One of our most rewarding accomplishments as the Highland Cattle Foundation Board, is awarding Memorial Junior Scholarships each year. It gives us great pleasure to learn about all of the fascinating young breeders that are part of AHCA. They come from many different backgrounds, experiences and interests but with one commonality, their love and appreciation for Highland cattle. This year’s shining stars are as bright as ever, headed in many different directions but with a keen interest and love of agriculture. It is an honor to introduce and best wishes to our four 2022 recipients…

Four Shining Stars

Avery Bailey

Avery hails from Onalaska, WI and is the daughter of Aaron and Desirae Bailey. A graduate of Holmen High School, she was very active in FFA where she served as Chapter Secretary and President while participating in marching band and the National Honor Society. She became involved in the breed 5 years ago and jumped in with two feet. For the North Central Highland Cattle Association Juniors, she served as the Committee Secretary, Vice President and President. Her passion showed as she participated in the National Western Stock Show, UP State Fair, exhibited at her county fair and won the NCHCA Junior of the Year and AHCAj Cattleman Award. A Farm2School producer, she raises steers that are used in her school lunch program. Avery says that she thoroughly enjoys working with animals and this fueled her desire to pursue a degree in Animal Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She isn't exactly sure her career path but is planning to dabble in genetics, one of her favorite subjects. Education past a Bachelors is a possibility as she loves learning. Jason Hovell, Holmen FFA Advisor says, “In my 18 years of teaching and serving as an FFA Advisor to high School students, I am certain I have not had a senior student as “put together” as Avery Bailey! She's emerged as a leader in our local chapter and at school, due to her work ethic, positive attitude and ambition to follow through on goals she sets.”

Bayleigh Hunziger

Bayleigh is the daughter of Dave and Kyla Hunziger and lives in Cross Timbers, MO. She graduated last year from Skyline High School and has been attending State Fair Community College (SFCC) with her sights on completing her Associates of Arts in Agriculture degree. Bayleigh then plans to transfer to the University of Central Missouri to earn her Bachelor's degree in Agriculture with an emphasis in Animal Science. She will also attend the Graham School in Kansas to further her knowledge on raising cattle in a very hands-on setting. In high school she was involved in many clubs and sports including Student Council, Yearbook, Band (First Chair Trumpet), FCCLA, Cross Country, Softball and Volleyball. Her agriculture clubs included 4-H as Vice President, Historian and Reporter. In FFA, she served as 2nd Vice President and as Secretary and Reporter in the Hickory County Cattlemen’s. Brad Driskill, Agriculture Program Coordinator at SFCC says, “In her first year, Bayleigh served as Freshmen Representative to the Ag Club Executive Committee and was recently elected by her peers to serve as an Ag Club officer for the coming academic year. She also was elected to serve as Reporter for the Missouri Professional Agriculture Students Organization in November. She has served in this role as a true leader, helping ensure the entire state officer team is well prepared for engagements.”
Trinity Ivy

Trinity is from Cleburne, TX and the daughter of Matt and Katey Ivy. She just graduated from Alvarado High School and is gearing up to attend The University of Texas at Austin this fall. Her major is Environmental Sciences and when she graduates she plans to work for the Corps of Engineers as an environmental scientist while pursuing a Master’s degree. She has been involved in the breed just two years but says they have already made an impact by teaching her responsibility and they have brought the joy of companionship to her life. In high school, she had a leadership role in the Workforce Industry Training (WIT) group, which alerts students, especially under-served female students, of college major and career opportunities in STEM. She was also involved in RUBIES, a female student leadership organization that regularly invites women leaders from industry to speak about opportunities and challenges particular to women in the workplace. Trinity served as National Honor Society Vice President and played club and varsity soccer with multiple All-State awards. Israel Stephens, Alvarado Associate Principal says, “I have known Trinity in my capacity as a school administrator, teacher and coach for six years. During that time, I have found Trinity to be nearly without peer. Holistically, she ranks among the best of the best. Her class rank and SAT scores establishes her among the top of all college-bound high school seniors.”

Nicole Say

Nicole is from Edwards, MO and daughter to Linda Say and Mark Say. She graduated from Warsaw High School in May. She plans to pursue a degree in Animal Science from State Fair Community College this fall. While attending SFCC, she will be volunteering with local large animal vets. She will then transfer into the Vet Tech program at Missouri State University and plans to apply for admission into the College of Veterinary Medicine. She was active in high school with participation in FCCLA, Yearbook, Tutoring, Cheer, Volleyball, Basketball and Archery. Nicole also participated in FFA all four years and served as Treasurer. Highlands have been part of her life for 6 years and she has participated in many regional and national meetings, picnics, cattle shows and auctions. Working with Highlands has made her more outgoing and given her confidence. Helping others show cattle has been rewarding for her and she truly loves the breed. Amanda Adler, Warsaw English/Journalism Teacher says, “Throughout my years of knowing Nicole, I have found her to be a determined and hard-working young lady. She has been faced with challenges throughout her education, but her determination to succeed at what she loved has never waivered – and she loves her farm! She was even able to graduate early to dedicate more of her time to her passions. I am sure she will apply that same dedication and work ethic to her future endeavors.”

The Highland Cattle Foundation (HCF) awards Memorial Junior Scholarships each year. These are granted in honor of achievements and in celebration of young breeders carrying on the Highland legacy. 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.