

Junior Board Directors and Chairmen Elected

Four National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) members were elected to the NJHA board of directors at the 2020 VitaFerm® Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE), July 10-15, in Kansas City, Mo.

JW Cox, Flemingsburg, Ky.; Lauren McMillan, Tiskilwa, Ill.; Ralston Ripp, Kearney, Neb.; and Libby Ruston, Waverly, Tenn., were all welcomed into their maroon jackets as new NJHA directors during the JNHE awards ceremony on July 14. 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 3,500-member organization.

The 2020-21 officer team includes chairman Montana Lawrence, Princeton, Minn.; vice-chairman Abigail Spindle, Moriarty, N.M.; communications chair Bailey Morrell, Willows, Calif.; leadership chair Luke Daniels, Dalhart, Texas; fundraising chair Noah Benedict, Dewey, Ill.; and membership chair Wyatt Lawrence, Princeton, Minn. Also serving as directors are Brooklyn Adam, Lathrop, Mo., and Samuel Lawrence, Avilla, Ind.

Brooklyn Adam, NJHA director from Lathrop, Mo., is the 22-year-old daughter of Scott and Tammy Adam. In the spring she graduated from Kansas State University (K-State) with a bachelor's degree in agricultural communications and journalism. She would like to combine her passion for photography, writing and agriculture by becoming a photojournalist for an agriculture-based magazine. Brooklyn is a 14-year member of the Missouri Junior Hereford Association, where she served as a board member and treasurer, as well



JW Cox hugs his father after accepting a coveted maroon jacket from retiring NJHA director Brandt Downing.

as the state Hereford queen. She loves to advocate and spread her knowledge and love for the Hereford breed. She has shown and raised Herefords since she was 8 years old alongside her three sisters and with the help of her parents.

Noah Benedict, NJHA fundraising chair from Dewey, Ill., is the 20-year-old son of Chad and Becky Benedict and is a junior at the University of Illinois, majoring in agribusiness markets and management. Upon graduation, he plans to work in the livestock feed and nutrition industry. Noah has held a variety of leadership roles as a Hereford youth, most recently as the chairman of the Illinois Junior Hereford Association. He is a fifth-generation Hereford breeder and says he hopes to continue his family's operation into the next generation. Noah values the NJHA because of its tremendous support for its junior members and how much he knows it can help them grow. He strives to make as many connections as he can with the junior members and their families and to continue to be a friend and role model for those that he meets, as well.

JW Cox is the 18-year-old son of John and Shane Moran from Flemingsburg, Ky., and is attending Western Kentucky University with plans to transfer to Oklahoma State University to finish an animal science degree and to apply to vet school. He hopes to then attend Colorado State University (CSU) to receive his doctor of veterinary medicine degree. JW has enjoyed the connections and friendship he has made while being a member of the NJHA. He was active in his FFA chapter and is a member of the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity.



JW

Luke Daniels, NJHA leadership chair from Dalhart, Texas, is an 18-year-old twin son of Scanlon and Angela Daniels. He will be a freshman at South Plains College this fall, studying preveterinary/animal science and competing in the livestock

judging program. Luke's ultimate dream is to raise quality Hereford cattle and to farm, while focusing on the advancement of embryology and semen collection services in his family's veterinary operation – Circle H Headquarters LLC. He credits his competitive drive, ethics and genuine passion for the Hereford breed to being a first-generation breeder growing up in the Texas Panhandle. As an 11-year member of the Texas Junior Hereford Association, Luke has held multiple leadership positions and recognizes what he has learned from the mentorship of the breeders in his region. He aims to be both a set of ears and source of information for the Hereford youth, attempting to be the best resource possible while assisting in growth of the breed's future.

Lauren McMillan

is the 18-year-old daughter of Kyle and Jodi McMillan from Tiskilwa, Ill., and is currently attending the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and majoring in organization and community leadership. Lauren has been an active member of the Illinois Junior Hereford Association and has served as vice president, secretary, awards chairman and director. She has been involved in student council, 4-H and FFA and has held several leadership roles in each program. Lauren has also attended the NJHA Faces of Leadership conference for the last five years.



Lauren

Bailey Morrell, NJHA

communications chair, is the 19-year-old daughter of Barry and Carrie Morrell from Willows, Calif., and a junior at Colorado State University



Lauren McMillan embraces her mother after being named a new board member.

(CSU), double-majoring in agriculture education with a concentration in agriculture literacy and political science with a concentration in environmental policy. After graduation, she plans to attend law school to earn an agricultural law degree. In the future, Bailey hopes to own her own practice specializing in water rights while also continuing to operate her family's seedstock Hereford operation. She has held a variety of offices and leadership roles through her involvement in 4-H and FFA. While at CSU, she serves as the Block and Bridle Club vice president and the Collegiate Livestock Association secretary and is an Agricultural Ambassador. Bailey has truly enjoyed building relationships and serving junior members this past year as a director and looks forward to future opportunities engaging with Hereford juniors and industry leaders.

Montana Lawrence, NJHA chairman from Princeton, Minn., is the 22-year-old daughter of Bryan and Marytina Lawrence. This past May, Montana graduated from the University of Minnesota-Morris, where she earned a bachelor's degree in political science and studio art. She will attend law school this fall with aspirations toward a career in agricultural or constitutional law. Montana has been a member of the NJHA and the Minnesota Junior Hereford Association (MJHA) for the past nine years. During her membership, Montana has served as the state president and state Hereford queen for the MJHA. As an NJHA board member, she seeks to inspire and to equip her fellow juniors to chase their dreams and to achieve their goals.

Samuel E. Lawrence, NJHA leadership chair of Avilla, Ind., is the 22-year-old son of Scott and Susan Lawrence. He recently received his bachelor's in animal science from K-State. At K-State Samuel was a member of the 2019 Reserve National Champion Livestock Judging Team and Reserve National Champion Meat Animal Evaluation Team. In the fall of 2020, he will make the transition from a Wildcat to a Fighting Illini by pursuing his masters in ruminant nutrition at the University of Illinois.

Under Dr. Dan Shike, Samuel will focus on cow-calf nutrition and heifer development. Through his position as the leadership chairman, he strives to inspire others to step out of their comfort zone and to seize the many opportunities this organization can provide.

Wyatt Lawrence, NJHA membership chair, is the 20-year-old son of Bryan and Marytina Lawrence from Princeton, Minn., and is a Junior at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, majoring in agribusiness with a minor in animal science. After he graduates, his dream is to return home to work alongside his father and grandfather on the family's turf grass and Hereford operation. At the University of Minnesota, Wyatt serves as the Block and Bridle club vice president, is a member of the livestock judging team and is part of the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity. He has also been active in his church for the past 10 years, volunteering in the media department and teaching Sunday school. Wyatt has thoroughly enjoyed his first year on the board, building relationships and creating future opportunities for junior members. His goal on the junior board is to inspire juniors and to help in developing the next generation of beef professionals. He is looking forward to what the future holds for Hereford youth.

Abigail Spindle, NJHA vice-chairman from Moriarty, N.M., is the 20-year-old daughter of Tom and Becky Spindle. She will be a senior at Texas Tech University, where she is majoring in agriculture and applied economics and is a member of the livestock judging team and the meat animal evaluation team. Abigail and her siblings are the fifth generation on her family's ranch. After college she wants to keep up the family tradition of raising cattle on her family farm and ranch. Abigail is a 12-year member of the New Mexico Junior Hereford Association, where she served as queen and princess. With the current growth in the industry, she plans to use her time on the board to keep up the momentum and to continue building up the NJHA. Abigail wants to focus on leadership development and member participation.

Ralston Ripp is the 19-year-old daughter of Cody and Ronette Heinrich from Kearney, Neb., and is a sophomore at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, majoring in animal science and agribusiness. Ralston is currently the vice president for the Nebraska Junior Hereford Association. In the past she has held the office of secretary, reporter, historian and director. Ralston was also the 2018 Nebraska State Hereford Queen and a National Hereford Queen candidate. In high school she was very active in FFA and 4-H.



Ralston



Newly elected **Ralston Ripp** hugs her mother after receiving her maroon jacket.

Libby Ruston is the 18-year-old daughter of Lee and Andrea Ruston from Waverly, Tenn., and is a freshman at the University of Tennessee-Martin, majoring in agricultural business and political science. In the future she hopes to represent an agriculture-based company or organization in the public relations or political field. She has held a variety of offices and leadership roles through her involvement in the Middle Tennessee Hereford Association, 4-H and FFA. The fourth-generation Hereford breeder hopes to always maintain a presence in her family's operation. **HW**



Libby



Libby Ruston excitedly shows her parents her new maroon jacket.