



MEDIA RELEASE

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2017 4-H DAIRY SHOWCASE RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING YOUTH

August 27, 2017 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 \$50,000 was contributed by donors and awarded to youth at the 9th Annual Minnesota 4-H Dairy Showcase held Sunday, August 27th, 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, Compeer Financial Services, and Dairy Products Inc. Milk Can donors (\$1,000 to \$1,999) included Midwest Dairy Association, Big Gain, Central Minnesota Credit Union, Foremost Farms USA, Diamond K Genetics, and Minnesota Farm Bureau Foundation. The top 25 dairy project members are (in order 1 – 25):

	Name & Award	County	Parent	Sponsor
1 st	Emily Benrud - \$4000	Goodhue	Roger and Michelle	Dairy Products Inc.
2 nd	Mikayla Erf - \$3500	Washington	David and Kathy	Gopher Dairy Club, UofM
3 rd	Crystal Partner - \$3000	Brown	Tom and Mary	Compeer Financial Services
4 th	Megan Ratka- \$2500	Stearns	Kathy	Midwest Dairy Assoc., Big Gain
5 th	Jacob Hornberg - \$2000	Winona	Ronald and Renee	Central MN Credit Union, Foremost Farms USA
6 th	Lukas Pierson - \$1800	Watonwan	Anders & Shelia	Diamond K Genetics, MN Farm Bureau Foundation
7 th	Morgan Wingert - \$1700	Fillmore	Jim and Randi	ADM, Johnan Holsteins, John & Nancy Bierbaum
8 th	Catherine Thompson - \$1600	Olmsted	Donny and Holly	Larry Rosenfeld Memorial, Riverview
9 th	Collin Vinkemeier - \$1520	Carver	Jeff and Tina	MN DHIA, Vita Plus
10 th	Sierra Swanson - \$1500	McLeod	Kari	AMPI, Fillmore Co. 4-H
11 th	Kelsey Erf - \$1300	Washington	David and Kathy	Hastings Co-op Creamery Co., Form-A-Feed
12 th	Kendra Waldenberger - \$1300	Houston	Kenneth and Heidi	MN Farmers Union, Schultz Milk Hauling Inc.
13 th	Tess Hokanson - \$1300	Goodhue	Brian and Diane	Dana Allen-Tully & Jim Tully, Wolf Creek Dairy
14 th	Leif Annexstad - \$1300	Nicollet	Rolf and Jean	Rice Co. 4-H, Rice Co. ADA
15 th	Lacey Nelson - \$1300	Steele	Merton and Trudy	K5 Ranch, MN Brown Swiss Assoc.
16 th	Brea Kieffer - \$1200	Winona	Chad and Kendra	Kwik Trip, MN Corn Growers Assoc.
17 th	Owen Scheffler - \$1200	Goodhue	Tony and Maizie	Udder Tech, MN Select Sires Co-op Inc.
18 th	Emily Leonard - \$1200	Carver	Tim and Amy	Caledonia Haulers, Quality Liquid Feeds

19 th	Clara Thompson - \$1200	Olmsted	Donny and Holly	Agropur, CoBank, Bongards' Creameries
20 th	Paige Welling - \$1200	Meeker	Matthew and Jennifer	Trans Ova Genetics, Sysco MN, MN Holstein Assoc.
21 st	Isaac Rott- \$1100	Olmsted	Bruce and Melissa	IBA Dairy Supplies, MN Jr. Holstein Assoc., Hubbard Feeds, In Memory of Dr. & Mrs. Lyle Trout
22 nd	Sophia Portner - \$1100	Brown	Tom and Mary	Loren & Laura Olson & Family, Sjostrom Farms, Polka Dot Dairy, AgCountry Farm Credit Services
23 rd	Judd Saemrow - \$1100	Rice	Gordon and Hindy	MN Purebred Dairy Cattle Assoc., Bio-Vet Inc., Cow Collector's MOO-seum, Classic Mix Partners
24 th	Morgan Paulson - \$1100	Kandiyohi	Jeff and Tammie	ABS Global, Tandem Products/Tenderfoot Div., MN Beef Council, Munson Lakes Nutrition
25 th	Evelyn Scheffler- \$1100	Goodhue	Tony and Maizie	MN 4-H Dairy Project Alumni, Empty Pockets Holsteins, United FCS, Midwest Embryo Transfer Service

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 \$300,000 to deserving Minnesota 4-H youth.

New this year is the Rising Star program will annually honor UP TO 10 youth who have completed 6th through 8th grades with an award of \$500 to encourage younger 4-H members to participate in the 4-H dairy showcase. This year, we will recognize one Rising Star who will receive a neck medallion. That honoree is Kallie Frericks of Stearns County.

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.