



## MEDIA RELEASE

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# 2016 4-H DAIRY SHOWCASE RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING YOUTH

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<sup>th</sup>, 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):

	<b>Name &amp; Award</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Parent</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>
1 <sup>st</sup>	Haely Leiding - \$4000	Fillmore	Todd & Stacey	Grain Millers Dairy Products
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Kendra Waldenberger - \$3500	Houston	Kenneth & Heidi	Gopher Dairy Club, U of M
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Clint Irrthum - \$3000	Goodhue	John & Linda	AgStar Financial Services
4 <sup>th</sup>	Sabrina Portner - \$2500	Brown	Tom & Mary	Nick & Nancy Kunkel, American Farm Bureau Federation IDEAg
5 <sup>th</sup>	Kayla Leiding - \$2000	Fillmore	Todd & Stacey	Midwest Dairy Assn., Foremost Farms USA
6 <sup>th</sup>	Lukas Pierson - \$1800	Watonwan	Anders & Shelia	Diamond K Genetics, Central MN Credit Union
7 <sup>th</sup>	Seth Pierson - \$1700	Watonwan	Anders & Shelia	Riverview, Johnan Holsteins, John & Nancy Bierbaum
8 <sup>th</sup>	Carley Vinkemeier - \$1600	Carver	Jeff & Tina	Larry Rosenfeld Memorial, MN Farm Bureau Federation
9 <sup>th</sup>	Tyler Kappers - \$1520	Fillmore	James & Janet	MN DHIA, Big Gain
10 <sup>th</sup>	Lauren Hendel - \$1500	Houston	Matt & Pam	AMPI, Fillmore Co. 4-H
11 <sup>th</sup>	Jacob Hornberg - \$1300	Winona	Ronald & Renee	Accelerated Genetics, Form-A-Feed
12 <sup>th</sup>	Morgan Wingert - \$1300	Fillmore	Jim & Randi	Rice Co. 4-H, Rice Co. ADA
13 <sup>th</sup>	Emily Annestad - \$1300	Nicollet	Rolf & Jean	ADM Alliance Nutrition, Wolf Creek Dairy
14 <sup>th</sup>	Amelia Manderfeld - \$1300	Steele	Bernie & Anne	MN Select Sires Co-op, Dana Allen-Tully & Jim Tully

15 <sup>th</sup>	James Gathje - \$1300	Meeker	Scott & Denise	Udder Tech, MN Soybean Research & Promotion Council
16 <sup>th</sup>	Catherine Thompson - \$1200	Olmsted	Donny & Holly	Bongards' Creameries, MN Farmers Union
17 <sup>th</sup>	Jack Saemrow - \$1200	Rice	Gordon & Hindy	Quality Liquid Feeds, Sysco MN
18 <sup>th</sup>	Mckenzie Swanson - \$1200	McLeod	David & Kari	CoBank, Caledonia Haulers
19 <sup>th</sup>	Caleb Vinkemeier - \$1200	Carver	Jeff & Tina	MN Brown Swiss Assn., Polka Dot Dairy
20 <sup>th</sup>	Owen Scheffler - \$1200	Goodhue	Tony & Maizie	Kwik Trip, MN Corn Growers Assn.
21 <sup>st</sup>	Shelby Kuechle- \$1100	Meeker	Perry & Sarah	LeSueur Cheese, Cargill
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Sierra Swanson - \$1100	McLeod	David & Kari	Loren & Laura Olson & Family, IBA Dairy Supplies, United FCS
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Emily Benrud - \$1100	Goodhue	Roger & Michelle	MN Jr. Holstein Assn., Hubbard Feeds, Hastings Co-op Creamery
24 <sup>th</sup>	Kelsey Erf - \$1100	Washington	David & Kathy	Sjostrom Farms, MN Purebred Dairy Cattle Assn., MN Beef Council
25 <sup>th</sup>	Mikayla Erf- \$1100	Washington	David & Kathy	Genex, Munson Lakes Nutrition, Trans Ova Genetics, K5 Ranch

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.