

NJHA Goes



Hereford juniors build their leadership in Texas.

by *Chloé Fowler*

Twenty National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) members were selected to accompany seven NJHA board of directors at the inaugural Building on Leadership Development (BOLD) Conference in Desdemona, Texas, March 24-27. This elite leadership retreat was hosted at Hi Point Ranch owned by Gary and Kathy Buchholz of GKB Cattle.

The NJHA board of directors created BOLD to expand leadership skills of college-aged junior Hereford members beyond the Faces of Leadership Conference held each summer. With attendees aged 18-22 years old, BOLD is geared to the college-aged and career-focused junior members, providing them with a more personalized learning experience, focused on improving their leadership, providing career opportunities and cultivating lifelong relationships.

“BOLD proved to be well worth the effort, and I am



Junior members received hands-on leadership training, with activities designed to show leadership in an interactive, everyday setting. Lauren Gatz, Fairview, Kan., and Kaylee McInvale, Lockney, Texas, are participating in one of those activities, led by the NJHA board of directors.

overjoyed with the reactions and feedback we have already received following the first conference,” says Lauren McMillan, NJHA Leadership Chair.

Opportunities to lead

Junior members spent the first evening participating in team-

building activities. On day two, Gary and Kathy Buchholz welcomed them to Hi Point Ranch, followed by an inspirational message from keynote speaker Kelly Barnes, and a career panel consisting of industry representatives with careers in ranch management, education, food science and association employment.



Front row (left to right): Bailey Morrell, Willows, Calif.; Gary Buchholz, GKB Cattle, Waxahachie, Texas; Alisha Klemme, Plymouth, Wis.; Taylor Dieball, Manhattan, Kan.; Katherine Krauss, Russell, Kan.; Megan Underwood, Campbellsville, Ky.; Abigail Pitstick, South Solon, Ohio; Josie Correll, Cleveland, N.C.; Elizabeth Crumm, Anadarko, Okla.; Lauren Gatz, Fairview, Kan.; Kaylee McInvale, Lockney, Texas; Molly Biggs, Dixon, Ill.; Ralston Ripp, Kearney, Neb.; Haley Mouser, Tenstrike, Minn.; Paige Lemenager, Hudson, Ill.; Dellana Muck, Caledonia, Ill.; Kathy Buchholz, GKB Cattle, Waxahachie, Texas; and Amy Cowan, American Hereford Association director of youth activities and foundation, Kansas City, Mo. Back row (left to right): Abigail Vander Groef, Newton, N.J.; Salem Sifford, Goldvein, Va.; Libby Rushton, Waverly, Tenn.; Logan McFatrige, Otterbein, Ind.; Bryden Barber, Channing, Texas; Isaac Rhode, Stewartsville, Mo.; Trevor Johnson, Centerville, S.D.; Wyatt Lawrence, Princeton, Minn.; JW Cox, Flemingsburg, Ky.; Dylan Kottkamp, Clayton, Ind.; and Lauren McMillan, Tiskilwa, Ill.



Hosts, Gary and Kathy Buchholz, GKB Cattle, showed BOLD Conference participants their different ranch locations near Desdemona, Texas, explaining and answering questions along the way.

Following the career panel, Shannon Worrell, of Ag One Source, led a workshop on understanding personal strengths and assisted attendees in building their résumés to highlight their personal strengths for potential employers.

The final day was spent with sessions focused on intra-personal versus inter-personal communication, emotional maturity and connection building, led by the NJHA board of directors leadership team. Tours of the different GKB Cattle operations were held both days, along with a chuckwagon steak dinner and a dance under the Texas stars on closing night.

Opportunities to network

“Building” was the underlying theme of the BOLD event. Junior members were challenged to build their networks and leadership skills. National Hereford Queen Lauren Gatz from Kansas attended and says, “Thank you to GKB Cattle for opening up their ranch to us and sponsoring this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Being able to learn from Gary and Kathy Buchholz was a highlight of the trip. I am very excited to utilize the knowledge I gained this past weekend to continue developing myself. This was a special conference that I would encourage every junior member to apply for in the future.”

Attendees left the three-day conference energized and ready to take the next steps in their



Shannon Worrell, Ag 1 Source, led junior members in a personality workshop, followed by a personal examination of their resumes. The goal was for participants to use the strengths they discovered in their personality tests as supporting data for their resumes.

leadership journeys. Megan Underwood, a BOLD participant from Kentucky and graduate student at Kansas State University, says, “I’m excited to take the knowledge learned and friendships created to make a bold impact while living my dreams.”

BOLD will be held each March as an elite leadership opportunity with an application process necessary to attend.



Gary Buchholz showing BOLD attendees GKB Cattle’s state-of-the-art operations at one ranch location.

The 2022 Faces of Leadership Conference is scheduled for Aug. 3-6 in Billings, Mont., and registration will open in May. HW