

Passing the Torch

New junior board directors and chairmen elected.

by **Adrian Austin**

After a long, exciting week of campaigning, working the ring and interacting with National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) members, four bright, shining faces were welcomed as new NJHA directors during the 2019 VitaFerm® Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE) July 6-13 in Denver.

Noah Benedict, Dewey, Ill.; Luke Daniels, Dalhart, Texas; Wyatt Lawrence, Princeton, Minn.; and Bailey Morrell, Willows, Calif., collectively breathed sighs of relief and thankfulness as their names were announced, and slid their arms into their maroon jackets for the first time during the JNHE awards ceremony July 11.

Two delegates from each state junior Hereford association voted for the individuals they wanted to represent the membership. The NJHA board is comprised of 12 individuals who serve three-year terms and govern the 3,000-member organization.

The 2019-20 officer team includes chairman Taylor Belle Matheny, Mays Lick, Ky.; vice-chairman Rylee Barber, Channing, Texas; communications chair Hannah Williams, Kearney, Neb.; membership chair Montana Lawrence, Princeton, Minn.; fundraising chair Abigail Spindle, Moriarty, N.M.; and leadership chair Samuel Lawrence, Avilla, Ind. Also

serving as directors are Brooklyn Adam, Lathrop, Mo., and Brandt Downing, Culver, Ore.

Brooklyn Adam is the 21-year-old daughter of Scott and Tammy Adam, Lathrop, Mo. She is a senior at Kansas State University (K-State), pursuing a degree in agricultural communications. In the future she would like to combine her passions for photography, writing and agriculture by becoming a photojournalist for an agriculture-based magazine company. Adam is a 13-year member of the Missouri Junior Hereford Association, where she has served as the treasurer and a board member.

Rylee Barber is the 21-year-old daughter of Brett Barber, Channing, Texas, and Nicole Barber, Mason City, Ill. She is a senior at Texas A&M University, majoring in agricultural communications and journalism. She has been a member of the Texas Junior Hereford Association for 14 years. Barber's main goal is to include all members and to encourage them to increase involvement. She hopes not only to advocate for the agricultural industry but also to increase communication between the board and the junior members.

Noah Benedict is the 19-year-old son of Chad and Becky Benedict from Dewey, Ill., and is a sophomore at the University of Illinois, majoring in agribusiness markets and management. Upon graduation, he plans to work in the livestock feed and nutrition industry. Benedict has held a variety of leadership roles in 4-H and FFA and is currently a director for the Illinois Junior Hereford Association. He earned the NJHA Golden Bull Achievement Scholarship in 2018.

Luke Daniels is the 17-year-old son of Scanlon and Angela Daniels from Dalhart, Texas, and is a senior



It was all smiles from Luke Daniels as he received his jacket from retiring board chairman Austin Matheny.

at Dalhart High School. Upon graduation, he plans to attend a junior college before majoring in pre-veterinary science. Daniels has been an active member of the Texas Junior Hereford Association and has been a director for the past six years. He has been involved in student council, 4-H and FFA and has held several leadership roles in each program. He is also a member of the National Honor Society.

Brandt Downing is the 20-year-old son of Scott and Tracy Downing, Culver, Ore. He is a junior at Butler Community College majoring in animal science, with hopes of becoming a feed nutritionist. He has served as treasurer, vice president and president during his time as a member of the Oregon Junior Hereford Association. His goal as a board member is to increase



Noah Benedict earned his maroon jacket after Nathan Hopkins' retiring address at the awards ceremony.



Wyatt Lawrence received a place on the NJHA board and big hug from retiring board member Brooke Hinojosa-Sidwell.



The 2019-20 NJHA board of directors pictured front row (l to r) are: **Brooklyn Adam**, Lathrop, Mo.; **Taylor Belle Matheny**, Mays Lick, Ky.; **Abigail Spindle**, Moriarty, N.M.; and **Rylee Barber**, Channing, Texas. Second row (l to r) are: **Hannah Williams**, Kearney, Neb.; **Montana Lawrence**, Princeton, Minn.; and **Bailey Morrell**, Willows, Calif. Third row (l to r) are: **Brandt Downing**, Culver, Ore.; and **Samuel Lawrence**, Avilla, Ind. Top row (l to r) are: **Luke Daniels**, Dalhart, Texas; **Noah Benedict**, Dewey, Ill.; and **Wyatt Lawrence**, Princeton, Minn.

junior membership and participation. Downing ultimately aims to make a positive influence on the Hereford industry by keeping NJHA events fun and engaging for all participants.

Montana Lawrence is the 21-year-old daughter of Bryan and Marytina Lawrence from Princeton, Minn. She is a senior at the University of Minnesota-Morris, where she is studying political science and studio art. Lawrence has served as president and state Hereford queen for the Minnesota Junior Hereford Association.

Samuel Lawrence is the 21-year-old son of Scott and Susan Lawrence, Avilla, Ind. He is a senior at K-State, where he is pursuing a degree in animal science with a business option. After college Lawrence plans to manage the business and sales aspect of an up-and-coming bull stud and recipient program in central Illinois. He has been a member of the Indiana Junior Hereford Association for 14 years and has served as director as well as in many state offices.

Wyatt Lawrence is the 19-year-old son of Bryan and Marytina Lawrence from Princeton, Minn., and is a sophomore at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities, majoring in agribusiness with a minor in animal science. After graduating, his dream is

to return home to work alongside his father and grandfather on the family operation. In high school, Lawrence held leadership positions in both athletics and arts. He has also been active in his church for the past 10 years. He is currently the Minnesota Junior Hereford board secretary.

Taylor Belle Matheny is the 22-year-old daughter of Andrew and Suzanne Matheny, Mays Lick, Ky. She will be attending Texas Tech University to pursue her master's degree in agricultural communications. She hopes to pursue a career with a cattle breed association as a youth activities director. She is a 14-year member of the Kentucky Junior Hereford Association and served as the 2015-16 National Hereford Queen. As a board member, she hopes to increase contest participation, to continue junior membership growth and to promote Certified Hereford Beef®.

Bailey Morrell is the 18-year-old daughter of Barry and Carrie Morrell from Willows, Calif., and is a sophomore at Colorado State University majoring in agriculture education with a concentration in agriculture literacy. After graduation, she plans to earn an agricultural law degree. She has held a variety of offices and leadership roles through her involvement in 4-H and FFA. While at CSU, she has served as

the College of Agriculture Sciences associate senator, the Block and Bridle Club vice president and the Collegiate Livestock Association secretary and is an Agriculture Ambassador.

Abigail Spindle is the 20-year-old daughter of Tom and Becky Spindle from Moriarty, N.M. She is a junior at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College, where she is majoring in animal science and is a successful member of the livestock judging team. Spindle plans to attend Oklahoma State University and to further her education in agriculture economics. After college she wants to keep up the family tradition to raise cattle on her family's farm. Spindle is an 11-year member of the New Mexico Junior Hereford Association, where she served as queen and princess.

Hannah Williams is the 20-year-old daughter of Jim and Sheila Williams and Aaron and Angie Kelly, Kearney, Neb. She is a junior at K-State studying animal science. She hopes to eventually attend veterinary school and to work in the animal pharmaceutical field. She is an 11-year member of the Nebraska Junior Hereford Association, where she has served as the historian and is the current reporter. Her main goal is to focus on junior membership and to support the everlasting legacy of the NJHA by building a tremendous foundation for the future of the Hereford breed. **HW**



Bailey Morrell was elated to receive her maroon jacket from retiring board member Bailey Jones.