

An Amazing Summer

Who wouldn't love Herefords and our youth after this absolutely amazing summer? From the wonderful state association junior shows across the U.S. to the Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE) that was hosted in the great state of Pennsylvania to finish out our summer at a truly special Faces of Leadership convention hosted in Arkansas.

Your National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) directors made their rounds to many of the state and regional junior shows and activities, and the reports were more than impressive. The growth of our junior association and the involvement we are seeing within the membership are truly inspiring and are a credit to many of the

leaders and advisors within each state association.

The 2014 JNHE was a truly magnificent event. From the different conversations I had with families around the barns, it seemed like it was many families' first trip that far east, but they were all very much enjoying the different scenery and truly high-quality facilities. Also, we had many new faces at JNHE, and those new exhibitors stepped right up to the plate. We had more participation in many activities throughout the week and heard nothing but positive responses.

There were many opportunities for the juniors outside of the showing and the competition circle. Many youth visited historical sites like those at Gettysburg, and some juniors looking to cure their sweet tooth ventured over to Hershey to find a bite of chocolate.

At the end of the week, we watched four seasoned and outstanding leaders retire from the junior board of directors. But, with our outstanding junior membership, we had some great candidates in the election for the junior board of directors, and four very deserving members were handed a maroon jacket (see Pages 64 and 66).

Just a few days later the Hereford youth were given a once-in-a-lifetime experience at the Faces of Leadership or Program for Reaching Individuals Determined to Excel (PRIDE) Convention that was held in Arkansas. The group toured some amazing family operations and listened to many talented and informational speakers, but potentially the most important dynamic of the event was getting the opportunity to visit Tyson headquarters. For more about PRIDE Convention, see Page xx.

In my years as a junior member, I have traveled all across the

country attending many PRIDE Conventions, but this year's event was excellent. Adding the business aspect to the event, I think, helped really connect the dots of what our goals for the event are all about.

Cultivating Hereford youth into great adults is truly what the NJHA is all about. Because of the many opportunities we offered this summer, I cannot help but say that this organization is headed in the right direction. The future of the NJHA is shining bright, and I can't wait to see what is next.

Thank you

The 2014 JNHE was my final time to walk into the showing as an exhibitor. I still don't think I am ready to accept that, but I know I couldn't have invested my time any more wisely over the last 14 years. Words can't express how thankful I am for the doors and opportunities this association has opened up for me. I owe my parents a great deal of thanks for selecting this junior program for me to be a part of.

During my first years in the junior program, I was touched by so many great leaders within the Hereford breed. I began to idolize many of those young adults when I was going through the ranks of the NJHA and had dreamed of wearing a maroon jacket someday. While in Harrisburg, I was fortunate enough to be elected NJHA chairman. Being elected chairman was more than just an accomplishment for me; it was truly an honor.

As your 2014-15 chairman, I am happy to say that the NJHA has built me. Every leadership attribute that I have and every skill I have gained has been crafted through my time in the NJHA. The direction the juniors are taking this association is going to be nothing but great, and I am excited to see where we go. **HW**



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