Each Unique & Outstanding in their Own Way

HCF Scholarship Winners

Ian Edwards

Ian is son of Eric and Karol Edwards, Forest Hill, MD. He is obtaining a degree in Agriculture at Dordt College, Sioux Center, IA. Ian says, “As I approach both the end of my college education and the beginning of my agriculture career, I am increasingly excited to continue my family’s long tradition in farming and start building a sustainable beef and grain operation on my own.” In addition to his classroom studies, he is the primary assistant to the campus farm manager, as well as herd manager for Defender Cattle, a livestock investment class/club that teaches students about the beef trading market. Traffic stopping almost daily by his family’s farm presents the unique opportunity to stop and talk about the breed, share some of the history and traits and to learn about others. Ian says the cows don’t mind getting an extra scratch or two along the way, either! While these experiences may not seem too important, he feels that in a time when we seem to find less of a reason to connect with others, this brings us all together. Ian attended college on a baseball scholarship and was a three-sport varsity player (baseball, soccer and basketball) and team captain in high school. Involved in several community service projects, church camps and activities are also a very important part of his life. The Agriculture Department Chair says Ian shows a servant’s heart in his willingness to work behind the scenes and he has developed very commendable character traits and work habits.

Annalee May

Daughter of Laura McDowell-May and Gerry May, Annalee is from Dennis, MA and attends the University of New Hampshire majoring in Environmental Conservation Sustainability with a minor in Business Administration. Annalee says, “As a thirteenth generation Cape Codder, I have seen immense change in my community within my lifetime. My relatives and grandparents tell stories of our town, which our family has treasured since it was first settled. The ecological health of the Cape and maintaining sustainable community development is imperative to our fragile ecosystem. We must push for sustainable development and promote proper resource management. I strive to utilize my studies to work in community planning and promote sustainability within our community’s reliance on Ecotourism.” She has served on the UNH Woodsmen Team (leader and secretary), Sigma Alpha Professional Agricultural Sorority (agricultural community educator), Athletes Intervarsity (member of campus ministry) and Alpha Phi Omega (service vice president) and is the recipient of several honors and service awards. This young woman has been actively involved in the Highland breed most of her life. As The Bagpipe’s Northeast reporter, a NEHCA Board of Director’s Youth Representative and a regular in the New England youth beef circuit, promoting the breed has always been on the forefront. She and her family sell their grass-fed Highland beef at various farmers markets in their state where she regularly works their stand.
Paige is the daughter of John and Anne Proctor and hails from Junction City, WI. Biology is her major and she just started at Harvard College, Cambridge, MA. Her high school English teacher says, “Occasionally I am humbled by a student. How can someone with so little life experience as a high school student know so much? Paige displays a rare balance of attributes including academic diligence and work ethic. She is a conscientious student who is driven by an inner fire to succeed.” After pursuing her undergraduate degree with an emphasis in genetics and the processes of evolution, Paige plans to utilize biotechnical engineering applications to improve understanding of how genetic analysis can serve as a tool in discovering preventative and proactive treatments of life-threatening diseases. She hopes to conduct research that improves the quality of life for people around the world. Highland cattle have greatly affected her life and she cherishes the tranquility of early mornings spent feeding and walking show heifers before class. She is proud to have grown up surrounded by cattle. She has learned the importance of honesty and respect when selling live cattle and beef to customers. Involved in the breed for 10+ years, Paige attended various AHCA Gatherings, shows and junior camps. She was active as an officer in the NCHCA Juniors, Wood County Junior Holstein Association and Badge 4-H Club while competing in girl’s rugby for 11 years.

McKenna lives in Three Rivers, MI and is the daughter of Kurt Rogers and Christine Rogers. She is studying Nursing at Cardinal Stritch University and playing collegiate softball. She plans to work towards and receive her master’s degree also. Her goal is to work as an emergency room nurse and later take a leadership role at a nursing home. Her high school principal says, “McKenna’s talents and strengths included school band, jazz band, academic groups and athletic teams; she earned many local and regional softball honors. She was a member of the National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society. She will bring a high level of energy, passion and commitment to post-secondary school.” Being involved with Highlands almost 10 years, McKenna says that exhibiting cattle made her a lot braver and more confident. She feels that showing a cow with 2-foot horns when you are only 9 years old definitely makes you step out of your comfort zone! The owner of R&H Machine Products says this young lady has a leadership role in their 4-H club and is a positive role model for the younger kids. He explains that she always brings quality animals to their local fair and does an excellent job. They are always washed, fed, watered, taken care of and their pens are clean. He says that is one reason he supports her by purchasing her projects during the fair auctions. That is also why he highly recommended her to receive this scholarship.

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 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.