

# Looking Back, Moving Forward

by **Tar Tut**

As we look forward to next year's VitaFerm® Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE), I want to take this opportunity to share my perspective, as the new chairman of the National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA).

This past year was nothing short of incredible. Hundreds of juniors made a "Mad Dash to the Hereford Bash," in Madison, Wis., for JNHE, competing in contests, showing cattle and making memories along the way.

It is no small feat to put on a show as big as the JNHE, but the crew behind the scenes at the American Hereford Association (AHA) do an incredible job supporting the NJHA,

its junior board and its members in all that they do. I would be remiss if I did not give a big shoutout to Amy Cowan, Bailey Clanton and Chloé Fowler for the attention they put into ensuring all juniors have the best week of the summer. Along with that, staff at the AHA are essential, like Jack Ward and Shane Bedwell, for the leadership and guidance they share. The final shoutout is to the communications team for the incredible coverage during the JNHE. If you have not seen photos or videos from the best junior national in the country, be sure to look at Facebook or Instagram.

We, as a breed, are blessed to have such an incredible team who truly love what they do.



Tar Tut, NJHA Chairman

and Kathy. The second opportunity is the Faces of Leadership Conference, which is held in a new location every year, with assistance from the Coley-Malir Leadership Endowment; thanks, Rick and Bonnie. Both offer juniors a great opportunity to

break out of their shells and truly become leaders.

## Vision for the future

As we embark toward the next junior national, our vision remains clear and ambitious. We will continue to embrace change, not merely as a response to external forces, but as a catalyst for growth while building a pipeline of leaders.

The coming year will be marked by strategic planning, enabling us to seize opportunities and overcome challenges.

I am incredibly optimistic about the year ahead. I urge our members to embrace the things they learned this summer and bring it back to their schools, communities and any activities they may be involved in and become the leaders they are meant to be.

I know the junior board is proud of each member's accomplishments and looks forward to navigating the future with positivity and enthusiasm. Together, we will embrace the possibilities that lie ahead and be secure in the knowledge that our shared values and commitment will propel us to even greater heights. **HW**

## Empowering our juniors

NJHA's greatest asset is our talented members. Throughout the year, we made an effort to empower young people with tools and resources to excel in their everyday lives. Investing in professional development and fostering a collaborative environment allows juniors to unleash their full potential and contributes to leadership development.

There are many great opportunities for juniors to enhance their leadership skills through two annual leadership conferences. The first one is the BOLD Conference in Desdemona, Texas, at the GKB Hi-Point Ranch. BOLD is made possible by Gary and Kathy Buchholz's generosity; thanks, Gary



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