

Immediate Release



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**2018, Purple Ribbon Auction increases scholarships and awards by \$44,500**

***Nova-Tech buying group purchases Grand Champion Market Beef for \$18,000***

***Champion Purebred Market Hog brings \$6,500 for York, NE teenager***

Grand Island, NE (October 22, 2018) – The Aksarben Stock Show managed and produced by Nebraska State Fair will award \$171,000 to the livestock showing youth as a result of the Purple Ribbon Auction. The 91<sup>st</sup> annual event was held September 27 – 30, 2018 at Fonner Park. Youth from eight of the 10 states showing qualified for the auction.

“This year we will distribute \$44,500 over the guarantee from the auction,” explained Greg Harder, stock show director. “Our buying groups and sponsors are helping us reach our goal to grow and build on the history of Aksarben. We will continue to make this a fun and family orientated atmosphere where kids and families simply can’t wait for the next year.”

The Purple Ribbon Auction is the pinnacle event and open to the public. A reception is held prior to the auction for buyers to mingle with the youth exhibitors. Harder thanked the attendees and said, “I am humbled and honored to be in this position, now full circle since I last exhibited in 1981. I might be shedding a tear for my father, I wish he could be here to enjoy this auction too.”

The grand champion market beef shown by Zachary Bradford from LaVerne, IA was purchased for \$18,000 by the buying group: Nova-Tech, MultiMin USA, HLG Packaging, Pathway Bank and Gideon Farms and Show Pigs.

Bradford is currently enrolled at Iowa Central Community College and studying welding. A second generation Aksarben Stock Show exhibitor Bradford said, “It is a blessing to get a scholarship. It makes it easier to go to school and not worry about money and be able to focus on my studies.” His father, David, exhibited at Ak-Sar-Ben in the late 1980s and said the move to Grand Island with its outstanding facilities are reasons why they chose to include this show into their schedule.

Ninth grader, Hallie Hindman from Albia, IA took home the champion market lamb and it was purchased by Bank of the West for \$7,500. She plans to pursue a nursing degree. Her advice for others who are interested in showing is perseverance. “The harder you work, the greater you feel when you achieve it,” she stated.

The champion market hog was shown by Sage Voegele from Lennox, SD and purchased for \$6,000 by the buying group: Midwest Chevrolet, Jerry's Sheet Metal, Home Federal Bank, Ag Services Inc. and Valmont. Voegele is a fifth grader with plans to attend the University of Nebraska and study pre-veterinary medicine.

Ten-year-old, Mason Rookstool from Wamego, KS showed the champion market goat. It was purchased by the Hoch family and Valmont for \$5,000. Rookstool plans to attend college and pursue a degree in animal science.

Kali Stratman from Cuming, NE, won the champion calf challenge prize. Her calf was purchased for \$11,500 by First National Bank of Omaha and Greg Baxter. Minnesotan Kaden Nelson from New Richland was awarded the champion lamb challenge, which sold for \$4,000 and was purchased by Kiewit.

Thirty-three exhibitors qualified for the Aksarben Purple Ribbon Auction on Sunday evening and the results are as follows:

Grand Champion Market Beef - \$18,000 shown by Zachary Bradford from LaVerne, IA; purchased by the buying group: Nova-Tech, MultiMin USA, HLG Packaging, Pathway Bank and Gideon Farms and Show Pigs.

Reserve Champion Market Beef Overall - \$11,000 shown by Madison Koehn from North English, IA purchased by Kiewit

Champion Market Lamb - \$7,500 shown by Halle Hindman from Albia, IA; purchased by Bank of the West

Reserve Champion Market Lamb - \$5,000 shown by Ellie Karr from Newahll, IA; purchased by Blue Cross of Blue Shield of Nebraska and Valmont

Champion Market Hog - \$6,000 shown by Sage Voegele from Lennox, SD; purchased by Grand Island Buying Group: Midwest Chevrolet, Jerry's Sheet Metal, Home Federal Bank, Ag Services Inc. and Valmont

Reserve Champion Market Hog - \$6,000 shown by Brylee Williams from Princeton, Mo.; purchased by Bosselman Enterprises, Cash-Wa Distributing, Equitable Bank, Mid Nebraska Disposal Inc.

Champion Market Goat - \$5,000 shown by Mason Rookstool from Wamego, KS.; purchased by the Hoch Family and Valmont

Champion Purebred Market Hog - \$6,500 shown by Lauren Kaliff from York, NE; purchased by Wells Fargo and Valmont

Champion Calf Challenge - \$11,500 shown by Kali Stratman from Cuming, NE; purchased by First National Bank of Omaha and Greg Baxter

Reserve Champion Calf Challenge - \$10,000 shown by Katelyn Penrson from Dixon, NE; purchased by Gary Bader & Sons Feedlot and Tom Dinsdale Auto

Champion Lamb Challenge - \$4,000 shown by Kaden Nelson from New Richland, MN; purchased by Kiewit

Reserve Champion Lamb Challenge - \$3,500 shown by Chase DeVries from Fairfield, NE; purchased by Pinnacle Bank

Reserve Champion Division 1- Market Beef - \$5,750 shown by Tyla Scott from Burlington, CO; purchased by T-Bone Buying Group

3rd Overall Market Lamb - \$3,500 shown by Nicole Zuber from Marengo, IA purchased by Farm Credit Services

3rd Overall Market Hog - \$3,500 shown by Sydney Cain from Chariton, IA purchased by First National Bank of Omaha and Greg Baxter

3rd Overall Market Goat - \$3,250 shown by Riley Tade from Ashland, MO.; purchased by Buying Group: O'Neill Wood Resources, Peed Family and Wolbach Foundation

Champion Division II - Market Beef - \$7,000 shown by Avery Shalla from Riverside, IA; purchased by Great Western Bank, Valmont and T-Bone Group

4th Overall Market Lamb - \$4,500 shown by Camry Murdock from Orleans, NE; purchased by Five Points Bank and Midwest Express Inc.

4th Overall Market Hog - \$4,000 shown by Sydney Cain from Chariton, IA; purchased by Edgar Reynolds Foundation

4th Overall Market Goat - \$4,000 shown by Anna Vetter from Bennett, CO; purchased by Western Nebraska/Colorado Buyers Group

3rd Place Calf Challenge - \$5,500 shown by Travis Capelle from Stewartville, MN; purchased by Bank of the West

3rd Place Lamb Challenge - \$1,750 shown by Abbigale Steele from Rhame, ND; purchased by Pinnacle Bank

5th Overall Market Lamb - \$2,500 shown by Chloe Henry from Ames, IA; purchased by Edgar Reynolds Foundation, Farm Credit Services and Valmont

Reserve Champion Market Heifer - \$5,500 shown by Olivia Cheers from Aflan, IA; purchased by Buying Group: Union Pacific, Beattie Family Farms, HDR, Lutz Accounting and Valmont

Reserve Champion Division II - Market Beef - \$5,000 shown by Cash Voegele from Lennox, SD; purchased by Heartland Ag and Industrial-Irrigation Services

6th Overall Market Lamb - \$3,250 shown by Jillian Keller from Piqua, KS; purchased by Wells Fargo

5th Overall Market Hog - \$2,500 shown by Lauren Kaliff from York, NE; purchased by Five Points Bank and Valmont

5th Overall Market Goat - \$1,750 shown by Kaleb Lunstra from Lennox, SD; purchased by the buying group: Nova-Tech, MultiMin USA, HLG Packaging, Pathway Bank and Gideon Farms and Show Pigs.

7th Overall Market Lamb - \$2,000 shown by Samantha Williams from Decorah, IA; purchased by Pinnacle Bank

6th Overall Market Goat - \$1,250 shown by Shelby Clark from Copeland, KS; purchased by Shawn Ryan

7th Overall Market Swine - \$3,250 shown by Trey Stewart from Wisner, NE; purchased by Five Points Bank

8th Overall Market Swine - \$3,000 shown by Brayde Adam from Lathrogo, MO; purchased by Bank of the West

8th Overall Market Lamb - \$2,000 shown by Jed Sidwell from Gill, CO; purchased by Western Nebraska/Colorado Buyers Group

The beef, sheep and goat Shows were held at the Five Points Bank Arena in the Nebraska Farm Bureau Show Ring. The swine show was held in the Aurora Cooperative Pavilion. Youth from Colorado, Kansas, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming showed. The 2019 Aksarben Stock Show will be held Sept 26-29, 2019 in Grand Island, NE. For complete details visit [www.aksarbenstockshow.com](http://www.aksarbenstockshow.com)

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