

TWO TIMES THE DREAM

Champion senior showman tops her second JNHE showmanship division and shows off her skills with a set of clippers and a showstick.

by Riley Greiten

Stunned and speechless, Fallon Gohr couldn't find the words to describe what she felt as she was named the champion senior showman during the 25th annual VitaFerm® Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE).

She attended her first JNHE a decade ago. The Madras, Ore., native made the cross-country trek in 2014 to attend the JNHE hosted in Harrisburg, Pa. Gohr left Harrisburg with an early taste of success after winning her division in the horned owned female show. This year, she attended her 11th straight JNHE, and it was her most successful one yet.

Moving up

Gohr is no stranger to the top 10 showmanship lineup. She has placed in the top 10 multiple times.

At the 2022 JNHE, “Banners in the Bluegrass,” Gohr topped the intermediate showmanship division. She moved up into the senior division last year.

“Getting bumped up to senior that next year, I was terrified because I was 17 years old in the senior division,” Gohr says. “Being that young in the senior division was very intimidating.”

Her first foray into senior showmanship last year was disappointing. Gohr didn't even make it to the semifinals. Although this setback was discouraging, Gohr focused on the future.

“I thought, ‘You know, I am the youngest one out here, and I have so many more years in the senior division to get this done,’” Gohr says.

She also knew that one of her greatest showing strengths would pay off in

spades when she would one day make the senior showmanship finals — fitting.

Head of the show barn

Gohr grew up raising cattle on her family's operation, Gohr Cattle Co. Her parents, Brad and Dawn, raised Angus and Simmental cattle, but added Herefords to the fold when Gohr kicked off her show career. Running the ranch is a family affair, with each member playing a part. Gohr and her mom take on a lot of responsibility at the ranch since her father works off the ranch full-time.

“My mom and I really run the ranch, and I primarily run the show cattle part of it,” Gohr says. “They call me the head of the show barn. I make the feeding decisions, do the rinsing, blowing, clipping and fitting, all of that.”



Fallon Gohr, Madras, Ore., reacts after realizing she will be the last one to get a handshake, and be named champion senior showman.



Gohr embraces Chyloh and Tymber Billman, Blackfoot, Idaho, after winning senior showmanship.

Gohr credits many of her skills in the showing to her time spent working on the family ranch. She laughs as she explains how she fine-tuned her clipping skills on calves back home. Her trial-and-error helped Gohr feel confident in clipping and fitting. She has clipped her own show cattle since she was 13 years old.

Fit for the top

This year, Gohr stepped into the showmanship ring with a heifer so dialed in for the class she referred to her as her partner in crime. Together the pair made it out of the first heat, past the semifinals and onto the final round. Just by making the finals, Gohr had met her goal, but she wasn't done yet. She thought back to the countless hours spent in the show barn at home, practicing fitting and clipping. Gohr was prepared to show off her skills.

"I always said that would be my strong suit, when I can get down there and fit and show them that I am capable of the things that happen behind the scenes as well," Gohr says. "Now it's my time to show them that I can do both."

That is just what she did. For 45 minutes, Gohr, alongside the nine other

finalists, fit, clipped and combed their calves until the final few seconds.

When the dust settled, the finalists went back into the ring to compete. At this point, the competitors had participated in multiple heats of showmanship, a semifinal competition and the fitting portion of the finals.

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— Fallon Gohr

"The way that you do the senior competition, I think, is as good of a way as you can think of, to really identify the very best kids at the end of the day," says Jake Scott, senior showmanship judge. "You guys test these kids over and over and over, and the kids that have been successful are the kids that keep proving themselves."

Judges Jake and his wife, Kami, sorted 119 senior competitors to find their top 10. Melissa Grimmel Schaake, 2024 Hereford Herdsman of

the Year, joined the Scotts to evaluate the finalists.

The competition was stiff as the 10 senior finalists funneled back into the ring for one last time. The judges sorted the finalists for nearly half an hour before finding Gohr at the top spot.

For Gohr, making it to the top two, alongside her lifelong friend, Presley Ramey, was already a dream come true. Once the judges passed Gohr to select Ramey as reserve champion showman, she was speechless.

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Support and success

Showing cattle across the nation is not a one-man job, and Gohr's family is her support system. Gohr's parents single-handedly created and grew Gohr Cattle Co. into what it is today, all while toting her and her brother, Gunnar, from state to state to compete at a high level in the showing.

"It means a lot for them to drop everything and drive us across the country and be gone for days," Gohr says. "Definitely, my parents are my

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Gohr spent extra hours working with her "partner in crime" beforehand, ensuring they'd be ready when they made it to the final round of senior showmanship.



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biggest supporters, and they always push me to be my best.”

Along with her family, Gohr says she has had many industry leaders mentor her as she was growing up in the barns. The Buck, Jensen and Brumley families are just a few.

Winning senior showmanship and several divisions in the cattle show made for an outstanding JNHE for the Gohr family this year. However, their success in 2024 didn't begin at the JNHE. Gohr also exhibited the grand

champion horned female at the 2024 Cattlemen's Congress and raised the reserve grand champion Angus female.

“I'm so grateful for the opportunities I've been given this year,” Gohr says. “It has been an amazing year.”

The 18-year-old will start her first semester of college this fall at Linn-Benton Community College (LBCC) in Albany, Ore. Gohr plans to be on the livestock judging team while at LBCC. **HW**



Senior showmanship finals judge and 2024 Hereford Herdsman of the Year, Melissa Grimmel Schaake, shares a hug with Gohr after selecting her as champion.

Etched in History

by *Sydnee Shive*

This year, on the east end of Five Points Bank Arena, underneath the American flag, a handmade trophy etched with the names of every Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE) senior showmanship winner since the first event, sat amongst the clipper boxes, buckles and banners. On the trophy, there are plaques waiting for the next 25 years of winners.

Atop the trophy, a buckle reads: Grand Champion Senior Showman — sponsored by Grimmel Schaake Cattle Co.

Grimmel Schaake Cattle Co., Manhattan, Kan., is owned by National Junior Hereford Association alumna, Melissa Grimmel Schaake, and her husband, Shane. The trophy was created for “The Grand Daddy of ‘Em All” thanks to the duo's partnership with the Hereford Youth Foundation of America (HYFA) and the “Grand Drive to 25” fundraising campaign.

“Being able to support HYFA and the ‘Grand Drive to 25’ is the biggest honor for us. I remember when we were on our way home from last year's JNHE, Shane and I were brainstorming, with the next year being the 25th anniversary. We reached out to Bailey (Clanton) and Amy (Cowan), and we were telling them, ‘We really want to do something big,’” Grimmel Schaake says. “Even though we're not junior members, the JNHE is still our favorite week of the entire year. It's the highlight of our summer, and we really want to be able to give back in a unique and special way.”

Grimmel Schaake attended her first ever JNHE in 2005. She wore pink boots with her jeans and a pink bow in her hair. She made the trip with her sister, Michelle, and she showed just one heifer – “Preference” – but she was hooked.

“On the way home from that very first junior national, we agreed, ‘Man, this is something we have to do every single year,’” Grimmel Schaake says. “And that's just what we did.”

As the years go by, the trophy will continue to be engraved with names. You'll find Grimmel Schaake's name on the trophy, too — about 10 years earlier, in 2016 at her last JNHE, Grimmel Schaake was named champion senior showman.

The JNHE senior showmanship contest is one of the toughest in the country. Anyone can walk into the showing with a calf, but it takes a showman to put together an animal and show them off to the best of their ability. Great showmanship doesn't require a high budget or an exorbitant amount of talent — but it does require hard work, tenacity and a willingness to learn.

“I remember my sisters always saying, ‘Outside of the show, showmanship is your thing,’” Grimmel Schaake says. “Learn how to enhance those strengths and mask those weaknesses and to get the most you can out of that calf. At home we would practice showmanship all the time, constantly, because we knew we'd get along OK in the actual heifer show, but in showmanship, it was all about you. I think it's super special that no matter who you are, where you're from, where your animal is from, being able to showcase your skills through showmanship is huge.”

This trophy is just one way for the couple to give back, and continue to support the event, breed and people they love.

“Shane and I are really proud to invest in these young people. It's really neat to be able to look back down our path and see how things work,” Grimmel Schaake says. “I think it's one of the most prominent showmanship contests across all breeds. Just making the top 10 is such an honor. Being able to physically award these individuals is something that we're extremely proud to do.” **HW**



The trophy dedicated to the grand champion senior showman, sponsored by Grimmel Schaake Cattle Co., Manhattan, Kan.