

We Couldn't Be Prouder HCF Junior Scholarship Recipients

by Ginnah Moses

The Highland breed is a family so for us, the HCF Board, watching these juniors grow into young adults is an absolute pleasure in which we take a lot of pride! These kids are from all walks of life and diverse farms with very unique interests and goals. They are focusing their future on a wide array of programs and careers and attending college in different parts of the country. With all that said, what is

most profound is what they have in common: a tremendous appreciation for agriculture, love of our breed, and special bond with Highlands. Each of these recipients says that Highlands bring so much joy and have had a deep impact on their lives. Join us in celebrating these outstanding individuals as they start their journey in higher education.



Joseph Bates, Marysville, OH

Joseph hails from Marysville and is the son of David and Adelin Bates. He was homeschooled and had an impressive 4.0 GPA. In high school, he wrestled and ran track freshman-junior years along with playing football while a freshman and sophomore. He was a 4-H Junior Fair Board Member and served his community as an LDSHE East Conference Youth Committee Leader (national homeschool conference). He has raised Highland cattle, alongside his family, for 15 years. Joseph is a skilled welder and plans to start his own fabrication company. But first, after a BYU Pathway certificate earned during high school, he is continuing in Mechanical Engineering at Brigham Young University-Idaho. Friend and mentor, Edmond Cardoza, told us, "When Joseph was 9 years old, he asked if he could work with me to learn various skills like welding, sign painting, mechanics, etc. We worked together on many projects and I found him to be very dependable and trustworthy. He is very good at communicating and working with people at any age and technical level!". Joseph recently completed a project inspired by YouTubers Grindhard Plumbing Co. It is a power wheels with a 2017 Kawasaki Z650 engine, Polaris Scrambler 850/1000 suspension and frame that was shortened 4 inches and a Polaris Sportsman 700 transmission for main components. Everything else, he fabricated himself.

Rebekah Bates, Marysville, OH

Rebekah grew up in Ohio with her parents David and Adelin Bates and siblings. She was homeschooled and very active in 4-H as a Junior Fair Board Member for 3 years and also served as Club President and Secretary. She was on the national homeschool conference LDSHE Youth Planning Team and was a team member; each for 2 years. Her involvement with the breed has spanned 15 years... raising, feeding, grooming, training, finishing steers and having sole care of a bottle calf that lost its mom at a week old. Rebekah hopes to have her own herd one day. She has been attending Brigham Young University-Idaho working towards her bachelor's degree in Food Science and Nutrition, setting her sights on teaching others to stay healthy through nutrition and natural resources. Spencer Knowles the director of the LDS Columbus Ohio Institute said, "Rebekah is what I like to call a 'high yield, low maintenance' individual who will succeed at any endeavor she sets out to accomplish". Laural Olson, her ALA Queen Creek Seminary Teacher, boasts, "I would have to say her top trait has always been commitment. Once she decided to pursue something, her commitment was unflinching. She would research methods, try new things and always do her best to be successful. Also Rebekah is extremely compassionate. Throughout every competition, every new animal, every curveball life threw at her, she remained compassionate".





Charli Broderick, Oconto, WI

Charli grew up on a farm outside of Oconto, with her younger siblings and parents, Chris and Tina Broderick. She graduated this past May ranking first in her class from Coleman High School. After taking dual enrollment classes in high school she is now working towards her associate degree in Electro-Mechanical Technology at Northeast Wisconsin Technical School. Charli plans to continue her studies and earn a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering. In her words, "Since a young age, I've been intrigued by learning how things work and I love fixing items and solving problems". During high school she was actively involved in 4-H, FFA, National Honor Society, basketball, USA Clay Target League and served as Class of 2024 President for 3 years. Highlands have been a big part of her life the last 6 years as she served as NCHCA Juniors Secretary/Treasurer and Vice President and was awarded the 2022 Junior of the Year. She was an exhibitor at ROE shows including UP State Fair and NCHCA plus attended an AHCA annual gathering and NCHCA annual meetings. Family friend Jennifer Gosa raves, "Charli portrays the high-quality characteristics of responsibility, maturity and integrity. She has always been ahead of others her age concerning these attributes. Aside from working on her family's farm, at age 16 she got a job where she is responsible for caring for roughly 200 calves: cleaning, bottle feeding and bedding".

Lauren Cowell, Ellendale, MN

Lauren is the daughter of Shawn & Melinda Cowell and has been actively involved with our breed for 8 years. She is in her second year at South Central College studying Agribusiness and Sustainable Microfarming. Majoring in Agribusiness through PSEO allows her to transfer to a university and earn a bachelor's in Horticulture by age 20. She is extremely interested in owning a nursery/events center and would like to incorporate tours of Highland cattle to promote and educate on the breed. She has been involved in Professional Ag Students (PAS), Ag Student Council serving as Vice President and Greenhouse Management Club. In the NCHCA Juniors she served 2 terms each as President and Reporter. Lauren has a strong interest in exhibiting cattle and has at many events throughout the country including the National Show in Denver. She enjoys mentoring and helping other youth members, or those new to the breed, and has shown cattle for several farms. Lauren won the AHCAJ Cattleman Award in 2021. She along with her sister, Maryn, were awarded the Sarah Balmforth Memorial Award in 2022. Her agribusiness teacher, Marianna Mayo comments, "The common thread in each of her classes is her passion for agriculture and especially her family's Highland cattle operation. She is a phenomenal student to have in class due to her eagerness to learn and commitment to understanding new subject matter".



Jody Mead, McPherson, KS

Jody is the daughter of Justin and Jill Mead and attended Kansas Connections Academy (KCA) while completing 17 college credits her senior year in high school. She will use those towards her degree in Farm & Ranch Management from Hutchinson Community College. She was involved in 4-H and FFA but her real passion is showing cattle which became a big part of her life. She raises and shows club calves and sells them to other 4-Hers. When her friends at Highland Connection got into Highlands, she became involved with the breed and showed at the National Show in Denver this past January. Jody loves the uniqueness of Highlands and feels it is a great breed to be involved with because of the nice people raising them. For the past 8 years, she has worked for Coopriider Farms which has been the inspiration for her college path. Cindy Coopriider tells us, "I've been continuously impressed by her commitment to learn new things, her work ethic, being a great team member and her loyalty to our farming operation." Paul Walrod, KCA Manager of Counseling Services tells us, "Jody has been a consistent student in her work, performance and participation all 3 years and has a solid high school GPA. She has been enrolled in courses that are needed for college preparation and has shown to be a student and individual who can work independently. She is active, hardworking and dedicated."



Taylor Miller, Nixa, MO

Taylor's parents are Jeff and Tammy Miller and they all have been involved in the breed since Thanksgiving, 2019. That is when her family bought their first two Highland cows which changed Taylor's entire life and trajectory. Up to that point, she planned to be a high school band teacher. However, by the end of her freshman year she decided not to participate in band anymore. The following year, Nixa High School started an FFA/agriculture program and she was elected Vice President. Her junior year she started dual enrollment in Ozarks Technical Community College (OTC) which is where she is continuing her Animal Science degree today. She is hoping for an internship that will teach her the step-by-step process of collecting bulls, learning how to sex sort semen, storage tank operations and various reproductive protocols of AI. Her plan after graduating from OTC is to transfer to a 4-year college with her sights on running a high-quality genetic based cow/calf operation. She is leaning towards continuing at Missouri State University where she would love to be part of their cattle show team. That is another passion, showing her Highlands and British Whites. Her list of show awards and accolades is extensive along with becoming certified in artificial insemination and some impressive FFA awards and volunteer commitments. Fellow Highland breeder John Keep has been raising registered Highland cattle since 2003. He writes, "Taylor is an impressive young lady I met this year, who has left an incredible impression and stands out as the most promising young cattle person I have ever been associated with".

Kamryn Thomas, Brighton, CO

Five years ago, Kamryn's family moved back to the family ranch located in a rich agricultural area of the county. Her parents are Jeff and Amy Dill and they raise goats, chickens and alpacas in addition to their Highlands and farming 30 acres. Kamryn ranked 8 out of 326 in her class and just started at Colorado Mesa University studying Cellular, Molecular and Developmental Biology. She chose her career as a high school sophomore when enrolled in a human body systems class which she found very intriguing. Kamryn knew then she would work in the medical field and has narrowed it to anesthesiology. "Enrolled in the Project Lead the Way Biomedical Science pathway her sophomore year, this is a difficult series of courses and students must be very focused and motivated to be successful. Kamryn has done an excellent job in each course and has definitely found her passion." That is from Tina Phibbs one of the program's teachers. Through it she has taken classes on medical interventions and innovations and has earned her Patient Care Technician and AED/CPR certificates. During college she is working in patient care. High school also included 3 years of varsity cheer where she was named to the 2023 National Cheerleader Association All American Team, National Honor Society and American Sign Language Club along with volunteer work including the Western Endowment Subsistence Trust. In addition to AHCAj, she is a member of the American Dairy Goat Association, American Goat Society and Alpaca Owners Association.



Clara Wallace, Vandalia, MO

Clara, daughter of Chad & Annie Wallace, grew up on a commercial cattle operation in Missouri. She started Animal Science and Ag Business this fall at Kansas State University. Not yet decided on her career path, Clara enjoys marketing and communications. In high school, she was a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, A+ Program, National Honor Society and varsity golf and varsity cheerleading teams. Clara also served as President and Treasurer of the Brice Happy Hustlers 4-H Club and was Vice President and Secretary of Van-Far FFA. Sam Utterback, her high school counselor, tells us, "Clara has many strengths and excels both academically and as a leader. She was selected to attend the Missouri FFA HYMAX Academy where the top 100 Greenhands in the state grow in their leadership abilities". She's been involved with Highlands for a short time but believes participating at National Western Stock Show this year gave her a great opportunity to learn more about the breed. She says she has met some amazing people. No matter what breed she is working with, her end goal is to raise and sell high quality beef. AHCA member Greg Starr adds that Clara is a relative of his farm manager and so came highly recommended to help with the show cattle. "When I met Clara, there was such a positive aura of how she accomplished the tasks and it was remarkable to watch how she knew exactly how to interact with the cattle in any situation".



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 expenses for post secondary education. 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.