

# NJHA Members Earn Awards and Scholarships

HYFA awarded more than \$30,000 in scholarships at the JNHE.

The Hereford Youth Foundation of America (HYFA) awarded \$33,000 in scholarships to outstanding Hereford juniors at the 2022 VitaFerm® Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE). Awards included two new scholarships — the Mead Family Memorial Hereford Scholarship and Ostgaard-Breiner Educational Scholarships. All were presented during the awards ceremony July 21 in Louisville, Ky. HYFA will award more than \$200,000 in scholarships in 2022.

## Melancon receives inaugural Mead Family Memorial Hereford Scholarship

Rylie Melancon, a native of Woodville, Miss., is the inaugural winner of the \$2,000 Mead Family Memorial Scholarship. She is beginning her fourth and final year at Texas Tech University (TTU), studying animal science with a concentration in production. She exemplifies her passion for community service and working with youth through her outreach within her local church, 4-H and FFA programs as well as numerous clubs and organizations on the TTU campus. After completing her bachelor's degree, Melancon plans to move back home to assist, and hopefully one day take over and expand her family's cattle operation. She says her time in the National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) and the

Hereford breed has given her much to be thankful for and has helped her grow into a better showman, cattle woman and overall individual.

Mead Cattle Enterprises in Midville, Ga., has been breeding Hereford cattle for more than 40 years. The operation was part of the original Pro Performance Breeders group that supported Hereford youth in the business of raising cattle. Owner Tommy Mead served on the American Hereford Association (AHA) Board of Directors and his daughter, Tommie Lynne (Mead) Jones, served on the NJHA board of directors.

In 2020, the Mead family suffered the loss of two amazing ladies and backbone of their Hereford operation, Tommy's mother, Hazel Mead, and his wife, Valarie Mead. In 2021, the Mead family and friends rallied together to honor the passing of Hazel and Valarie with the Mead Family Memorial Scholarship Endowment, generating funds that will perpetuate over time to support Hereford junior members from across the country and assist them as they chase their dreams and further their educations.

## Inaugural Ostgaard-Breiner Educational Scholarships awarded

Bridget Beran, Lawrence, Kan. and Keayla Harr, Jeromesville, Ohio, each received a \$1,500 Ostgaard-Breiner Educational Scholarship, made

possible by the National Hereford Women (NHW) and HYFA. These inaugural scholarships are geared toward non-traditional students, those wanting to go into a technical field or to a trade school, enroll in a certification program, pursue graduate school or participate in other eligible programs.

Beran is beginning her final year of law school in pursuit of a law degree with a certificate in international trade and finance law. She fulfills her passion for giving back to agriculture and its future by serving on the NHW board of directors and being involved with the National Hereford Queen program. After completing law school, Beran intends to spend a semester working in Washington D.C., immersing herself in the creation of laws and regulations pertaining to agriculture. She says the Hereford family has always been a driving force in her life, and her involvement in the NJHA gave her the courage and confidence to pursue her passions.

Harr is pursuing a doctorate degree at Oklahoma State University in meat science with a focus in beef color and factors affecting beef quality. Her interest in meat science stems from the desire to continue improving the Hereford breed and making Certified Hereford Beef® a valued part of the supply chain. Following completion



Mead Family Memorial Scholarship winner Rylie Melancon, Woodville, Miss.



Ostgaard-Breiner Scholarship winner Keayla Harr, Jeromesville, Ohio. Not pictured: scholarship recipient Bridget Beran, Lawrence, Kan.



**Golden Bull Achievement Award** winners (l to r) **Molly Biggs**, Dixon, Ill.; **KayAnn Eck**, Putnam, Okla.; **Lauren Gatz**, Fairview, Kan.; and **Bryden Barber**, Channing, Texas.



**Prospect Award** winners (l to r) **Bryce Brancel**, Endeavor, Wis.; **Jarrett Worrell**, Mason, Texas; **Maggie Reed**, Green Ridge, Mo.; **Brady Jones**, Darlington, Wis.; and **Joseph Schohr**, Oroville, Calif.

of her degree, Harr wants to teach and conduct meat and animal science research at a land-grant university. Harr says it was her involvement in the NJHA and the Hereford breed that sparked her passion for agriculture and built her work ethic, integrity and mindset.

The Ostgaard-Breiner Educational Scholarship honors two beloved NHW board members who died in 2019 — Sandra Adams Ostgaard of Dayton, Ohio, and Callea Mae Breiner of Alma, Kan.

Sandra was incredibly active with the Hereford breed, serving as an NHW director, president of the Ohio Hereford Women and as an Ohio Hereford junior advisor. She passed her love of the Hereford breed to her children and grandchildren. As a retired high school home economics and elementary teacher, Sandra held education of all forms in high regard.

Callea was active on the NHW board and in the Kansas Hereford Association. She also served as a local community 4-H club leader. Her husband and sons continue to carry on Callea's love of the Hereford breed. As an advanced practice registered nurse, Callea also had a love for learning as reflected through her successful pursuit of a doctorate degree.

Winners of the inaugural scholarships exemplify the passions and leadership characteristics that Sandra and Callea most admired.

### Golden Bull Achievement Award winners recognized

The Golden Bull Achievement Awards are given to four collegiate students each summer. This is one of the most coveted honors at the JNHE as these youth receive a bronze bull and a \$2,000 scholarship to assist with their education.

The following are the 2022 Golden Bull Achievement Award winners.

**Bryden Barber**, Channing, Texas, is a junior at Oklahoma State University, pursuing a degree in animal science. Ultimately, he intends to pursue a master's degree in genetics or reproduction at Texas A&M University. Besides showing cattle with success at the national level, Barber is competitive in other JNHE contests and participates in NJHA leadership programs such as BOLD and Faces of Leadership. He is among the fifth generation of his family breeding and raising registered Hereford cattle.

**Molly Biggs**, Dixon, Ill., is a junior at Kansas State University, majoring in agricultural communication and journalism with dual minors in animal science and mass communication. She is focused on pursuing a career in the agricultural industry, being an advocate, increasing the transparency between producers and consumers, and bridging the gap from farm to fork. Biggs intends to give back to the industry that continues to give her so much by serving on an agriculture council or as a future advisor.

**KayAnn Eck**, Putnam, Okla., transferred to Oklahoma State University from Northern Oklahoma College –

Tonkawa this fall. She is majoring in psychology with an emphasis in mental health, intending to use her talents and education to address mental health in rural communities and the agricultural industry. “To be able to offer services through counseling or providing a link to state resources with those who desperately need it would be a great reward and a way for me to give back to the agricultural industry that has provided so much to me,” Eck says.

**Lauren Gatz**, Fairview, Kan., is a sophomore at Kansas State University majoring in agricultural communications and journalism with a minor in leadership studies. She currently serves as the National Hereford Queen and on the Kansas Junior Hereford Association board of directors. After completing her studies, she hopes to begin a career that allows her to utilize her communication skills and passion to advocate for agriculture. Gatz says her involvement in the Hereford breed and NJHA activities has greatly influenced her as an individual and helped her develop her passion for agriculture.

### Prospect and Junior Golden Bull Awards handed out

The Prospect and Junior Golden Bull Award programs recognize junior members for their involvement in the Hereford and agricultural industry as well as in their communities. Prospect awards are given to the top students in third through eighth grades. The junior Golden Bull Awards recognize the highest achieving students in ninth through 12th grades.

Prospect winners receive a leather halter, and the junior Golden Bull winners receive a bronze Hereford bull statue.

The following are the 2022 Junior Golden Bull Award winners.

**Ninth grade winner, Sarah Birdsall**, Torrington, Wyo., finished her freshman year where she was dually enrolled at Torrington High School and Eastern Wyoming Community College. She is interested in business and accounting. Birdsall credits the different public speaking programs provided by the JNHE for benefitting her the most in her life and future. The opportunities have taught her how to focus on research topics and verbally express her views to others.

**Tenth grade winner, Baylee Smith**, Checotah, Okla., plans to attend Connors State College in Warner, Okla., upon graduation from high school. She wants to become a registered nurse, as well as attain her bachelor's degree in animal science and health administration. Through Hereford breed programs, 4-H and FFA, she has learned analytical decision-making, communication, delegation, teamwork and creative problem solving.



**Junior Golden Bull Achievement Award** winner **Sheridan Chaney**, Keyman, Md.

**Eleventh grade winner, Sam Birdsall**, Torrington, Wyo., is dually enrolled at Torrington High School and Eastern Wyoming Community College. He is interested in focusing his undergraduate studies on business or agricultural business. Birdsall says the activities provided by the Hereford breed have helped build his confidence in his abilities.

**Twelfth grade winner, Sheridan Chaney**, Keyman, Md., recently graduated high school and will be pursuing a degree in agricultural communications where she will work towards a career in agricultural advocacy and telling agriculture's story. She now mentors her friends and shares her experiences provided by the Hereford breed, encouraging them to take advantage of the many different programs.

The following are the 2022 Prospect Award winners.

**Fourth grade winner, Bryce Brancel**, Endeavor, Wis., is 10 years old and has been a member of the NJHA for four years. He was born into the Hereford breed where working and showing Hereford cattle is a family affair. His goal is to sell semen from his bull and see calves raised from his own cattle herd.

**Fifth grade winner, Jarrett Worrell**, Mason, Texas, is 11 years old. He was elected to a three-year term on the Texas Junior Polled Hereford Association board of directors in 2021. His ultimate goal is to win grand champion bred-and-owned pair at the JNHE.

**Sixth grade winner, Maggie Reed**, Green Ridge, Mo., has been a member of the NJHA for five years. She started with a Hereford bottle calf when she was young and then continued to love and raise Herefords growing up. She wants to run for her state junior board as well as state queen in the near future.

**Seventh grade winner, Brady Jones**, Darlington, Wis., has been a member of the NJHA for six years. His first show heifer, Apache, was a bottle calf he was able to raise and take to the JNHE when it was hosted in Madison, Wis. He has also competed in the NJHA Fed Steer Shootout program for three years and received the recognition of grand champion purebred individual steer in 2020.

**Eighth grade winner, Joseph Schohr**, Oroville, Calif., has been an NJHA member for eight years and currently serves as the California-Nevada Junior Hereford Association secretary. He has always looked up to the NJHA board of directors and hopes he will be able to receive a maroon jacket in the future, and help support other junior members.

**Sullivan Supply Hereford Herdsman Scholarship recipients chosen**

Sullivan Supply, Hereford herdsman from around the country and HYFA work together to support two \$2,500 herdsman scholarships. These scholarships are given to college students who not only excel in the classroom and showing, but also have a passion for and dedication to raising and showing Hereford cattle.



**Junior Golden Bull Achievement Award** winners (l to r) **Sarah Birdsall**, Torrington, Wyo.; **Baylee Smith**, Checotah, Okla.; and **Sam Birdsall**, Torrington, Wyo.



**Hereford Herdsman Scholarship** winners (l to r) **Bryden Barber**, Channing, Texas, and **Bailey Morrell**, Willows, Calif.



**Junior Merit Award** winners (l to r) **Wesley Denton**, Blue Rapids, Kan.; **Taylor Dieball**, Manhattan, Kan.; and **Regan Mitchem**, Vale, N.C.



**Bluegrass and Buckeye Scholarship** winner **Lauren McMillan**, Tiskilwa, Ill.

The 2022 Hereford Herdsman Scholarship recipients are **Bryden Barber**, Channing, Texas, and **Bailey Morrell**, Willows, Calif.

Barber begins his junior year at Oklahoma State University (OSU) in the fall pursuing a bachelor's of science in animal science. He has served as a Dallam County 4-H Club officer and Texas Junior Hereford Association junior and senior director and treasurer. After completing his undergraduate studies at OSU, Barber plans to continue his education by pursuing a master's degree from Texas A&M University and later returning home to begin his own cow-calf operation. "The Hereford breed is just beginning to shape my life, but I know that it will be the focus of my future," Barber says.

Morrell recently graduated cum laude from Colorado State University (CSU) with a dual degree in agricultural education and political science. During her undergraduate academic career, she served as the CSU College of Agriculture Sciences ambassador and associate senator, CSU Collegiate Livestock Association secretary and NJHA board of directors communications chairman. Morrell, who is pursuing her career goal of becoming an attorney, attends the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law. She is grateful for the experiences and opportunities the Hereford breed has presented to her and says she would not be the person she is today if she had not been raised in the Hereford breed.

### Hereford Junior Merit Scholarships and trip winner announced

The National Junior Merit Scholarship is one of the most prestigious awards given at the JNHE. It was developed to encourage individual and cooperative effort, enthusiasm, leadership and achievement and to develop well-rounded breeders for the Hereford breed and the beef industry. Each year three scholarships are awarded totaling \$4,500. The first-place winner receives a subsidized trip to a Hereford operation in the continental U.S., in addition to a \$2,000 scholarship.

The following are the 2022 Junior Merit Scholarship Award winners: first-place winner and \$2,000 scholarship recipient, **Wesley Denton**, Blue Rapids, Kan.; second-place winner and \$1,500 scholarship recipient, **Taylor Dieball**, Manhattan, Kan.; and third-place winner and \$1,000 scholarship recipient, **Regan Mitchem**, Vale, N.C.

Denton is entering his junior year at Kansas State University, majoring in animal sciences and industry. He is a fourth-generation Hereford breeder on his family's operation, Springhill Herefords, and plans to return to help manage the operation. He also wants to pursue a career within the animal protein industry either as a cattle buyer or beef merchandiser. Denton started working toward these goals with an internship at Cargill Inc., this summer.

Dieball recently finished her junior year at Kansas State University,

majoring in animal science and industry in the production management pathway. She began showing Herefords at 9 years old and attended her first JNHE in 2011. She credits the different contests offered at the JNHE for growing and shaping her into the person she is today, helping develop her confidence and build connections for her future. Dieball would like to finish her undergraduate studies and attend graduate school to focus on physiology with an emphasis on bovine reproduction, eventually becoming certified in embryo transfer.

Mitchem will be a senior at North Carolina State University (NC State). After completing her undergraduate degree, she plans to continue with her studies and attend the NC State College of Veterinary Medicine. She is currently working on campus as a research assistant and is spending the 2022 summer riding along with a veterinarian. Mitchem says she has been able to grow as an individual, feel more confident in her abilities to succeed and find her intended career path through opportunities provided by the North Carolina Junior Hereford Association and the NJHA.

**McMillan receives Bluegrass and Buckeye Hereford Scholarship**  
**Lauren McMillan** from Tiskilwa, Ill., is the \$1,500 Bluegrass and Buckeye Scholarship winner. This prestigious scholarship is sponsored by HYFA along with the Ohio and Kentucky Hereford Associations with funds

remaining from the 2006 JNHE in Louisville, Ky.

McMillan begins her senior year at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) in the fall where she is studying agricultural organization and community leadership with a double minor in agribusiness and media. Her leadership activities and experiences as well as community service involvement are extensive. She currently holds the position of leadership chairman on the NJHA board of directors while also serving as the president of the Illinois Junior Hereford Association. After completing her studies at UIUC, McMillan hopes to find a career within the agricultural industry, where she can remain an advocate for the Hereford breed and beef cattle. She says her involvement within the NJHA has been the most influential component in her life and inspires her to strive towards her future endeavors.

**Kottkamp receives Boyd Memorial Hereford Scholarship**

The Boyd Memorial Scholarship honors the legacy Hereford breeder, Charles E. Boyd, Sr., a third-generation Hereford breeder from Mays Lick, Ky., who mentored youth in the agricultural industry. Throughout his lifetime, he was recognized on local, state and national levels for his accomplishments. He was a prominent beef cattle judge at all major livestock shows and exhibited several international and national champion Hereford cattle. The Charles E. Boyd, Sr. Scholarship helps

young people in the Hereford breed who plan to attend college and pursue a degree in agriculture.

**Dylan Kottkamp** from Clayton, Ind., received the 2022 Boyd Memorial \$1,500 scholarship. He is entering his junior year at Oklahoma State University, majoring in agricultural business, with the hopes of pursuing a career in agricultural law. He says his biggest role model in life is his grandfather who instilled the different traits Kottkamp carries through life, including making connections, working with people, respecting and living life to the fullest.

**John Wayne Memorial Hereford Scholarship winners announced**

The John Wayne Memorial Endowment awards two scholarships each summer to deserving college students who have made outstanding contributions to the agricultural industry and Hereford breed. They are awarded in remembrance of John Wayne — a legendary actor, agriculturalist and Hereford breeder.

The 2022 John Wayne Memorial \$1,000 Scholarships were awarded to **Wesley Denton**, Blue Rapids, Kan., and **Lauren McMillan**, Tiskilwa, Ill.

Denton is entering his junior year at Kansas State University, majoring in animal sciences and industry. He is a fourth-generation Hereford breeder on his family's operation, Springhill Herefords, and plans to return to help manage the operation. He also wants to pursue a career within the animal protein industry either as a cattle buyer or beef merchandiser. Denton started working

towards these goals with an internship at Cargill Inc., this summer.

McMillan will be a senior at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign majoring in agricultural organization and community leadership with a double minor in agribusiness and media. She has a diverse interest in careers ranging among event planning, advertising/marketing and recruitment and sales. She spent her summer interning with Caterpillar Distributions to learn more about possible careers.

**NOP Founders Scholarships awarded to deserving Hereford juniors**

The two, \$1,000 NOP Founders Scholarships are special in that they honor the women who laid the foundation for the National Organization of Poll-ette's (NOP), which was organized in 1965.

The 2022 NOP Founders Scholarship recipients are **Lauren Gatz**, Fairview, Kan., and **Haley Mouser**, Tenstrike, Minn.

Gatz begins her second year at Kansas State University (K-State) in the fall majoring in agricultural communications and journalism with a minor in leadership studies. She has a wide-range of leadership experiences from her time in 4-H, FFA and the NJHA. She is currently serving as the National Hereford Queen and is part of the Kansas Junior Hereford Association board of directors. After completing her studies



**Charles E. Boyd Sr. Memorial Scholarship** winner **Dylan Kottkamp**, Clayton, Ind.



**John Wayne Memorial Scholarship** winners (l to r) **Lauren McMillan**, Tiskilwa, Ill., and **Wesley Denton**, Blue Rapids, Kan.



**NOP Founders Scholarship** winners (l to r) **Lauren Gatz**, Fairview, Kan., and **Haley Mouser**, Tenstrike, Minn.



**Bud Snidow Scholarship** winner **Paige Lemenager**, Hudson, Ill.

at K-State, Gatz hopes to begin a career that allows her to utilize her communication skills and passion for the industry to advocate for agriculture. Gatz says her involvement in the Hereford breed and the NJHA activities have greatly influenced her as an individual and helped her develop her passion for agriculture.

Mouser began her collegiate career at Butler Community College in the fall, where she is pursuing an associate degree in agribusiness while competing on the livestock judging team. She has been an active member of the NJHA, by not only exhibiting and participating in contests at the JNHE, but also being a participant in the Fed Steer Shootout program and a recent BOLD conference attendee. After obtaining her associate degree, Mouser plans to continue her academic career by pursuing a bachelor's degree in animal science with a minor in human nutrition. Mouser strongly believes her NJHA experiences have prepared her to succeed in whatever her future has in store.

**Lemenager recognized with Bud Snidow Hereford Award**

Each year the NHW honor Bud Snidow, past AHA employee and Hereford historian, with a custom hand-crafted belt buckle. It is awarded to a commendable NJHA member who demonstrates the characteristics Snidow admired most — honesty, fairness, hard work, enthusiasm and dedication to the Hereford breed and its members.

This year's winner, **Paige Lemenager**, Hudson, Ill., is entering her freshman

year at Lake Land College, in the agriculture transfer program, studying agricultural economics with the goal of transferring to a university to complete her bachelor's degree. Her ultimate goal is to pursue a postgraduate law degree and become an agricultural attorney, while maintaining her family farm. Lemenager has embraced the opportunities provided by the Hereford breed to grow as a leader and has been intentional about taking specific steps towards that goal. Embodying the character traits valued by Bud Snidow, she hopes to leave a lasting impact on those around her for generations to come. Lemenager has had a very successful junior show career, winning grand champion heifer at Kansas City, Louisville and Oklahoma City. She is also very active in the NJHA, attending several Faces of Leadership and BOLD conferences.

**Walter and Joe Lewis High Point Senior Award winner chosen**

Bryden Barber, Channing, Texas, was recognized with the Walter and Joe Lewis High Point Senior Award. It is one of the most coveted and historic awards at the JNHE, recognizing overall achievement in leadership, teamwork, skills and competition.

Barber was awarded a scholarship of \$1,000.

Barber, the son of Brett and Nicole Barber, is among the fifth generation playing a key role in his family's Hereford operation. Bryden is currently a junior at Oklahoma State University (OSU) pursuing an animal science degree. After completing his undergraduate studies at OSU, Barber plans to continue his education by pursuing a master's degree from Texas A&M University and then return home to begin his own cow-calf operation. Barber enjoys the opportunity to exhibit at the JNHE each summer because of the networking, competition and opportunities within the breed. His passion to continue the family tradition of raising Herefords stems from the opportunities he has been given as a junior member. **NHW**



**Walter and Joe Lewis High Point Senior Award** winner **Bryden Barber**, Channing, Texas.