

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

NEWS RELEASE

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Minnesota State Fair Beginning Exhibitor Livestock Learning Experience (BELLE) Grant Recipients Announced

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St. Paul, Minn. – The Minnesota State Fair is pleased to announce the recipients of the Beginning Exhibitor Livestock Learning Experience (BELLE) Grant, a program that awards grants and provides mentors to youth livestock exhibitors who are first-time participants in the Minnesota State Fair. The BELLE Grant is in its fourth year and funded by the Minnesota State Fair Foundation.

The 15 recipients of the 2024 BELLE Grant are:

- Isaac Albers of Dundas, Minn. (Dairy cattle)
- Katie Barclay of Albert Lea, Minn. (Beef cattle)
- Grace Colville of Silver Lake, Minn. (Goats)
- Sydney Deyle of Browerville, Minn. (Dairy cattle)
- Trevin Dicke of Goodhue, Minn. (Beef cattle)
- Jordyn Dingels of Northfield, Minn. (Dairy cattle)
- Elyzah Erickson of Mankato, Minn. (Horse)
- Miley Hanks of Northome, Minn. (Goats)
- Tanner Howe of Hutchinson, Minn. (Dairy cattle)
- Max McGunegill of Jasper, Minn. (Beef cattle)
- Maddie Meyer of Sauk Centre, Minn. (Dairy cattle)
- Levi Nelson of Glencoe, Minn. (Dairy cattle)
- Jordan Pease of Chatfield, Minn. (Poultry)
- Renly Quiram of Morris, Minn. (Rabbits)
- George Stockman of Backus, Minn. (Beef cattle)

The State Fair showcases Minnesota's finest agriculture and recognizes the importance of cultivating youth experiences in the livestock industry. The BELLE Grant program provides financial support for participants and introduces new livestock exhibitors to the Great Minnesota Get-Together. For more information about this program visit mnstatefair.org/about-the-fair/awards-and-recognition/belle-grant/

The BELLE Grant gifts \$500 each to large-animal exhibitors entering beef cattle, dairy cattle, horses, sheep, swine, goats and llamas, and \$250 each to small-animal competitors exhibiting rabbits and poultry. These funds help offset costs of participating in the fair, including travel, lodging and purchasing show supplies. Applicants must be Minnesota residents between the ages of 10 and 18. The program also matches BELLE Grant recipients with a peer-to-peer mentor to help guide them through their Minnesota State Fair experience.

The Minnesota State Fair Foundation's nonprofit mission is to preserve and improve State Fair buildings, the fairgrounds and educational programs. Foundation funds benefit the fair in the areas of agricultural

education, arts and culture, education, fairgrounds environment, and history and heritage. Visit msffoundation.org for more information.

The Minnesota State Fair is one of the largest and best-attended expositions in the world. Showcasing Minnesota's finest agriculture, art and industry, the Great Minnesota Get-Together is 12 Days of Fun Ending Labor Day. The State Fair is financially self-supporting and does not receive government appropriation. Follow along on Facebook, X, Instagram and TikTok @mnstatefair for year-round updates. The 2024 Minnesota State Fair will run Aug. 22 through Labor Day, Sept. 2. Visit mnstatefair.org for more information.

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