be what it is today. Past, present and future queens will forever be grateful for all of the support they receive. These experiences, whether as a national queen, state queen or state princess, are beneficial to our industry.

I never realized how much responsibility the Queen had and what an amazing adventure this experience is until I became the "Queen Mom." This duty became my passion as well. Before this last year, I did not realize what all was involved. I have experienced the behind-the-scenes responsibilities firsthand, and I fell in love with the industry, cattle and, most of all, the people. I have said so before and will say it again — this is an indescribable experience, and if you are given the opportunity, you will never forget it. **HW**



The current National Hereford Queen, Emily Meinhardt, shows future queens the ropes at national shows.



One of the queen's exciting ways to give back is through her service project each year at the JNHE.



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HerefordWomen.com



Future queens flock to the Queen's Tea each year at the JNHE for a chance to be princess for the day alongside the National Hereford Queen.