

# Boldly Chasing Your Fortune

by Sarah Beth Callicott

“Fortune favors the bold.”

This quote still rings in my memory months after the dust settled on the 25th annual VitaFerm® Junior National Hereford Expo. This message was at the heart of



**Chairman**

Logan McFatrige, [lmcfatrige@gmail.com](mailto:lmcfatrige@gmail.com)

**Vice chairman**

Haley Mouser, [msfherefords@gmail.com](mailto:msfherefords@gmail.com)

**Communications chair**

Salem Sifford, [ssifford366@gmail.com](mailto:ssifford366@gmail.com)

**Membership chair**

Lauren Gatz, [lgatz@ksu.edu](mailto:lgatz@ksu.edu)

**Fundraising chair**

Sam Birdsall, [scb1230@hotmail.com](mailto:scb1230@hotmail.com)

**Leadership chair**

Harlee Watson, [harleewatson1@gmail.com](mailto:harleewatson1@gmail.com)

**Directors**

Emma Ballinger, [ballingereg@icloud.com](mailto:ballingereg@icloud.com)

Matt Bruns, [mattbruns101@gmail.com](mailto:mattbruns101@gmail.com)

Sarah Beth Callicott, [callicottsb@gmail.com](mailto:callicottsb@gmail.com)

Kaylee McInvale, [kayleemcinvale@gmail.com](mailto:kayleemcinvale@gmail.com)

Rylie Meinhardt, [rjmeinhardt@gmail.com](mailto:rjmeinhardt@gmail.com)

Isaac Rhode, [issaceb2021@gmail.com](mailto:issaceb2021@gmail.com)

**Director of youth activities**

Amy Cowan

816-842-3757, [acowan@hereford.org](mailto:acowan@hereford.org)

[JrHereford.org](http://JrHereford.org)

my speech during elections, and I nervously sat through closing ceremonies, waiting to see if I had accomplished one of my biggest dreams: receiving the prestigious maroon jacket. Once the excitement wore off, and I reflected on this huge accomplishment, the quote, “Fortune favors the bold,” continued to play over in my head. It reminds me why I ran for the board in the first place.

I ran for many reasons: to serve the breed, meet new people and experience new things in the beef industry. However, above all, I ran to boldly lead National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) members. I can confidently say that anyone who is bold enough to run will experience all of those things throughout the process, elected or not.

**Sharing my experience**

During my first week on the NJHA board, I had the perfect opportunity to meet new people from all over the country at Faces of Leadership. Working alongside my team, I met new NJHA members. I laughed, learned and led Hereford youth in a week of elite leadership. I witnessed firsthand how impressive our NJHA members are and their potential to advance the Hereford breed. My first Faces of Leadership as a board member was a memorable experience I wish everyone could have.

One of my favorite weeks as a board member, thus far, was the American Hereford Association (AHA) Annual Meeting in Kansas City, Mo. I met with generational breeders, industry professionals and many ranchers who share the same love for the breed. The AHA Annual Meeting was an eye-opening opportunity for this small-town Hereford kid. I recognized how vast our breed is, as well as the passion for our industry, which has been passed down through countless generations.



Sarah Beth Callicott, NJHA director

I’ve traveled across the country and experienced different national shows and viewed elite Hereford genetics. I had a front row seat to the National Western Stock Show in Denver, Colo. As I helped in the historic Stadium Arena showing, I gained a new appreciation for the Hereford breed. History was made right in front of me.

This is just a small glimpse of the countless experiences and reasons to pursue a spot on the NJHA board. Ultimately, you must decide for yourself. Determining your ‘why’ is the first step in becoming bold enough to chase your fortune. The maroon jacket is a dream that must be boldly sought after and pursued with a passion that matches its standard.

My dream of running for the board became a reality on a quiet morning in Tennessee when I realized the only obstacles were my own doubts and fears. A piece of wisdom I was given as I was deciding whether or not to run for the board: “The only difference between you and those in the maroon jacket is that they took the chance.”

That morning, I decided that I would get out of my own way, take the chance and put my fears aside. It was the best decision I ever made. **HW**

