

# the advantage



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**Tamar Adcock**

2347 E. 1300 N. Rd. Assumption, IL 65210,  
217-820-0964, tadcock@ksu.edu

### Vice chairman:

**Krissi McCurdy**

1284 New Hope Rd., Chatsworth, GA 30705,  
706-847-8994, krissim2011@gmail.com

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**Jaime Hanson**

37590 110th St., Comfrey, MN 56019,  
507-276-8237, jaime\_lh\_30@hotmail.com

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**Courtney Tribble**

5624 144th St. E., Puyallup, WA 98375,  
253-279-4683, tripletfarms@comcast.net

### Leadership chair:

**Keysto Stotz**

P.O. Box 40, Skiatook, OK 74070,  
918-636-3627, keysto-stotz@utulsa.edu

### Fundraising chair:

**Shelby Rogers**

171 CR 407, Hamilton, TX 76531,  
214-676-9225, showingshelby@yahoo.com

### Directors:

**Kristin Bielema**

P.O. Box 550, Ada, MI 49301, 616-262-6681,  
bielemak@msu.edu

**Austin Buzanowski**

4365 Custer Frontage Rd., Pompeys Pillar, MT  
59019, 406-839-1255, abooze74@yahoo.com

**Elise Hackett**

1170 E. U.S. Hwy. 36, Tuscola, IL 61953,  
217-621-6864, elise.hackett@yahoo.com

**Brady Jensen**

P.O. Box 197, Courtland, KS 66939,  
785-614-1645, basketballjensen@gmail.com

**Jason May**

3523 270th St. E., Randolph, MN 55605,  
507-339-8248, Jason.may@jacks.sdstate.edu

**Matt Woolfolk**

1716 Old Lewisburg Hwy., Columbia, TN 38401,  
731-571-3265, matthewwoolfolk@gmail.com

### Director of Youth Activities

**Amy Cowan**

P.O. Box 014059, Kansas City, MO 64101  
816-842-3757, acowan@hereford.org

**JrHereford.org**

## national junior hereford association newsletter — Fall 2012



**Tamar**

In a world where the common theme always seems to come down to one word – MORE – we tend to never be satisfied with what we have. I'll be the first to admit that I am guilty of always wanting something more – new jeans (my weakness), more show heifers, the latest fads – you name it; I'm sure at some point we have begged our parents for it.

Am I right? What if I told you to take a step back, take a deep breath and start thinking about all you do have? Could you do it? Now, I am not talking about those material items – that new car, your new phone, etc. – I want you to dig deeper, think of the things that you have that you can not necessarily see.

When the Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE), PRIDE (Program for Reaching Individuals Determined to Excel) Convention and state fair were over, that only meant one thing – school.

Yes, I will be honest I wasn't exactly ready to be eight hours from home, again. But when I arrived back to K-State's campus this fall, those things that you can't necessarily see became very evident to me. Is this a sign of growing up? Quite possibly, but hey it happens to the best of us, right? Suddenly, I began to realize how much I really do have in my life.

Hopefully, when you thought of things you do have, you came up with your friends. Being part of the livestock industry and the Hereford breed gives us the opportunity to meet and make friends with people who share the same passion and love as us. Not to mention the chance to make friends with people from all over the country.

As our senior showmanship judge said this summer, "These people who we are meeting and making friends with will become our lifelong friends, husbands, brides, groomsmen, bridesmaids." So parents, I guess you better watch who we are hanging out with.

Another thing that should have come to mind is your family. Those people standing outside the showing on show day are the people we shouldn't take for granted, but more often than not, we do. Without our parents, siblings, mentors, whoever it may be, we would not receive the same experiences and opportunities that we have been able to take advantage of. So, be sure to thank those people who are following behind your heifer and carrying all the supplies as you head to the ring.

Finally, we all should be thankful for the opportunities that we are able to take advantage of. Opportunities such as the JNHE, PRIDE Convention and even showing cattle in general are not something we should take for granted. Someone, somewhere is fighting for our freedom: and yes, that freedom allows us the opportunity to exhibit cattle and attend shows. Beginning to hit home, now? I know I would not be where I am in life without my involvement in the cattle industry.

The ability to attend JNHE and PRIDE are opportunities – so take advantage of them. Step outside your comfort zone and seize the opportunity that is staring you in the face. Speaking from experience, I promise you won't ever regret it. The next time you start to feel like you don't have anything or you need more – just think about the Hereford summer at JNHE and PRIDE you just had, or the text conversation from your friend who doesn't even live in the same state as you, or your family who is behind you every step of the way. I once heard, "What if you woke up one morning and the only things you had were the things you thanked God for the day before."

Well, what would you have? ✨



by Elise Hackett

On behalf of the National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) board members, I am honored to thank all of the sponsors. Without the continued support, the NJHA would not be as successful as it is.

We would also like to thank all of the state silent auction basket donors, bidders and buyers for their purchases. Not only did you walk away with some great items, you also assisted the state

# Thank You Sponsors

and national associations. This year we raised more than \$17,000 and the money that is funded through the silent auctions and sponsorships go towards numerous activities such as state associations and state shows, as well as PRIDE Convention and junior board member travels.

This year's Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE) was a record-setting event, having 1,231 entries being exhibited by more than 660 Hereford youth. Great job Hereford juniors! An event such as the JNHE is no small feat to put on and it would not be possible if it were not for all of the generous sponsors like Sure Champ and Sullivan Supply/Stock Show U, as well as the countless ranch and farm sponsors.

All of the events that are offered at the JNHE such as the illustrated speech contest and mentor/protégé program help to enhance the junior members' abilities and leadership

qualities. Without the support of sponsors, these experiences would not be available to the juniors.

The NJHA calendar is the board's largest fundraiser and we work hard each fall to fill the 365 days on the calendar so that we may travel and represent the junior organization at shows and events. A huge thank you is in order for all of the 2013 calendar sponsors, whether you ran a small ad, 12 ads or a large ad, we appreciate each and everyone of you.

It truly is a great experience to be a part of an association that has so much support and so many great people to fall back on. All of the assistance given, whether it is financially or emotionally, is what helps to make the members of the NJHA as successful as they are. That is what makes being a part of this association such a great experience. Thank you for your generosity. ✨



## Meet Our New Advisor Team:

# Bob & Jami Goble

by Keysto Stotz

Each year the National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) elects a set of new advisors that assist the board in their meetings and activities for a term of three years. In Grand Island, the board said goodbye to longtime advisors Mark

and Teresa McClintock, who dedicated many years to serving the NJHA. This year the board welcomes Bob and Jami Goble of Alto, Mich., to take their place. Bob and Jami have many years of experience and a passion for Hereford cattle and the young people who show them.

The Gobles have been happily married for 14 years. They have been blessed with three boys – Max, Grant and Nolan, and a teenage daughter, Hailey. Bob grew up in Ontario, Canada, on a Charolais farm. His parents were a livestock transporter and a hospital secretary. Jami grew up in Huntington, Ind., on a Hereford farm. Her dad was a farmer and mom was a secretary at the county office. Both enjoyed a childhood that was rich with the cattle industry. Their mutual passion for cattle brought them together.

Fourteen years of hard work and dedication led them to their dream, owning and managing Ridgeview Farm in Alto. Bought from the previous owner, Burt Lake, they have succeeded in their goal. Calving 130 cows a year and having a production sale hosted the second Sunday in October, there is never a dull moment at the Goble residence.

Over the last 10 years, Bob and Jami have been working hard to get their name out in the industry. With a successful sale, judging opportunities around the nation and continuously influencing the people around them, there

is no stopping them. They offer proven cows, herd bulls, show steers, heifers and replacement heifers. The Gobles are very dedicated to the Hereford breed, and by meeting them and taking a look at their cattle, it is evident.

Not only are Bob and Jami involved in the breed, but the associations and juniors involved with the Hereford breed as well. They have held offices in the Michigan Hereford Association, served as Michigan junior advisors for four years, and now have been honored with the position as advisors for the national junior board. Development within the junior association is important for Bob and Jami, and they do everything they can to help youth be successful by traveling to shows and instilling the juniors with insight on management skills and showing techniques.

They are extremely excited and honored to be appointed to the advisory position and have a lot to bring to the table to start bettering the future. By bringing a strong set of family values, and enforcing the importance of hard work, honesty and dedication to making every single juniors' showing experience memorable and gratifying. "The thought of having all the Goble children one day showing the best cattle at the best show on earth, while having a fantastic time with family is truly what memories are made of," Bob and Jami said.

The NJHA board is glad to have the Gobles' knowledge and expertise for the next few years. They have a diverse background and a passion for Herefords, combined with a passion for youth and believe that agriculture is the best way to raise their children. They believe it is the best way for young people to develop good morals, work ethic and to have a great time with people who enjoy doing the same things they do. We welcome the Gobles and look forward to the next three years with them as our national advisors. ✨

# Don't Miss Out

**JNHE contests and activities offer benefits to all juniors.**

*by Austin Buzanowski*

There are many contests offered by the NJHA at the Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE) that offer much benefit to all juniors. The more popular ones such as basketball and showmanship are fun; however, there are many more beneficial opportunities that we miss out on. It is a week packed full of activities, but unless you make an effort to participate, you are really missing out.

## **Team marketing**

Team marketing gives you a real-world simulation of selling your product – Hereford cattle. The main focus of the contest is to promote communication, marketing and an understanding of performance and pedigree information. This allows you to take the knowledge that you have about your animal and present it to another person.

The best part about this contest is that you can be with two other individuals and work together, learning from each other, to present your product. Additionally, it is a real-world contest, as everyday Hereford breeders we work on marketing and presenting our Hereford genetics to the best of our abilities.

## **CHB Grill-off**

Another contest is the Great American CHB Grill-off. This contest was designed for fun, but it also takes a lot of skill as you work with your teammates to prepare the ultimate backyard feast. You are tested on your knowledge of cuts of meat and how they are used and also on the presentation of your meal. Your presentation can even be theme oriented with music and proper attire. Bring your chef creativity and compete

to earn the title of "Hereford Grillmaster" as we promote our end product – Certified Hereford Beef (CHB).

## **New contests for 2013**

A new contest that will debut next year is pre-peeewee showmanship. It will be available to younger Hereford enthusiasts who have not reached minimum showing age. In order to compete, participants must be between the ages of five and seven, as of the day of the show and have an older relative that is exhibiting at the JNHE. The "pre-peeewee" must also be accompanied in the ring by a relative over the age of fourteen. This contest is an inside look for prospective showmen looking to participate at junior nationals. This will give them a jump start on their showing career and will hopefully provide them with a good experience that encourages them to keep showing once they are old enough to compete.

Another contest that is in the works is a state super stakes award. Members will earn points for all contests that they participate in which will contribute to the state total. The purpose of sweepstakes is to encourage more juniors to participate in all aspects of the JNHE and work with their state towards a common goal – earn all the points possible to win. This will encourage competition amongst states and provide bragging rights to the winner for the next year. There will also be an award presented at the end of the week to the top state winners. The contest will be split up into divisions based on state size. This contest is still a work-in-progress with many details left to be determined; however, it will be introduced in 2013.



## **Mentor program**

Other activities are also available such as the mentor program, which certainly offers opportunity for participants to gain useful qualities and skills. You may not be learning about the industry, but by working with younger members you gain leadership skills. You are a role model for younger kids and it benefits them to interact with an older member. Even if it is just assembling recycling boxes, the bonds and interactions that take place create an enjoyable environment for younger members.

There are an abundant amount of opportunities to compete that are not mentioned here. To find more information about contests mentioned above or others that are offered go to the "Contests/Awards" page at [JrHereford.org](http://JrHereford.org). ✨





# JNHE Ambassador Program Is a Success

by Jaime Hanson

The 2012 Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE) was yet another success partially due to four outstanding ambassadors. These four individuals definitely got a taste of what it is like to help put on one of the largest junior beef breed shows in the nation – from early mornings to late nights of assisting nearly 2,000 exhibitors, family and friends.

The ambassador program was new this year. We had several individuals apply for the four positions. Our final decision was challenging as we wish we could have brought all applicants on board for the weeklong event. The individuals receiving the positions were seen throughout the week of JNHE “Livin’ the Hereford Life” during arrival, contests, banquet, in the show office and everywhere in between.

**Sarah Wright**, a senior agriculture education major at the University of Arkansas with a minor in agriculture communications and poultry science, had the position of technology assistant. She spent the majority of her week as show office personnel, answering questions, entering data and helping wherever needed.

“Being an ambassador was a whole new world to me,” Sarah says. “I’ve shown market livestock all around the country, but being at a show as large as Hereford Junior Nationals, where it is a group of people all together to show one breed, was something I’ve never gotten to be a part of before.”

“There is a passion and drive the Hereford folks have that isn’t present in everyday life, they are compassionate towards one another, they are striving for the same goal and I learned in that week and a half that a Hereford showman has never met a stranger. The work was hard, the hours were long and the sleep was vague, but the memories, experiences and contacts I was able to gain from being an ambassador for the 2012 Hereford Junior Nationals are some that will remain with me forever,” she adds.



*Pictured (l to r): Luke Bolin, Meghan Black, NJHA intern Bailey Clanton, Sarah Wright and Alyssa Fee worked behind the scenes to ensure a smooth JNHE event.*

**Luke Bolin**, a senior agriculture communications major at the University of Arkansas, was the operations assistant. Luke is a director for the American Junior Shorthorn Association and had already spent a long week in Grand Island, but wanted to see how another junior beef breed association ran their junior nationals, so he stuck around for another week. He helped during arrival, trying to find tie-out spots for everyone, helped coordinate both people and cattle check-in, and also made sure things were going as planned in the showing.

“I had an absolute blast,” Luke says. “Working with the AHA staff was an amazing experience; even through the long hours and stressful times, they always found a way to make it fun and entertaining. The other ambassadors were awesome too. Getting to know them and learning about their experiences was great. I can say I have three new friends. Being on the Shorthorn junior board, I know how hard a board works to make junior nationals a success. It was my honor to assist the Hereford junior board with all their responsibilities throughout the week. I didn’t really know what to expect coming into the week, and I did a little of everything, but I loved being

able to expand my experience and knowledge of the junior events in breed associations. I cherished my time with the Hereford association, even if it was just for a week. I felt like I was a part of the Hereford family by the end of that week.”

**Meghan Black**, a senior animal science major at Nova Scotia Agricultural College and past Canadian Junior Hereford Association president, was the contest coordinator. Meghan had a little different reflection on her experience.

“I got into contact with Matt early last year and he talked about PRIDE and the ambassador program. I brought back both ideas to my council at our national meeting,” Black says. “When I boarded that plane in Bangor, Maine, I had no idea what was in store for me as I headed to Nebraska. I had always heard so much about your Junior

National and how big and amazing it was, but it didn’t sink in to how big until I got there and watched the cattle walk by the office window from hour to hour as they went through the processing. I wanted this trip to be something I could bring back to my council, be able to compare our junior shows and have solid ideas on how to change and improve ours in different aspects. My week as an ambassador I was in charge of competitions. I was very fortunate to be able to meet so many amazing young junior members and their parents too! To be able to see the love and compassion these kids have for the Hereford breed, made me very proud. Whether it had been timing the peewee speeches, or helping up in the Foundation Club washing dishes, I loved every minute of this adventure and being a part of the junior ambassador program. It’s one of those things I certainly would have regretted if I hadn’t done.

“Between all the ups and down, the memories we made along the way, the friendships certainly are what will stay with us. It was certainly an honor and privilege of mine to have been chosen as an ambassador,” she adds.

# Junior Spotlight:

## Locke St. John

**Alyssa Fee**, a junior animal science major at Tennessee Technological University and past Tennessee State FFA officer, was a helpful event coordinator. Alyssa found herself in charge of opening ceremonies and the awards banquet. She made sure that the flags and juniors were where they were supposed to be, helped align all of the awards for both events and communicated with the food providers.

"As tired as I was after the week it was an awesome experience," Alyssa says. "I sure had a lot of fun and learned a lot. Being a kid already involved in the Hereford industry, I may have had a little different viewpoint on my experience. The ambassador program gave me the opportunity to get a more in-depth look into our breed and junior programs. I enjoyed meeting all the staff and really getting to know the junior board. I'll be the first to say, I would have loved to have been there showing and hanging out with my friends, but the ambassador program got me just as excited as if I would of been in the ring showing. It was great to see the excitement of everyone as they came into the show office. The experience gave me a whole new level of love and excitement for our breed and where our breed and association is headed. My favorite part of being an ambassador was the direct involvement with the juniors and parents from across the country and also the staff."

The 2012 JNHE was probably one of the smoothest JNHEs thus far and much of that is due to the efforts of these four individuals working alongside of the NJHA board, AHA staff and volunteers from the host state of Nebraska.

The first year of the JNHE Ambassador Program was a learning experience for everyone, but it was also a big asset. It is a program that we plan to continue to incorporate. I encourage any high school graduate and beyond to look into this opportunity for next year as you gain a lot of experience, network with industry leaders, and be of assistance at one of the nation's leading junior beef breed associations.

Thank you again Sarah, Luke, Meghan and Alyssa for being our guinea pigs and doing a marvelous job. ✱

by Jason May



Not often do you come across a young man who has two completely different passions in life. Not many people would think baseball and showing cattle go hand in hand, but for Locke, they do. Being able to juggle both, and still be very successful, not only in the showing but also on the field is quite a task, but somehow Locke has done it.

Kenton Locke St. John grew up on a purebred operation in Pell City, Ala. Dry Creek Farms is where he found his passion for the Hereford breed. He started working on cattle at the young age of five.

Locke has been an active youth member of the National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) since age 7 when he started his career off in Sioux Falls, S.D. He has been to every Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE) since his first chance back in 2001. This year in Grand Island, Neb., was the first JNHE he was not able to attend in 11 years. Locke has had a very successful show career as he is a standout in the showmanship ring and has proved this since a very young age. In 2003, at the age of 10, Locke won the peewee showmanship contest in Indianapolis. Since then he has not let up as he has been honored as a top 10 individual three times. In 2008, Locke was also rewarded a reserve division at JNHE in Kansas City. He also has shown in the open and junior shows in Louisville and Denver.

Another huge part of Locke's life is his baseball career. He found his love for baseball when he was 5 years old. He has been in love with the game since that very first day. Not often do I see Locke where he is not checking scores or talking about the game he loves. He worked very hard in high school so he could meet his goal of playing college ball. His senior year all of his hard work paid off as he was selected to be on the all-state team. Not only did Locke show off his talent and hard work to fellow coaches, he was awarded

the chance to play college ball. He is following his dream and playing at Southern Union State Community College in Wadley, Ala., and has recently committed to play baseball next year at South Alabama.

I was privileged to get the chance to spend a few days with Locke this summer at the Program for Reaching Individuals Determined to Excel (PRIDE) Convention. Locke is a very outgoing young man and is never afraid to talk to someone new.

He showed me in those few days in Michigan that he is a strong leader and a good friend. He was able to connect with everyone there, whether it was 11-year-old Cash Langford, or showing a very strong sign of respect to our guest speakers.

Locke showed me he is not only devoted to showing and raising cattle, or playing baseball, but he also is a strong leader. Locke directly shows his leadership roles both in the cattle industry and on the ball field. He has always been a strong leader on the field, and showed that last year when he had to enter a new team, filled with 50 new teammates to get along with. Locke has spent an entire year getting to know his new teammates and told me "they have become more than friends, they are a family for me." Locke also has made his friends in the cattle industry into his family as well.

In a conversation with Locke just the other day, he once again talked to me about cattle and baseball. Locke amazes me how he can be so passionate about both. He knows cattle as if he has been raising them for 50 years.

Locke has goals of playing professional baseball and coming back home to the farm, and following his dream of running the cow herd and hopes to stay as true to his roots as he can in the next few years as he works towards his baseball dream. Nothing would mean more to Locke than to have the chance to follow his dreams, one way or the other. ✱



# *NJHA Perspective:*

## World Hereford Conference Highlights

by Shelby Rogers

Calgary, Alberta, Canada, home of the Calgary Stampede and host of the 2012 World Hereford Conference (WHC) eh? As soon as I stepped off the plane I knew it was going to be a great experience, and I also had to get my jacket from my bag.

Upon arriving at the hotel and meeting up with the other National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) directors in attendance – Courtney and Matt – we listened to the country reports.

With 20 countries represented from countries such as Kazakhstan to Sweden and Estonia to Uruguay, this was very interesting to hear how the numbers and practices varied compared to those we have in the U.S.. For example in Hungary, Hereford breeding started 42 years ago with 110 heifers from Great Britain. The South African Hereford Breeder's Association will celebrate its 95th Anniversary during 2012. I was also very impressed with Uruguay and their Uruguay Hereford Beef program.

The next day we spent time at the Calgary Stampede listening to speakers such as Dave Daley who spoke about crossbreeding and heterosis. After listening to the speakers it was time to venture out around the Calgary Stampede grounds and Heather Bradford, winner of the OXO World Traveler scholarship, puts my thoughts to words in her blog. "I was impressed with how supportive the Stampede was in promoting the WHC. The educational display depicting common beef production practices featured Hereford cattle," Bradford said.



We attended the Calgary Stampede UFA Classic Steer Show and during their opening ceremonies we realized Brandon Callis was the judge when he rode out with the announcer on a horse drawn buggy. It was interesting to see how differently the Canadians show compared to us; I even think the few kids from the U.S. got kind of confused when they showed. They even had people who were showing from age 7 to 70. It was a great experience to watch a steer show in Canada and see how it compared to what I am used to in Texas.

The next few days we spent our time at Olds Agriculture Society Grounds watching the National Junior Bonanza Show, the WHC National Hereford Open Show, Rancher Day and the WHC Hereford Pen Show.

The best part about the National Junior Bonanza show is that they allowed the juniors from all the different countries to participate, but they were told to show in their home countries show attire. We saw people showing in khakis and ties and even long skirts. It was very neat to see how the show culture varied among the countries. There was about 500 head of cattle competing in separate polled and horned shows.

According to Bradford, "It was interesting to listen to the conversations on the bus on the way back to Calgary. Many of the international guests were amazed by the size of the show.

"One comment was that the largest Hereford show in their area was 160 head. And yet there were probably close to 500 owned polled heifers at our Junior National Hereford Exposition. We really are fortunate to have such a large junior association in the U.S.," Bradford concluded.

The final day was Rancher's Day Pen Show. This was fun to watch because the cattle were judged from horses. Women judged the cows and men judged the bulls.

The trip to the World Hereford Conference is something that will be remembered for the rest of our lives. Meeting people from all these other countries and seeing how things are different from here to Canada was a great experience. But I know one thing that remained the same whether you were from Canada, the U.S., Australia, South Africa or any other country – the passion for the Hereford breed. Everyone there shared the same passion for the Hereford breed no matter what language they spoke or what country they were from. And this is one of the best things about raising Herefords. ✨



by Brady Jensen

The definition of livestock judging is the evaluation of an animal's characteristics and making a comparison to other animals and the ideal standard of that particular class. Sure, that's what it is all based around, but it's all that and a whole lot more. Livestock judging is fun, exciting



**Livestock**

and extremely competitive. Taking the initiative to judge at the collegiate level is another experience in itself. The judging competition at the Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE) is only a glimpse into a very large pool of opportunities.

Livestock judging is more than just a contest. Judging has been around the collegiate level for close to 100 years. These programs have been educating students about not only the proper selection of livestock but also, how to be a person with character. Most judging students who have been through a collegiate program, would be willing to say that livestock judging molded them into what they have become today.

Judging is an art and a talent that takes many hours of practice and dedication. Through these many devoted hours of practice a student will learn how to properly reason and make decisions.

The officials give an allotted amount of time, which is normally 12-15 minutes, in which a student must quickly decide a proper alignment of the livestock. After all the classes have been evaluated, the students then prepare oral reasons as to why they lined the class up the way they decided.

In oral reasons, especially at the collegiate level the individual must be a very talented public speaker.

Reasons help one understand how to be confident in their decision and how to present their opinion in a way that has meaning to their thoughts. Reasons are scored on a 0 to 50 scale. Although reasons really benefit a person's public speaking skills, they are actually more so judged upon honesty.



**Judging**



**Builds**



**Character**

So not only does a judge learn how to be confident in their decisions, but also how to back up statements with true and honest facts.

A lot of recent and graduate students that participated in judging that I had visited with before deciding to be a part of a team in college always spoke of connections. I have learned that the connections are endless. Traveling with a judging team provides the opportunity to meet the breeders and producers of some of the best livestock in the country. The connections you make from your own team and the friendships from around the country that are made and could possibly create job opportunities and business ventures after graduation.

Many people that view livestock judging from the outside, don't fully understand why someone would put forth that much time and effort to learn the art of evaluating cattle. Personally, it has been a very unique experience. Another major benefit at the collegiate level, are the very lucrative scholarship opportunities that are available. After experiencing my first year of college it has been put into perspective for me how beneficial these scholastic based opportunities are.

I will admit, some days it is tough to juggle daily student life, with the hours it takes to apply to judging. But you learn time management very fast. You also learn that school is always still first. At most of today's junior colleges the coaches have become very strict on grades. Partially because there is an end of the year award for the top students with the best judging outings called the All American Award, but also because these coaches are assisting their pupils onto senior college. The majority of them participated on livestock judging teams and know how to get a proper schedule set up and in return you will put your best foot forward when you enter senior college.

Judging in college is like a sport to livestock kids. It gives us the opportunity to present our skills while being educated in our degree paths. It is also like college football, many collegiate athletes dream of making the pros, but not all will be professionals, so they use their talents to assist them through school. Being on a livestock judging team doesn't deem you to be a national show judge, but it is a way to create connections, meet friends and all together become a better person. I know not everyone wants to be a part of a collegiate team, but even if you are slightly interested, I would like to encourage you to visit a school near you. ✨





by Kristin Bielema



# PRIDE:

## Program for

## Reaching

## Individuals

## Determined to

## Excel

Shortly after one amazing and successful week at the Junior National Hereford Expo in Grand Island, Neb., 60 Hereford juniors made the trek up to Michigan. July 30 to Aug. 2, Hereford youth joined together for a few days of fun and learning without their cattle for a change. After a little down time and a quick icebreaker, the first guest speaker was Justin Ransom, who works for U.S. supply chain management at McDonald's Corp LLC. Justin spoke mostly of being successful and finding that "one thing" that we strive to do well with.

After a very eventful game night, the next day was filled with a tour and multiple workshops on the campus of Michigan State University. Professors from the MSU Department of Animal Science, namely Dave Hawkins, Dan Buskirk, John Shelle, Sara Wells, Jennifer Dominguez, Ken Metz, Cody Sankey and Dan Grooms, talked to the juniors about meat processing, meat judging, cattle processing, body condition scores,

livestock judging, herd health, livestock body structure and the MSU livestock department. Later that night, the group enjoyed some time at the water park.

The next morning it was time for yet another very inspirational speaker,

Heather Shultz, who spoke about letting go of our problems and trying our best to be positive and make the best of every situation. The juniors played a few games such as the human knot and the trust circle before moving on to some workshops facilitated by the junior board.

Dress codes, parliamentary procedure, and how to properly answer some of the tough questions that juniors might be asked by people, such as PETA representatives, were the topics of interest.

Then began the bus ride to Grand Haven where everyone spent the afternoon playing volleyball, swimming and jumping off of the pier. Then it was off to farm visits at the Bielema's, Grand Meadows Farm in Ada, Mich., for some snacks and a quick tour before heading to Ridgeview Farm owned by the Goble family. After walking around looking at cattle, dinner was served and a brief talk by Michigan representative candidate Lisa Posthumus-Lyons, the fun began with the barn dance. After many outstanding dance numbers were performed, not only by the juniors, but also by our bus driver, everyone filed into the bus dancing to a good ole classic, Shout.

From inspirational speakers to laughs and smiles galore, this year's PRIDE was one to never forget. The many memorable experiences were fun-filled, entertaining and educational. PRIDE was really a trip of a lifetime spent with nothing better than our Hereford family. ✱







by Krissi McCurdy

PRIDE (Program For Reaching Individuals Determined to Excel) Convention 2012 was a memory to go in the books. This was my first opportunity to experience this conference and it was worth every second I spent there.

One of the great highlights of the week was keynote speaker, Heather Shultz. This inspiring woman was born and raised in Michigan and now lives in my great state of Georgia. Heather has been recognized as one of the top motivational speakers for youth in America. Since 1989, her keynote presentations, workshops and leadership training have inspired people everywhere.

"Heather was a very inspirational and enthusiastic speaker," NJHA Board Member Kristin Bielema says. "She believes in young people and the important role they play in our world."

It is that belief that makes her a highly requested national youth speaker. The topic of her motivational speech was Live, Laugh and Lead. Heather describes this as the workshop for people who like to laugh, interact, talk and never sit down. Positive leadership skills including forgiveness, risk taking and teamwork were talked about and PRIDE participants left ready to use the leadership and life skills learned during this workshop.

She was an amazing speaker who was educational, motivational and entertaining. Jessica Middleswarth describes her as a real straightforward speaker who was very interesting to listen to. She kept us on our feet the whole time, and taught us to have fun and live a little. We were not allowed to care about what anyone else thought of us, and we were all able to have a blast. Harrison Smith adds, "She was super fun

# LIVE, LAUGH, LEAD



and showed me what kind of a leader I am and can continue to be."

Heather started out by getting us very active and loud, which is very easy for any teenager. Throughout the presentation she would have us all yell as loud as we could that "I am, not average. But I am, extraordinary." I know from the experience that this quote really hit home with a lot of people. We realized that we are extraordinary. From there she walked us through many activities that were very life touching. I know that each activity meant a lot to me, and I was very thankful for the experience. She taught each and every one of us how to let go of things from our past, and how to forgive the things and people who hurt us.

"She pointed out to me that I am actually extraordinary, not just another person in the crowd," says Blake Tucker from Nebraska. Some of the activities were very life changing and an experience that all in attendance could learn from. She then led team building and leadership activities.

One activity consisted of 10 people holding hands and a hula-hoop. Yes, it was as interesting



as it sounds. Participants had to get the hula-hoop around the circle of people and could not break their hands. She did this to demonstrate that the second and third time you do this activity you will continually get faster. The more you encourage your team the better you will do. That is true in all aspects of life.

Encouragement is the key to being good leaders and team builders. Clearly, Heather Shultz was an amazing woman and speaker. She touched everyone's lives and made it a great experience. ✨



# Meet the Newbies

by Courtney Tribble

In Grand Island, Neb., the National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) board welcomed four new members to the team. Kristin Bielema from Michigan, Brady Jensen from Kansas, Jason May from Minnesota and Elise Hackett from Illinois were elected to three-year terms on the National Junior Board.

## Kristin Bielema



**What was your favorite food as a child?**  
Cheese

**What's one of your favorite quotes?**  
"Keep calm and chase banners"

**What would you name the autobiography of your life?**  
"Loud and Proud"

**What songs are included on the soundtrack to your life?**  
"Strawberry Wine," "Springsteen," "Cruise," "Skeletons," "Wear My Ring," "Fast Cars and Slow Kisses," "Double Wide Dream," "Take a Little Ride," "Pretty Woman," and "September"

**The best part of waking up is?**  
Waking up before your alarm and knowing you can still go back to sleep

**When you have 30 minutes of free time how do you pass the time?**  
Call up my family and friends

**If you were given a yacht, what would you name it?**  
Grand Lady 17P

**What's your favorite line from any movie?**  
"My mama always said, 'Life was like a box of chocolates; you never know what you're gonna get.'"

**If you weren't afraid, you would do what?**  
Well I'm not afraid to do it, but sky diving

**What scares you the most?**  
Clowns

**If you could be a professional at any sport, what would it be?**  
Volleyball or soccer

**If you could drive/ride/or fly anything to work what would it be? Why?**  
My tractor – I don't think that needs explanation

**What famous line did your parents use over and over?**

Remember who you represent

**If you could live in any sitcom what would it be?**  
"Friends"

**If you could perform in the Olympics, what would you like to do?**  
Bobsled or the Luge

**One place you would like to travel to?**  
Australia

**What was the best year of your life and why?**  
This past year – it was full of memorable and life changing events such as making the board and going to college.



## Brady Jensen

**What was your favorite food as a child?**  
Spaghetti

**What's one of your favorite quotes?**  
"Work hard, play harder"

**What songs are included on the soundtrack to your life?**  
"We are Young," and "Rock Me"

**The best part of waking up is?**  
Knowing that there is a whole day ahead of you

**When you have 30 minutes of free time how do you pass the time?**  
Sadly, probably Facebooking

**If you were given a yacht, what would you name it?**  
Bounty Hunter

**If you could be a professional at any sport, what would it be?**  
Basketball – I could play all day

**If you could drive/ride/or fly anything to work what would it be? Why?**  
A sweet F350 of course

**What famous line did your parents use over and over?**  
BRADY ROBERT

**If you could live in any sitcom what would it be?**  
"White Collar"

**If you could perform in the Olympics, what would you like to do?**  
Get the chance to run against the USAIN BOLT

**One place you would like to travel to?**  
New Zealand

**What was the best year of your life and why?**  
2012 – the year's just progressively get better and better



## Elise Hackett

**What was your favorite food as a child?**  
Chips and dip

**What's one of your favorite quotes?**  
"Failure isn't falling down, it's not getting back up"

**What would you name the autobiography of your life?**  
"Lead with Passion"

**What songs are included on the soundtrack to your life?**  
Anything by George Strait

**The best part of waking up is?**  
My mom's homemade biscuits and gravy

**When you have 30 minutes of free time how do you pass the time?**  
Eat and catch up on Twitter

**If you were given a yacht, what would you name it?**  
Proud Mary

**What's your favorite line from any movie?**  
"I'm a stay at home son"

**If you weren't afraid, you would do what?**  
Sky Dive

**What scares you the most?**  
Heights

**If you could be a professional at any sport, what would it be?**  
Basketball

**What famous line did your parents use over and over?**  
"Well if you think that's the right thing to do..."

**If you could live in any sitcom what would it be?**  
"Big Bang Theory"

**If you could perform in the Olympics, what would you like to do?**  
Show cattle

**One place you would like to travel to?**  
Germany



**What was the best year of your life and why?**  
2012 – I was admitted to the University of Illinois, and elected to the NJHA board.



**Jason May**

**What was your favorite food as a child?**  
SpaghettiO's

**What's one of your favorite quotes?**  
"Great cattle and even better people!"

**What would you name the autobiography of your life?**  
"The Life No One Understands"

**What songs are included on the soundtrack to your life?**  
"Even if it Breaks Your Heart," by the Eli Young Band

**The best part of waking up is?**  
Getting to go put calves in the cooler.

**When you have 30 minutes of free time how do you pass the time?**  
Look at sales

**If you were given a yacht, what would you name it?**  
Shameless

**What's your favorite line from any movie?**  
"You do not have enough talent to win on talent alone"... Miracle on Ice.... Herb Brooks

**If you weren't afraid, you would do what?**  
Ride a horse

**What scares you the most?**  
Failure

**If you could be a professional at any sport, what would it be?**  
Beach volleyball

**If you could drive/ride/or fly anything to work what would it be? Why?**

My first car a 1982 Dodge Dakota....it was a 4 speed.

**What famous line did your parents use over and over?**  
Yes, you're always right.

**If you could live in any sitcom what would it be?**  
"Pokémon" (Diamond)

**If you could perform in the Olympics, what would you like to do?**  
Be on the hockey team

**One place you would like to travel to?**  
Alaska

**What was the best year of your life and why?**  
2010 – I met a lot of good friends. ✱

## Next Stop: GRAD SCHOOL



*by Matt Woolfolk*

When a college student is nearing the end of their time at their beloved university, there are a lot of choices left to be made. One of those decisions is whether or not to go to graduate school or to try and enter the work force.

In times when the job market is tight, many more students are leaning towards continuing their education. I am one of those students who decided to stay in school and chose the path of pursuing a master's degree. Now that I have gone through the stressful process of researching, applying and selecting a grad school, I'm going to give you a few tips to help you make a good choice when the time comes.

Going to graduate school isn't for everyone. It's important to have an idea of what type of career you are interested in and if an upper level degree is necessary for that job. As someone who wants to work in a university animal science or ag extension department, I knew that graduate school was a must.

Another point to consider before beginning your search for a school, is what you want to study. In graduate school, you will focus your research on a particular project. Once you get into the classes within your major, some will interest you more than others. For me, I really enjoyed my animal breeding and genetics courses, as well as my beef cattle production classes. That made my decision to look into schools with strong animal breeding and beef cattle programs an easy one.

Once you have an idea of what path you want to take, it's time to search for where that path will lead you and find schools that interest you. One way that finding a grad school is different than choosing an undergraduate school is that you should put more focus on the people within the department you are going to be studying than the university as a whole.

It's still important to go somewhere that you enjoy the town, can handle the weather, is close enough to home for you and those types of factors. But it's crucial to find professors who do research that interests you and you would be willing to work with for at least two years. One piece

of advice that many people gave me: don't be afraid to go somewhere away from where you are. Changing schools for your master's degree gives you a chance to experience working with more people and how they do things. You get to live in a new part of the country and see how production varies from your home area.

Once you find schools with programs that interest you, you will want to spend the fall of your senior year on your applications to these schools. There are lots of forms, paperwork and essays to be done, so it will take some time. Every school's application process is different, so be sure to stay on top of each school's deadlines and that you fully complete all the applications. Not getting to go to the school of your choice due to an incomplete paperwork formality would be horrible, so check and double check everything you submit.

Once you get through the application process, it's time for the worst part of the entire process, waiting. It will be the middle of the spring semester when you start hearing back from the schools you applied to. Hopefully the school that you want to go to the most will give you a fully funded assistantship and your decision will be easily made. However, it's important to have multiple backup plans if things don't work out the way you were hoping.

A school that you thought was a sure thing may have budget restrictions that prevent them from offering you any financial aid, or you may run into a program simply being full and not having space for any more grad students. It can be very stressful trying to make that final decision. It's important to be patient, because it is a long process that draws out over several months. I filled out my first application in October of my senior year. It was the middle of March before I finally chose Texas A&M as my new home. With all that said, it's a very exciting process. Just be sure to do your homework, stay on top of things, and be patient, and you will be happy with the outcome. ✱

# NJHA Dates and Deadlines

**Note:** NO late entries or applications will be accepted after the postmark date of each deadline.

- Nov. 4** American Royal Junior Hereford Show, Kansas City, Mo.  
**Nov. 11** North American International Livestock Exposition Junior Hereford Show, Louisville, Ky.  
**Dec. 6** Western Nugget Junior Hereford Show, Reno, Nev.

## 2013

- Jan. 15** Junior AI deadline  
**Jan. 17** National Western Stock Show Junior Hereford Show, Denver, Colo.  
**March 1** State field day and regional show info due  
**March 1** State officer and director forms due  
**Apr. 1** Spring scholarship deadline  
**May 1** Junior National Hereford Expo paper entry and early bird online entry deadline (No paper entries accepted after this date)  
**June 1** Junior National Hereford Expo FINAL online entry and showmanship deadline (Online only!!!! No late entries accepted)  
Junior National Hereford Expo ownership deadline  
National director candidate nomination form due  
Advisor of the Year Award nominations due  
Photo Contest entries due  
Mentor forms due  
Creative Design entries due  
Walter and Joe Lewis Memorial Award applications due

- June 15** Great American CHB Grill-off recipes and entries due  
State voting delegates due  
National Illustrated Speech Contest applications due  
Peewee Speech Contest applications due  
Extemporaneous Speaking Contest entries due  
Promotional Poster Contest entries due (if unable to attend the JNHE)  
National Scrapbook Contest entries due (if unable to attend the JNHE)  
**July 14-21** Junior National Hereford Expo, Kansas City, Mo.  
**Sept. 15** HYFA scholarship applications due

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P.O. Box 014059  
Kansas City, MO 64101