

by Amy Taylor

Denver was a magical location for the 2019 VitaFerm® Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE). The history and legacy of the Yards are unmatched. The legacies of the juniors participating will be forever marked by this once-in-a-lifetime experience. Members of the National Hereford Women (NHW) would like to congratulate all contest winners and scholarship recipients on a job well done. The members of the National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) are quite impressive, and we are honored to be able to offer our contests and scholarship awards to such a promising group of future leaders.

## Youth focus

This year's Heifer Award went to Madie Ziegler. Copeland and Sons, Nara Visa, N.M., has graciously donated a \$1,500 sale credit Madie can use at the Copelands' ranch. The NHW will also add an additional \$1,000 credit, so Madie

will have a total of \$2,500. Matt Copeland and NHW board member Trudy Nolles presented Madie with the award at opening ceremonies. We extend our gratitude to the Copeland family for donating to such a wonderful program.

Sixteen graceful, poised queens from fifteen states sat on queen's row at the JNHE. The queens were able to attend orientation at the historical Brown Palace, where they took part in an afternoon tea. National Hereford Queen Emily Meinhardt kicked off her service project "Yard Games in the Stockyard" during the tailgate. All proceeds from her service project went to the Nebraska and Oklahoma ranchers and farmers affected by the recent natural disasters. Emily then welcomed young ladies to the notorious Queen's Tea. There, more than 100 participants learned about proper etiquette from Diane Johnson, Ft. Worth, Texas, and made fingerprint cactus art.

## NHW news

Connie Pérez was the keynote speaker at the NHW semi-annual meeting. She told us of her journey of learning she had Parkinson's disease, and she told us how she coped with this diagnosis through her discovered love of painting. She has written two children's books and is in the process of releasing a third. Connie's story is inspiring and was a blessing to hear.

The Bucket Brigade was comprised of six incredible and luxury-filled buckets. Buckets included hunting trips, a showbox bar, a cedar chest, a custom toy box and rocking cow, a hover board, and a Louis Vuitton purse improved with a little fringe. All donations to the Bucket Brigade will go to the Queen's Scholarship and the Queen Fund. We felt the scholarship amounts awarded needed increased

to reward these ladies for all their hard work and their wonderful representation of all Hereford breeders. Through the brigade, we were able to raise \$6,500 worth of donations to go toward the scholarship fund. The Hereford Youth Foundation of America has challenged us to raise the queen's scholarship fund to \$200,000 by the end of this year. We are very close to achieving the goal thanks to the efforts of the fundraising committee and all who have donated to such a special cause.

Kay Knight debuted her NHW jewelry line in the ways and means booth. Kay is excited to join efforts with us and to create beautiful timeless pieces for the NHW. In addition to creating pieces for the NHW, she will work with individuals to create custom pieces. This woman is amazingly creative and can provide you with a family heirloom to be passed down for decades. The sky is truly the limit with her custom designs, as she can recreate brands, use jewels passed down to you or start completely from scratch.

We would like to thank all who donated time, money and efforts into helping the NHW make this JNHE one for the books. We are forever grateful for our membership and the Hereford breeders who made room in their busy schedules to lend a hand where needed. There are so many individuals behind the scenes making sure everything runs smoothly. We could not support the juniors as well as we do without those amazing people and volunteers. We would also like to thank the NJHA board, the American Hereford Association staff and HYFA for their continued partnerships in all endeavors to bless and support the NJHA and Hereford breeders across the country. **NHW**



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