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## **EASTERN STATES EXPOSITION DONATES 700 LBS. OF BEEF TO WEST SPRINGFIELD PARISH CUPBOARD**

Eastern States Exposition (ESE) donated 700 lbs. of premium beef from a prize 4-H steer to the West Springfield Parish Cupboard. Acting on behalf of the Exposition and its Board of Directors, ESE President Gene Cassidy bid on and purchased the Reserve Grand Champion Steer at the 4-H Beef Auction, held during The Big E.

The 1,365 lb. cross-bred steer sold for \$4.50/lb. and was raised by Victoria Briggs, of New Hampshire, who purchased the animal as a calf and spent a full year growing it to market weight to participate in the four-day 4-H Beef Program at the Fair.

ESE President Gene Cassidy said the donation not only helps feed the hungry, it promotes the Farm-To-Table initiative and brings the importance of agriculture in our daily lives to the forefront.

“The reality of where the foods on our table come from, what we are eating and how it is produced is of the utmost importance. Feeding our nation is the purpose of agriculture, the Exposition’s mission and its founding backbone. We are raising awareness of the importance of agriculture and how much we rely on farmers, and future farmers to produce and harvest food for our tables,” Cassidy said.

Martha Tighe, Parish Cupboard director, said, “What the Exposition has done for the Parish Cupboard is absolutely amazing. We will be able to serve our homeless and needy clients pot roast, meat loaf, beef stew, sliced roast beef dinners and more, all year, thanks to this awesome donation of 700 pounds of beef!”

Donna Woolam, ESE’s director of Agriculture and Education, said, “This is the Exposition’s way of supporting youth in animal agriculture 4-H projects and this young lady’s efforts in the 4-H Beef program, which culminates with the auction, have been rewarded.”

The 2018 4-H Beef Sale presented 23 steers for sale to 26 area buyers which included restaurants, businesses, colleges, farms and individuals. The sale culminated in more than \$84,000 in total sales that directly benefit the participating 4-H youths who use their money for college, or to purchase another steer for the following year’s program.

This year’s Big E takes place September 13-29. The 4-H Beef Auction is Monday, September 23 and is open to the public. Please join us at 6 p.m. in Mallary Arena. Those interested in bidding on steers may contact our Agriculture Department in advance of the sale at 413-205-5011 or stop by the registration table at the event. Arrangements may be easily made to process purchases. Many businesses and individuals have joined together to purchase a steer as well.

The Parish Cupboard, founded in 1986 by Parish Association of local Protestant and Catholic Churches has been helping the less fortunate members of West Springfield and Agawam for more than thirty years. Through financial contributions and food donations, The Parish Cupboard has been able to help thousands of citizens throughout the decades. Visit [www.parishcupboard.com](http://www.parishcupboard.com) for more information.

*Since 1916*