



MEDIA RELEASE

*Steve Pooch, Minnesota Livestock Breeders Association
651-323-4210*

*Brad Rugg, Minnesota 4-H State Fair Superintendent
612-624-8443*

2017 ANNUAL 4-H PURPLE RIBBON AUCTION DRAWS CROWD OF SUPPORTIVE BIDDERS

St. Paul, MN (8/26/17) - Quality animals, quality kids, and quality buyers made the 38th 4-H Purple Ribbon Auction, the annual parade of champion beef, lambs, goats and swine set twelve new record prices. The auction raised more than \$630,000 in additional premium dollars from 105 head for Minnesota 4-H youth and Animal Science programs.

The **Champion Market Beef Steer** was the Champion Crossbred Steer Division III shown by Gavin Mulder of Jackson County. Ames Construction once again had the successful bid of \$30,000 for a new Minnesota record price. The **Reserve Champion Market Beef** was the Champion Charolais Steer owned by Stephanie Krause of Olmsted County was sold with the final record setting bid from Farmers Union Industries and Minnesota State Fair Concessionaires for \$13,000.

American Foods Group, Central Livestock Association, O&S Cattle Company came together to set a new record with a bid of \$16,500 for this year's **Grand Champion Dairy Steer** exhibited by Emily Orban of Freeborn County. The **Reserve Champion Dairy Steer** shown by Caleb Merkouris of Freeborn County was purchased by the American Foods Group for \$9,000.

This year's Champion Crossbred Middleweight Barrow was named **Grand Champion Barrow** for Ashlyn Reuter of Mower County, as it sold for \$17,000, which was a new record, to Cargill Animal Nutrition. The **Reserve Champion Barrow** was a Crossbred Lightweight shown by Dalton Dykstra of Jackson County and was purchased for \$14,000 by purchasing group made up of DuPont Pioneer Seeds, Hormel Foods, Merck Animal Health, and Nutra-Blend which sets another new record.

The **Champion Market Gilt** brought a new record price of \$16,000 for Aubrey Kerkaert of Pipestone County when Twin City Concrete made the purchase. The **Reserve Champion Market Gilt** set a new price record exhibited by Camryn Reuter of Mower County brought Farmers Union Industries, Wakefield Pork, Wilson Trailer Sales, Hog Slat, Swanson Meats, and Mower County Purple Ribbon Club together as they partnered with the final record bid of \$13,500.

The **Grand Champion Market Lamb** was the Champion Middleweight Lamb, shown by Brett Neel of Freeborn County. Minnesota Farmers Union and Farmers Union Agency came together to be the winning bidders for \$5,200. The **Reserve Champion Market Lamb** exhibited by Riley Arthur of Steele County was selected from the lightweight division and brought \$5,900 when Minnesota State Fair Concessionaires, Interstate Power Systems and Steele County Purple Ribbon Club made the purchase at a record price.

Minnesota Farmers Union and Farmers Union Agency helped set a new record bid of \$6,500 on the purchase of the **Grand Champion Market Meat Goat** exhibited by Micah Thompson of Kandiyohi County. The **Grand Champion Dairy Meat Goat** was exhibited by Marshall Johnson of Fillmore County and sold for a record price of \$5,100 to LongCheng Hmong Meats. The **Reserve Champion Market Meat Goat** was exhibited by Thomas Sell of Cottonwood County. A team of Sorensen Seed, Staple Oil Company, Fast Seed and Precision purchased the goat for \$5,800, setting a new record.

Proceeds from the 4-H Purple Ribbon Livestock Auction go to the winning 4-H youth and 20% of the funds are designated to further Minnesota 4-H, the Minnesota 4-H Foundation and the Auction Scholarships. Forty-one 4-H Livestock Auction Scholarships were awarded this year from the premiums received last year and matching dollars thanks to the generous support of Cargill, Skyride DMC-Don McClure, Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Comeer Financial, MN Pork Board, Holden Farms, Midwest Machinery, Fast Genetics, Independent Community Bankers of Minnesota, Gary Koch & Michael Dove, Riverview LLP, IDEAg Farmfest, American Farm Bureau, MN Farmers Union, LA-CO Industries, Albert Lea Seed House, Pipestone Grain, Kent Thiesse & Steve Pooch, Corn Roast-Brad & Lori Ribar, Schroeder Concessions, Commodity & Ingredient Hedging, Hormel Foods, Pronto Pups-the Karnis Family, MN State Cattlewomen, MN Simmental Association, Shanghaied Henri's, In Memory of Helen Anderson, Anderson Seeds, DLCC Ranch, Dar & Lynn Giess, MN Corn Growers Association, Duke's Poutine, Interstate Power Systems, RDO Equipment Co., Jake & Lindsay Grass, Smithfield, Isabel Burke's Salt Water Taffy, and Hubbard Feeds. The Minnesota Purple Ribbon Auction is sponsored by the Minnesota Livestock Breeders Association each year.