



## MEDIA RELEASE

Contact: Brad Rugg, Superintendent, 612-624-8443  
 Sarah Schmidt, Planning Committee Member 320-583-4126

# 2016 MINNESOTA 4-H DAIRY SHOWCASE RECOGNIZES JAMES GATHJE FOR EXCELLENCE

August 28, 2016 St. Paul, Minn. – The top 25 4-H dairy project members from across Minnesota were recognized for their dedication to their cows, clubs and communities. More than \$51,000 was contributed by donors and awarded to youth at the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Minnesota 4-H Dairy Showcase held Sunday, August 28, at the Minnesota State Fair.

Donors who contributed at the Tanker level (\$3,000 and up) included Gopher Dairy Club of the University Of Minnesota, AgStar Financial Services, and Grain Millers Dairy Products. Milk Can donors (\$1,000 to \$1,999) included Central Minnesota Credit Union, Diamond K Genetics, Foremost Farms USA, Midwest Dairy Association, Nick & Nancy Kunkel and American Farm Bureau Federation IDEAg. The top 25 dairy project members are (in order 1 – 25):

*James Gathje of Meeker County achieves **15<sup>th</sup> place** in the Minnesota 4-H Dairy Showcase. James is the son of Scott & Denise. James will receive \$1,300 from Udder Tech, MN Soybean Research & Promotion Council.*



Minnesota State Fair 4-H dairy cattle exhibitors who receive a purple or blue ribbon in their respective class are eligible to participate. Youth also complete an online leadership portfolio and earn points based on his or her project leadership, dairy-related activities and community involvement. Bonus points are given to individuals receiving champion and reserve champion honors. A committee of judges selects the top 25 based on a scorecard format. To date, the event has awarded more than \$250,000 to deserving Minnesota 4-H youth.

The Minnesota 4-H Dairy Showcase is a joint effort between the Minnesota Livestock Breeders Association and the Minnesota 4-H Dairy Project Development Committee.

Photos on the 2016 Minnesota 4-H Shows at the State Fair can be found at <http://www.4-H.umn.edu/fairresults>  
 Additional information on the Minnesota 4-H Dairy Showcase can be found at [www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/events/dairy-showcase.html](http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/events/dairy-showcase.html).