

# Highland Juniors Excel

by Ginnah Moses

The Highland Cattle Foundation has always been proud of our young producers! They are a talented group who we get to know at Highland functions and through their insightful and well thought out scholarship applications. These juniors hail from all ends of the country and everywhere in between. Some are new to the cattle business while others have grown up in it. It doesn't matter if they have one animal or a large fold, there is one thing they share. That is an unwavering support and love of the breed! And most applicants tell us their lives

wouldn't be the same without their beloved Highlands. AHCAj is a tremendous group of volunteers who strive to have the best junior breed association possible. We think they are doing a wonderful job! While we are separate entities, we work hand-in-hand to continue our mission of encouraging youth through our Memorial Junior Scholarship program. As always, it is an honor to award the following three young ladies with \$1500 scholarships to pursue degrees at their chosen colleges.

## Kaitlin Edwards, Hartman, AR



Kaitlin is the daughter of Christi Brown and graduated from Scranton High School in May 2021. She is pursuing a major in Biochemistry with a minor in Biology at Arkansas Tech University. She is now in her junior year carrying a full class load and working 30 hours a week. Her current goal is to attend veterinary school and complete a specialization in large animal medicine. She said her herd has given her purpose in life and helped her to see the good in herself and the world around her. Back in high school she participated in cross country and soccer while serving as FFA Secretary and President. She was also a member of the Pre Vet Club, Chemistry Club, Women in Stem, Ag Club, Robotics and Helping our Kids. She has been involved with the breed for 6 years and attended the North Central Regional, National Show, Midwest Cow Camp, Southeast Show and various others. She also served as the North Central Highland Cattle Association junior reporter. Jacob Weidenfeller with Arkansas Tech University says, "Throughout the school year, I have witnessed Kaitlin's tireless efforts and impressive ability to consistently deliver outstanding results. Her dedication to her work is truly remarkable. Kaitlin approaches every task with a high level of enthusiasm and meticulous attention to detail. She is not only an asset to the ATU Robotics team but also a role model for others to emulate."

## Lillian Hagge, Kemmerer, WY

Lillian is the daughter of Regg and Danielle Hagge and has been involved with Highland cattle for 12 years. She showed them locally and also at the Cornhusker Classic in NE. She says that when working with Highlands, remember they don't like to be rushed and watch out for their horns! In high school she was actively involved in band, choir, basketball, volleyball, soccer and FFA. She was also secretary of her 4H club and treasurer of the National Honor Society chapter. While in Honor Society she helped with many community events such as the Color Run, Highway Clean Up and Christmas Angel Tree project. She aspires to get a Nursing degree at Northern Wyoming Community College, Gillette, WY. She worked as a radiology assistant and CNA at the local hospital during high school and took several concurrent enrollment classes getting ready for college. Sharon Reetz, Kemmerer Band/Choir Director tells us, "Lilly is a determined person with a heart of gold. She is a remarkable young woman that is caring, dependable, hardworking and dedicates 100% effort to anything she commits herself to." Her past employer Catherine Grandy says, "One of her greatest strengths lies in her social acuity. She possesses exceptional interpersonal skills and is very easy to talk to. She has a remarkable ability to make others feel comfortable and valued."



## Clarisa Palmer, Burlington, WI



Clarisa is the daughter of Ben and Alisa Palmer. She graduated Cum Laude from Burlington High School and just started at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville majoring in Animal Science (Pre-Vet) with a minor in Agribusiness. After earning her bachelors, she plans to move out west and to get her Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine. She volunteered extensively with almost 100 hours for the Burlington Jamboree alone. She chaired the petting zoo at the event that was run by her FFA chapter. She also chaired the chapter's Food for America event, helped with baseball concessions and volunteered at Geneva Lake Manor Assisted Living. She has packed a lot into her 4 years of involvement in the breed. Clarisa has attended AHCA and North Central meetings/gatherings and showed at the Yooper Classic, NCHCA Regional, World Beef Expo, Junior Spring Class and two local county fairs. On the same daily two minute trip to go wash her cattle, she was hit by an oncoming car. Recovery took two months and she missed her Highlands tremendously. It was a big motivator for her to work hard so she could show at the World Beef Expo. Erika Reisinger, Ag Instructor and FFA Advisor, said, "Clarisa received the President position her senior year. Everyday, she went above and beyond that role and made sure that everyone on her officer team was included and pushed for her members to be their best selves."

*The Highland Cattle Foundation (HCF) awards Memorial Junior Scholarships each year. These are granted in honor of achievements and in celebration of young stewards of the Highland breed. 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 Highlands and other cattle breeds, demonstrated leadership and 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 postmarked by the due date. There is no limit on reapplying, however, the scholarship is awarded only once to an individual.*