

Continuing the Mission

The Hereford Youth Foundation of America (HYFA) has long been blessed by the foresight and selfless dedication of board members who grow the organization's ability to fulfill its mission.

Thanks to Steve Folkman, Ixonia, Wis., and Nancy Keilty, Cedar, Mich., who retired after decades of dedicated service. As we celebrate their contributions, we're also excited to welcome the energy and leadership of HYFA's new board member, Curtis Curry, McAlester, Okla.

Time well spent

Folkman was recognized during the American Hereford Association (AHA) Annual Meeting in October 2024. He joined the HYFA board in 2009 and spent almost two decades influencing the success of the foundation and the growth and sustainability of the VitaFerm® Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE). Folkman served on the show oversight

committee and helped implement the Growing a Lasting Legacy Campaign, which has grown to more than \$2 million and will help sustain JNHE for generations to come.

Through his avid support of the Lot 1 Foundation Female, Folkman and his family were essential to HYFA's beginnings. The national sale tradition has generated more than \$1 million since 2008. His influence on the board, the Hereford breed's future and HYFA is evident — many milestones were reached during his tenure.

Keilty's HYFA involvement began during the Music on the Mountain Capital Endowment Fundraiser in 2008. She joined the HYFA board in 2009 and was committed to the scholarship committee. She played a key role in establishing the Ball/Cottonwood Springs Farm Scholarship Endowment and concluded her service with a gift that positioned the HYFA to expand opportunities on an international level.

The Cottonwood Springs Farm Global Education and Leadership Endowment was established to support the Young Breeders Competition, held in conjunction with the World Hereford Conference (WHC) every four years. The endowment also includes dedicated funding for a new global grants program, designed to help National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) and AHA members (ages 18-26) participate in international travel and agricultural education experiences. Together, these efforts aim to strengthen global connections and develop a pipeline of future leaders.

In honor of her service, Keilty was recognized during the Shaping the Breed's Future: HYFA Scholarship and Awards Luncheon during the 2025 WHC in Kansas City, Mo. She and her husband, Tim, have poured immeasurable time, energy and financial support into the core

pillars of HYFA, strengthening the foundation of Hereford organizations and ensuring lasting support for generations to come.

Passing the torch

Curry, the newest member of the HYFA board, owns Curry Herefords with his family. The operation has been an active and involved leader in the Hereford breed. With a passion for the next generation, Curry is no stranger to leadership, having served on the AHA Board of Directors from 2013-2016. He is a 10-year director of the Oklahoma Hereford Association and was inducted into the Oklahoma Hereford Hall of Fame in 2025.

Curry and his late wife, Donna, raised their children, Cameron and Staci, in the Hereford breed — both were accomplished NJHA members inside and outside the showring. Curry has been instrumental to HYFA's scholarship program. He has served on the selection committee since 2023, when the Donna Curry Memorial Scholarship was established. Three \$2,500 scholarships are awarded at JNHE each year in honor of Donna and the Curry family's legacy.

The foundation is proud to welcome Curry to the board of directors and extends its sincere gratitude to Folkman and Keilty for their dedicated service to HYFA. Guided by servant leadership, HYFA board members work behind the scenes to strengthen the Hereford breed and expand opportunities for the next generation. With this continued commitment, the foundation is well positioned to grow and serve the leaders of tomorrow. **HW**

Chloé Durian is the American Hereford Association's associate director of youth marketing and education. She can be reached at cdurian@hereford.org.



President
Ray Ramsey
317-462-7122, rayramsey77@gmail.com

Vice president
George Sprague
541-465-2188, gks@barlranch.com

Directors
Jill Bielema
616-292-7476, jrbielema@gmail.com
Katie Colyer
208-599-2962, katie@hereford.com
Bill King
505-220-9909, bill@billkingranch.com
Kathy Buchholz
214-537-1306, kathy@gkbcattle.com
Bruce Everhart
317-407-3618, bruceeverhart56@gmail.com
Curtis Curry
918-521-4629, curtis.curry@american-national.com

Director of youth activities
Amy Cowan
816-842-3757, acowan@hereford.org

HerefordYouthFoundation.org