

Staff Spotlight: **Mary Ellen Hummel**

by Kimber Evans

Mary Ellen Hummel's service to the American Hereford Association (AHA) through the years has been anything but ordinary. Mary Ellen currently serves as assistant to AHA Executive Vice President Craig Huffhines. Her career with AHA started in 1988 in the accounting department; she later worked in the records department, customer service and magazine subscriptions before being transferred to serve under H.H. (Hop) Dickenson a year before he retired. Mary Ellen feels that her background in these various departments has helped her have an understanding and knowledge of how things are done in other areas of the company.



Mary Ellen

Mary Ellen's days are anything but typical, but when asked what her days consist of, she replied, "Whatever Craig needs to have done." Mary Ellen says that no two days are the same, and she likes that, as it keeps the job interesting.

One of her favorite duties throughout the year is when she gets to call the individuals who have been nominated to be delegates for the AHA Annual Membership Meeting because she gets to talk to the breeders and she thoroughly enjoys getting to visit with everyone.

Some of Mary Ellen's other tasks include keeping track of points for the show point program, meeting planning, helping with

entries for the Junior National Hereford Expo, and also handling the Junior AI Program.

Mary Ellen's position has changed through the years. Originally, she also served as assistant for the youth activities director, but now only serves as assistant for the executive vice president. Also, with the advancements in computers and the development of e-mail, she does much less in terms of correspondence.

When asked what advice she would give to current junior members, Mary Ellen's response was simple. She wants to encourage the young people to make the most of and enjoy the years that they have as juniors. She knows the time commitment and work that goes on behind the scenes, but believes that when looking back, they will see that these times as junior members were some of the best years of their lives. ✨

Where Are They Now?

Stephanie Ernst Murnin

by Kevin Ernst

My older sister, Stephanie Ernst Murnin, ran for the National Junior Polled Hereford Council in 1999 in Lansing, Mich. She was elected to a three-year term as the horned and polled junior boards were merging into one.

Stephanie says she enjoyed being on the junior board for many reasons. Our family had been going to the junior national since 1990. It was always a lot of fun, especially meeting new people from all over the U.S. and Canada.

She has maintained friendships made during her tenure on the board. She even attended the equivalent to our junior nationals in Alberta, Canada, during her term, which included her senior year in high school and two years while at Ohio State. In college Stephanie focused on a career in agriculture.

She transferred to Colorado State University (CSU) and graduated with a degree in animal science. While attending CSU she met her husband, Chad. They were married three years ago in Montana.

They lived on my parents place helping us care for and show cattle while pursuing their own careers. They began their own herd with a heifer they purchased from Jason Hoffman that went on to be picked champion heifer at the Denver show in 2007. Since then they have been increasing their herd and will be lifelong Hereford breeders.

Stephanie's career began as an account representative for an agricultural publication. Her territory included the



Stephanie

Denver metro area. She was very successful and enjoyed traveling and meeting people through the business.

She also took pictures of cattle for sale catalogs along with graduation and wedding photographs. Her next

job also included travel and selling for a native grass seed company. She kept busy educating her customers while marketing the products.

When Chad was presented with a career opportunity in Montana, they moved from Colorado and Stephanie is now a licensed insurance agent in Montana. They also purchased their first home with a few acres and are involved in roping as well as maintaining their Hereford herd. ✨