

Full Circle Moments

Experiencing a summer full of firsts.

Life is made up of moments — throwing hands up in the air to celebrate winning showmanship, hugging parents after placing in a tough class and watching a friend accomplish a lifelong goal — moments.

It's been a summer jam-packed with firsts, including my first VitaFerm® Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE). Hereford juniors, I was blown away by the quality of people and cattle.

I grew up spending my summers at national junior livestock shows, so my experiences at the JNHE were new, but they weren't unfamiliar. However, for Payton Paschoal, Hereford Publications, Inc. (HPI) intern, JNHE was her first national cattle show.

From interviewing sources to capturing moments with her camera, Payton was essential to the *Hereford World's* coverage of one of the most important events of the summer. The northern California gal took the bull by the horns.

I, along with the rest of the AHA staff, will miss having Payton around. As two new college graduates, our dynamic was unique. But she taught me to slow down and enjoy little moments, and to take time to think about why we do the things we do — especially at a cattle show.

One of my first articles as a student at Hutchinson Community College was about a young man named Tyler Bush on the livestock judging team. He said, "My dad is my biggest role model, my best friend. Getting to judge next to him someday at a cattle show would be incredible. I know that chance will come, hopefully soon, but that's easily my biggest goal."

In Louisville, Ky., at the 2022 JNHE, I watched him judge the owned female show alongside his dad and accomplish that goal while accomplishing one of my goals — working for a livestock publication. That week, things came full circle.

My advice to you — remember to slow down and enjoy those little moments. It was a unique experience, standing on the green chips in Broadbent Arena and reflecting on the moments, like the relationships made and steps taken to get there.

My summers were spent in a barn, and I thought it was something I would outgrow. Thankfully, I haven't, and I can't wait to see what the future holds for the Hereford breed.

Now, Payton will share her experiences with the American Hereford Association (AHA) and JNHE.



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Sparks

by *Payton Paschoal*

When I arrived in the Midwest for the first time, I was astonished to discover the sparks of fireflies in the fields surrounding Kansas City. Fireflies, or lightning bugs, don't exist in California. They are something I imagined in my head, but seeing them for the first time was incredible. Like my experience with lightning bugs, my experience with cattle was limited to interest and imagination. Raising a single 4-H steer sparked a passion that led me to pursue my internship with the AHA, and I could not be more grateful.

Though I have an appreciation for the agriculture industry, my childhood consisted of working in the walnut orchards, rice paddies and alfalfa fields of northern California — far from the beef cattle industry. Although my supporters have always encouraged me to chase my dreams, I found it difficult to stray from what was familiar. College is about opportunity, and I certainly did not let any opportunities pass me by while studying agricultural communications and agricultural business at California Polytechnic

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Payton Paschoal

State University (Cal Poly). College allowed me to explore the cattle industry, and AHA let me delve even further.

As I hovered over a computer at the California Cattlemen's Convention in Reno, Nev.,

to submit my HPI internship application, I had an eagerness to learn and a desire to serve ranchers across the country. Working on a publication I admire has been an honor and an experience I will never forget. Much like the

continual impact of the Hereford breed, print media will always have a purpose.

The most influential and eye-opening part of my internship was attending the JNHE in Louisville, Ky., where I witnessed the passionate youth, leadership and exceptional cattle behind team Hereford. My mission is to represent farmers and ranchers through storytelling, and the people I met at JNHE reminded me why I chose to pursue agricultural communications.

Some West Coast natives may underestimate lightning bugs and their ability to brighten any situation, and I feel as though some don't realize the strength of the Hereford community. My internship with the AHA gave me the opportunity to see greatness within the Hereford breed and team Hereford, something I would not have found elsewhere. All it took was a spark. **HW**