

Holan Honored as Hereford Woman of the Year

The National Hereford Women (NHW) named Barbara Metch Holan, Canton, Texas, the 2021 Outstanding National Hereford Woman of the Year. Each year the NHW recognizes and honors one woman for her achievements, leadership and dedication to the Hereford breed and its promotion. Barbara was awarded the title at the NHW annual meeting on Oct. 23, 2021, in Kansas City, Mo.

Known as the “go-to girl” for many years, Barbara was recognized for her dedication to the Hereford breed, which began in her youth. As a teenager, Barbara founded the New Jersey Junior Polled Hereford Association, and her devotion only grew from there. For the past 48 years she has been actively involved in her family’s Hereford operation — Metch Polled Herefords. Barbara became the manager in 2017. Today, Metch Polled Herefords is a 165-head purebred cow-calf operation providing purebred and commercial cattle producers with genetics that will work in a variety of environments.

In addition to having served as a committee member, board member, and president for the NHW, she also has been an active member of the Texas Polled Hereford Association (TPHA), Texas Poll-Ettes and the National Organization of Poll-Ettes.

Time and time again, Barbara has encouraged Hereford youth and emphasized the importance of educational support through scholarship funds. In fact, over the years she spearheaded three



Barbara’s husband, Gary Metch, and nephews Dan Metch (left), Oneonta, N.Y., and Jake Metch (right), Philadelphia, Pa., came to Kansas City, Mo., to celebrate Barbara’s recent honor.

scholarships for members of the Texas Junior Polled Hereford Association, which she funded herself through collecting donations and hosting livestock shows with all proceeds being given toward scholarships. However, her unwavering support does not end there.

Barbara’s commitment to the TPHA royalty program is also unmatched. Because of her efforts, the TPHA has successfully placed young girls into the royalty ambassador position as sweethearts (10 years old); ultimately, some become the state queen when they are 18. These young ladies are able to step into leadership roles and have impactful experiences due to Barbara’s work.

With a welcoming presence, Barbara recognizes the importance of strong membership and frequently recruits new members to the TPHA and Texas Poll-Ettes each year. She

knows an organization is only as good as its members and strives to build associations that serve members and ensure future success.

Barbara was instrumental in creating the Texas Heritage Showcase, which was recognized in 2020 as a national show platform. In 2017, the Fort Worth National Polled Hereford Show was named in her honor.

At the local level, Barbara is the president of her church council, a longtime 4-H leader and a livestock committee member for the county. For more than 20 years Barbara has served as a Farm Bureau insurance agent.

Gary Holan, Barbara’s husband of 16 years, shares her love for church, travel and Hereford cattle.

Barbara has been described by her peers as an indispensable and devoted individual who brings joy and great ideas with her wherever she goes. She is incredibly deserving of this award due to her loyalty and dedication within the area, state and national Hereford breed organizations. Her enthusiasm and drive for those within the industry make her a perfect recipient for the Outstanding Woman of the Year award. Without a doubt, Barbara will continue to do great things representing the NHW and the Hereford breed. Congratulations, Barbara, on a well-deserved honor. **HW**



Barbara’s work with the TPHA royalty program is instrumental in helping youth into leadership roles.



Barbara is pictured here with the 2020-2021 National Hereford Queen Kaylee McInlave.