



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Indiana State Fair Celebration of Champions honors 4-H youth at Indiana Farmers Coliseum**

Indiana State Fairgrounds, INDIANAPOLIS, IN, August 21, 2017 – As the 2017 Indiana State Fair drew to a close Sunday night, one milestone remained for twenty-four 4-H youth whose hard work and dedication had earned them the right to attend the Celebration of Champions at Indiana Farmers Coliseum.

These young Hoosiers have spent the last year working hard to raise livestock of various species, weights, and classes, while others have grown crops, cultivated bee colonies, and built particle accelerators. Their work was rewarded during the Celebration of Champions' dinner and program where each received a coveted purple banner.

Nearly \$170,000 was raised by the Indiana State Fair Foundation for the youth development fund to provide monetary awards and the Celebration of Champions dinner to honor the accomplishments and work ethic of Hoosier youth.

According to 4-H member Remingtin Brumbaugh, a 3<sup>rd</sup> year 4-H member of DeKalb County who won Grand Champion Market Steer, "I just won the Indiana State Fair Steer Show and I've never done this show before. It's a lot of hard work, but it paid off in the end."

Many who competed had taken to heart the judges' critiques from years past to improve year-to-year.

"I finished third Overall Market Lamb last year," said Lane Slaton, a 7<sup>th</sup> year 4-H member from Hamilton County. "By just correcting what I did last year, I was able to turn it into success this year.

Those corrections helped Slaton earn a 2017 Grand Champion Market Lamb title. "I knew if I wanted to win, it'd take a lot of hours in the barn," he said.

Other Grand Champions include:

- 4-H Exhibit Hall Best of Show: Alexandra Forsythe, Huntington County
- Grand Champion Garden Exhibit: Nathan Berry, Hendricks County
- Grand Champion Cache of Honey: Lilly Vittetow, Putnam County
- Grand Champion Meat Pen of Rabbits: Paige Gauck, Decatur County
- Grand Champion Dairy Steer: Melissa Rudolph, LaPorte County
- Grand Champion Meat Goat Wether: Ethan Beaman, Cass County
- Grand Champion Market Lamb: Lane Slaton, Hamilton County
- Grand Champion Market Steer: Remingtin Brumbaugh, DeKalb County
- Grand Champion Commercial Waterfowl: Emma Gutfreund, Dearborn County
- Grand Champion Meat Type Chicken: Daniel Koontz, Marshall County

Reserve Grand Champions were awarded to the following:

- Reserve Grand Champion Meat Goat Wether: Elizabeth Michel, Wabash County
- Reserve Grand Champion Market Lamb: Kendal Rosen, Wabash County
- Reserve Grand Champion Market Barrow: Cagney Utterback, Madison County
- Reserve Grand Champion Market Steer: Harper Henney, Steuben County

Others awarded include:

- 4<sup>th</sup> Overall Market Lamb: Logan Tressler, Rush County
- 5<sup>th</sup> Overall Market Lamb: McKenzie Vogel, White County
- 6<sup>th</sup> Overall Market Lamb: Jordyn Leininger, Kosciusko County
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Overall Market Barrow: Chase Cassida, Montgomery County
- 4<sup>th</sup> Overall Market Barrow: Blake Danner, White County
- 5<sup>th</sup> Overall Market Barrow: Blake Webel, Hamilton County
- 6<sup>th</sup> Overall Market Barrow: Johnnie Anne McDonnell, Wayne County
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Overall Market Steer: Robert Rogers, Noble County
- 4<sup>th</sup> Overall Market Steer: Ross Howard, White County
- 5<sup>th</sup> Overall Market Steer: Zackary Bowman, Wayne County

Members of 4-H frequently credit the organization with helping them to learn the value of hard work and dedication. They also express appreciation for the opportunity to participate in 4-H, not only for the life skills learned or the chance to compete, but also for the chance to make life-long friends from across Indiana.

**About the Indiana State Fair Foundation** *The Indiana State Fair Foundation raises funds to support year-round agriculture education, youth development and campus stewardship of the Indiana State Fairgrounds & Event Center. The Foundation was established in 2011 to raise private funding to renovate the Indiana Farmers Coliseum. More than \$10 million was raised for the iconic building. Annually, the Foundation raises over \$150,000 for the Celebration of Champions which provides monetary awards and a dinner program for 4-H youth who represent the best of the best at the Indiana State Fair. The Foundation also helps fund year-round agriculture education field trips hosting 10,000 school children a year at the Fairgrounds through The BARNs Global Learning Initiative. For more information or to make a donation, visit [www.IndianaStateFairFoundation.org](http://www.IndianaStateFairFoundation.org)*

**About the Indiana State Fairgrounds & Event Center** *The Indiana State Fairgrounds and Event Center is a modern public event facility that annually hosts more than 400 meetings, shows, sports and agricultural events, including the Indiana State Fair. The year-round management of the Fairgrounds is overseen by the Indiana State Fair Commission which is a quasi-governmental agency that was established in 1992, with the mission to preserve and enhance the Indiana State Fairgrounds and the annual Indiana State Fair for the benefit of all citizens of Indiana. Additional information is available at [www.indianastatefair.com](http://www.indianastatefair.com).*

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