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## Are You Ready?

Did you make a New Year's Resolution? Any plans to keep it? Each year I set up one goal as my resolution and if you make it simple you too will succeed in accomplishing your resolution. If you haven't set up your resolution, might I suggest that it is still not too late? One obvious resolution would be attending the Shorthorn Junior Nationals this summer in my home state of Wisconsin. Madison, Wisconsin... is the place to be this summer and plans are already well on their way to make it a great experience for all the junior members.

It is never too early to start your preparations. Start preparing for the show now. Time flies and before you know it school will be done for the year and you'll be packing for the show. Will you be prepared? Have you found the perfect calf to show? Training the calf should already be started, even if it is just spending time brushing and tying it up for short periods. The more you work with your calf, the more comfortable you will be in the show ring. Even if you have shown the Shorthorn before there are things that need to be done.

Are you keeping your animals clean? Are you changing out the bedding so the hair stays clean? Have you looked into

a feeding program that will provide the appropriate nutritional needs for your calf or maintain the body structure of your heifer, cow, steer or bull? Do you have a health program that includes vaccinations and don't forget that traveling with your Shorthorn to the show means appropriate health papers from your veterinary? Remember the deadline for having the calf's registration papers in your name.

More importantly, going to Nationals is more than just bringing a show animal; it is participating in programs and activities that will provide you with personal growth opportunities. To make the most of Junior Nationals, pick at least one other activity to participate in. Whether it is photography, cooking, judging, fitting, speaking contests, quiz bowl, graphic arts or arts and crafts; take the chance and grow with your peers. Don't sit back and ignore all the opportunities that are provided for you; make the most of the Junior National week.

This will be my last Junior National Show as a junior member and a member of the Junior Board and I can tell you that it is hard to express to you what you are missing out on if you are unwilling to put in the extra participation effort. I

attribute my achievements in life and academics with the efforts and work I put into my cattle and projects. I encourage everyone to also consider running for a Junior Board position. As I will be leaving my position, I hope to fill it with another youth member that sees the Shorthorn Breed and the youth organization as a viable extension of themselves and is willing to put forth the effort to continually strive for the betterment of the Shorthorn Breed and its youth members. You are only limited by what you are unwilling to put forth.

As I leave the youth part of the Shorthorn Association, I can say that I have been an active participant in many of the programs: photography, graphic arts, crafts, speech contests, fitting contests, judging, showmanship and quiz bowl. As a junior board member, I might not have held an office other than director, but I was always willing to put forth the extra effort to help find donations for silent auctions and help with fundraiser's and attend meetings. When you finish your last year as a junior member and look back at your participation what will you be able to say? Did you let too many great opportunities slip through your fingers? Start the New Year right..... 

## 2018 National Junior Shorthorn Show & Youth Conference

June 26 - July 1 • Madison, Wisconsin



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