



MEDIA RELEASE

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2026 Minnesota Livestock Breeders Association 4-H Purple Ribbon Auction Scholarships

St. Paul, MN (8/29/26) – 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 \$130,000 in scholarships to 44 outstanding youth. This year, 11 of the scholarships are \$5,000, 17 of the scholarships are \$3,000 in value and 16 are \$1,500. "The support from the greater livestock community is phenomenal and very appreciated," Ann Church, MLBA Secretary. Since the inception of the scholarship program there have been 740 scholarships given, totaling \$1,362,000.

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 11 \$5,000 scholarships awarded. Here are the recipients and the sponsor of each scholarship.

Jaden Ebnet of Stearns County sponsored by Zinpro Corporation

Karley Hamilton of Waseca County sponsored by AcuFast

Maria Hegland of Dakota County sponsored by Topigs Norsvin USA

Wyatt Herman of Washington County sponsored by O'Sullivan Auctioneers/O'Sullivan Cattle Co.

Clare Landrum of Rice County sponsored by Chuck Christians Memorial

Aubree Paplow of Cottonwood County sponsored by Minnesota Farmers Union

Keeley Runge of Watonwan County sponsored by Dick Boniface Memorial

Aubree Schmidt of Brown County sponsored by American Foods Group

Hannah Schuhmacher of Freeborn County sponsored by Barbara and Brian Knudson

Renae Vancura of Jackson County sponsored by Cemstone

Beth Wendinger of Sibley County sponsored by Wholestone Farms

This year there were 17 \$3,000 scholarships awarded. Here are the recipients and the sponsor of each scholarship.

Allison Deplazes of Dakota County sponsored by Mouth Trap Cheese Curds

Claudia Frenchick of Meeker County sponsored by LACO Industries All Weather Livestock Marketing Solutions

Charlie Friemann of Washington County sponsored by The Hanger

Alivia Fruechte of Lincoln County sponsored by Pipestone Grain Company

Ahna Heins of Stevens County sponsored by Hamilton Auction

Allee Johnson of Nicollet County sponsored by Boehringer-Ingelheim

Mitchell Lipinski of Meeker County sponsored by AgCountry Farm Credit Services

Samantha Mattson of McLeod County sponsored by John Schafer

Landon Mattson of Freeborn County sponsored by Compeer Financial

Mya Moore of Becker County sponsored by Corn Roast Concessions

Bella Pressnall of Dakota County sponsored by BankIn Minnesota

Tori Reynolds of Murray County sponsored by Mouth Trap Cheese Curds
Anna Rott of Olmsted County sponsored by Don & Mary Weis
Mara Schwarz of Fillmore County sponsored by Duke's Poutine - Erin & Matt Ribar
Katelyn Soost of Nicollet County sponsored by Minnesota Pork Board
Liv Vander Kooi of Nobles County sponsored by Federated Co-ops
Edward Winters of Goodhue County sponsored by Boehringer-Ingelheim

This year there were 16 \$1,500 scholarships awarded. Here are the recipients and the sponsor of each scholarship.

Ethan Andresen of Chippewa County sponsored by Hormel Foods
Alyvia Caskey of Pipestone County sponsored by Minnesota Association of Meat Processors

MacKenzie Ehlers of Jackson County sponsored by Shanghai Henri's
Jaxon Hilbrands of Stevens County sponsored by Minnesota Simmental Association

Addison Kelm of Waseca County sponsored by Minnesota Cattlewomen
Ashley Kovar of Wadena County sponsored by Pronto Pups - Karnis Family
Adrianne Missling of Watonwan County sponsored by Kristi & Eric Ruen
Aidan Moeller of Blue Earth County sponsored by Joel Bennett Memorial

Moriah Musselman of Anoka County sponsored by Gislason & Hunter

Grace Nagler of Swift County sponsored by Big Gain

Kirby Olson of Big Stone County sponsored by Pronto Pups - Karnis Family
Merritt Pomerence of Martin County sponsored by Munsterteiger Family Farms
Ellianna Schendel of Mille Lacs County sponsored by Gail Johnson & Jim Sadler

Isabella Schiffler of Stearns County sponsored by Von Hanson's Meats

Jilian Schoenfeld of Lincoln County sponsored by Jamie & Mark Purfeerst

Blake Siewart of Wabasha County sponsored by Kent Thiesse & Steve Pooch