

I live in Central Ohio with my wife, Heather and our two teenage boys, Isaac and Walker. My wife and I both grew up in the city, but spent our weekends in the country with grandparents. Twenty years ago, we left city living behind and bought a small hobby farm. I spend my days as the Service Manager of a commercial HVAC company and then come home to do what I really love on the farm.

In 2009, we bought our first Miniature Herefords and started 4 Wiley Farm. The name of our farm represents the four Wileys in this venture, but also represents the four cows that started our Miniature Hereford herd. We had never owned cattle before and had no idea what we were doing. That first year was a baptism by fire, but we sure did learn a lot. Our home farm is only eleven acres, but with rented pastures we have now grown our herd to approximately 20 head of Miniature Herefords.

Our oldest son started showing in 4-H in 2012 and we have been involved in the show circuit ever since. We now show on the county, state and national levels. I have had the privilege of being the Miniature Hereford show superintendent for the Ohio Beef Expo, the Ohio State Fair and the North American International Livestock Expo. I am passionate about the Miniature Hereford breed and am excited to see the breed growing in this part of the country. The more we show up, the more we are recognized. The more we are recognized, the more opportunities will be presented for us to showcase our breed. The Miniature Hereford Breeders Association has offered our family great opportunities through the show ring and by being part of an organization that has so much to offer the cattle industry.

This cattle business is a family affair. I can't imagine living and raising my boys in any other life. As Isaac and Walker are growing up, leaving for college, and looking to their own futures, we have had to take a step back and look at which direction this cattle venture will turn. Time will only tell how big or how small this cattle operation will be, but each and every one of us loves Miniature Herefords, so I have a feeling things will only be getting bigger and better around here.