

Paying it Forward

Hereford juniors receive HYFA scholarships.

Outstanding National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) members received \$36,500 in scholarships from the Hereford Youth Foundation of America (HYFA) during the 2023 VitaFerm® Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE). HYFA will award more than \$200,000 this year to high-achieving junior members to aid in their further education.

“HYFA is proud of its scholarship program,” says George Sprague, HYFA scholarship committee member. “It has grown tremendously over the last decade, with \$200,000 in scholarships awarded annually. Equally gratifying, the quality and professionalism of the applicants vying for these awards improves each year. HYFA is confident that all the applicants will make substantial contributions to agriculture and the Hereford industry.”

Likewise, Katie Colyer, HYFA scholarship committee member, explains, “The HYFA scholarship program has seen tremendous growth the past few years. There have been a large number of applicants as well as donors that are wanting to award the youth for their excellence and achievements within the Hereford breed.”

Mead Family Memorial Scholarship

Wesley Denton, Blue Rapids, Kan., received the \$2,000 Mead Family Memorial Scholarship. This fourth-generation Hereford breeder is beginning his senior year at Kansas State University,

majoring in animal sciences and industry with an animal products focus. Denton plans to return and help manage his family’s operation, Spring Hill Herefords. He says he will always remember the lessons he learned from the NJHA and is grateful for the opportunities it has provided him, such as serving on the NJHA board of directors.

“While I am proud of my accomplishments, I now realize the most valuable lessons I have learned in the NJHA have nothing to do with the awards hanging on my walls,” Denton says. “Showing and raising Hereford cattle taught me how to keep records, how to lose with grace and that there are always opportunities to improve.”

Denton’s NJHA journey helped him increase his confidence and enhance his public speaking skills, impacting the person he is today and who he strives to be.

Mead Cattle Enterprises (MCE), Midville, Ga., has been breeding Hereford cattle for more than 40 years. The operation was part of the original Pro Performance Breeders group, supporting Hereford youth in the business of raising cattle. The Mead family and friends established the Mead Family Memorial Scholarship Endowment to support Hereford juniors to chase their dreams, in honor of Tommy Mead’s mother, Hazel Mead, and his wife, Valarie Mead, who both passed away in 2020.

Mead family members have been Hereford leaders. Tommy Mead, MCE owner, served on the American Hereford Association (AHA) Board of Directors. His daughter, Tommie Lynne (Mead) Jones, served on the NJHA board of directors.

Golden Bull Achievement Awards

Each summer, three collegiate students are honored with the Golden Bull Achievement Award. It is one of the most coveted honors awarded at JNHE, as winners each receive a bronze bull and a \$2,500 scholarship to assist with their education.

Luke Daniels, Dalhart, Texas, is a senior at Oklahoma State University, majoring in pre-veterinary animal science. Upon graduation, Daniels plans to attend veterinary school with a focus in reproduction.

“You are never done learning,” Daniels says. “The moment I learned that principle and accepted help from others, I grew in more ways than I could have imagined. As I attended my first JNHE, running around the grounds with my friends, I never thought that the same program would propel me into a new level of opportunity like that provided by the NJHA.”

Daniels has served on the NJHA board of directors and competed in contests. He has exhibited the reserve commercial pen of steers in the NJHA Fed Steer Shootout, won multiple JNHE judging contests and the team



Mead Family Memorial Scholarship winner Wesley Denton, Blue Rapids, Kan.



Golden Bull Achievement Award winners pictured (l to r): Regan Mitchem, Vale, N.C.; Kaylee Lunsford, Fort Scott, Kan.; and Luke Daniels, Dalhart, Texas.

fitting contest. He says there is no youth organization with a bigger payoff than the NJHA, if you choose to invest your time in the association.

Kaylee Lunsford, Fort Scott, Kan., is a recent high school graduate who plans to attend Oklahoma State University (OSU) and double major in animal science and international agricultural leadership. She will enter OSU with an associate degree from Bluefield University. Lunsford believes education is the first building block for success and says education has played a significant role in the person she is today.

“With a career in international agriculture, I can fulfill my dream of dedicating my life to protecting and promoting this industry on a global scale,” Lunsford says.

Lunsford has taken advantage of many opportunities during her nine years as an NJHA member, such as educational and leadership programs within state and national Hereford associations. In 2016, Lunsford was a Ned and Jan Ward Junior AI Program winner. She has served as director at-large and vice president for the Oklahoma Junior Hereford Association. At previous JNHEs, Lunsford won first place in the illustrated speech contest in both the junior and intermediate divisions and was a member of the first-place junior judging team in 2019.

Regan Mitchem, Vale, N.C., has been a member of the NJHA for 10 years. Following in her mother’s footsteps, she decided at the age of 12 that she wanted to start showing Hereford cattle. Since then, she has spent each year diving into leadership activities and growing her herd, and in turn, growing as a person. Mitchem is currently president of the North Carolina Junior Hereford Association.

“My quieter personality has not disappeared,” Mitchem says. “But my level of confidence in who I am is far above what it was a few years ago. I have been able to grow as an individual, feel more confident in my abilities to succeed and find my intended career path through opportunities provided to me by 4-H, and the North Carolina and the National Junior Hereford Associations.”



Junior Golden Bull Achievement Award winners pictured (l to r): **Kristin Waters**, Norborne, Mo.; **Kendall Boatman**, Rockford, Ill.; **Harlee Watson**, Flemingsburg, Ky.; and **Sam Birdsall**, Torrington, Wyo.

Mitchem finished her undergraduate degree in May at North Carolina State University (NCSU) and begins classes this fall in the NCSU College of Veterinary Medicine as a member of the Food Animal Scholar Program. She plans to help improve the food animal medicine industry by helping producers maintain productive, efficient and healthy herds.

Junior Golden Bull Awards

The Junior Golden Bull Award recognizes junior members who are top students in grades 9-12 for their involvement in the Hereford breed, agricultural industry and their communities. Winners receive a bronze Hereford bull statue.

“The NJHA is very proud of these young members, who at an early age, have already accomplished so much when it comes to their involvement with the Hereford breed, and giving back to agriculture and their communities,” says Amy Cowan, AHA director of youth activities and foundation.

Ninth grade winner, Kristin Waters, Norborne, Mo., is entering her sophomore year at Norborne R-8 High School. Her long-term career goal is to earn a degree in veterinary medicine. She credits the JNHE public speaking contests for helping her gain skills for her life and future, particularly the illustrated speech contests.

“With each passing year, I see more benefits and positive outcomes in my personal endeavors because of the experiences I have had with speaking as a member of the National Junior Hereford Association,” Waters says.

Tenth grade winner, Kendall Boatman, Rockford, Ill., has been an NJHA member for 10 years and currently serves on the Illinois Junior Hereford Association board of directors. Boatman has attended Faces of Leadership, competed in state and national speaking, marketing, judging and showmanship contests, as well as the NJHA Fed Steer Shootout. She says the NJHA Fed Steer Shootout has benefited her the most and provides experiences to build her leadership skills.

Eleventh grade winner, Harlee Watson, Flemingsburg, Ky., is beginning her senior year of high school. She plans to further her education and livestock judging career by attending Butler Community College and later Oklahoma State University. Watson hopes to attend mortician school. Her favorite NJHA program has been the Faces of Leadership Conference.

“The connections and friendships I have made during the Faces of Leadership Conference are second to none,” Watson says. “I have been given the opportunity to meet with industry leaders and make some of my greatest friends.”

Twelfth grade winner, Sam Birdsall, Torrington, Wyo., is a recent graduate of Torrington High School with an advanced high school diploma and an associate degree from Eastern Wyoming Community College. He will enter Kansas State University this fall and plans to double major in agricultural economics and finance. His goal is to continue expanding his herd of Hereford cattle. He says the activities

provided by the Hereford breed have helped build his confidence and self-assurance in his own abilities.

Prospect Awards

The Prospect Award recognizes junior members who are top students in grades 3-8 for their involvement in the Hereford breed, the agricultural industry and their communities. Winners receive a leather halter.

“This award is unique, as it highlights members’ participation and success not only in the ring, but in other outside activities as well,” says Jessica Middleswarth, award judge and previous NJHA director. “The recipients this year were outstanding, and I look forward to seeing them grow as individuals.”

Third grade winner, Blakely Storey, Stockton, Ill., is 9 years old. Her goal is to show at every JNHE and Illinois State Fair during her junior show career. Storey joined the NJHA because of her love for Hereford cattle. When she grows up, she wants to be a livestock photographer.

Fourth grade winner, Jase Klink, Garden, Mich., is 9 years old and has been a member of the NJHA for three years. He is a fourth-generation Hereford breeder and received his first registered Hereford as a gift to help save for college. Klink has attended two JNHEs as a spectator and participated in his first JNHE as an exhibitor this year in Madison, Wis.

Fifth grade winner, Claire Collins, Frederick, Okla., has been a member of the NJHA for five years. Throughout her time in the NJHA, she has been

heavily involved inside the showing as well as in leadership contests.

Collins won high individual honors in the junior division of the judging contest at the 2022 JNHE, where she also exhibited the reserve grand champion bred-and-owned female. Her goal is to become an NJHA board member and National Hereford Queen.

“I hope to be a good leader and accomplish these goals,” Collins says. “I want to be a role model to others and help people make the right decisions.”

Sixth grade winner, Jarrett Worrell, Mason, Texas, is 12 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 cow-calf pair at the JNHE, recognizing his herd’s success.

Seventh grade winner, Westyn ‘Zeb’ Murphree, Hamilton, Texas, has been an NJHA member for four years and currently serves as a director for the Texas Junior Polled Hereford Association. 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.

Eighth grade winner, Brady Jones, Darlington, Wis., has been a member of the NJHA for seven years, starting with his first show heifer, Apache, a bottle calf he was able to raise and take to the 2016 JNHE. Jones has had a successful junior show career, competing in the NJHA Fed Steer Shootout for four years and winning grand champion

purebred individual steer in 2020. In 2022 and 2023, he won junior premier exhibitor at the JNHE.

Hereford Herdsman Scholarships

Sullivan Supply Inc., Hereford herdsman from around the country and HYFA work together to support two \$2,500 scholarships, which are awarded to college students who excel in the classroom and showing and have a passion for and dedication to raising and showing Hereford cattle.

Blake Bruns, North Platte, Neb., attended Northeastern Junior College in Sterling, Colo., for two years and will pursue a bachelor’s degree in animal science. He began showing Herefords and attended his first JNHE in 2015. He credits the NJHA for the experiences, friendships and memories that have left a lasting impact on him. After completing his undergraduate studies, Bruns plans to pursue a master’s degree in beef cattle nutrition and eventually manage a university purebred beef unit.

Lauren Jones, Darlington, Wis., recently finished her sophomore year at Oklahoma State University, majoring in animal science and agricultural communication. She has a wide range of leadership experiences from her time in 4-H, FFA and the NJHA. She is currently serving on the NJHA board of directors and has participated in the NJHA Fed Steer Shootout and the BOLD Conference. “Herefords are my passion, and I plan to be active in the Hereford breed for as long as I live,” Jones says.



Prospect Award winners (l to r) are: **Blakely Storey**, Stockton, Ill.; **Jase Klink**, Garden, Mich.; **Jarrett Worrell**, Mason, Texas; **Westyn ‘Zeb’ Murphree**, Hamilton, Texas; and **Brady Jones**, Darlington, Wis.



Prospect Award winner, **Claire Collins**, Frederick, Okla.



Hereford Herdsman Scholarship winners (l to r): **Lauren Jones**, Darlington, Wis., and **Blake Bruns**, North Platte, Neb.



National Junior Merit Scholarship winner **JW Cox**, Flemingsburg, Ky.

Junior Merit Scholarship

JW Cox, Flemingsburg, Ky., received the National Junior Merit Scholarship, one of the most prestigious awards given at the JNHE. The award includes a \$5,000 scholarship and a subsidized trip to a Hereford operation of the winner's choice in the continental U.S.

Cox is the herdsman of his own operation, Locust Grove Farm, where he plays an active role in management decisions, such as genetics and breeding, pasture rotations, culling and keeping replacement animals.

He is involved inside and outside of the showing, recently serving as chairman of the NJHA board of directors. He has attended several Faces of Leadership and BOLD Conferences, leading workshops and making connections.

Cox has exhibited the reserve champion cow-calf pair at the 2021 Southeastern Regional Hereford Show, champion junior Hereford heifer at the 2020 Kentucky State Fair, reserve champion Hereford heifer at the

2020 Kentucky Beef Expo and earned many more accolades. He sells show heifers private treaty and mentors beginning showmen in clipping, feeding and fitting.

"All my leadership experiences and accomplishments will help build my reputation and promote my brand in selling cattle and put my name and my operation on the map," he says.

Cox began veterinary school this fall at Auburn University, specializing in embryology with hopes of returning to rural Kentucky to practice large animal veterinary medicine.

The Junior Merit Scholarship was developed to encourage individual and cooperative effort, enthusiasm, leadership and achievement to develop well-rounded breeders for the Hereford breed and beef industry.

Bluegrass and Buckeye Scholarship

Dylan Kottkamp, Clayton, Ind., received the \$1,500 Bluegrass and Buckeye Scholarship. He is entering his senior year at Oklahoma State University, majoring in agricultural business with a minor in marketing. Upon graduation, he plans to pursue a master's degree in international agriculture before advancing to a career in agricultural sales.

This year marked Kottkamp's 22nd consecutive JNHE. He was just 3 weeks old when he attended his first one in 2001 at Billings, Mont.

Kottkamp says his grandfather is his biggest role model and credits him with instilling the traits Kottkamp carries through life, including making connections, working with people,

being respectful and living life to the fullest. Kottkamp also credits his accomplishments to mentors and leaders who share his love for the Hereford breed.

The Bluegrass and Buckeye Scholarship is made possible by the Kentucky and Ohio Hereford Associations, alongside HYFA.

Charles E. Boyd Memorial Scholarship

Lauren McMillan, Tiskilwa, Ill., received the Charles E. Boyd Memorial \$1,500 scholarship. She is a fourth-generation Hereford breeder with extensive involvement in the NJHA, as well as in leadership activities and community service. She recently retired from the NJHA board of directors. McMillan says her involvement within the NJHA has been the most influential component in her life and inspires her to strive toward her future endeavors.

McMillan began pursuing her master's degree this fall at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in the College of Media, studying strategic brand communication. She plans to work at Caterpillar Distribution during this time, with hopes to find a career within the agricultural industry, where she can remain an energetic advocate for the Hereford breed and beef cattle.

"By staying involved in our industry, I hope to continue the leadership focus and professional development of the youth so that one day new leaders can improve our breed another step," McMillan says.

The Charles E. Boyd Memorial Scholarship honors the legacy of



Bluegrass and Buckeye Scholarship winner **Dylan Kottkamp**, Clayton, Ind.

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

The Charles E. Boyd Scholarship provides assistance to young people in the Hereford breed who plan to attend college and pursue a degree in agriculture.

“It is an honor to represent the Charles E. Boyd Scholarship,” says Suzanne Matheny, daughter of Charles Boyd. “The quality of candidates gets stronger each year. The future of the Hereford breed is in good hands.”

John Wayne Memorial Scholarship

Libby Rushton, Waverly, Tenn., was awarded the \$2,000 John Wayne Memorial Scholarship. She will graduate from the University of Tennessee at Martin in December 2023 with degrees in agricultural business, political science and business administration. Her goal is to be a public relations or political representative for an agricultural company or organization.

“No matter what my future holds, I hope to always be involved in my family’s farming operation, especially continuing to raise and exhibit Hereford cattle,” Rushton says. “I hope to build my future on the strong foundation that the Hereford community laid within me.”

Raising her voice for the agricultural industry and the Hereford breed is a

passion for Rushton. She finds ways to express her voice through leadership positions such as the NJHA board of directors. She was elected to the board in 2020 and recently retired.

Rushton values honesty, integrity, kindness, dependability, responsibility and courage. Through her work in her communities, leadership and the Hereford breed, she has displayed these qualities and works to achieve her goals.

The John Wayne Memorial Scholarship is awarded each summer to a deserving college student who has made outstanding contributions to the agricultural industry and Hereford breed. The award is presented in remembrance of John Wayne — a legendary actor, agriculturalist and Hereford breeder.

NOP Founders Scholarship

Bryden Barber, Channing, Texas, received the \$2,000 National Organization of Poll-ette’s (NOP) Founders Scholarship. He began his senior year at Oklahoma State University this fall, pursuing a bachelor’s degree 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.

Barber plans to pursue a master’s degree in animal reproduction. He hopes to return home to begin his own cow-calf operation.

With the scholarship in mind, Barber says, “One avenue that I would like to pursue is a study-abroad program. I have reviewed several programs, and I have a particular interest in one that travels to Argentina

to compare their production agriculture practices to those that we use in the United States.”

The NOP Founders Scholarship was established in 2003 in honor of the women who laid the foundation for the National Organization of Poll-ette’s, which was organized in 1965 and is now known as the National Hereford Women (NHW).

Bud Snidow Award

Molly Biggs, Dixon, Ill., was awarded the \$2,500 Bud Snidow Award. She is a senior at Kansas State University, majoring in agricultural communications and journalism with dual minors in animal sciences and industry and mass communication. She is focused on a career in the agricultural industry, advocating for the livestock industry and increasing transparency between producers and consumers.

“It is the job of agricultural communicators to help bridge the gap between farm to fork and share the stories of the 1% that feed the 100%,” Biggs says. “Using my journalism, photography, videography, design and social media skills, I aim to reach audiences of all kinds and share the story of agriculture.”

Each year the NHW honor Bud Snidow, past AHA employee and Hereford historian, with a custom made buckle, and for the first time this year, a \$2,500 scholarship. 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.



Charles E. Boyd Sr. Memorial Scholarship winner Lauren McMillan, Tiskilwa, Ill.



John Wayne Memorial Scholarship winner Libby Rushton, Waverly, Tenn.



NOP Founders Scholarship winner **Bryden Barber**, Channing, Texas.



Bud Snidow Award winner **Molly Biggs**, Dixon, Ill.



Junior Hereford Herdsman of the Year and Walter and Joe Lewis High Point Senior Award winner **Dylan Kottkamp**, Clayton, Ind.

Walter and Joe Lewis High Point Senior Award and Junior Hereford Herdsman of the Year

Dylan Kottkamp, Clayton, Ind., garnered the coveted Walter and Joe Lewis High Point Senior Award, which honors overall achievement in leadership, teamwork, skills and competition throughout the JNHE. Kottkamp received a custom buckle and \$1,000 scholarship.

The Walter and Joe Lewis High Point Senior Award goes to the high-point exhibitor in the senior division at the JNHE. NJHA members receive points for participating in a variety of JNHE programs and activities. The senior with the most points on the final day of the event receives the award.

Kottkamp was also selected as the 2023 Hereford Junior Herdsman of the Year, for which he received a \$2,500 scholarship sponsored by HYFA and Sullivan Supply.

Recipients of the hard-won Hereford Junior Herdsman award are recognized for their efforts at the JNHE and

their work ahead of the event. They demonstrate a tremendous work ethic coupled with knowledge about the Hereford breed and beef industry. The nominees for the award are selected by a nomination committee, then voted on by their peers throughout the week of the JNHE.

Kottkamp, son of Dale and Lesli Kottkamp, is a senior at Oklahoma State University, majoring in agribusiness with a pre-law option. He is the third generation in his family to raise Hereford cattle. This was the Kottkamp family's 27th JNHE and Dylan's 22nd.

After graduation, Kottkamp hopes to pursue a graduate degree in international agriculture and continue his involvement within the Hereford breed.

"It is a great honor and privilege not only to be a part of this organization, but to also be surrounded by like-minded people with the same goals and interests as mine," Kottkamp says. "Winning the junior herdsman award is a goal I set for myself at a young age and is an honor to earn as I close out my final JNHE."

Faces of Leadership Travel Scholarships

The NHW awarded \$400 travel scholarships to 11 recipients attending the 2023 Faces of Leadership Conference. The NHW has worked hard to support Hereford juniors and ensure their future success. Through leadership development programs, such as the Faces of Leadership Conference, NHW encourages young people to further develop invaluable skills for their futures. This was the first year for these scholarships. Recipients were selected via a random drawing. This year's recipients are **Kendall Boatman**, Rockford, Ill.; **Will Beckley**, Irvine, Ky.; **Tymber Billman**, Blackfoot, Idaho; **Sarah Callicott**, Only, Tenn.; **Matthew Elzemeyer**, Richmond, Ind.; **Rhett Lehman**, Sullivan, Ill.; **Emma Lewis**, Litchfield, Ohio; **Kaylee Lunsford**, Fort Scott, Kan.; **Jeb Painter**, Gandeville, W.V.; **Caden Perry**, Tower Hill, Ill.; and **Rainey Snedden**, Maricopa, Calif. **HW**



Faces of Leadership Travel Scholarship winners, pictured (l to r): **Kendall Boatman**, Rockford, Ill.; **Will Beckley**, Irvine, Ky.; **Tymber Billman**, Blackfoot, Idaho; **Sarah Callicott**, Only, Tenn.; **Matthew Elzemeyer**, Richmond, Ind.; **Rhett Lehman**, Sullivan, Ill.; **Kaylee Lunsford**, Fort Scott, Kan.; and **Jeb Painter**, Gandeville, W.V. Not pictured: **Emma Lewis**, Litchfield, Ohio; **Caden Perry**, Tower Hill, Ill.; and **Rainey Snedden**, Maricopa, Calif.