



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **2017 MINNESOTA 4-H LIVESTOCK ENCAMPMENT**

St. Paul, MN (8/27/17) – Minnesota 4-Hers from 87 counties arrived with over 2843 animals at the 2017 “Great Minnesota Get-Together” for this year’s 4-H livestock encampment held Wednesday, August 23rd – Sunday August 27th. The number of livestock exhibits over the weekend included:


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|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| • Beef:    | 628 exhibits | • Rabbits: | 334 exhibits |
| • Dairy:   | 465 exhibits | • Sheep:   | 399 exhibits |
| • Goats:   | 365 exhibits | • Swine:   | 487 exhibits |
| • Poultry: | 247 exhibits | • Lama:    | 76 exhibits  |

Minnesota 4-H’ers have been preparing for this event all summer long. There are several components a member considers when they decide to exhibit livestock, including selection and preparation of the animal, educational programming, scholarship applications, and participation at county fairs.

Education is integral in the “learn by doing” philosophy of 4-H. As part of the educational component, Minnesota 4-H requires every youth participating in the livestock encampment to part in a livestock interview. Examples of the interview process include an on-line knowledge test, skill-a-thons, and personal interviews about their project area.

Along with interviews, all 4-H youth participating in livestock programming are required to complete the Livestock Quality Assurance and Ethics (LQA&E) Training. Through this certification, youth are educated on bio-security, educating the public on the role of livestock, and caring for their animal’s welfare.

Returning for the again this year is the peer mentor program, Speaking Up For Agriculture. This program assists in preparing youth in understanding the role of livestock not only as a project, but as products that ultimately consumers purchase and use. As 4-H exhibitors share their animals with the general public, they use the opportunity to educate consumers about all stages of livestock production.



Many 4-H participants also have the opportunity to finance their education as recipients of scholarships. This year the Dairy Project will continue with the 9th annual Dairy Showcase and award special recognition and scholarships to 25 outstanding participants based on their dairy industry knowledge, 4-H dairy project involvement, along with state fair dairy show results. The annual Purple Ribbon Auction sponsored by the Minnesota Livestock Breeders Association (MLBA) presents 41 scholarships to youth with well-rounded leadership, community service and livestock involvement throughout their 4-H career.

4-H not only produces purple ribbon animals, but more importantly is focused on producing purple ribbon kids! Congratulations to all the youth that participated in the Livestock Encampment at the 2017 Minnesota State Fair.

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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. Additional 4-H information can be found at [www.4-H.umn.edu/fair-results](http://www.4-H.umn.edu/fair-results)

