



MEDIA RELEASE

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2025 Minnesota Livestock Breeders Association 4-H Purple Ribbon Auction Scholarships

St. Paul, MN (8/23/25) – The Minnesota Livestock Breeders' Association 4-H Purple Ribbon Auction 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/4-H Purple Ribbon Auction is proudly awarding \$132,500 in scholarships to 42 outstanding youth. This year, 13 of the scholarships are \$5,000, 16 of the scholarships are \$3,000 in value and 13 are \$1,500. "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 696 scholarships given, totaling \$1,232,000.

The funding equation for the scholarships is a combination of donations from livestock industry leaders and supporters, matched by MLBA/4-H 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 80% of the funds going directly to the youth and the remaining invested in the scholarship fund and expenses related to the auction.

This year there were 13 \$5,000 scholarships awarded. Here are the recipients and the sponsor of each scholarship.

Grace Barber of Nobles County sponsored by Hy-Vee Foods

Natalie Bergem of W. Otter Tail County sponsored by Giant Slide

Hailey Chambers of Steele County sponsored by Wholystone Farms

Sylvia Chapman-Nesseth of Jackson County sponsored by Dick Boniface Memorial

Madison Ehrich of Faribault County sponsored by Topigs Norsvin USA

McKinley Folland of Kittson County sponsored by Zinpro Corporation

Brooke Polzin of Meeker County sponsored by O'Sullivan Auctioneers/O'Sullivan Cattle Co.

Kendra Reed of Goodhue County sponsored by Chuck Christians Memorial

Cody Shaw of Steele County sponsored by AcuFast

Marissa Shute of Mower County sponsored by American Foods Group

McKade Tewes of Jackson County sponsored by Cemstone

Allison Van Nurden of Kandiyohi County sponsored by Barbara and Brian Knudson

Brenna Wordes of Swift County sponsored by Minnesota Farmers Union

This year there were 16 \$3,000 scholarships awarded. Here are the recipients and the sponsor of each scholarship.

Cameron Addington of Goodhue County sponsored by Australian Battered Potatoes.

Grace Bayerl of McLeod County sponsored by BankIn Minnesota

William Carlson of Houston County sponsored by Boehringer-Ingelheim

Sidney Erickson of Polk County sponsored by Corn Roast Concessions

Dan Frericks of Stearns County sponsored by Mouth Trap Cheese Curds

Ellen Hartman of Le Sueur County sponsored by Compeer Financial

Tyler Kurt of Martin County sponsored by Minnesota Association of Meat Processors

Amelia Miller of Dakota County sponsored by Duke's Poutine - Erin & Matt Ribar

Noah Quigley of Dakota County sponsored by Boehringer-Ingelheim

Audrey Redalen of Fillmore County sponsored by Hamilton Auction

Brooklyn Roll of Cottonwood County sponsored by Pipestone Grain Company
Leah Sheehan of Nicollet County sponsored by Don & Mary Weis
Dylan Tate of Dakota County sponsored by LACO Industries All Weather Livestock
Marketing Solutions
Jaxson Wildung of Swift County sponsored by Minnesota Pork Board
Abigail Willegal of Sibley County sponsored by John Schafer
Alex Wilwerding of Stearns County sponsored by AgCountry Farm Credit Services

This year there were 13 \$1,500 scholarships awarded. Here are the recipients and the sponsor of each scholarship.

Addison Blume of Grant County sponsored by Von Hanson's Meats
Conlan Carlson of Kandiyohi County sponsored by Gislason & Hunter
Bryce Frericks of Stearns County sponsored by Pronto Pups - Karnis Family
Keith Harner of Rice County sponsored by Jamie & Mark Purfeerst
Taylor Larson of Murray County sponsored by Kent Thiesse & Steve Pooch
Mabry McGunegill of Pipestone County sponsored by Minnesota Simmental Association
Ellyana Sand of Stearns County sponsored by Munsterteiger Family Farms
Ella Smith of Cottonwood County sponsored by Minnesota Cattlewomen
Grady Steckelberg of Steele County sponsored by Hormel Foods
Tyler Steele of Winona County sponsored by Kristi & Eric Ruen
Clara Thompson of Mower County sponsored by Shanghai Henri's
Halle Underwood of Steele County sponsored by Joel Bennett Memorial
Lanna Walter of Stearns County sponsored by Pronto Pups - Karnis Family