



## **2018 Junior Livestock Auction Raises Over \$500,000 for New Mexico Youth**

### ***Junior Grand Champion Steer Raised in Santa Fe County Sells for \$30,000***

ALBUQUERQUE, NM – It's no wonder New Mexico's young farmers and ranchers are eager to qualify for the prestigious New Mexico State Fair Junior Livestock Sale. The Junior Livestock competition, which runs for one week during the Fair, is the culmination of considerable time and hard work that 4-H and FFA youth spend in breeding, raising, grooming and preparing their animals for the Fair. These young people vie for an opportunity to be eligible to go to the Junior Livestock Sale to earn financial recognition for their year-long efforts. Preliminary totals for this year's sale are \$524,150.

"This is a big event for these kids and they work tremendously hard throughout the year for the opportunity to make the sale," said New Mexico State Fair Manager, Dan Mourning. "The community showed up big for these kids today. The sale raised over half a million dollars in funds that most of these kids will use towards their college educations."

Programs like 4-H and FFA teach the value of hard work, leadership skills, and responsibility. Students who participate in these programs are provided with opportunities to learn about careers in the agriculture and farming industries and encouraged to volunteer in their local communities. The Junior Livestock Sale has long been a tradition at the New Mexico State Fair and continues to be the premier showcase for the state's finest livestock.

In an act true to this year's "Love is in the Fair" theme, the Junior Grand Champion Steer was purchased in loving memory of Mrs. Jennifer Riordan. Wells Fargo, Sun Zia Transmission Lines, Ag New Mexico, Wagner Equipment, Enviro-Works and New Mexico Farm Credit came together to fund the \$30,000.00 purchase of the Junior Grand Champion Steer raised by Caleb McCall of Santa Fe County.

"Some of the things that were so special to Jennifer were children, animals, having fun, and education," said David Hockmuth, President of Wells Fargo Bank. "This was one of Jennifer's very favorite events because it is the result of all those things."

“Jennifer was a great cheerleader of young people and their potential,” stated New Mexico State Fair General Manager, Dan Mourning. “She was a bright light in this community and her kind, and generous spirit will continue to live on at the Junior Livestock Sale.”

The 2018 New Mexico State Fair runs through September 16, 2018.