

# Meet the NJHA Board Candidates

**Aleesha Howe** is the 18-year-old daughter of Doug and Jenny Howe of Wagontown, Pa. The family owns and operates Deana Jak Farms, a cow-calf operation, where they run 90 registered cows, 70 recipient cows and manage 200 acres of land. Aleesha has been extremely involved in the Pennsylvania Junior Hereford Association and is currently serving on the executive planning committee for the 2014 Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE), which will be hosted in Pennsylvania. Aleesha's future plans include working in the livestock photography business and she hopes to bring National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) awareness through technological advances in social media, such as implementing an NJHA application for smart phones that would expand the communication efforts.



*Aleesha Howe*

**Taryn Adcock** is the 18-year-old daughter of Jim and Jan Adcock of Assumption, Ill. Taryn will be a sophomore at Illinois College, majoring in business and economics with a marketing minor. Having been an NJHA member for 11 years and the current president of the Illinois Junior Hereford Association, Taryn believes in the opportunities that the NJHA provides its members. If elected to the NJHA board of directors she would encourage juniors to jump in and take advantage of every opportunity, especially Program for Reaching Individuals Determined to Excel (PRIDE). Taryn knows that her goal of obtaining a maroon jacket would just be the beginning.



*Taryn Adcock*



*Bridget Beran*

**Bridget Beran** of Claflin, Kan., is the 19-year-old daughter of Craig and Michelle Beran. A sophomore at Kansas State University, Bridget is majoring in journalism and mass communications. Upon completing her degree, Bridget hopes to work for an agriculture-based publication, advocating the cattle industry and Hereford breed. Bridget is a member of the Kansas Junior Hereford Association, past state Hereford queen and was the second

runner-up in the national queen contest. If elected to the board, she would like to encourage leadership and involvement outside of the showing, and help juniors build relationships with others from across the country.

**Sara Beanblossom**, Bradford, Ohio, is the 19-year-old daughter of Steve and Leesa Beanblossom. Sara attends Wright State University majoring in business, with hopes to one-day work as an animal health sales representative. Sara is a 12-year member of the Ohio Buckeye Junior Hereford Association and has held various officers and leadership roles. If elected to the board, Sara would like to instill a passion for the Hereford breed in the younger members and to form activities to get them more involved. Sara says, "This lifestyle isn't just about animals, it's about beliefs and values passed through generations. Ensuring things are left better for those yet to come. It's all about legacy."



*Sara Beanblossom*



*Amanda Bacon*

**Amanda Bacon** of Siloam Springs, Ark., is the 19-year-old daughter of Craig and Debbie Bacon. A sophomore at Oklahoma State University majoring in agricultural communications and animal science, Amanda hopes to pursue a law degree in the agricultural law program at the University of Arkansas. Amanda served as the 2012 National Hereford Queen, and is president of the Arkansas Junior Hereford Association. "Being able

to give back and be a leader of the NJHA has always been a goal of mine," says Amanda. Giving back to the association that has given so much to her is a goal that Amanda has if elected to the NJHA board.

**Kelsey Repenning**, Mitchell, S.D. is the 18-year-old daughter of Steve and Lori Repenning. Kelsey attends South Dakota State University where she is a sophomore majoring in agricultural communications. Kelsey has been very involved in 4-H and FFA, and the South Dakota Junior Hereford Association. Growing up on her families ranch, Kelsey has learned the value of hard work, devotion to Hereford cattle, and an eagerness to take on any challenge. Her first goal as an NJHA director is to increase participation not only in the showing, but also in the JNHE contests. "Instilling in these juniors a passion for advocating for the industry is how we as an association will tell the world our story," she says



*Kelsey Repenning*

**Tommie Lynne Mead** of Midville, Ga., is the 20-year-old daughter of Tommy Mead and Cindy Eppich. Currently a junior at Georgia Southern University, Tommie is majoring in exercise science with a minor in nutrition. Having been the president of the Georgia Junior Hereford Association for two consecutive years has taught her responsibility, commitment, leadership and teamwork.



**Tommie Lynne Mead**

Tommie's goal is to, "Give back to the greatest youth organization I have ever known as I serve as a positive influence for others, while devoting whatever it takes to keep this association running strong through effective communication, new junior members, sponsorships, resolving current issues and managing activities."



**Mark Nebeker**

**Mark Nebeker** of Kuna, Idaho, is the 19-year-old son of Ray and Jill Nebeker. Mark is currently a freshman at the University of Idaho majoring in animal science and agricultural economics. Upon receiving his degree, Mark would like to work for a livestock agribusiness in the northwestern U.S. Mark has been a member of the Idaho

Junior Hereford Association for five years and is currently serving as the president. "The main reason that I love being involved with the Hereford breed is because of the environment that surrounds it," Mark says. "If elected to the NJHA board I will strive to keep that environment thriving so that we as an association have room to grow."

**Cody Jensen** is the 20-year-old son of Kirk and Stephanie Jensen of Courtland, Kan. A junior at Kansas State University, Cody is majoring in milling science and hopes to one day have a milling science position in the Midwest and continue to raise and sell Herford cattle. In junior college, Cody was a member of the Butler Community College livestock



**Cody Jensen**

judging team and is an active member of the Kansas Junior Hereford Association. "As a director, it will be important for members to feel they can express their thoughts and opinions about the association and its program to me," Cody says. "It is crucial for members to have a voice in their association so that the organization can always be improving."