

SATURDAY



On a rainy Saturday afternoon in Grand Island, Neb., National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) members began unloading their tack and making their stalls for “The Grand Daddy of ’Em All,” the 25th anniversary of the VitaFerm® Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE). As they arrived, they were welcomed to the fairgrounds with smiling faces from American Hereford Association (AHA) staff and volunteers.



SUNDAY



“The Grand Daddy of ’Em All” officially kicked off on Sunday, with more move-in, check-in and a whole host of contests and events. From the written round of Hereford bowl to the NEOGEN DNA collection, the barns were bustling with excitement. The day ended with “The Grand Entry” — complete with a rodeo announcer and cowgirls — a tailgate party, the Hereford Youth Foundation of America (HYFA) 5K and a cornhole tournament.



MONDAY



NJHA members grabbed their pencils and clipboards and started Monday off with the judging contest. VitaFerm t-shirt day was jam-packed with contests, workshops, Queen's Tea and the always-exciting Hereford bowl buzzer round. Then, JNHE attendees put their clipping skills to the test in the Sullivan Supply fitting contest and their networking skills to work at Bridging the Gap.



TUESDAY



Tuesday started with the state group show, followed by the Sullivan Supply national showmanship contest. The top 10 exhibitors from each age group were recognized with a back tag ceremony at the end of the day — a special moment for a special event.



WEDNESDAY



For the second consecutive year, the top five overall bred-and-owned females were selected thanks to the GKB Cattle Youth Endowment. Two trailers were awarded this year, to the grand and reserve grand champion female exhibitors.



THURSDAY



The first owned females stepped in the showing on Thursday, and exhibitors brought their A-game. The competition was fierce inside and outside the showing, and scholarship and contest winners were recognized in the afternoon and evening ceremonies. Four newly elected NJHA directors put on the maroon jacket for the first time, while four others completed their terms.



FRIDAY



“The Grand Daddy of ‘Em All” wrapped up on Friday, and dreams came true on the final day of the JNHE. Champions were named in the owned female show, and high-achieving Hereford enthusiasts received prestigious awards. We look forward to seeing you at “Live from Louisville,” in 2025, in Louisville, Ky., July 12-18.

