



A wave of relief and gratitude sweeps over Kaylee McInvale as she hears her name announced in American Royal's Hale Arena as the newly elected National Hereford Queen. The Texas Polled Hereford Queen from Lockney, Texas, is embraced by her proud parents with celebratory hugs and tear-filled eyes.

For Kaylee, serving as the National Hereford Queen means representing the breed and its struggles, triumphs and history it has endured. "The National Queen is a huge advocate for the Hereford breed," Kaylee says. "Something else that you know but never truly realized is you are a role model. You have several who look to you in times of need or as an example."

Throughout the journey of running for National Hereford Queen, Kaylee always held tight to one motto she advises future queen candidates to remember.

"Always be yourself," she says. "Always know that you are you and that's who you are representing. Have fun. There is so much going on so stay grounded to the end goal but enjoy the moments along the way."

**Age:** 18

**Parents:** Hoyt and Crystal McInvale

**Siblings:** Avery McInvale, an eighth grader at Lockney Junior High

**Where does the queen attend college?** Tarleton State University

**What are the queen's extracurriculars/hobbies?** "At Tarleton State I am involved in the Sigma Alpha Sorority and the Tarleton State Block and Bridle Club. I like to read, watch TV and movies. Other hobbies I enjoy is spending time with family and friends. I enjoy writing notes where I can express my artistic side. I enjoy drawing and painting."

**What does the queen study?** Animal science and plans to graduate in May of 2024

**How long has the queen been involved in the National Junior Hereford Association?** Eight years

**Family history in the Hereford industry:** "As a child my grandmother had Hereford heifers. My mom showed Hereford steers. My dad helped and worked for Hereford breeders then started a herd later in life. Currently, we have a small herd with a future to grow. I would say truly I am a second-generation Hereford breeder with hopes to have future generations after me."

**Princess title prior to National Hereford Queen:** Texas Polled Hereford Sweetheart (2015-2017), Texas Polled Hereford Princess (2019-2020) and Texas Polled Hereford Queen (2020)

# ETCHED IN HEREFORD HISTORY

Kaylee McInvale, Texas, takes on the new journey of serving as the 2020-21 National Hereford Queen.





**Describe your experience running for National Hereford Queen:** “This summer when I was crowned as Texas Polled Queen, I started my run for national. After the application was due, I started to get nervous. All of my thoughts were running wild. I began studying and reviewing any information I had gathered throughout this past year to better prepare myself for the test and interviews. Next came the one-way interview. Being able to only see yourself while answering questions was unusual. Going through this was extremely nerve wracking for me. Then before I knew it, the week of American Royal was here! During the week, I would reflect on how well I did. Did I stay true to myself and represent myself and my state? These thoughts ran through my head right before crowning. As names were called, I became more nervous. When my name got called for the 2021 National Hereford Queen, let’s just say I was stunned. I had to blink a few times to make sure I had heard them right.”

**What advice do you have for future princesses running for the National Hereford Queen title?** “Push through. There will be times that you wonder why you are even running or some self-doubt, but keep pushing through. Just be yourself. There is a reason why you are in the position you are. Embrace it.”

**What are your goals as the new National Hereford Queen?** “My goal as National Queen truly is to continue the legacy and uphold the standards set before me. I want to continue advocating for Herefords and the agriculture industry. I want to help continue improving the Hereford breed.”

**What makes the Hereford breed special to you?** “The Hereford breed is special to me because it is where I found my family. I have made so many lifelong friends and have grown to love the Hereford breed. It is special because every day the breed finds new ways to improve or to help make us as people better.” **HW**

**When did your sights become set on the crown?** “I set my sights on the national crown in 2015. According to Barbara Metch, when I was around 5 years old, I told her I was going to be queen one day.”

**Who inspired you to run for National Hereford Queen?** “In 2014, I met the Texas Polled Hereford Queen, Jena McCall, and she talked about the royalty program and all it has done for her and many others. In 2015, I served as a sweetheart and fell in love with all aspects of being a part of the royalty. In 2016, I met my first National Queen, Taylor Belle Matheny. I was able to work with her at the Fort Worth Stock Show, doing this I learned so much from her and she truly inspired me. There have been several Texas queens who have pushed me along the way as well as many national queens. They all have had some sort of impact on my life as a Hereford kid or as royalty.”



Nine contestants traveled to Kansas City, Mo., to compete for the 2021 National Hereford Queen title. Pictured (l to r) are: 2019-20 National Hereford Queen Melanie Fishel, Belews Creek, N.C.; 2021 National Hereford Queen Kaylee McInvale, Lockney, Texas; First Runner-Up Madison Sifford, Goldvein, Va.; Second Runner-Up Madalynne Yenter, Marengo, Iowa; and Miss Congeniality Molly Minihan, Wheaton, Kan.