

# Outstanding AHCAj Members

## Win HCF Scholarships

The Highland Cattle Foundation (HCF) awards Memorial Junior Scholarships each year; one to a student in the field of agriculture and the other in any field of study (when applicable). However, at the discretion of the HCF Board, three scholarships were awarded this year in light of the excellent applications. Each scholarship is \$1,500 and can be used towards any college expenses. The selection process is blind and based upon merit. Criteria include academic performance, involvement with Highland 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 no later than June 1st. There is no limit on reapplying. However, the scholarship is awarded only once to an individual.



**Sarah Balmforth** is 21 and has been involved with Highlands since she was 12 years old. She and her mom moved to Exeter, RI to start a new life with her stepdad, Ben. Her Holstein heifer outgrew the pen so she went next door to her new Great Uncle-in-Law, Ernest Anderson (Highland Hall of Fame and Member of the Year recipient) to see if she could put Lilly with his herd of shaggy cattle. The rest is history! Sarah is attending University of Rhode Island majoring in Animal Science and plans to be a large animal veterinarian. Sarah says, "There is nothing more rewarding than saving an animal or helping a farmer in preventative care". Nonie O'Farrell, owner of Beaverhead Farm, says Sarah has moved from farm hand to livestock manager for their operation and raises/markets grass fed Highland beef. In addition to working at Beaverhead, Sarah spends 30 hours a week working as a vet tech at North Kingstown Animal Hospital. Anthony Mallilo, one of her college professors, utilized her skills as a teaching assistant for hands-on learning labs and highly recommended her for this award.

**Hannah Hogan** has been homeschooled for her entire education and has maintained a commendable 4.0 GPA. She lives in Powell, WY and plans to attend Northwest College for photography. You may recognize Hannah's name as last year's recipient of the AHCA Junior Heifer Program. She is a real Highland promoter living in Black Angus country. She's given multiple speeches and presentations on the breed. Some of the presentations, while well received, negatively affected her receiving college funding. Hannah is determined to fund school debt-free and faithfully contributes a portion of her income that she earns from her job at the family auto shop. Her beef is marketed by word of mouth locally and there is always a waiting list of repeat customers. Aside from the cattle, she got her first camera when she was 4 and has blossomed into the top senior photographer at the Wyoming State Fair. This goal-oriented young person plans to receive her two-year degree and then start her own photography business. She says, "I look forward to what the future has to offer me and my Highlands".



**Kara Humphrey** calls Navarre, OH home with plans to attend OSU Agricultural Technical Institute in Wooster to earn her degree in livestock science. Then she will continue her education at the main Ohio State University campus to become a large animal vet. Kara says it was hard at first taking Highland steers to fair because others would make jokes. However, she has worked hard and gained the respect of her peers. This AHCAj member is yet another young beef marketer who has achieved a long list of buyers who have fallen in love with the breed and meat qualities. Rachael Ramsier, one of her teachers, says "Kara displays both ideal academic and personal qualities". She boasts that Kara is one of the best students and most responsible in her class. Rachael is impressed that she volunteers her week nights and weekends to assist younger kids in developing their dance and majorette skills. This is just one of her extracurricular activities. FFA, band, junior fair board and 4-H are just a few others along with working part time at a cleaning company. Her boss commends her for always taking the lead and getting the job done.