

The Relay Team

Each runner on a relay team occupies a strategic place in the line-up — but, ultimately, each team member runs the same distance.



Diane Meyer is the editor of *Hereford World*. She can be reached at dmeyer@hereford.org.

Welcome to this issue of the *Hereford World*, which features in-depth coverage of the best junior national livestock show in the world — the VitaFerm® Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE). This history-making week in Denver was a powerful display of Team Hereford in action. Both on The Hill and beyond, Hereford juniors and their families exemplify dedication, hard work and passion.

For those of us behind the scenes, covering the JNHE is like — at least what I imagine — sprinting a marathon must feel like. Although I have ran a half marathon before, I have yet to tackle a full marathon. While perhaps not physically prepared for a full marathon just yet, I can safely say I am mentally prepared — and that's all thanks to our junior nationals.

Fortunately, when you have a solid team around you, this marathon feels more like a relay race than an individual

race. This summer I had the opportunity to work with an amazing editorial and communications crew which embodies the sense of the word “team.” It never felt as though one team member carried extra weight on their shoulders, but instead responsibilities were evenly dispersed to ensure the best coverage possible. That sense of balance made the pace of the week sustainable.

An integral member of our team this summer was our Hereford Publications Inc. intern, Adrian Austin. She certainly had a lot more responsibilities thrown her way than she bargained for, but like a true team player, she took each challenge in stride. Before we fire the start gun and embark on stories from The Hill (Page 48) and beyond, I would like to have Adrian join me at the start line to kick off this September issue.

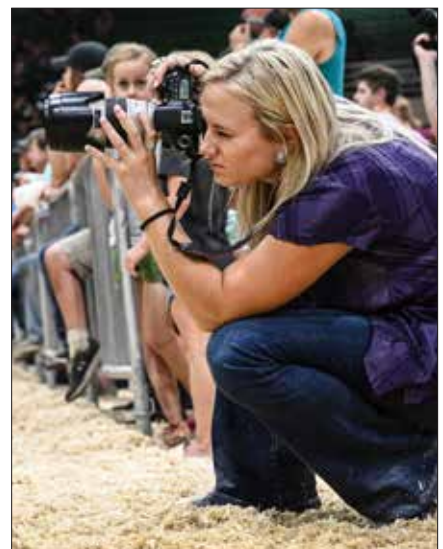
I will now pass the baton off to Adrian to share her *World's Perspective*.

Fueled for Results

by *Adrian Austin*

Known as the ‘pig girl’ around the office this summer, I admittedly didn't grow up showing or raising cattle. Rather, my roots run deep in the purebred swine industry, and I recently retired from my post as the National Junior Swine Association (NJSA) secretary. However, as a past president of the Illinois Polled Hereford Association, my grandpa loves his red-and-white-faced bovine. I recall several summers spent manning the head chute, working alongside my father and grandfather to treat cattle in the hot sun, waiting for it to cool off so I could walk my show pigs later in the day.

continued on page 6...



As the owner and operator of our family's restaurant — Austin's — for more than 50 years, I rarely saw my grandpa relax. When he did have time to sit for a while, it seemed he always had a *Hereford World* magazine in hand, pouring over the pages. If someone would have asked me one year ago what I would be doing this summer, I never would have dreamed the answer would be interning with the American Hereford Association (AHA). Yet, when the internship offer was extended to me, it was simple to say "yes," knowing my grandpa — in his newfound retirement — would now have the opportunity to pick up the magazine and read something written by his granddaughter.

Keeping in mind the selfless, serving spirit of my grandfather, I tried to approach my work with a kind heart this summer. I truly felt my goal to serve others and honor the Hereford membership came to fruition in *Showing for Cody* on Page 38 — a story which

reminds each of us to never take life for granted.

This experience has been a whirlwind of excitement and growth. Being my first summer away from my southern Illinois home, I wasn't sure what to expect living in Kansas City. During my first few days with the AHA, though, I learned what it means to have a home away from home.

Team Hereford welcomed me with open arms and made my summer unforgettable. Between writing, editing, social media planning, media coverage at the JNHE and more, the AHA staff offered me more opportunities to learn and grow in these past three months than I ever thought possible. Perhaps more importantly, I felt privileged to work alongside a group of people whose passion, drive and dedication to their work is unrivaled.

A quote one of my past basketball coaches used to share

was, "Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision — the ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results."

After my time spent with the AHA, I simply cannot imagine a group of people who exemplify the meaning of what my past coach was trying to say more than those who occupy the halls of the Hereford office.

As my summer spent with this talented, devoted group ends, I cannot say thank you enough to the AHA staff for allowing me to be part of the Hereford family for a short period of time. And to my grandpa, Lavern — thank you for showing me what it means to be passionate about your work and to not quit until the job is done. You are a true embodiment of what it means to be a Hereford cattleman. **HW**