

Thank You for Your Passion

Several weeks ago, I was talking with a livestock friend about what makes the National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) so special. During our conversation, we discussed several aspects of the association, including the junior board, the Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE) and, most notably, the membership and their families.

Over the past year, I have found myself gushing to many people about the amazing experiences the NJHA has given me and the amazing people I have come to know as family. Serving as a junior board member has changed the way I express my love for cattle and the way I interact with people. It has afforded me a level of freedom and confidence I was lacking in my younger years. Most of all, it has opened my eyes to the value of

sharing our unique passions with those around us.

I am currently a senior at the University of Minnesota–Morris, where I am pursuing a double major in political science and studio art. In addition to my academic work, I participate on three collegiate-level athletic teams including cross country, swimming and diving, and track and field. However, if you asked any one of my friends what comes to mind when they think of me, they would probably chuckle and say Hereford cattle.

Share your passion

You could say I am the resident cowgirl on campus. I take every opportunity to share my passion for agriculture and the Hereford breed with the people around me, even if they have no connection to agriculture. I believe sharing one's passion is one of the most powerful ways to influence people.

For those who do not understand the world of agriculture, a passionate farmer can change the way those individuals think about the food they consume. A passionate politician can move a group of people to initiate changes in their government. A passionate team member can encourage his or her teammates to aspire to new levels of athletic achievement. A passionate artist can present people with fresh perspective. As a passionate junior board member, I hope I can positively impact the way our junior members think about themselves and their own passions.

The thing about passion is it is contagious and compelling. My very favorite thing about serving my fellow juniors is seeing the way they light up when they participate in contests that feed their unique talents. I love watching exceptional showmen as they enter the ring

or seeing our quiz bowl teams studying intently before they enter the final buzzer round.

It is one of the most wonderful things to see peewee members all dressed up to present their thoughts in the speech contest. Better yet is watching juniors of all ages work together in the team fitting contest to present a sharp-looking heifer to the judge. I could go on, but I think you get the idea. What makes the NJHA so special is our members love what they do, and they love doing it together.

Be thankful

In this season of thankfulness, I want to take a minute to thank anyone and everyone who supports the NJHA. Please know your contribution is making a difference in the lives of so many. You are helping to build the next generation of passionate people through education, scholarship and competitive opportunity. I have no doubt the members of this association will go on to change the world in whatever avenue they choose.

This will be the case because you saw the value in building them up while they were young. To the juniors, thank you for being the unique individuals you are and for always putting your best foot forward. Without each of you, the Hereford family would not be all it is today. This month, remember to thank all of the people who have supported you on your journey.

Finally, stay passionate! It is easy as winter approaches to fall into the doldrums of the cold season and harsher weather. Take a minute — make a list of all the things you love about Hereford cattle and Hereford people. I guarantee once you start, you will not be able to stop. **HW**



Chairman

Taylor Belle Matheny,
taylormatheny97@gmail.com

Vice chairman

Rylee Barber, ryraba@gmail.com

Communications chair

Hannah Williams, hmwilliams13@yahoo.com

Leadership chair

Samuel Lawrence, slfittingservices@icloud.com

Fundraising chair

Abigail Spindle, abigail.spindle1@gmail.com

Membership chair

Montana Lawrence,
lawre474@morris.umn.edu

Directors

Brooklyn Adam, brooklynadam113@gmail.com

Noah Benedict, nojo1132@gmail.com

Luke Daniels, luke@circleh.info

Brandt Downing, downingshowcattle@gmail.com

Wyatt Lawrence, wyattherf99@gmail.com

Bailey Morrell, bsmshowcattle5@gmail.com

Director of youth activities

Amy Cowan
816-842-3757, acowan@hereford.org

JrHereford.org