

Youth Leaders Serve NJHA



2009-10 National Junior Hereford Association board of directors (pictured, l to r) are: **Kandi Knippa**, Seguin, Texas, chairman; **Katlin Mulvaney**, Opelika, Ala., vice chairman; **Rossie Blinson**, Buies Creek, N.C., communications chair; **Hannah Wine**, Marshall, Va., membership chair; **Danielle Starr**, Manawa, Wis., leadership chair; and **Jake Metch**, Bainbridge, N.Y., fundraising chair. Directors (standing, l to r) are: **Kimber Evans**, Fall River, Kan.; **Hunter Grayson**, Watkinsville, Ga.; **Andrew Albin**, Newman, Ill.; **Mallorie Phelps**, Grandview, Texas; **Kevin Ernst**, Windsor, Colo.; and **Justin Bacon**, Prairie Grove, Ark.

Four new National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) board members were elected and a new officer team was announced during the 10th annual VitaFerm Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE) July 10 in Tulsa, Okla.

Andrew Albin, Newman, Ill.; Kevin Ernst, Windsor, Colo.; Hunter Grayson, Watkinsville, Ga.; and Mallorie Phelps, Grandview, Texas, received their maroon jackets as new NJHA directors during the awards ceremony Friday night.



Andrew Albin is the 17-year-old son of David and Julie Albin. This fall he will be a senior at Shiloh High School. Andrew has been a

member of the Illinois Junior Hereford Association for five years and is currently serving as a director. He has attended three Program for Reaching Individuals Determined to Excel (PRIDE) Conventions and five JNHEs.

In school he is a member of the National Honor Society, Spanish club and varsity football and track teams. As an active FFA member, Andrew has served as chapter president, vice president and treasurer. His goal is to implement a regional leadership conference for younger junior members. Andrew wants to challenge

junior members by providing them with exciting opportunities to enhance leadership growth while promoting the Hereford breed.



Kevin Ernst is the 17-year-old son of Marshall and Barbara Ernst. He will be graduating early from Windsor High School

in December and will be starting his college career in January 2010. Kevin has served as vice president and reporter of the Colorado Junior Beef Association.

He has been a member of the NJHA since 1998 and a state voting delegate since 2001. As part of the 2007 JNHE planning committee, he was responsible for soliciting sponsorship and organizing the feed room. Showing cattle locally, regionally and nationally has always been part of Kevin's life.



Hunter Grayson is the 17-year-old son of Richard Grayson. A senior at North Oconee High School, Hunter has been an active FFA member,

serving as area II secretary and vice president. Aside from being competitive in the showing, he has served as a

Georgia Junior Hereford Association director and chaired the Georgia Hereford steer show. In 2008 Hunter was a state delegate at the JNHE.

He is passionate about educating junior Hereford members, as they are the future of this organization. His main goal is to continue the outstanding NJHA traditions and encourage members to reach their full potential.



Mallorie Phelps is the 16-year-old daughter of Shannon Mehaffey. She will be a junior this fall at Grandview High School. Phelps is

an active member of the Texas Junior Hereford Association, serving as second vice president and reporter.

In addition to her involvement in the state association, Mallorie is also very active in the NJHA. She attended PRIDE Conventions at Washington, D.C., Mississippi State and Texas A&M University. In addition to showing at the JNHE, Mallorie has competed in team fitting, quiz bowl, speech and photo contests, team marketing, grill-off and livestock judging. She is looking forward to being an advocate for the Hereford breed and striving to educate beef retailers as well as the general public about the positive attributes of Hereford beef.

2009-10 officers

The 2009-10 officer team includes Kandi Knippa, Seguin, Texas, chairman; Katlin Mulvaney, Opelika, Ala., vice chairman; Rossie Blinson, Buies Creek, N.C., communications chair; Hannah Wine, Marshall, Va., membership chair; Danielle Starr, Manawa, Wis., leadership chair; and Jake Metch, Bainbridge, N.Y., fundraising chair.

Chairman **Kandi Knippa** is serving her third year on the NJHA board of directors. She is the daughter of Dr. Sammy and Penny Knippa of Seguin, Texas, and is a junior animal science major at Texas A&M University.

Kandi is an active member of the College of Agriculture and

Life Sciences (COALS) Council, the COALS Freshman Leadership Experience and Saddle & Sirloin and was a member of the national champion Texas A&M wool judging team. She has been a member of the Texas Junior Polled Hereford Association for 11 years, serving in various leadership roles such as president, secretary, treasurer and junior director as well as being named outstanding state member and junior herdsman of the year for Texas.

On the national level, she has been an active member at the JNHE and attended PRIDE Convention. This year she received the John Wayne Memorial Scholarship. She has experienced much success in the Hereford showing, winning the premier exhibitor and breeder awards at the 2008 and 2009 JNHE for her award winning string of cattle. This past year, she served as the NJHA secretary and was instrumental in keeping the board organized and informed.

Katlin Mulvaney, NJHA vice chairman, is the 22-year-old daughter of Dr. Donald and Janet Mulvaney, Opelika, Ala. She is a senior at Auburn University (AU) majoring in agriculture communications with minors in agriculture leadership and political science.

Katlin is passionate about the beef cattle industry and strives to have a positive influence on others' lives. Her enthusiasm and passion play an active role in AU's Agriculture Council Club, AU Young Farmers Club, Sigma Alpha Professional Sorority and ALFA Young Farmers.

She has applied the skills gained through leadership positions in 4-H, the Alabama Junior Hereford Association, and the NJHA board. At the 2009 JNHE, she was in charge of the contest sign-up and helped orchestrate the popular mentor program.

Rossie Blinson, NJHA correspondence chair, is the 18-year-old daughter of Bryan and Beth Blinson, Buies Creek, N.C. She is a freshman at North Carolina State University, double majoring in animal science and agriculture business.

As a member of the North Carolina Junior Hereford Association, Rossie served as vice president, secretary, treasurer and reporter and has claimed numerous championship titles in the showing. She actively participates in contests and activities at the JNHE including the mentor program, photo contest, poster contest and team fitting.

Aside from her passion for and dedication to Hereford cattle, she has been an active 4-H member, serving in leadership positions and being the state gold winner in cumulative records. As a NJHA board member, she has been very influential in the JNHE "Hereford Idol" competition.

Rossie says she is looking forward to serving as the correspondence chair. She will oversee the *Advantage Newsletter* and updating the junior activities and deadlines on *JrHereford.org*.

Hannah Wine, NJHA event chair, is a junior at Virginia Tech, majoring in ag science with minors in international agriculture and animal science. From Marshall, Va., she is the daughter of John and Linda Wine.

Hannah has a 60-head Hereford cow-calf operation, Longshot Farm, that she began nearly 15 years ago. She also raises Australian Red and Blue Heelers. After graduating from prep school in 2006, Hannah took a gap year to exhibit her cattle at the national shows before attending Kansas State University and then Virginia Tech.

She is an active member of the Virginia Tech Block & Bridle Club, Poultry Club and the National Collegiate Scholars. A member of the Virginia Junior Hereford Association for 12 years, Hannah has held various leadership roles. Recently she traveled to Australia, experiencing agriculture at an international level.

As event chair, she will coordinate all JNHE committees. Hannah will also be responsible for serving as a liaison for NJHA members — answering questions and reaching out to members, encouraging them to take advantage of all the opportunities that await them as Hereford enthusiasts. Hannah will be playing an active role in the organization of the 2010 PRIDE Convention in Idaho.

Danielle Starr is the 18-year-old daughter of Joe and Amy Starr, Manawa, Wis. Danielle is attending Purdue University, pursuing a degree in retail management with an economics minor. Upon graduation Danielle hopes to begin a career as a district manager, eventually becoming a buyer while maintaining her herd of Herefords.

She has been an active member of the Wisconsin Junior Hereford Association for 11 years, serving on several committees. This year marked her 10th JNHE, and she values every opportunity she has had through the NJHA. As a board member, she focuses on traveling to state preview shows and assisting state associations in organizational planning.

As leadership chair Danielle will act as a coordinator for leadership events, specifically PRIDE, and officer training workshops for the board of directors. As a spokesperson for the board, she will attend National FFA Convention and recruit members to join the NJHA.

Jacob Metch, NJHA fundraising chair, is the 18-year-old son of Bill and Sue Metch, Bainbridge, N.Y. He is a sophomore at State University of New York at Albany, majoring in engineering.

He has served his state organization as secretary and treasurer and is a member of numerous committees. He has participated on the national level in livestock judging, poster contest, showmanship and 3-on-3 basketball and was named outstanding state member three times.

A member of 4-H for nine years, Jacob has been named state show master showman, state record book winner and beef education award winner. He was also captain of his high school's golf team and a starter on the basketball team, and he earned the Eagle Scout rank as a member of Boy Scouts.

This year Jake will facilitate auction lots that benefit the Hereford youth at national shows. As fundraising chair, he will be responsible for collecting and compiling calendar advertisements sold by the NJHA board of directors. **HW**