

Hereford Women | A Special Impact

by Briley Miller

As National Hereford Women (NHW), we often celebrate other women in the various roles they play — wife, mother, rancher, manager, partner, boss babe and a million other titles could be included. Since bull management and selection is the topic of this month's *Hereford World*, it seemed appropriate to touch on the sire side of things — the dads, the grandpas, the papas and the uncles who support us, whether by blood or by heart.

A lasting influence

I bet if I asked each of you reading this to tell me about one of these special people, you would wholeheartedly launch into a detailed story about their teachings, their support or a hilarious anecdote you will never forget.

When I was growing up, my dad's youngest brother, Clay, showed market hogs, market lambs and market steers. He is only a handful of years older than I am, so oftentimes, he felt more like a big brother than he did my uncle. He would let us girls help him with his show stock. Man, let me tell you, we thought we were so cool because if

Uncle Clay was showing animals, we wanted to show as well.

Fast forward a few years, and Uncle Clay headed to junior college. This was hard on this little girl's heart because Uncle Clay was fun to be around. His departure coincided with my 8th birthday when I started 4-H in our county. With the help of my parents, we decided to start with smaller animals. Uncle Clay helped me pick out some market lambs and so the projects began. We hauled lambs all over the state that summer, hitting every jackpot we could. Uncle Clay would jump in with us or meet us there. We worked on everything from showmanship to daily care and feed. And we had fun too! That summer will forever stand out in my memories as one of my favorite summers.

By now, you are wondering where I am headed with this seemingly simple memory. How many of you have ones just like this one? I bet most of you do. That first summer was so important to me. I wanted to learn and be successful because I had a person I admired showing me how and being there with

me 100%. I wanted Uncle Clay to be proud of me, and I worked hard to do what he showed me to do. Even though I only showed lambs for a few years before moving to cattle, it truly laid the foundation for my show career and for many aspects of my life.

Now, my husband and I have three young children who are being introduced to the Hereford breed. Youth are drawn to my husband, and he relishes the opportunity to work with them and their show projects as well. In addition, we are blessed to have so many other dads, grandpas, papas and uncles supporting our kids as they grow in their show careers and in their own lives.

Be sure to thank these mentors, family and friends. Hug them when you see them and return the favor when you can. I know the affect Uncle Clay had on me, and I know the influence these special people have on my own children. We are blessed to pass on this mentorship. **HW**

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



OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

President — Dana Pieper, *Zurich, Kan.*
President elect — Shannon Worrell, *Mason, Texas*
Vice president — Betsy Pitstick, *S. Solon, Ohio*
Secretary — Diane Wilson, *Rixeyville, Va.*
Treasurer — Nikki Rogers, *Eatonville, Wash.*
Historian — Nikki Rogers, *Eatonville, Wash.*
Communications — Briley Miller, *Newcastle, Wyo.*
Ex Officio — Sharon King, *Columbia, Miss.*

DIRECTORS

Bridget Beran, *Claflin, Kan.*
Kathy Bryan, *Garrison, Texas*
Erika Evoniuk, *Dayton, Ohio*
Allison May, *Williamsport, Md.*
Bonnie Reed, *Hampton, Minn.*
Sally Wingler, *Pikeville, Tenn.*

HerefordWomen.com