



2023 FREE HEIFER PROGRAM
By Keegan Hockerman (age 17)

My journey as ABWPA junior started the summer of 2014 when I was 7 years old. My mom, sister Kailey and I traveled to Quincy, IL to participate in our first ABWPA Junior Nationals hosted by the Wolf family at the Adams County fair.

Although I wasn't old enough to participate that year I "helped out" whenever and wherever I could. Including taking Carly's bottle-calf heifer Lilly on multiple adventures throughout the fairgrounds including Sunday morning Cowboy Church service. Where I was promptly escorted back to the barn by security. I think it was shortly after that Kevin loaded me up in his farm truck and took us on a pasture visit. On our way out to the first pasture he told me to pick out my own heifer and he would have her as broke as Lilly and bring her to World Beef Expo in Wisconsin that fall.

This was the start of my fondest cattle family memories. On this trip we met Kevin's daughters: Rebecca, Katelyn and Carly & their

cousins Justin and Kristin and a whole string of fun friends. They included Kailey and I into their fold, if they went to the food stand they included us, if they went to the rodeo they included us too and if there wasn't enough seating in the grandstand they allow us to sit on their laps so we wouldn't miss the event. ABWPA Juniors Nationals in Quincy became my favorite event of the summer!

Well Kevin held true to his word; he delivered my first love a red-head heifer I promptly named Quincy to WBE that fall. Poor Quincy got an entire walking tour of the WI State Fairgrounds; visited with multiple Fall Feast fair-goers and became broke as a house dog.

Every fall I anxiously waited to hear the results of the free heifer program supported by Larry Fedler. Thank you, Larry, for the many years you supported our youth and helping them grow their herds! Thank you, Kevin Wolf and Katelyn Nelson, for continuing this tradition and I plan on paying it forward someday. I am honored to be the 2023 free heifer recipient, 'Katelyn' is going to be a great addition to my 2024 show string.



2014 Wolf's Lilly

2014 Wolf's Quincy