

When Making Your **MAD DASH,** Knowledge is Power



State junior advisors offer tips to JNHE attendees.

by *Lauren Jones*

Ignorance is bliss. Kickin' it in Kansas in 2011 was my first VitaFerm® Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE), and when I reflect on how I felt, bliss is a good way to describe it. In 2011, I was 8 years old, and I thought I was the hardest worker in the world. In reality, my only responsibilities were making sure my parents knew where I was and getting myself dressed. I didn't know just how much preparation went into an event like the JNHE from staff, attendees and state advisors. I have been extremely blessed to have my parents, older siblings and the Wisconsin Junior Hereford Association to guide me. They paved the way.

Ignorance may be bliss, but knowledge is power. Attending JNHE for the first time can be overwhelming.

I asked 17 state junior advisors — a combined 99 years of experience and 179 trips to JNHE — to share their insight and wisdom about how they help juniors prepare for the JNHE — their tips and tricks to make the most out of the event. I hope their insights empower juniors to have an amazing time at JNHE and learn a few new ideas to use in their trip planning.

How does your state prepare for the JNHE?

From meetings to Facebook posts and emails, most junior associations use technology, like social media, to keep their members informed. For the Maryland Junior Hereford Association, planning begins not long after the previous year's JNHE ends. Michelle Grimmel-Wolfrey, Maryland advisor, says, "The 'Maryland culture' has always been to attend the JNHE as a team."

Maryland fundraises throughout the year to help juniors attend, raising about \$20,000 each year. Grimmel-Wolfrey says the money is used to do things like hire a tack-only trailer, to set up stalls before the cattle arrive and provide daily lunches for Maryland exhibitors. The funds also help create custom pedigree signs and provide a unique gift for each Maryland exhibitor.

By fundraising together, providing some essentials and gathering for a daily meal, Maryland has developed a camaraderie and culture that grows stronger each year. Many other states offer similar activities to bring families together.

How do you help attendees get involved during the week?

When it comes to getting the most from your JNHE experience, everyone agrees that getting

involved in the many contests and events is key to ending your week as a more well-rounded individual. A primary theme among all advisors was encouragement. Advisors not only encourage members to get involved but also encourage older, more experienced members to share their contest experiences with the membership to spark enthusiasm.

"The best way is by asking them to participate and offering personal encouragement. Some kids are really shy, but if their friend is doing something, they may be encouraged to do it," says BJ Jones, Wisconsin's advisor. "There are certain kids that like to do everything, but I try to get different families involved whenever possible to make them feel part of the state team."

What advice would you have for new or first-time advisors?

"Get to know the kids from your state, their interests, activities and their families. Try to help them meet other kids with similar interests and try to get them involved in other contests and activities," says Melinda Watson, Kentucky advisor.

"Things will not run perfectly every time, and there's always someone that may become upset. But the reward of seeing the youth succeed, while developing a passion for the cattle industry, is well worth

it in my mind,” says Lindsey Wolles, South Dakota advisor.

“Don’t be afraid to try new things and push your juniors to go big! Check in with each family throughout the week. It really does make a big difference,” says Joni Doig, Indiana advisor.

Advice for new members attending their first JNHE?

“Take time to meet kids from other states; some of them will become

lifelong friends,” says Scanlon Daniels, Texas advisor.

“Take it all in, try new things and compete outside of the showing. Join mixers and meet new people,” says Ashlee Eatherton, Washington advisor.

“Ask questions. No question is dumb, and we all started somewhere,” Grimmel-Wolfrey says.

Whether you are a new state advisor, first-time exhibitor or seasoned showman, each JNHE

brings new experiences and opportunities. By using the tips shared by these seasoned state advisors, you have the power, through preparation, planning and participation, to get the most out of this year’s JNHE. The time is now, to get ready to make a “Mad Dash to the Hereford Bash” in Madison, Wis. **HW**

BRED-AND-OWNED

Female Show Changes

In 2023, JNHE will feature a top five overall bred-and-owned female selection for the first time.

by **Hannah Pearson**

International Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) members continue to elevate the quality of their bred-and-owned female entries at the VitaFerm® Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE). In fact, the quality is so impressive that the NJHA board of directors believe bred-and-owned exhibitors deserve more recognition.

For the first time, judges will select the top five overall bred-and-owned females at the 2023 JNHE, July 12 in Madison, Wis.

The bred-and-owned show at JNHE allows juniors to showcase their hard work using genetics they selected to grow their herds. These juniors are establishing a strong foundation for their futures.

Judges for the 2023 JNHE bred-and-owned show will be Craig Sand, Stillwater, Okla., and his associate Luke Doris, Ree Heights, S.D. The board is excited to have

this pair pick the first bred-and-owned JNHE top five females.

Selection of a top five applies to only the bred-and-owned female show. All other shows will continue picking a grand and reserve champion in both horned and polled divisions. The rules of the bred-and-owned show are listed below. These rules must be followed to exhibit a heifer in the JNHE bred-and-owned show.

1. To be eligible for the bred-and-owned show, the exhibitor(s) must have owned the entry’s dam at the time of conception and must be listed as the breeder and original owner on the registration certificate.
2. Bred-and-owned females calved on or after Aug. 1, 2021, are eligible.
3. Bred-and-owned females may also show in the owned show.

This must be declared at the time of entry. An additional entry fee will be charged.

4. Horned and polled bred-and-owned females will show together.

For all other JNHE rules and regulations, visit Hereford.org.

A special thanks to Gary and Kathy Buchholz of GKB Cattle, Desdemona, Texas, for sponsoring the bred-and-owned show and powering the top five bred-and-owned female selection. The NJHA can’t thank them enough for their continued support of Hereford youth and excitement for the Hereford breed. Gary and Kathy are longtime allies of Hereford juniors and producers. They are excited to see this new addition to the bred-and-owned show as it continues to grow. The NJHA greatly appreciates their sponsorship as they make a “Mad Dash to the Hereford Bash.” **HW**