

Passion and Dedication



Cameron Curry was honored with the 2013 Herdsman of the Year title.

by Sara Gugelmeyer

Oklahoma (JHAO). He has served it in many leadership roles from director to president.

In the fall of 2010, he started a new chapter in his life, attending Connors State College at Warner, Okla. There, he was on the livestock judging team and worked at the college's beef center.

He added to his cattle-care knowledge as the intern at Kiamichi Link Ranch, Antlers, Okla., during the summer of 2012. While working there, he did whatever needed doing from fixing fence to halter-breaking sale calves.

He transferred to Oklahoma State University in the fall of 2012, where he will wrap up his bachelor's of science degree with a major in agribusiness and minor in agriculture economics.

In the ring

All the while he's been improving his own herd and preparing his own calves for the show and sale rings.

Raised in the Hereford business, Cameron Curry, McAlester, Okla., is just what a herdsman should be. Kind and courteous to others, respected by his peers, successful in the showing and hardworking, not just at the show but year-round.

That's why he was recognized by other juniors at the Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE) as the 2013 Herdsman of the Year and now wears the coveted belt buckle with pride. And, he says, passion and dedication are what got him where he is today.

Born to Curtis and Donna Curry of Curry Hereford Ranch, Cameron has been in the business his whole life. "My parents and grandparents have always had Hereford cattle. I am proud to be a third-generation breeder," he says.

In fact, he says, his biggest supporters are his grandparents, Ted and Janice Curry and Al and Annahue Wood.

Like so many ranch-raised kids, Cameron got his start early. "I remember going to regional and national shows when I was very little watching and helping my uncle Steven, and maybe playing in the dirt," he says.

Then when Cameron's older sister turned 7, it was with great excitement that he got to tag along with her. He, too, finally turned 7 and got to show his own calf. That year, 1999, he went to Tulsa, the first of what would add up to 14 junior nationals attended.

That first year of showing and even before, Cameron watched his dad and uncle Steven and learned from them and others. "I started pulling legs when I was 13 and by the time I was 15, I was clipping our cattle, with a lot of advice. By the time I was 17, my family fully entrusted me with all of the feeding, clipping and fitting duties. I am proud to say that because of my interest in cattle, I have learned to feed, vaccinate, halter break, groom and fit and clip calves for a marketing environment. I watch and learn from the best in the business and apply concepts to our operation," he says.

Cameron says he also received a lot of encouragement and support from Sam and Rhonda Eck, Putnam, Okla. He has also been committed to his state Hereford organization, the Junior Hereford Association of

Top five tips from the Herdsman of the Year

- Don't ever be afraid to make mistakes.
- You will never get better without trying.
- Even if you don't succeed the first time, never stop, never give up.
- Learn from all criticism, the good and the bad.
- Be patient with your parents.