

# Royal Reflections

*Kaylee McInvale, the 2020-2021 National Hereford Queen pens a letter to AHA members, reflecting on lessons learned while wearing her crown.*

**H**owdy, Hereford family and members,

It has been a crazy year for all of us. I'm amazed my year as the 2020-2021 National Queen has come to an end. Going into Kansas City, Mo., I started looking back at all the experiences and memories I have gained. It truly has been an experience. No one can prepare you for all that you have to go through. They can tell you what to expect, but until you experience it, then you don't know. Being the National Hereford Queen has been an enlightening opportunity. I have been able to experience wonderful things and have learned to work even with COVID-19 affecting the year.

This past year has not been the best for all of us, but I like to see the positive in things. I have seen the agricultural industry come together to host huge events or make shows happen in a matter of weeks or even days. This kept me looking forward and growing as a person. As I continue college, seeing what these leaders have done inspires me to do more each day.

I can also say some bad happened this past year. Missing Reno, Denver and Fort Worth was a sad start to my reign, but Cattlemen's Congress and the Hereford Heritage Showcase in Abilene, Texas, helped push me forward. I am truly grateful for



Retiring National Hereford Queen Kaylee McInvale received a \$10,000 scholarship awarded by the National Hereford Women and Hereford Youth Foundation of America for representing the breed at national shows, sales and events.

everything that has happened to and for me this past year, and I'm thankful for all the driving forces behind it to help push me.

The 2019-2020 National Queen, Melanie Fishel, pushed me when she said, "You now have a microphone. How are you going to use it?" Her statement made me strive to put my best foot forward each day and serve as an advocate for the Hereford breed and what I believe in.

As my reign ends, I reflect on what I have done and what I have learned. I gained some valuable insights into my

life. I learned things about myself. I have grown as an individual. I earned a new, silent confidence I never knew I needed. I have been pushed out of comfort zones I didn't know I had.

For this, I am thankful. I have been blessed with great experiences. I am grateful to all of those who helped along the way! I am looking forward to my next adventure and taking my next step in life. **HW**

*Kaylee McInvale*

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2020-2021 National Hereford Queen

