

JORDAN STOREY: 3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE SENIOR DIV

# Ways to Keep Going Forward

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Age 18

Senior Division

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Hello my name is Jordan Storey and I am a senior at Valliant High School. I proudly represent both the 4-H and FFA. I am President of both the Valliant FFA chapter and the McCurtain County 4-H Leadership Team. I am deeply rooted in agriculture. My passions include beef and public speaking with Brahman cattle being my favorite subject. I recently completed the Beef Quality Assurance Training and have applied to and been accepted into the Masters of Beef Advocacy 2.0 Classroom. I feel like we do not have enough agriculturally minded people helping to educate congressmen, consumers, and the people that are total against agriculture in general. I am so glad that some of the highly visible people/ranches in our wonderful American Brahman Breeders Association have come together to form the Brahman Foundation. I think the Brahman Foundation is off to a great start and I would love to be a part of a sounding board as to how the Foundation should invest the money raised on yearly basis. I think camps, scholarships, field days, educational / leadership opportunities, and grant opportunities are all great ways the Brahman Foundation could invest into the American Junior Brahman Association.

I think the Youth Beef Leadership Camp sounds incredible. I am not sure the specifics of it but I would like to see a 3-4 day event where AJBA members are broken up into groups where experts are brought in but it is mainly run by the older AJBA members – not necessarily the AJBA board but opened up to older members to submit to The Brahman Foundation an idea for a small group activity they would like to host. These small groups could be showmanship, team building, nutrition, hoof trimming, fitting, organization skills, public speaking etc. This sort

of event would be for a fee to cover meals, a t-shirt, lodging, and a portion of the facility to be utilized but majority of the facility fee and any fee for experts (if they do not not volunteer their services) would come from The Brahman Foundation. This event would allow members to come together as one association and not splintered off by state like we are at the All-American. Each member would be randomly assigned 4 to a room (if lodging was in a hotel) or if it is at a state park still randomly but according to the number of beds per cabin. Free time would need to be built into the schedule for just pure fun with no ties to learning such as swim time and each evening such be capped off with a hypnotist and or a dance. All AJBA members love to dance!

I notice that The Brahman Foundation is adding more money into the scholarship area. As a graduating senior cringing at the cost of college. Scholarships are a much welcomed site. The more you can help a junior member out with furthering the education the better. I realize The Brahman Foundation is not the group responsible for the age change of the All-American but since it is comprised of some of the most visible members of the ABBA, I wish they would start a petition to re-instate the age of 21 as the age a junior member can be and still be able to compete in the All-American. It seems like The Brahman Foundation is all about helping AJBA members to grow as individuals, showman, and one day be future ABBA members who hopefully sign up to be a part of The Brahman Foundation. It just seems that the age reduction reduces the junior group and does not promote the continuation of junior showmanship or helping to entice younger breeders to remain in the showing world. Just because they are 19-21 does not necessarily mean they feel they can compete with the more seasoned ABBA members.

Educational and leadership opportunities can be found in a range of places. Educational could consist of taking part in the Beef Quality Assurance Training. It offers different area and has a set of videos designed to enhance your knowledge in areas that range from nutrition to injection sites to handling cattle. I recently signed up and paid a fee to go through the cow/calf course and did not realize until the end that if you are in high school it is free. This is definitely something I think The Brahman Foundation should advertise and recommend to its junior members who are in high school. It won't cost The Brahman Foundation much other than money spent making the AJBA members aware of this great opportunity. If the AJBA members wish to be an advocate for the beef industry this is also the Masters of Beef Advocacy 2.0 program. Junior members should take the lead and become an advocate.

The Brahman Foundation could spend some of the money they raise on offering heifers to kids who go through a essay contest and compete for a grant. However the grant could be in the form of a heifer. It would stipulate rules that the heifer must be shown and reports and pictures must be turned into The Brahman Foundation on how progress of such animal. It could also be in the form of a grant to buy a heifer. If said AJBA member could show just cause as to why The Foundation Should help them.

The Brahman Foundation is a great organization that helps today's AJBA members and I hope I have offered some other ways in which they could continue helping but in other ways. From camps to field days to educational opportunities to grant opportunities. Please continue paving the way to help tomorrow's leaders today.