BLUE RIBBON SALE OF CHAMPIONS FOUNDATION

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## Governor's Blue Ribbon Livestock Auction Celebrates Youth in Agriculture

WEST ALLIS, Wis. – Aug. 6, 2025 – Youth in Wisconsin's agriculture industry were the big winners at this year's Governor's Blue Ribbon Livestock Auction (GBRLA), which raised an impressive $381,350 for junior livestock exhibitors at the Wisconsin State Fair. The annual event, hosted by the Blue Ribbon Sale of Champions Foundation and Wisconsin State Fair officials, continues to celebrate and invest in the future of agriculture.

This year, the GBRLA awarded $55,000 in scholarships and contributed an additional $30,000 to support Wisconsin State Fair Junior Exhibitor Showmanship, Knowledge Master Showman and Reserve Champion awards.

"Every year, I'm amazed by the generosity of our buyers, sponsors, and supporters," said Jenny Gehl, President of the Blue Ribbon Sale of Champions Foundation. "The funds raised through the Governor's Blue Ribbon Livestock Auction directly benefit Wisconsin State Fair youth livestock exhibitors. It's incredible to see how this support helps them grow as leaders and future contributors to our ag community."

In attendance was Governor Tony Evers, Wisconsin State Fair CEO Shari Black, Wisconsin State Fair Park Chairman John Yingling, and Secretary of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Randy Romanski. In true Wisconsin fashion, the evening was kicked off with entertainment from the UW-Madison Marching Band and Bucky Badger, which has become a popular tradition for auction attendees.

The auction started off strong in the Coliseum with auctioneer Ryan Adams facilitating the sale of the Grand Champion Steer exhibited by Josie Lorentz which sold to Kenosha Beef International for $35,000.

**Auction Results**
Congratulations to all of the Wisconsin State Fair Junior Exhibitors who sold their animals in the 2025 Governor's Blue Ribbon Livestock Auction. Below is a list of winning bids:

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- Grand Champion Steer (Crossbred) exhibited by Josie Lorentz of Woodville, Winning bid of $35,000 by Kenosha Beef
- Grand Champion Barrow (Crossbred) exhibited by Amanda Miklaszewski of Franksville, Winning bid of $22,500 by Interstate Parking Company and Statewide Fencing
- Grand Champion Market Lamb (Hampshire) exhibited by Sydney Cherney of Wonewoc, Winning bid of $19,000 by Meijer
- Grand Champion Market Goat (Boer) exhibited by Wyatt Nixon of Delavan, Winning bid of $14,000 by Molson Coors
- Reserve Grand Champion Steer (Crossbred) exhibited by Chance Austin of Milton, Winning bid of $15,000 by Wisconsin Souvenir Milkcaps
- Reserve Grand Champion Barrow (Crossbred) exhibited by Logan Bennett of Durand, Winning bid of $15,000 by Leffs Lucky town, Ironwood Golf Course, Bunzel's Meat Market, Blue Moon Tavern, Trawicki Electric, Major Goolsby's, Fein Brothers, Swag Promotions, Hot House Tavern, Slim McGinns, Dale Z's
- Reserve Grand Champion Market Lamb (Hampshire) exhibited by Wyatt Nixon of Delavan, Winning bid of $9,000 by Giant Slide, II Dog Enterprize, Tropics at the Fair, Caribbean Smoothies, Skyfair Inc, Crutchees, Mary Beth Carr, Flying Solo, Crutches's Cheese on a Stick
- Grand Champion Bred and Owned Market Steer exhibited by Adam Massman of Alma Center, Winning bid of $16,000 by Interstate Parking Company and Statewide Fencing
- Grand Champion Bred and Owned Market Barrow exhibited by Kaden Butts of Evansville, Winning bid of $8,000 by Meijer
- Grand Champion Bred and Owned Market Lamb exhibited by Justin Johnson of Delavan, Winning bid $8,000 by Case IH
- Grand Champion Bred and Owned Market Goat exhibited by Josie Dekker of Oostburg, Winning bid of $7,000 by Meijer
- Champion Maintetainer Steer exhibited by Riley Runkel of Burlington, Winning bid of $14,000 by Beechwood Sales & Service
- Champion Duroc Barrow exhibited by Emersen Butts of Evansville, Winning bid of $23,000 by Klitzman Seed LLC, Wisconsin Pork Association, Top Notch Feed, Bank of New Glaurus, Klondike Farms, 33 Feeds, Gold Crest Farms, Maple Grove Farms, Veum Genetics, Booze Family, Haack Concessions, Chad & Kelly Butts Family, Grandma & Grandpa Bartz, In Memory of Grandpa Alan, Kelli and Johnson, AC Agronomy, Carolyn Butts, Adam & Tracy Travis, Jason & Sarah Douglas, O'Learly Gunn Farms, Crull Family, Kegonsa Cattle Company
- Champion Dorset Advantage exhibited by Wyatt Nixon of Delavan, Winning bid of $5,000 by Reyes Coca-Cola
- Champion Chianina exhibited by Breeze Bunker of Sparta, Winning bid of $11,000 by Meijer
- Champion Chester White Barrow exhibited Nicholas Duch of New London, Winning bid of $7,000 bySaz's Hospitality

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- Champion Natural Color Lamb exhibited by Braden Bowers of Belmont, Winning bid of $6,000 by Leffs Lucky town, Ironwood Golf Course, Bunzel's Meat Market, Blue Moon Tavern, Trawicki Electric, Major Goolsby's, Fein Brothers, Swag Promotions, Hot House Tavern, Slim McGinns, Dale Z.'s
- Champion Charolais Steer exhibited by Madalynn Wickers of Whitelake, Winning bid of $5,000 by Wisconsin Souvenir Milkcaps
- Champion Hampshire Barrow exhibited by Sydney Cherney of Wonewoc, Winning bid of $2,000 by Meijer
- Champion Crossbred Lamb exhibited by Brayden Bowers of Belmont, Winning bid of $3,000 by Klitzman Seed LLC and Klondike Farms
- Champion Hereford Steer exhibited David Schultz of Germantown, Winning bid of $5,000 by WEC Energies Foundation
- Champion Tamworth Barrow exhibited by Annabeth Sprecher of Lone Rock, Winning bid of $6,000 by Dalton Lumber & Supply, Trembling Prairie Farms, Alsum Farms & Produce
- Champion Shropshire Lamb exhibited Lainey Popp of Delavan, Winning bid of $3,000 by Meijer
- Champion Simmental Low % Steer exhibited by Tessa Smith of Hubertus, Winning bid of $20,000 by Austin Plumbing
- Champion Hereford Barrow exhibited by Judy Jentges of Port Washington, Winning bid of $4,500 by Saz's Hospitality, Milwaukee Admirals
- Champion Dorset Lamb exhibited by Isaac Doyle of Waupaca, Winning bid of $10,000 by Dalton Lumber & Supply, Trembling Prairie Farms, Alsum Farms & Produce, Team Issac
- Champion Shorthorn Steer exhibited by Annabeth Sprecher of Lone Rock, Winning bid of $5,000 by Meijer
- Champion Spotted Barrow exhibited by Sydney Cherney of Wonewoc, Winning bid of $3,000 by Dalton Lumber & Supply
- Champion Oxford Lamb exhibited by Allison Loosen of Hartford, Winning bid of $6,000 by Pohlman Family, Whitetail Concrete, LLC
- Champion Angus Steer exhibited by Madison Kegley of Burlington, Winning bid of $10,500 by Meijer
- Champion Yorkshire Barrow exhibited by Kendyl Rowe of LaValle, Winning bid of $2,000 by Reyes Coca-Cola
- Champion Southdown Lamb exhibited by Justin Brandel of Lake Mills, Winning bid of $7,500 by Friends of JB Livestock
- Champion AOB Steer exhibited by Morgan Kleppe of Richland Center, Winning bid of $6,000 by Statewide Fencing
- Champion Berkshire Barrow exhibited by Rudy Hansen of Sparta, Winning bid of $4,000 by Beechwood Sales & Service
- Champion Any Other Breed Lamb exhibited Hadley Watson of Edgerton, Winning bid of $4,000 by R&K Sons Construction
- Champion Simmental Steer exhibited by Morgan Kleppe of Richland Center, Winning bid of $5,000 by Meijer
- Champion Landrace Barrow exhibited by Rudy Hansesn of Sparta. Winning bid of $3,000 by Clayton Cattle Company

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- Champion Katahdin Lamb exhibited by Bryndalyn Kanable of Richland Center, Winning bid of $2,000 by Meijer
- Champion Shorthorn Plus Steer exhibited by Brenna Thorson of Rudolf, Winning bid of $4,750 by Leffs Lucky town, Ironwood Golf Course, Bunzel's Meat Market, Blue Moon Tavern, Trawicki Electric, Major Goolsby's, Fein Brothers, Swag Promotions, Hot House Tavern, Slim McGinns, Dale Z.'s
- Champion Poland China Barrow exhibited by WEC Energies Foundation
- Champion Dairy Steer exhibited by Madeline Bernick of Spencer, Winning bid of $13,000 by Case IH, Meijer, Leffs Lucky town, Ironwood Golf Course, Bunzel's Meat Market, Blue Moon Tavern, Trawicki Electric, Major Goolsby's, Fein Brothers, Swag Promotions, Hot House Tavern, Slim McGinns, Dale Z.'s

**Scholarship Recipients**

Congratulations to all the Wisconsin State Fair Junior Exhibitors who were awarded a 2025 Governor's Blue Ribbon Livestock Auction Scholarship. Below is a list of recipients:

$5,000 Recipient

- Julia Lenz

$3,000 Recipients

- Megan Doherty
- Ethan Kohlman
- Ellen Robinson

$2,000 Recipients

- Clara Henderson
- Annamarie Aue
- Macy Cross
- Landon Rehberg
- Hannah Oleson
- Kylie Garner
- Judy Jentges

$1,000 Recipients

- Emma Inman
- Luke Schubert
- Atley Potterton
- Kaila Cross
- Summer Rake

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- Brooklyn Jones
- Makayla Kammes
- Mallory Cepress
- McKinley Krueger
- Bryn Meyer
- Lillianna Berget
- Maggie Kershner
- Abby Anderson
- Ella Roehl
- Ty Thorson
- Kaycee Lindner
- Dani Graff
- Brynn Hannes
- Alison George
- Landen Leibfried
- Sam Wolf
- Kendyll Theobald
- Annie Robinson
- Payton Heins
- Sydney Cherney
- Mariyah Creaser
- Isabella Dannenberg

**Leadership Awards**

At the Wisconsin State Fair, excellence is built on hard work, leadership, and a commitment to community. Each year, the Governor's Blue Ribbon Livestock Auction recognizes outstanding individuals in Junior Beef, Swine, Sheep, and Market Goat categories.

Selected by their peers and leaders for their leadership, sportsmanship, and dedication to livestock care, these honorees represent the best of Wisconsin's youth in agriculture.

**2025 Leadership Award Recipients:**

- Beef - Karlie Marks of Hortonville
- Goat - Payton Heins of Mineral Point
- Sheep - Morgan Van Schyndle of Cuba City
- Swine - Madisyn Henderson of Union Grove

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The Governor's Blue Ribbon Livestock Auction is more than a showcase of champion livestock—it's a celebration of the young people who represent the future of Wisconsin agriculture. The Blue Ribbon Sale of Champions Foundation extends its heartfelt thanks to every buyer, sponsor, and supporter who contributed to this year's success. Your generosity helps fuel education, leadership, and lifelong passion in the next generation. We look forward to raising the bar even higher in 2026.

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