

HYFA AWARDS \$165,000 IN FALL SCHOLARSHIPS

High-achieving Hereford youth were awarded numerous scholarships during the 2022 American Hereford Association (AHA) Annual Meeting and Conference in Kansas City, Mo., on Oct. 21. In a special awards ceremony, the Hereford Youth Foundation of America (HYFA) and its donors proudly awarded \$165,000 in scholarships to 28 National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) members to help support their higher-education goals.

The scholarship fund is the bedrock of HYFA, and countless youth are benefactors of its mission. In fiscal year 2022, the foundation celebrated net assets reaching nearly \$5 million. In total, \$185,000 was given back this year to assist Hereford youth with their continued educations.

Ball Foundation/Cottonwood Springs Farm Scholarship

The 2022 Ball Foundation/Cottonwood Springs Farm Scholarship, sponsored by HYFA, is a \$5,000 scholarship honoring the legacy of Nancy Keilty's late father and mother, Ed and Virginia Ball. They instilled in her the mentality of always "leaving the campsite better than you found it," and this scholarship is designed to recognize a Hereford junior with the same mentality.

Weston Wolf, Alexandria, Ky., is a freshman at the University of Kentucky. This high-achieving freshman is majoring in agricultural economics and minoring in animal science.

"Farm life instills the much-needed confidence that individuals must have to set goals for themselves and to attain them," said Wolf. "Being raised in this atmosphere helps you to develop the character traits that are needed for success."

Bar One Ranch Scholarship

The 2022 Bar One Ranch Scholarship, sponsored by HYFA, is a \$5,000 scholarship offered by George and Karen Sprague of Bar One Ranch in Oregon. The scholarship is in memory of their late friend, Ken Tracy, who was a friend to the entire Hereford breed.

Haley Mouser, Tenstrike, Minn., is the recipient of this memorial scholarship. Mouser, a freshman at Butler Community College, majoring in agribusiness, was just elected to the NJHA board of directors. Her long-term goals are to earn a doctorate in ruminant nutrition and assist with communicating the science of the beef industry to the consumer.

Blin Family Scholarship

The 2022 Blin Family Scholarship, sponsored by HYFA, is a \$2,500 scholarship in recognition of the first Lot 1 foundation female ever sold at the Mile High Night Sale in Denver, Colo. Star Lake Cattle Company and the Blin family of Iowa consigned the female that sold for \$100,000 and created a fund that has grown to nearly \$1 million.

Paige Lemenager, Hudson, Ill., is the daughter of Luke and Stacy Lemenager and a freshman at Lake Land College. Her goals are to pursue a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics and a Juris Doctor degree in agricultural law with the ultimate goal of advocating for beef producers and managing her family's farming operation.

"The NJHA is undoubtedly preparing its junior membership with the skills and qualities of a good citizen through contests, leadership conferences and other membership-oriented programs, which is a privilege I wish everyone could experience to truly make our world a better place," Lemenager said.



Weston Wolf, Alexandria, Ky., was awarded the Ball Foundation/Cottonwood Springs Farm Scholarship. Pictured (l to r) are: Nancy Keilty, Weston Wolf and Ray Ramsey.



Haley Mouser, Tenstrike, Minn., was awarded the Bar One Ranch Scholarship. Pictured (l to r) are: Nancy Keilty, George Sprague, Haley Mouser and Ray Ramsey.



Wesley Denton, Blue Rapids, Kan., was awarded the CBY Polled Herefords, Bob and Dolores Call Scholarship. Pictured (l to r) are: Nancy Keilty, Wesley Denton and Ray Ramsey.



Jacob Johnson, Ruth, Miss., and **Dylan Kottkamp**, Clayton, Ind., were the recipients of the EE Ranches Scholarship. Pictured (l to r) are: George Sprague, Jacob Johnson, Dylan Kottkamp and Ray Ramsey.

CBY Polled Herefords, Bob and Dolores Call Scholarship

The 2022 CBY Polled Herefords, Bob and Dolores Call Scholarship, sponsored by HYFA, is a \$5,000 scholarship offered in honor of Dolores Call and her late husband, Bob. Bob was a founding member of the HYFA board of directors and an integral part of building the foundation for the scholarship programs it now provides.

Wesley Denton, Blue Rapids, Kan., is a junior at Kansas State University, majoring in animal sciences and industry. The son of Angie and John Denton, his goals are to pursue a career in the meat industry, something he already started with his 2022 summer internship with Cargill Inc.

Because of this involvement he says, “transparency or proper labeling is important with plant-based imitation meats and cell-cultured protein, also known as lab-grown meat,” and is something the industry should focus on moving forward.

EE Ranches Scholarships

EE Ranches annually sponsors two \$5,000 scholarships through HYFA. These scholarships are made possible by Jo Ellard and her late husband, Bill, of Texas. EE Ranches was one of HYFA’s first scholarship endowments; the funds have assisted many youths in achieving their goals since its inception. The recipients of the 2022 EE Ranches’ scholarships are Jacob

Johnson, Ruth, Miss., and Dylan Kottkamp, Clayton, Ind.

Jacob Johnson is a senior at Kansas State University, majoring in animal sciences and industry. Johnson began raising Herefords six years ago and fell in love with the versatility of the breed. To him a successful life is a balance of characteristics, and he admires George Washington, Abraham Lincoln and Billy Graham.

Dylan Kottkamp is a junior at Oklahoma State University, studying agribusiness pre-law. He is dedicated to growing and developing himself and strengthening his mentality to be an effective leader and teammate across all facets of life.

Gary Bishop Memorial Scholarship

The Gary Bishop Memorial Scholarship, given on behalf of HYFA, is a \$2,500 scholarship in memory of Gary Bishop. The Oklahoma native first began working for the AHA in 1973, serving in the capacities of assistant director of Total Performance Records, director of feedlot and carcass programs and director of field services. He also served as director of youth activities, which was a job he held in high esteem throughout his life. He dedicated much of his energy to working for the betterment of Hereford youth organizations. The scholarship is awarded to a deserving member of the NJHA to continue financing their college education.



Joel Pecha, Meno, Okla., was the recipient of the Gary Bishop Memorial Scholarship. Pictured is Joel Pecha with the Gary Bishop family.

Joel Pecha, Meno, Okla., is a sophomore at Oklahoma State University, majoring in animal science with a minor in ranch management. He is the seventh generation on his family's beef operation in northwest Oklahoma and is excited to return to the ranch upon graduation. Growing up, he was impacted by mentors in the industry and wants to become that mentor for other younger members as they grow.

HYFA Scholarships

The HYFA Scholarship, a \$2,500 scholarship designed to provide recognition for outstanding members of the NJHA, encourages individual and cooperative effort, enthusiasm, excellence, leadership, academic success and achievement. The 2022 HYFA Scholarship recipients are Rusty Wolf, Alexandria, Ky., and Bailey Morrell, Sacramento, Calif.

Rusty Wolf is the son of Tim and Peggy Wolf and a senior at the University of Kentucky, where he is majoring in animal science with a minor in plant and soil science. As a first-generation college student, he is dedicated to his education and looks forward to the future. He previously held an internship with the Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, solidifying his career choice of wanting to be an Extension agent.

Bailey Morrell is a recent graduate of Colorado State University and is currently attending the University

of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law. She lives her life knowing that interactions, conversations and relationships with others will be better received if they come from a place of kindness and understanding, and she hopes to carry those traits throughout her life.

Bob and Lucy Kube Scholarship

The 2022 Bob and Lucy Kube Scholarship, sponsored by HYFA, is a \$2,500 scholarship given in recognition of the many years Bob Kube served on the HYFA board of directors. Kube's passion for youth and his commitment to future generations is represented in this scholarship that honors a young student who shows leadership outside of Hereford circles and in their community.

Madison Sifford, from Goldvein, Va., is the Bob and Lucy Kube Scholarship winner. Sifford is the daughter of Stephen and Rosemary Sifford and a junior at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. She is pursuing a double major in dairy science and communication science and social inquiry. Sifford previously served as the 2019- 2020 Virginia FFA state vice president and is dedicated to the Hereford and Holstein breeds in her future.

Larson Polled Herefords Scholarship

The 2022 Larson Polled Herefords Scholarship, sponsored by HYFA,

is a \$2,500 scholarship awarded annually in honor of Ken and Carolyn Larson of Texas, who are longtime supporters of Hereford youth and purchased the first foundation female sold at the Mile High Night Sale in Denver, Colo. This purchase initiated a fundraising effort that, over the years, has grown to \$1 million to support youth and education.

Lauren Jones of Darlington, Wis., is in her sophomore year at Oklahoma State University, where she is double majoring in animal science and agricultural communications. She is currently serving her second year on the NJHA board of directors and strives to be successful by "maximizing her potential and accomplishing the goals set for herself."

She attributes the leadership skills she has developed over the years and the opportunities she's had to the NJHA.

Merry Family/MGM Memorial Scholarship

The 2022 Merry Family/MGM Memorial Scholarship of \$2,500 sponsored by HYFA is dedicated to students pursuing a degree in veterinary medicine and carrying on the legacy of Gordon and Marian Merry from Wisconsin. MGM Polled Herefords believes the future of agriculture lies in the hands of our industry's hard-working youth, and the Merry family recognizes



Rusty Wolf, Alexandria, Ky., was the recipient of a HYFA Scholarship. Pictured (l to r) are: Nancy Keilty, Rusty Wolf and Ray Ramsey.



Lauren Jones, Darlington, Wis., was the recipient of the Larson Polled Herefords Scholarship. Pictured (l to r) are: George Sprague, Lauren Jones and Kathy Buchholz.



Luke Daniels, Dalhart, Texas, was awarded the Merry Family/MGM Memorial Scholarship. Pictured (l to r) are: George Sprague, Luke Daniels and Kathy Buchholz.



Lauren Gatz, Fairview, Kan., is the recipient of the National Hereford Queen Scholarship. Pictured (l to r) are George Sprague, Lauren Gatz, Shannon Worrell and Kathy Buchholz.

the dedication required from young people to raise and exhibit livestock and rewards juniors who are passionate about Hereford cattle with this scholarship.

Luke Daniels, Dalhart, Texas, is a junior at Oklahoma State University, studying pre-veterinary animal science, after receiving his associate degree in animal science from South Plains College in Levelland, Texas. A previous leader on the NJHA board of directors, he is excited to continue pursuing his studies with the goal of attending veterinary school and using the degree to practice embryology and promote sustainability and animal welfare.

National Hereford Queen Scholarship

The 2022 National Hereford Queen, **Lauren Gatz**, Fairview, Kan., completed her reign and received a \$10,000 scholarship during the National Hereford Show at the American Royal in Kansas City, Mo., Oct. 23. The National Queen Scholarship is the result of the National Hereford Women (NHW) partnering with HYFA to elevate the queen program and to annually assist the queen with her education and tuition costs.

Gatz attends Kansas State University and is a sophomore majoring in agricultural communications and journalism. Each National Hereford

Queen is responsible for hosting a charity event. This year, Lauren hosted a cornhole tournament titled Cornhole for a Cause during the 2022 VitaFerm® Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE) in Louisville, Ky. Proceeds went to Norton Children's Hospital in Louisville, Ky.

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 NHW, which works throughout the year with the many state queens helping foster and organize the interview and application process and coronation.

Ostgaard-Breiner Scholarship

In 2019, the National Hereford Women (NHW) board of directors lost two of their beloved board members, Sandra Adams Ostgaard of Dayton, Ohio, and Callea Mae Breiner of Alma, Kan. Sandra was incredibly active within the Hereford breed, serving on the NHW board, as Ohio Hereford Women president and as an Ohio Hereford Junior Association 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 not only active on the NHW board but was also active in the

Kansas Hereford Association and served as a local community 4-H club leader. Her love for the Hereford breed continues to be carried on by her husband and sons. As an advanced practice registered nurse, Callea had a love to learn as reflected through her successful pursuit of a doctorate degree.

In honor of Sandra and Callea, two \$1,500 scholarships are awarded in the fall.

Tate Johnson, Centerville, S.D., is a freshman at Mitchell Technical College, where he is pursuing a progressive welding technology degree, while taking courses in business and entrepreneurship. When he graduated high school, he knew he didn't want to pursue a bachelor's degree and wanted to work with his hands. His goal is to start his own business after finishing the two-year program.

Katie Nolles, Stuart, Neb., is a graduate student at Chadron State College. She is also a full-time agriculture education teacher and FFA advisor while pursuing her degree in school counseling online.

Perks Ranch Scholarship

The 2022 Perks Ranch Scholarship of \$5,000 is given by HYFA. It honors the Perks Ranch of Illinois and highlights Doug Perks' legacy and leadership during his time on the HYFA board of directors.

Kira Sayre, Arenzville, Ill., is the daughter of Tim and Tracie Sayre. She

is a senior at Colorado State University, studying both animal and equine science. Throughout college she has worked for a local Hereford breeder and at a horse boarding and training facility. Her goal is to use the skills gained through her degree and her work experience to find a career in the agriculture industry.

Tennessee River Music Scholarship

The Tennessee River Music Inc., and Randy and Kelly Owen Scholarship is a \$2,500 scholarship in recognition of the event, Music on the Mountain. Music on the Mountain was a historic event hosted by Randy and Kelly Owen that created momentum for HYFA's success and growth.

Isaac Rhode, Stewartville, Mo., is the recipient of this year's scholarship. A sophomore at the University of Missouri-Columbia, he is majoring in agriculture with an emphasis on animal science, agricultural business management, agricultural education and leadership. He has previously attended Faces of Leadership and the BOLD conference to develop his skills, and he was recently elected to the NJHA board of directors.

Vanier Scholarships

Ten scholarships of \$10,000 each are given by the Vanier family for a total of \$100,000 in HYFA scholarships annually. Jack and the late Donna Vanier and family of CK Ranch

in Kansas have paved the way for Hereford youth to further their education, and this year marks a \$600,000 commitment to education from the Vanier family. The Vanier family is proud of NJHA members and believes the work ethic young people learn growing up in the Hereford breed sets them apart in today's workforce.

The 2022 Vanier Scholarship recipients are: Bryden Barber, Channing, Texas; JW Cox, Flemingsburg, Ky.; Jordan Gatz, Fairview, Kan.; Trevor Johnson, Centerville, S.D.; Lauren McMillan, Tiskilwa, Ill.; Regan Mitchem, Vale, N.C.; James Brody Rogers, Hamilton, Texas; Libby Rushton, Waverly, Tenn.; Tar Tut, Faribault, Minn.; and Megan Underwood, Campbellsville, Ky.

Bryden Barber, a junior at Oklahoma State University, is studying animal science and ranch operations. His involvement in the Texas Junior Hereford Association and the NJHA have allowed him to be a successful junior member. He was recently named the 2022 Junior Hereford Herdsman of the Year, a nod to his future success and continuous dedication to the Hereford breed.

JW Cox is a senior at Western Kentucky University, studying agricultural science with concentrations in animal science and pre-veterinary science. Cox currently serves on the NJHA board of directors

as chairman. His involvement and love for the Hereford breed is something he hopes to continue to cultivate as he works towards his goal of following in his stepfather's footsteps as a large animal veterinarian.

Jordan Gatz is a junior at Kansas State University and is pursuing a bachelor's degree in business administration. He will graduate early and then begin pursuing a master's degree as he works towards his CPA license. He plans to continue the momentum of the Hereford breed as it capitalizes on sustainability.

Trevor Johnson is a junior at Kansas State University after receiving his associate degree in agribusiness from Butler Community College. Johnson's dedication to Herefords and the beef industry starts with the commercial sector and feedlot industry. He participates in the NJHA Fed Steer Shootout program and has spent his summers interning for feedlots. His goal in life is to be the youngest individual inducted into the Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame.

Lauren McMillan is a senior at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). At UIUC, she is studying agricultural leadership, education and communication. She recently worked as a communications marketing intern with Caterpillar Inc. to continue developing her skills. The current NJHA membership chair, she is passionate about the membership



Tate Johnson, Centerville, S.D., was a recipient of one of the two Ostgaard-Breiner Scholarships. Pictured (l to r) are: Nancy Keilty, Tate Johnson and Ray Ramsey.



Isaac Rhode, Stewartville, Mo., was the recipient of the Tennessee River Music Scholarship. Pictured (l to r) are: Kathy Buchholz, Isaac Rhode and George Sprague.



Ten outstanding NJHA members were awarded the Vanier Family Scholarship. Pictured back row (l to r) are: Ray Ramsey, Nancy Keilty, George Sprague, JW Cox, Jordan Gatz, Libby Rushton, Bryden Barber, Kathy Buchholz and Bill King. Pictured front row (l to r) are: **Tar Tut, Megan Underwood, Regan Mitchem, Lauren McMillan and Trevor Johnson.**

and helping each junior develop through every opportunity.

Regan Mitchem is a senior 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 to include more livestock reproductive services. 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.

James Brody Rogers is a veterinary student at Texas A&M University. Along with pursuing his veterinary degree, Rogers and his siblings started their own business, Cowhouse Creek Meat Company, which began with selling individual cuts and then transitioned into selling sides of beef to individuals.

Libby Rushton is a junior at the University of Tennessee at Martin, where she studies agricultural

business. She previously interned for the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation as a public policy intern, and this role encouraged her to use her voice for agriculture, whether in a political or public relations field. She is the current NJHA communications chair, serving her final year on the NJHA board of directors.

Tar Tut is a senior at Texas A&M University, majoring in agricultural communications with aspirations to earn a master's degree in international communications. As a first-generation American citizen, he has set his priority on earning a college education. Previously a member of the North American Junior Red Angus Event board of directors, he now serves the NJHA as the leadership chair and is excited to take on the adventures of a new year.

Megan Underwood is a graduate student at Kansas State University, pursuing a degree in agricultural education and communications after graduating early with her undergraduate degree in animal sciences and industry. Her research

focuses on how beef producers value and use beef breed association printed magazines.

Whitehead Ranches Scholarship

The 2022 Whitehead Ranches Scholarship sponsored by HYFA in the amount of \$2,500 honors Loyd Whitehead of Texas. Loyd was an instrumental part of HYFA in its early years, serving on the board of directors and as financial chairman.

Sam Birdsall, Torrington, Wyo., is the son of Dennis and Heather Birdsall. He is a sophomore attending Eastern Wyoming College, pursuing an associate degree in business administration. He has been a three-time recipient of the grade-level Junior Golden Bull Award at the JNHE and was a previous Prospect Award winner through elementary and middle school. **HW**