



**Aksarben
Stock Show**



**Farm Credit Services
of America**

Immediate Release

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Aksarben Pig Challenge debuts with a new partner, 2020

Farm Credit Services of America employees mentor Aksarben youth

Grand Island, NE (May 21, 2020) –The Aksarben Pig Challenge presented by Farm Credit Services of America (FCSAmerica) is a new opportunity at the 2020 Aksarben Stock Show. Youth will experience raising a market hog for six months, keeping records, showing, and sharing their progress with an adult mentor.

Youth between the ages of 11 to 18 and representing multiple states are part of the inaugural 2020 class. Several FCSAmerica employees have volunteered to correspond with the youth as mentors. Participating youth are expected to write monthly to their assigned mentor, sharing details about their project and what they are learning about the agricultural industry.

The youth in the program were selected through an application process and provided with a pig to feed and show throughout the spring and summer. Participants are judged throughout the course of their project, from the time they take ownership in the spring of a 50-pound pig through the Aksarben Stock Show in September, when they return with an estimated 300-pound hog.

“The pig challenge is a two-year project in the making, and this is the initial year. We sourced good, purebred hogs from breeder Trent Loos and the curriculum is modeled after our successful lamb and calf challenge programs. We know the importance of collaboration within agriculture and this partnership is helping youth communicate with agricultural professionals, thanks to Farm Credit Services of America for stepping up to support the program,” stated Greg Harder, Aksarben Stock Show executive director.

“As a mission-driven financial cooperative, FCSAmerica is focused not only on serving producers today but also helping to advance the industry for tomorrow. Growing the next generation of producers and agricultural leaders is essential to the continued success of the U.S. agricultural industry,” said Jason Edleman, senior vice president for business development FCSAmerica’s western territory, including parts of Iowa, Nebraska and all of Wyoming. “The opportunity to support the Aksarben Pig Challenge is one of the many ways FCSAmerica is investing in youth and their future in agriculture.”

The Aksarben Stock Show is indeed a family tradition with a rich history dating back to 1928. The Aksarben Purple Ribbon Scholarship Auction is the pinnacle event and open to the public to attend. The top three Pig Challenge winners will advance to auction on Saturday, September 26, 2020, at 7 p.m. Prior to the auction, the Purple Ribbon Reception presented by Five Points Bank will be held for buyers to mingle with the youth exhibitors in the Loft.

The Aksarben Stock Show is held at Fonner Park with beef, sheep and goat shows taking place in the Five Points Bank Arena in the Nebraska Farm Bureau Show Ring. The swine show is held in the Aurora Cooperative Pavilion. Youth from Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, and Wyoming are eligible to show between the ages of 9-19 years old. Aksarben Stock Show will be held Sept 24-27, 2020 in Grand Island, NE. For complete details visit www.showaksarben.com

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