

## World Class

Hereford juniors, families and supporters make the JNHE unmatched.



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Many Hereford families look forward to the VitaFerm® Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE) each year. It is undoubtedly one of the Hereford breed's summer highlights with remarkable cattle and extraordinarily skilled juniors on full display.

This year's JNHE — “Mad Dash to the Hereford Bash” — hosted by Wisconsin will be remembered as another spectacular event where lifetime memories were made. There were 806 exhibitors from 38 states and Canada who showed a total of 1,265 head of cattle, including steers, bred-and-owned heifers, bred-and-owned bulls, cow-calf pairs and owned females. More than 700 exhibitors competed in the four showmanship divisions where the top 10 were selected in each. The number of cattle and exhibitors continues to make the JNHE one of the two largest junior nationals in the nation and likely the world. But that's just a part of the week.

### Honing lifelong skills and values

The variety of competitions beyond the showing and the talent of National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) members is also world-class. It's always impressive to watch the juniors display and sharpen so many skills that will give them an advantage as they grow and pursue their lives beyond school. Competitions include public speaking, marketing, photography, judging, fitting, cooking, Hereford bowl and a future professionals contest. You will find full JNHE coverage beginning on Page XX in this issue of *Hereford World*.

Bridging the Gap — a college and career fair — is one of the newest opportunities. It provides Hereford juniors the opportunity to interact with colleges and industry professionals from various companies. JNHE participants can visit with college recruiters about different areas of study, degree programs, scholarship opportunities

and other opportunities each college offers. Hereford youth also learn about internship and career possibilities from professionals across a wide array of companies allied with agriculture.

Bridging the Gap is the first event of its kind offered at any breed junior national.

Learning about opportunities and growing personal networks to explore them also serve as the foundation of the Pen-to-Pen program aimed at younger NJHA members. The program pairs younger members with older, more experienced NJHA members. Pen-to-Pen participants engage in a wide variety of fun and competitive events throughout the JNHE. The younger members also become pen pals with their mentors, providing an avenue to deepen and strengthen their relationships.

### Many, many thanks

Planning, executing and participating in the JNHE demands the lion-hearted passion and commitment of so many people. The dedication and teamwork involved continue to make the JNHE an unmatched premier event. Everyone involved has our gratitude. This includes all the corporate sponsors, breeders, staff, interns and ambassadors, as well as the host state, Wisconsin. Thanks to everyone for your support.

A special thank-you goes to Gary and Kathy Buchholz, GKB Cattle, Desdemona, Texas, for sponsoring the top five overall in the bred-and-owned heifer show. We also extend sincere thanks to our long-time partners at VitaFerm for being the JNHE title sponsor and to Sullivan Supply for being the showmanship sponsor.

Thanks most of all to the many families that committed resources and time to attend and support the JNHE, as well as those who continue to support the NJHA and its wide-ranging opportunities. **HW**