**AHCAj Cattleman Award**

The focus of this program is to award the recipient with a letter of credit up to one thousand dollars to be used toward the purchase of registered Highland stock, including crossbred animals, to begin their breeding program, enhance their current herd and/or promote beef production. This award will be funded by AHCAj annually. The goal of this program is to prepare and assist our youth in decision making and give them experience that will be valuable to them as they grow as cattlemen.

This program will create strong positive values. The recipient will be responsible for selecting an animal for purchase from any AHCA member farm. They will assume full ownership and be responsible for the care of the animal including nutrition, vaccinations, housing and the overall management of the animal.

Requirements are as follows:

* Applicant must be a member of AHCAj and be between 12 and 21 years of age as of January 1st of the year of application. Junior membership is free and can be obtained by contacting AHCA.
* Previous winners are not eligible to reapply.
* Recipient will have until May 1st of the following year to select, transfer and register the animal.
* Transfers between family members will not be allowed.
* Award recipient must shop at least two farms before deciding on an animal to purchase.
* Recipient must send a copy of registration papers AHCAj Committee to be received by Committee no later than June 10th of the following year.
* Award recipient is to report on their experience with the animal quarterly throughout the first year of ownership to AHCAj Committee which will be published in the Bagpipe.
* Payment will be made directly from AHCAj to the selected farm from which animal is being purchased.
* Transportation of purchased animal is to be arranged between the recipient and the seller.
* Award recipients are highly encouraged to exhibit their animal at venues that will bring Highlands into the public eye.

AHCAj members interested in this program should submit application in the form of an essay to the AHCAj Committee no later than March 1st. Essay should include their goals and expectations as well as their accomplishments in agriculture. An independent panel of three judges, to be agreed upon by the AHCAj Committee, shall choose the Award winner. The winning AHCAj member will be given a letter of acknowledgement to take with them when visiting farms to select an animal for purchase.