

by Dana Pieper

To say this year has been different from most would be an understatement. The one thing found to be a continuing theme for our organization is perseverance. Perseverance in the National Hereford Women (NHW), perseverance in the National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) and perseverance in the American Hereford Association. I have taken a lot of things for granted in my life, and this year has made me realize how thankful I am to live where I live. If your family is anything like mine, staying focused on the finish line was pretty hard. With most of the spring livestock shows getting cancelled, school cancelled, stay-at-home orders put in place, we were not sure if we would get to have a Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE). Thanks to some

pretty awesome people whom we have in our Association they pulled one off for us. A huge thank you goes out to Amy Cowan, director of youth activities and foundation, Bailey Clanton, national shows coordinator and youth activities assistant, and Halie Runner, the youth activities intern, along with the many others involved to make it happen for our kids!

2020 JNHE recap

This year's JNHE was condensed to five days. Most of the contests were completed virtually before we arrived. I personally liked the contests that way because the JNHE wasn't as chaotic as most years. This year we had 1,632 entries, 1,351 head of cattle and 691 NJHA exhibitors from 37 states and Canada who participated, which I thought was pretty high! The barns seemed full when I walked around, too. I was glad to go somewhere after being cooped up for four to five months.

The grounds opened up Friday evening, July 10, for tack and cattle to arrive by 5 p.m. Saturday all cattle had to be on the grounds. Virtual opening ceremonies kicked off the week. The NHW's duties were pretty low-key. We weren't able to host several of the activities we had planned because they wouldn't fall under social distancing guidelines, which knocked out our semi-annual membership meeting as well. We did have our ways and means booth set up, and it saw fair support. Sunday was VitaFerm® t-shirt and showmanship day. As always, we are grateful for VitaFerm's continued generosity to sponsor our JNHE. Monday, we kicked off the cattle show with cow-calf pairs and bred-and-owned heifers and bulls, and the juniors had their membership election and



dinner. Tuesday started with the steer show followed by the first day of the owned heifer show. The day concluded with the announcement of the newly elected members to the NJHA board of directors, the Herdsman of the Year Award and several other contest winners announced, with several of our board members handing out the awards. Congratulations to those juniors who received an award! Wednesday, July 15, the owned show resumed, and everyone headed home. These kids put in a lot of time and hard work on their projects, and the quality was deep in each class that I watched.

The strength of our organizations came together and persevered in the face of a pandemic that threatened JNHE. For that, the NHW are proud and grateful. **HW**

To join and to learn more about the NHW, visit HerefordWomen.com or email nationalherefordwomen@gmail.com.



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