Scholarships for Purple Ribbon Kids

Leadership, achievement and a desire to succeed are the key elements found in all 20 of the 2009 Minnesota 4-H Purple Ribbon Auction scholarship recipients. The $1,000 scholarships are awarded to 4-H’ers who have shown leadership development and personal growth through their involvement in a livestock project. Brad Rugg, 4-H Superintendent says this is a fantastic opportunity to encourage these young leaders to further their education and broaden their personal experiences in order to serve their communities.

A generous commitment from sponsors affords the opportunity to award 20 scholarships to deserving 4-H’ers. Half of the funding is derived from premiums raised at 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 - Chippewa County
- Sara Compart - Nicollet County
- Tyler Evink - Stevens County
- April Johnson - Cottonwood County
- Nicole Klein - Wabasha County
- Tyler Lemon - Blue Earth County
- Grant Nelson - Pope County
- Jared Sanborn - Douglas County
- Danielle Storm - Olmsted County
- Greg Tusa - Jackson County
- Kristin Boyum - Goodhue County
- Randene Davis - Freeborn County
- Sarah Jacobs - Nobles County
- Seth Kaehler - Winona County
- Mercedes Lee - Norman County
- Kalen Mathei - Cottonwood County
- Kate Rentschler - Jackson County
- Cayley Steen - Norman County
- Ashley Swenson - Nicollet County
- Kristin Wingert - Wabasha County

The Minnesota Livestock Breeders Association (MLBA) coordinates the scholarship program and annual auction. MLBA Secretary Steve Pooch says, “This is our way of rewarding excellence in youth development as well as recognizing high quality livestock”. For more information regarding the MN 4-H Purple Ribbon Scholarship program and the recipients visit www.mnpurpleribbonauction.org. The scholarships were presented preceding the 30th Minnesota Purple Ribbon Auction on Saturday, August 29 in the Livestock Judging Arena at the Minnesota State Fair.

---

The 4-H program is funded through a partnership of federal, state, county and private resources and is part of the University of Minnesota Extension Service.