

by **Lauren Gatz**

A Window of Opportunity

As we approach the Hereford Youth Foundation of America (HYFA) spring scholarship deadline on April 1, keep in mind it isn't just a deadline, but an opportunity awaiting those who choose to accept it.

Established in 1989, HYFA supports youth involved in the Hereford breed. More than just a not-for-profit organization, the foundation plays an important role in shaping the future of our youth, providing them with a window of opportunity to excel in their college and career journeys.

Molly Biggs, three-time HYFA scholarship recipient, attests to the multitude of opportunities

the foundation has provided her. HYFA's support of the youth in our industry goes beyond financial assistance. It's a driving force committed to educating youth, developing their leadership skills and inspiring the younger generation to continue their involvement in the Hereford breed.

HYFA's four pillars — scholarship, leadership, education and research — have played a significant role in shaping Biggs' journey within the National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA). Educational scholarships, sponsorship for leadership conferences like Faces of Leadership and BOLD, investments in educational programs at the Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE) and research programs such as the Fed Steer Shootout have collectively shaped Biggs into the person she is today.

"I can confidently say that I have benefited from each of these initiatives," she says.

While financial support for Hereford youth is crucial, Biggs emphasizes the broader impact of NJHA and HYFA supporting youth regardless of their background or success levels.

"They invest in hard-working, passionate kids who strive to improve and advocate for the Hereford breed and agriculture," Biggs says.



Lauren Gatz, NJHA director

As Biggs ends her successful junior career, she knows her time in the Hereford breed has equipped her for a bright future.

"I am a product of the NJHA and HYFA's support," Biggs says. She realizes the impact the support she received as an NJHA member

has had on her, and she is excited to pay it forward. "I am forever grateful for this journey and all those who have supported me along the way."

As the April 1, HYFA spring scholarship deadline approaches, don't let this window of opportunity slip away. Embrace the opportunity to showcase

your accomplishments and obtain support that can help you reach your education and career goals. **HW**

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— **Molly Biggs, HYFA scholarship recipient**



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