

Hereford Enthusiasts Target Excellence, Build Pride

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Members of the American Junior Hereford Association (AJHA) and National Junior Polled Hereford Council (NJPHC) gathered Nov. 6-8 in Kansas City, Mo., for the 34rd annual AJHA Convention, as well as the NJPHC Pride Congress.

With the themes "Targeting Excellence" and "Building Pride in Tomorrow's Beef Producers," the three-day event encouraged members to set goals, work hard, develop teamwork skills and take the Hereford breed's rich heritage to build upon its traditions in the future.

The AJHA event was possible this year because of sponsorships

from Lawrence Herefords, Coon Rapids, Minn.; Shaw Herefords, Caldwell, Idaho; Davis Herfords, Maple Hill, Kan.; Bishop Herefords, Hardin, Mont.; Gary and Kathy Buchholz, Bardwell, Texas; Idaho Hereford Breeders; Oregon, Washington and Northern Idaho Hereford Association; Schorr Herefords, Gridley, Calif.; Schorn Herefords, Orland, Calif.; and Pedretti Herefords, El Nido, Calif. NJPHC sponsors were Schu-Lar Polled Herefords, Lawrence, Kan.; G&R Polled Herefords, Marysville, Kan.; Watsons Walkin' W Polled Herefords, Barnard, Kan.; the Illinois, Indiana and Minnesota Junior Polled Hereford Associations; Star Lake

Cattle Company Inc.; Skiatook, Okla.; and Gary Silvers, Atchison, Kan.

AJHA activities kicked off Nov. 6 with a national adviser meeting, director candidate interviews and a public speaking contest featuring the top public speakers from individual states. Opening ceremonies included introduction of the national board of directors, roll call and state cheers, and was followed by "Meet the Candidates," a session to meet the director candidates. NJPHC delegates kicked off their activities with impromptu speaking and job interview contests and mixer activities to introduce members to each other.

Saturday's activities started with joint leadership workshops and speakers. The keynote speaker was Stewart Kennedy, Edmond, Okla. Workshop speakers were Barb Wilkinson, Colorado Livestock Association director of communications, Denver, Colo.; Susan Waters, American Angus Association director of communications and public relations, St. Joseph, Mo.; and the AJHA and NJPHC directors. The day concluded with a pizza party and dance.

NJPHC members held an awards banquet Sunday morning, while AJHA members conducted their annual business meeting and director election. AJHA delegates elected three new directors; Kim Cerny, Narka, Kan.; Brent Mnak, Bowman, N.D.; and Georganne Sellman, Crawford, Neb. The final item of business for the delegation was to elect officers. Craig Crutcher, Jewett, Ill., was selected

to lead the organization as president. First vice president duties were awarded to Audra Koester, Dennison, Minn. Lee Chastain, Ft. Worth, Texas, was designated second vice president. Other officers elected were Misti Gleason, Putnam, Okla., secretary; Leslie Bennett, Connell, Wash., treasurer; and Steven Schorr, Gridley, Calif., reporter.

Retiring directors Sam Shaw, Caldwell, Idaho; Danny Davis, Maple Hill, Kan.; and Tami Bishop, Hardin, Mont. gave words of wisdom to the junior members in individual retiring addresses. Each was awarded a bronze Hereford bull for their dedication and service to the organization.

As the new officer and director team assembled, the event concluded with the following recognition of several outstanding juniors, leaders, and junior state organizations at the AJHA and NJPHC awards banquets.

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