

# Two of a Kind

Teamwork defines the 2021 Advisors of the Year.

by **Cristin Tavernaro**

**D**anny and Amanda Davis, Maple Hill, Kan., felt nothing short of spectacular when they were honored as the 2021 Advisors of the Year at the VitaFerm® Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE) on July 8, in Kansas City, Mo.

The dynamic duo were married in 2001, the year after Danny became the Kansas Junior Hereford Association (KJHA) advisor. Since Amanda was still a junior member, she did not join Danny as advisor until she aged out of the junior association two years later. The two have been teammates in all areas of life ever since.

## Right where they belong

“We said our deal was we would become advisors until our kids started showing,” Amanda says. “Now our oldest is 16.”

They both agree they never get tired of the experience, saying they have only missed one JNHE.

Their children are the fourth generation to raise Herefords on both sides of the family. Both Danny and Amanda have been involved within their family operations their entire lives, and they have never known another way of life, Amanda says.

Before assuming the role of advisor for the KJHA, Danny was a member of the National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) board of directors. Because of their motivation to serve young people and their experiences in the organization both in and out of the showing, “it was a natural fit for us,” he says.

## Teamwork makes the Association work

Danny and Amanda both have their own roles when advising.

“We bounce ideas off each other all year,” Danny says.

Amanda is in charge of keeping KJHA members informed through social



Danny and Amanda Davis received the Advisors of the Year award at the VitaFerm® Junior National Hereford Expo awards night. Abigail Spindle and Montana Lawrence presented the award.

media platforms and tackling creative projects for their state show. Danny takes charge of livestock judging, the team fitting contest and breaking classes. At JNHE, their dual roles as parents and advisors require dividing and conquering.

“My wife’s strength is that she is willing to help anyone at a drop of a hat, and being there for not just her kids, but everyone’s kids,” Danny says.

Amanda says Danny shines at making sure everyone stays happy and smoothing out tough situations.

“We have been working together long enough that we just mesh,” she says. “We each know our roles and what we are each in charge of.”

Danny and Amanda are school teachers and their professional experience helps them communicate with and relate to youth of all ages.

Despite their advising synergy, Danny credits KJHA’s third advisor, Sue Rowland, as the brains of the operation.

They are unsure of the exact number, but the couple estimates they have advised about 250 juniors. They enjoy seeing people whom they advised as junior members come back to shows with their own kids. So, their advising

role now extends to the second generation.

Wesley Denton, newly elected to the NJHA board of directors, has firsthand experience with the Advisors of the Year. This junior from Blue Rapids, Kan., says Danny and Amanda influenced his KJHA experience since he joined when he was 7 years old.

“[The Davises] were always right there,” Wesley says. “They have made a great impact on our association and the juniors.”

Danny, Amanda and Sue, who is also Wesley’s aunt, encouraged Wesley to run for the NJHA board of directors, he says.

“Since Wesley was a little kid, this was his dream,” Amanda says. Danny adds that it was great to see everyone’s excitement the moment he was presented his maroon jacket.

Wesley explains the Davises take pride in their work with all members of the KJHA.

“They have kids in the association, but that’s not their only focus,” he says. “Their focus is on the entire state association. They have all of us as kids.”

Humbled by the honor, the Davises say being considered for the award — knowing others who have been honored in the past — is rewarding to them.

These advisors emphasize their reward comes in working with their own children and also helping to shape the lives of other junior members.

“We are raising our children in this, we have grown up in it, and our whole marriage has been spent being a part of this,” Amanda says. “Helping all the kids and seeing them grow and become productive citizens is amazing.” **HW**