

Outstanding Highland Ambassador Recognized

Heather Schneider

Great Bend is located in central Kansas where agriculture is the predominant industry and cattle operations are an important source of income for many farms. Heather Schneider grew up on a small farm outside of town. She attended Great Bend High School (GBHS), home of the Panthers, where she excelled in many ways. Leading her class with a ranking of 8 out of 230 students due to her 4.071 grade point average, wasn't easy. However, she was determined to graduate with college credits, 24 in all, the most of any GBHS student. Funding school by working during the year and full time as a lifeguard in the summer has been a priority. Currently attending University of Kansas obtaining her Nursing Degree, Heather plans to return to rural KS as a Nurse Anesthetist.

It's been a busy road leading up to college: president of TLC Twisters 4-H Club and Barton County 4-H Council, KS State 4-H Key Award and first place poultry judge, varsity cheerleader for basketball and football, Dream Team, peer helper, Hollyball chairman, a cappella choir, swim team, pep club senior and junior rep and various other leadership roles. For a girl who hid behind her dad at fair when people asked about this heritage breed, she has come a very long way! In fact, Heather tells us they were the only family in the area raising the breed so as she got older, she was the one answering the questions. Having Highland cattle gave her the voice to effectively communicate and now she enjoys public speaking.

Berry Unruh, 4-H and Youth Development for K-State County Extension told us that when the Great Bend Tribune asked for a young person in the program who deserved to be a feature article on the front page, Heather immediately came to mind. Tina Steinert, the school's Gifted Facilitator, confirms that this young lady is an excellent candidate for this scholarship because "Heather believes that helping others is necessary and everyone should do their part to help better our community". Hats off to this outstanding Highland ambassador!

The Highland Cattle Foundation (HCF) received a donation from Sue Foster of Twinflower Farm, East Corinth, VT to fund a scholarship in memory of her husband, John. Many of you knew this kind soul who had the breed's best interest at heart and the young members who are such an important part of it.

The Highland Cattle Foundation (HCF) awards Memorial Junior Scholarships each year. These are granted in honor of achievements and in celebration of bright young futures. Each scholarship is \$1,500 and can be used towards any college expenses. The selection process is blind and based upon merit. Criteria includes



academic performance, involvement with Highland and other cattle breeds, demonstrated leadership, interest in agriculture-based careers. Eligible applicants must be a junior member of AHCA who is currently in his or her senior year of high school or attending college and not over 21 years of age. Applications are sent each spring to all junior members who meet the age requirements and must be post-marked no later than June 1st. There is no limit on reapplying, however, the scholarship is awarded only once to an individual.