MN 4-H Purple Ribbon Auction Scholarship Recipients

Minnesota State Fairgrounds....Scholarship dollars totaling $20,000 were awarded to twenty deserving youth with outstanding leadership and personal achievement at the beginning of the 30th Minnesota Purple Ribbon Auction. The Minnesota Livestock Breeders’ (MLBA) coordinates both the scholarships and the auction event.

Half of the funding is derived from premiums raised at the auction and those dollars are matched by loyal youth supporters in the industry. This year the matching funds are thanks to the generous support of AgStar Home Mortgage, Hormel Foods, LA-CO Industries, John Morrell & Co., Thousand Hills Cattle Co., SMSC Business Council, Corn Roast, Paramount Attractions, Winkel Enterprises, John Story Consulting, and Interstate Power Systems along with matches from individual supporters including Richard and Bonnie Compart, Kent Thiesse and Greg Harder.

Kelsey Bourne of Maynard in Chippewa County is a true entrepreneur and in her 4-H life she developed a place to house her pigs and figured out how to be financially responsible for them. Kelsey is a sophomore at Southwest Minnesota State University majoring in Ag Business. Her parents are Randy and Jan Bourne.

Kristin Boyum of Wanamingo in Goodhue County has had the opportunity to participate in the 4-H Purple Ribbon Auction for the past four years thanks to her swine projects. She is a sophomore at St. Olaf College where she is pursuing a nursing degree. Kristin enjoys being a volunteer on Habitat for Humanity projects. Steve and Tracy Boyum are her parents.

Sara Compart of Nicollet in Nicollet County has been involved in many 4-H projects, including swine, rabbits and sheep. She is serving at the Nicollet County Pork Ambassador. Sara is a freshman at Gustavus Adolphus College pursuing a nursing degree and plans to pursue a career in pediatric care after graduation. Her parents are Chris and Rochelle Compart.

Randene Davis of Glenville in Freeborn County has been involved with the beef and swine projects and currently serves as the Freeborn County Beef Ambassador. As Junior Beef Superintendent at the county fair, she exhibited real-life leadership skills for the last three years. Randene is a freshman at Wartburg College and plans to major in Elementary Education. Her parents are Lance and Sharon Davis.

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Tyler Evink of Morris in Stevens County started his 4-H project by showing sheep, eventually rounding out his livestock experience with swine and beef projects. Tyler has also been a part of four Champion General Livestock Knowledge Bowl teams and in his junior year was part of the national contest winning team at AK-SAR-Ben. Tyler is a sophomore at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities double majoring in Animal Science and Applied Economics. Tyler’s mother is Wendy Evink.

Sarah Jacobs of Rushmore in Nobles County has used her 4-H swine project as an opportunity to provide demonstrations, present to local schools and set up displays to help educate the public about the livestock industry. She received an FFA entrepreneurship grant to start a show pig business. Sarah is a freshman at South Dakota State University where she is an Agricultural Education Major and plans to teach and become an FFA advisor. Her parents are Randy and Joyce Jacobs.

April Johnson of Heron Lake in Cottonwood County has a passion for the dairy industry, which she has been a 4-H project member of since she was eight years old. April attends South Dakota State University where she is a sophomore majoring in Dairy Production. She is an experienced dairy judge and has represented her county as dairy princess twice. April hopes to work within the dairy industry after graduation. Her parents are Dean and Elizabeth Johnson.

Seth Kaehler of Winona in Winona County has focused on beef production during his thirteen years as a 4-Her. He started with bottle calves and has built a championship herd of Shorthorn and Simmental cattle. He has presented workshops on showmanship and fitting clinics across the state. Seth attends the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities and is pursuing a degree in Ag Business. Ralph and Mena Kaehler are his parents.

Nicole Klein of Lake City in Wabasha County has participated in dairy, beef and sheep projects during her 4-H years. She has served as a dairy princess and as a member of the judging team, traveled to National 4-H Dairy Conference in Madison and to DC via the Citizen Washington Focus program. A freshman at Rochester Community and Technical College she plans to use her education and personal experience to become a Child Life Specialist. Her parents are Dean and Lois Klein.

Mercedes Lee of Perley in Norman County started with bottle lambs when she was 13-years old and turned that venture into a community service project by organizing a fleece tying to supply the homeless with fleece blankets. Mercedes is a freshman at North Dakota State University double majoring in Journalism along with Crop and Weed Sciences. Her goal is to become an agronomist. Wayne and Lynn Lee are her parents.

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Tyler Lemmon of Amboy in Blue Earth County stated a beef project twelve years ago and it sparked his interest in becoming a large animal veterinarian. He took a leadership role in a number of community pride projects and has assisted the local fire department as a volunteer. He will be a freshman at South Dakota State University and plans to major in Animal Science and pursue extended course work for his doctorate at Iowa State University. His parents are Dan and Ruth Lemmon.

Kalen Manthei of Sanborn in Cottonwood County started a sheep enterprise complete with a formal business plan when he was in eighth grade and his flock is now 60 ewes strong. He participants on a general livestock judging team and has traveled to Denver and Kansas City to complete. Kalen will be a freshman at South Dakota State University and is majoring in Animal Science. Kalen’s father is Rick Manthei.

Grant Nelson of Starbuck in Pope County is completing his thirteenth year with 4-H with a passion to share the important contributions of beef cattle to the nation’s food chain. Grant will begin his sophomore year at South Dakota State University pursuing Agricultural Education and plans to become an ag teacher. Greg and Kay Nelson are his parents.

Kate Rentschler of Lakefield in Jackson County has spent twelve years in 4-H and has been a swine and sheep project member. The “A” Honor Roll student has also been involved in a number of leadership roles and community projects. She is a freshman at Gustavus Adolphus College and is majoring in Biology/Pre-Medicine and plans to work in the medical field. Paul and Debra Rentschler are her parents.

Jared Sanborn of Alexandria in Douglas County has started his 4-H career with poultry and sheep, added swine and beef, then goats and last year added a llama. He has demonstrated leadership skills on the 4-H Advisory Board, FFA offices and a variety of Community Service projects. He is a freshman at South Dakota State University and plans to pursue his Master in Agricultural Economics. His parents are Ron and Gladys Sanborn.

Cayley Steen of Halstad in Norman County started showing at six-years old with swine, sheep and horse projects and she would like to continue raising sheep as an adult. As a 4-H Key award recipient, she has also been recognized for her record keeping abilities. Cayley will be a sophomore at North Dakota State University and is majoring in Animal and Equine Science. Craig and Patti Steen are her parents.

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Danielle Storm of Dover in Olmsted County has participated in the 4-H Swine project and represented the industry as a county pork ambassador. An active 4-H and FFA leader, she enjoys helping with the community blood drives. Danielle is a sophomore at the University of Minnesota’s Carlson School of Management pursuing a degree in Finance and Mortuary Science. She would someday like to own and operate a funeral home in a small town. Her parents are Jacob and LuAnn Storm.

Ashley Swenson of Nicollet in Nicollet County showing cattle since she was four-years old, Ashley has been able to expand her dairy herd of Brown Swiss and Holsteins dairy cows. She plans to become a large animal veterinarian and continue to assist with the family farm’s management decisions. Ashley is a freshman at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities and is majoring in Animal Science with a Pre-Veterinary Medicine emphasis. Paul and Cindy Swenson are Ashley’s parents.

Greg Tusa of Alpha in Jackson County plans to continue to live and work in a small rural community to keep the tradition of giving back to the community. Greg exhibited swine as one of his 4-H projects. He has been the top individual overall on the meats judging team and has been involved with the FFA including working in the CHS Miracle of Birth Center. This fall he will be a freshman at South Dakota State University pursuing a Ag Business major. His parents are Loren and Marilyn Tusa.

Kristin Wingert of Plainview in Wabasha County has shown a variety of projects over the years, from a prospect calf to the Champion Dairy Steer. She has mentored other members by demonstrating clipping and fitting knowledge. This year she returned to the Minnesota State Fair without an animal but as a 4-H Peer Mentor. Kristin is a freshman at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities and is obtaining an Agricultural Education degree and plans to become a high school ag teacher. Peter and Lisa Wingert are her parents.

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