

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Steve Pooch, Secretary MLBA, 651-288-4314

2017 MINNESOTA LIVESTOCK BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIPS

The Minnesota Livestock Breeders' Association Scholarship is presented each year to 4-H and FFA youth who are active members and exhibitors during the year of application. The participants are selected based on leadership experience and personal growth achievements. Additionally the scholarship rewards academic excellence and outstanding livestock production.

Committing to exceptional youth as an investment to further the agricultural industry, the MLBA is proudly awarding \$65,000 in scholarships to 41 outstanding youth. This year, 3 of the scholarships are \$4,000, 15 of the scholarships are \$2,000 in value and 23 are \$1,000. "The support from the greater livestock community is phenomenal and very appreciated," Steve Pooch, MLBA Secretary. Since the inception of the scholarship program there have been 307 scholarships given, totaling \$399,000.

The funding equation for the scholarships is a combination of donations from livestock industry leaders and supporters, matched by MLBA purple ribbon auction proceeds. Each year during the Minnesota 4-H State Fair a purple ribbon auction is conducted selling the premiums of outstanding youth livestock exhibits with 78% of the funds going directly to the youth and the remaining invested in the scholarship fund and expenses related to the auction.

\$4,000 Award Recipients:	County:	Sponsor:
Mitch Bobendrier	Pipestone	Skyride DMC-Don McClure
Seth Melson	Martin	Boehringer Ingelheim
Jackson Neil	Dakota	Cargill

\$2,000 Award Recipients:	County:	Sponsor:
Noah Carroll	Mower	Albert Lea Seed House
Laura Church	Washington	Compeer Financial
Katherine Gathje	Meeker	Independent Community Bankers of Minnesota

Amber Johnson	Wadena	Cargill
Wesley Johnson	Pipestone	Pipestone Grain
Kylee Kohls	Meeker	Cargill
Brandi McAllister	Cass	Holden Farms
Katherine Moller	Mille Lacs	LA-CO Industries
Henry Schultz	Rice	MN Farmers Union
Thomas Sommers	Waseca	IDEAg Farmfest & American Farm Bureau
Joshua Ulbricht	Jackson	MN Pork Board
Gracie Vathauer	Traverse	Fast Genetics
Alexis Wetzel	Rice	Midwest Machinery
Kesmond Willert	Lyon	Michael Dove, Gislason & Hunter and Gary Koch, Christensen Farms
Andrew Wiwerding	Stearns	Riverview LLP

\$1,000 Award Recipients:	County:	Sponsor:
Nick Aarsvold	Wabasha	MN Corn Growers Association
Nathan Altendorf	Goodhue	Fast Genetics
Kennadie Anderson	Kanabec	Jake & Lindsay Grass
Ryleigh Beers	Rock	Kent Thiesse and Steve Pooch
Anna Doering	Blue Earth	Anderson Seeds
Erin Gudknecht	Goodhue	Interstate Power Systems
Reid Hansen	Blue Earth	Pronto Pups-The Karnis Family
Joshua Homann	Pipestone	Smithfield
Katherin Ihnen	Jackson	Hormel Foods
Marshall Johnson	Fillmore	Corn Roast, Brad & Lori Ribar
Hannah Kokett	Stearns	DLCC Ranch, Dar & Lynn Giess
Austin McAllister	Cass	Schroeder Concessions
Kalyn Naatz	Steele	Fast Genetics
Anna Nelson	Chisago	Interstate Power Systems

Martyn Novacek
Madison Radtke
Leah Ruen
Alanis Rupprecht
Derek Stehr
Laura Stiles
Jackilyn Thayer
Daniel Ukkelberg
Madelyn Vancura

Roseau
Kandiyohi
Fillmore
Pennington
Goodhue
Dakota
Dodge
W. OtterTail
Jackson

RDO Equipment Co.
Shanghaied Henri's
Commodity & Ingredient Hedging
MN Cattlewomen
MN Simmental Association
In Memory of Helen Anderson
Duke's Poutine
Isabel Burke's Salt Water Taffy
Hubbard Feeds