

# HYFA Awards \$160,000 of Fall Scholarships

The Hereford Youth Foundation of America (HYFA) presented \$160,000 in scholarships to 24 deserving National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) members during the 2021 American Hereford Association (AHA) Annual Membership Meeting and Conference on Oct. 22.

“The scholarship fund is the cornerstone of HYFA, and countless youth are the benefactors of the mission,” NJHA chairman Noah Benedict says. “Each year the scholarship selection committees continue to be impressed by the high

caliber of college-aged students who apply for scholarship funds and there is nothing more rewarding than watching HYFA scholarship winners go on to be leaders in their fields.”

Scholarships were presented at the NJHA Scholarship Presentation and Awards Luncheon during the AHA Educational Forum. Junior members who were awarded scholarships completed a rigorous application process. This year HYFA awarded \$186,000 in total during the spring and fall. This last fiscal year, the foundation celebrated net assets reaching an all-time high of \$5.4 million.

## *The fall 2021 scholarship recipients are:*

### **Ball Foundation/Cottonwood Springs Farm \$5,000 Scholarship:**

**Bryden Barber**, Channing, Texas

With a passion for helping youth involved in the Hereford industry, Nancy Keilty and her husband, Tim, of Cottonwood Spring Farm, Cedar, Mich., established this scholarship in honor of Nancy’s parents, Ed and Virginia Ball.

### **Bar One Ranch \$5,000 Scholarship:**

**Abigail Spindle**, Moriarty, N.M.

George and Karen Sprague of Bar One Ranch, Eugene, Ore., made a generous donation to HYFA in 2011 for an annual scholarship to be awarded in honor of Ken Tracy, a fellow Hereford breeder who lost his battle with cancer.

### **Gary Bishop Memorial \$2,500 Scholarship:**

**Regan Mitchem**, Vale, N.C.

This scholarship is awarded to a deserving NJHA member who demonstrates many of the same outstanding qualities as Gary Bishop, who held many roles at the AHA, including director of youth activities.

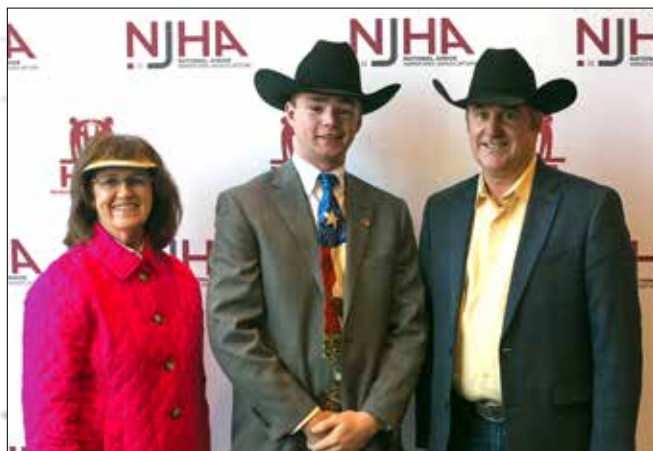
### **Blin Family \$2,500 Scholarship:**

**Karstyn Cantrell**, Collinsville, Okla.

The Jim and Randy Blin families of Iowa were owners of the dispersed Star Lake Cattle Ranch in Oklahoma, which consigned the first Foundation Female at the Mile High Night Sale in Denver.



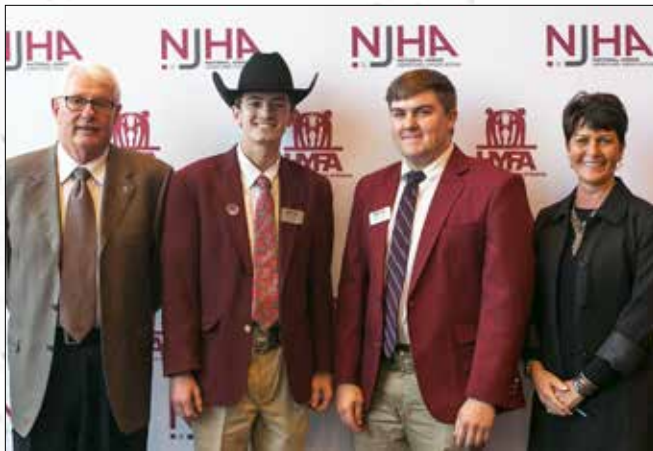
**Abigail Spindle**, Moriarty, N.M., was awarded the \$5,000 Bar One Scholarship. Pictured (l to r) are: George Sprague, HYFA vice president, and Abigail Spindle.



**Bryden Barber**, Channing, Texas, was awarded the \$5,000 Ball Foundation/Cottonwood Springs Farm Scholarship. Pictured (l to r) are: Kathy Buchholz, board member, Bryden Barber and Ray Ramsey, HYFA president.



**Isaac Rhode**, Stewartville, Mo., was awarded the \$5,000 Bob and Dolores Call Scholarship. Pictured (l to r) are: Bill King, HYFA board member, Isaac Rhode and Ray Ramsey.



**John Cox**, Flemingsburg, Ky., and **Wesley Denton**, Blue Rapids, Kan., were each awarded \$5,000 EE Ranches Scholarships. Pictured (l to r) are: George Sprague, John Cox, Wesley Denton and Jill Bielema, HYFA board member.



**Regan Mitchem**, Vale, N.C., received the \$2,500 Gary Bishop Memorial Scholarship. Pictured (l to r) are: Maddie Weaber, Regan Mitchem, Tami Weaber and Jodi Jordan.

**Bob and Dolores Call  
\$5,000 Scholarship:**

**Isaac Rhode**, Stewartville, Mo.

The late Bob Call was a founding member of the HYFA board. This scholarship is given annually in honor of Bob and his wife, Dolores.

**EE Ranches \$5,000 Scholarships:**

**John Cox**, Flemingsburg, Ky., and **Wesley Denton**, Blue Rapids, Kan.

In honor of Jo Ellard and her late husband, Bill, two scholarships are given annually to deserving Hereford youth.

**HYFA \$2,500 Scholarship:**

**Katie Nolles**, Spencer, Neb.

This scholarship is designed to provide recognition for outstanding members of the NJHA and to encourage individual

and cooperative effort, enthusiasm, excellence, leadership, academic success and achievement.

**Bob and Lucy Kube  
\$2,500 Scholarship:**

**Kira Sayre**, Arenzville, Ill.

This annual scholarship honors Bob and Lucy Kube and supports the development of young leaders. Bob dedicated many years to serving on the HYFA board.

**Larson Polled Hereford  
\$2,500 Scholarship:**

**Ralston Ripp**, Kearney, Neb.

This scholarship is awarded annually in honor of Ken and Carolyn Larson of Texas, who are longtime supporters of Hereford youth and purchased the first Foundation Female.

**MGM Memorial \$2,500 Scholarship:**

**James Brody Rogers**, Hamilton, Texas

The MGM Memorial Scholarship was established by the Merry family of MGM Polled Herefords, Hartford, Wis., and recognizes youth who are passionate about Hereford cattle and interested in becoming a veterinarian.

**National Hereford Queen  
\$10,000 Scholarship:**

**Kaylee McInvale**, Lockney, Texas

The National Hereford Queen is elected to represent the breed at national shows, sales and events and serves as a historic symbol of the Hereford breed. The National Hereford Queen program is supported by the National Hereford Women who work with the state queens to help foster and organize the interviews, application process and coronation.



Ten outstanding NJHA members were recognized as recipients of the Jack and Donna Vanier Family Scholarship. Pictured back row (l to r) are George Sprague, Ray Ramsey, Bill King, **Regan Mitchem**, **Libby Rushton**, **Tar Tut**, **Rusty Wolf**, **Bailey Morrell** and Steve Folkman, HYFA board member. Front row (l to r) are: Kathy Buchholz, **Jacob Johnson**, **Lauren Jones**, **Madison Sifford**, **Molly Biggs**, **Trevor Johnson** and Jill Bielema.



**Katie Nolles**, Spencer, Neb., was awarded a \$2,500 scholarship awarded by the Hereford Youth Foundation of America. Pictured (l to r) are: Kathy Buchholz, Katie Nolles and Ray Ramsey.



**Kira Sayre**, Arzenville, Ill., was awarded the \$2,500 Bob and Lucy Kube Scholarship. Pictured (l to r) are: Kathy Buchholz, Kira Sayre and Ray Ramsey.

**Perks Ranch \$5,000 Scholarship:  
Lauren McMillan**, Tiskilwa, Ill.

This scholarship was established to honor Doug Perk's legacy and leadership on the HYFA board.

**Tennessee River Music Inc.  
\$2,500 Scholarship:**

**Whitney Walker**, Fayetteville, Ark.

Randy and Kelly Owen of Tennessee River Music (TRM) sparked momentum for HYFA's success and growth through their Music on the Mountain event. This scholarship honors TRM's support.

**Whitehead/Rocking Chair Ranch  
\$2,500 Scholarship:**

**Dylan Kottkamp**, Clayton, Ind.

Lloyd Whitehead from Texas was an instrumental part of HYFA in the early years, serving on the board and as financial chairman.



**Ralston Ripp**, Kearney, Neb., received the \$2,500 Ken and Carolyn Larson Scholarship. Pictured (l to r) are: George Sprague, Ralston Ripp and Jill Bielema.

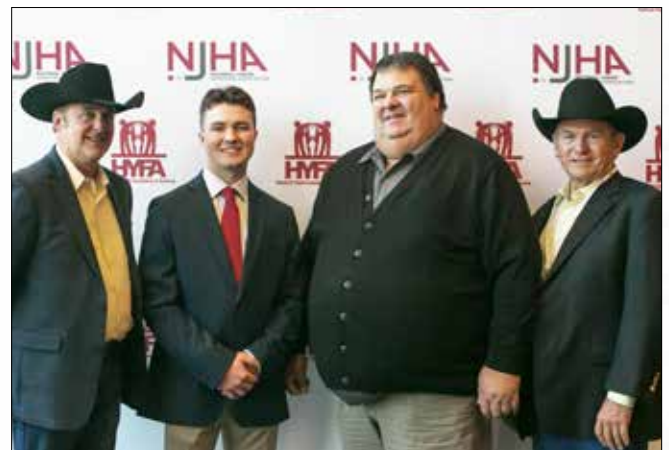
**Vanier Family  
10, \$10,000 Scholarships:**

- Molly Biggs, Dixon, Ill.;
- Jacob Johnson, Ruth, Miss.;
- Trevor Johnson, Centerville, S.D.;
- Lauren Jones, Darlington, Wis.;
- Regan Mitchem, Vale, N.C.;
- Bailey Morrell, Willows, Calif.;
- Libby Rushton, Waverly, Tenn.;
- Madison Sifford, Goldvein, Va.;
- Tar Tut, Faribault, Minn.;
- Rusty Wolf, Alexandria, Ky.

Jack and the late Donna Vanier and family of CK Ranch in Kansas have paved the way for Hereford youth to further their education by awarding 10 scholarships annually. The Vanier family is proud of the NJHA members and believe the work ethic young people learn growing up in the Hereford breed sets them apart in today's workforce.



**Lauren McMillan**, Tiskilwa, Ill., was awarded the \$5,000 Perks Ranch Scholarship. Pictured (l to r) are: Kendall Boatman, Tom Boatman, Lauren McMillan, Tammy Boatman and Kade Boatman.



**Dylan Kottkamp**, Clayton, Ind., received the \$2,500 Whitehead/Rocking Chair Ranch Scholarship. Pictured (l to r) are: Ray Ramsey, Dylan Kottkamp, Steve Folkman and Bill King.

## Scholarship recipient bios:

**Bryden Barber**, Channing, Texas, is a sophomore at Oklahoma State University, majoring in animal science with a concentration in ranch operations. He hopes to continue to improve the product we provide to consumers and to combat the negative press the beef industry receives.

He was awarded the Ball Foundation/Cottonwood Springs Farm \$5,000 Scholarship.

**Molly Biggs** of Dixon, Ill., a sophomore at Kansas State University, is double majoring in agricultural communications and animal science. This scholarship will help further her education with the hopes of working with producers and educating the public about agriculture. She has worked at various cattle operations and sales, such as Spinazola Cattle and Happ Herefords, and interned with the Illinois Hereford Association.

She was one of the 10 juniors who received the Vanier Family Scholarship.

**Karstyn Cantrell**, Collinsville, Okla., is a sophomore at Oklahoma State University (OSU), majoring in agricultural education. She hopes to continue being involved with OSU, FFA and HYFA to continue her passion of talking and teaching about the agricultural industry.

She was awarded the \$2,500 Blin Family Scholarship.

**John Cox**, Flemingsburg, Ky., is a junior at Western Kentucky University, majoring in animal science with a concentration in pre-veterinary advisement. He currently works at two different farms while also focusing on school and grades. He hopes to pursue veterinary school after completing his undergraduate degree.

He was awarded one of the \$5,000 EE Ranches Scholarships.

**Wesley Denton**, Blue Rapids, Kan., is a sophomore at Kansas State University, majoring in animal sciences and industry. His goal after college has always been to have a career in the beef industry, working for an organization such as Cargill or Tyson in their protein business as a cattle buyer or beef merchandiser.

He was awarded one of the \$5,000 EE Ranches Scholarships.

**Jacob Johnson**, Ruth, Miss., is a junior at Kansas State University, having transferred from Eastern Oklahoma State College with his associates in agriculture - animal science. He strives to be the best he can be in everything he does, despite the uncertain future, choosing to work hard to excel in his life and career.

He was one of the 10 juniors who received the Vanier Family Scholarship.

**Trevor Johnson**, Centerville, S.D. is a sophomore at Butler Community College, majoring in agribusiness. He believes the most effective way to lead is to know what the people around you are going through. Hard work has never intimidated him, and neither has a challenge; he never expects someone to do something that he wouldn't do himself. Upon graduating from Butler, he wants to pursue a bachelor's degree and has not ruled out the possibility of graduate school.

He was one of the 10 juniors who received the Vanier Family Scholarship.

**Lauren Jones**, Darlington, Wis., is a freshman at Oklahoma State University, double majoring in animal science and agricultural communications. If the past two years have put anything into perspective for her, it would be to grab any opportunity possible and do your best to accomplish goals because tomorrow isn't promised. These were driving forces that pushed her to run for the NJHA board and to move to Oklahoma to pursue her dreams.

She was one of the 10 juniors who received the Vanier Family Scholarship.

**Dylan Kottkamp**, Clayton, Ind., is a sophomore at Oklahoma State University, hoping to pursue a future as an agricultural lawyer. Being an agricultural lawyer will allow him to make a positive impact for the agricultural world. After law school, he plans on joining a firm and beginning to grow relationships with farmers, ranchers and anyone else in need in the agricultural community.

He was awarded the \$2,500 Whitehead Ranches Scholarship.

**Kaylee McInvale**, Lockney, Texas, attends Tarleton State University studying animal science. She has been involved in the Hereford breed for more than nine years. Kaylee represented the breed and its members well over the past year as the 2021 National Hereford Queen, working tirelessly on behalf of the National Hereford Women.

She was awarded the National Hereford Queen \$10,000 Scholarship.

**Lauren McMillan**, Tiskilwa, Ill., is a junior at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and works on campus as a student intern for the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences. Her enthusiasm for leadership and the Hereford breed helps her excel professionally and individually as well as focus on how to help the breed and its members take the next step so they can continuously improve.

She was awarded the \$5,000 Perks Ranch Scholarship.

**Regan Mitchem**, Vale, N.C., is a junior in animal science, with a pre-veterinary focus at North Carolina (NC) State University. She aspires to attend the NC State College of Veterinary Medicine and then return home to expand her mom's small animal veterinary practice. In veterinary school, she will focus on livestock reproduction, using her personal experience in the cattle industry, veterinary internships, practice and research experiences to meet the need for veterinary reproductive services.

She was awarded the \$2,500 Gary Bishop Memorial Scholarship and was one of the 10 juniors who received the Vanier Family Scholarship.

**Bailey Morrell**, Willows, Calif., is a senior at Colorado State University, studying agricultural education/agricultural literacy. She intends to pursue law school in California after earning her undergraduate degree, promising to serve agriculturalists with honesty and integrity when fighting for our water and our future. She refuses to let this trying time make her anything but stronger and more dedicated to the future of agriculture.

She was one of the 10 juniors who received the Vanier Family Scholarship.

**Katie Nolles**, Spencer, Neb., is a master's student at Chadron State College with an undergraduate degree in agricultural education from University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She is pursuing a master's degree to ensure every family in agriculture will have the support they need to be both physically and mentally healthy.

She was awarded the \$2,500 HYFA Scholarship.

**Isaac Rhode**, Stewartville, Mo., is a freshman at the University of Missouri, studying animal science. He has a desire to be part of something bigger than himself, exemplifying this quality through his roles as an officer of the Missouri Junior Hereford Association, FFA and his local 4-H club.

He was awarded the \$5,000 Bob and Dolores Call Scholarship.

**Libby Rushton**, Waverly, Tenn., is a sophomore at the University of Tennessee, Martin, majoring in agricultural business. Her family resides and farms in Humphreys County, Tennessee, where they rely on their row crop operation and cattle production for income. This area endured devastating flash floods in August, which destroyed their crops.

Even with such hardships she will forever be fighting for the future of the agriculture industry.

She was one of the 10 juniors who received the Vanier Family Scholarship.

**Kira Sayre**, Arenzville, Ill., is a junior at Colorado State University, double majoring in animal and equine science to achieve her goal of going back to manage the family's Hereford operation, while maintaining a passion for horses. She hopes to be able to start her own business where she can teach equine lessons and train horses.

She was awarded the \$2,500 Bob and Lucy Kube Scholarship.

**Madison Sifford**, Goldvein, Va., a sophomore attending Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and majoring in dairy science, plans to attend law school post-graduation. She feels the changes over the past two years have encouraged her to grow and become a more well-rounded person. Sifford hopes these changes will help her to bring people closer together in the future. She will know how different people from different walks of life think and feel.

She was one of the 10 juniors who received the Vanier Family Scholarship.

**Abigail Spindle**, Moriarty, N.M., is a master's student at Texas Tech University, blazing her own trail in the agricultural science program. She is the past vice chairman of the NJHA board of directors.

She was awarded the \$5,000 Bar One Ranch Scholarship.

**Ralston Ripp**, Kearney, Neb., is a senior at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln majoring in agribusiness with minors in the Nebraska Beef Industry Scholars and agribusiness entrepreneurship. She aspires to use her degree, experiences and learning ability to grow her skill set, giving back and leading agriculturalists to their passions.

She was awarded the \$2,500 Larson Polled Hereford Scholarship.

**James Brody Rogers**, Hamilton, Texas, is in his first year at Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine. He would like to obtain his DVM degree without loans to pay back after graduation.

He was awarded the \$2,500 MGM Memorial Scholarship.

**Tar Tut**, Faribault, Minn., is a junior at Texas A&M University, majoring in agricultural communications and aspiring toward a master's in international communications. As a first-generation American citizen, his top priority is to earn a college education. Tut takes pride in knowing that what he has gone through growing up and how hard he has had to work for success will only further push him to overcome any national or worldwide challenges that are bound to arise.

He was one of the 10 juniors who received the Vanier Family Scholarship.

**Whitney Walker**, Fayetteville, Ark., is a junior at Oklahoma State University, studying agricultural leadership. She and her family worked to establish the Arkansas Youth Expo, guaranteeing the livelihood of junior livestock shows in the state of Arkansas for years to come.

She was awarded the \$2,500 Tennessee River Music Inc. Scholarship.

**Rusty Wolf**, Alexandria, Ky., is a junior at the University of Kentucky, majoring in animal science and minoring in plant and soil science. He has worked at the University of Kentucky's beef unit for two years and continues to grow his responsibilities. Wolf plans to become an Extension agent for the University of Kentucky upon graduation, while also fulfilling his lifelong dream to carry on his family's purebred Hereford business and enhance their operation.

He was one of the 10 juniors who received the Vanier Family Scholarship. **HW**