



BELIEVE • BUILD • GROW... OUR YOUTH, OUR AGRICULTURE

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## **3rd annual Michigan Livestock Expo raises \$173,400 for youth** *Meijer sports second trifecta with grand champ steer, hog, lamb*

**LANSING, July 22, 2011** - The Michigan Livestock Expo promised to charm in its third annual year and the event delivered on all fronts, bringing in big bucks, big names and, most of all, a big turnout of youth exhibitors and livestock.

"The Michigan Livestock Expo was again an impressive achievement, and everyone involved is thrilled with the event's record participation of more than 825 youth exhibitors and 1,200 farm animals, as well as the encouragement from spectators at the exhibition activities and the record-breaking support of individuals and businesses at the 'Sale-Abraction auction,'" said Ernie Birchmeier, Michigan Livestock Expo co-organizer and Michigan Farm Bureau livestock and dairy specialist.

"We are also very grateful for the support of Governor Rick Snyder and the other state officials who attended the 'Sale-Abraction' and cheered on Expo exhibitors and buyers" said Birchmeier. "It's inspiring to see Michigan's leaders make an investment in youth, agriculture and the future of our state."

The Michigan Livestock Expo "Sale-Abraction" auction, held July 19 and featuring award-winning farm animals and dairy products exhibited by Michigan youth, grossed \$173,400, an almost 12 percent increase from last year thanks to generous purchases by more than 35 single and collective buyers who bid on 33 items.

In several categories, the livestock and dairy products up for auction fetched winning bids that were dramatically higher than past sales.

This included a dairy gift basket honoring the Supreme Champion Dairy Cow, exhibited by 16-year-old Parker Hardy of Tipton, which sold for \$21,000. Last year, the same category sold for \$7,000. (Unlike other livestock species where the animals are sold for meat, dairy cows return to milk production after the auction. So a dairy-related gift is sold to represent the award-winning animal.)

A mix of seasoned buyers and some new to the Michigan Livestock Expo teamed up for the Supreme Champion Dairy Cow purchase. Among the first-time bidders involved in the sale was the Kroger Co. of Michigan with a \$4,000 contribution.

"Livestock are a critically important sector of Michigan's agriculture industry. Alone, the dairy industry is Michigan's largest agriculture commodity," said Birchmeier. "So to see the Supreme Champion Dairy Cow and other livestock categories fetch top dollar was gratifying for everyone because these sales support opportunities for the youth of our state to stay involved in agriculture and help Michigan's agriculture industry grow."

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### ***Meijer trifecta***

Grand Rapids-based retailer Meijer was the ultimate trend-setter, performing a repeat trifecta with the purchase of three grand champion animals for the second consecutive year.

Meijer purchased the Grand Champion Market beef steer, exhibited by 19-year-old Kenton Klingaman of Tekonsha for \$20,000; the Grand Champion Market Hog, exhibited by 16-year-old Lauren Wildt of Homer for \$15,000; and the Grand Champion Market Lamb, exhibited by 19-year-old Ryan Waltke of Burr Oak for \$12,000. Meijer successfully bid on several other animals, bringing its total investment to nearly \$60,000.

"Meijer's giving created loads of excitement and energy at the Sale-Abration, and everyone involved in the Michigan Livestock Expo has a lot of gratitude for Meijer," said Birchmeier.

"We recognize that times remain tight financially for everyone, and for Meijer to continue to invest in Michigan's youth in such a big way is truly moving and leaves a lasting impression," said Birchmeier. "The young people involved in the Michigan Livestock Expo will be forever grateful to Meijer for the company's generosity."

### ***Where the money goes***

Youth typically apply earnings from the auction to their current or future college expenses and/or invest the money back into their youth livestock projects, with proceeds above a sales cap supporting the Michigan Youth Livestock Scholarship Fund, which provides scholarships and educational awards to youth involved in livestock exhibition activities. Approximately \$30,000 from this year's sale is expected to go toward the Michigan Youth Livestock Scholarship Fund.

### ***About the Michigan Livestock Expo***

The Michigan Livestock Expo is the largest statewide, multi-species livestock show and sale in Michigan. The centrally located event is open to youth ages 8 to 21 and features beef cattle, hogs, sheep, goats and dairy products representative of award-winning dairy cattle. The Michigan Livestock Expo is unique because most livestock shows and sales are local or regional in nature and some are limited to fewer animal species, oftentimes just a single species.

Exhibition activities that judged young people's animal rearing skills and talents in the show ring with beef cattle, hogs, sheep and goats took place July 15-17. Dairy contests were held July 19 in conjunction with the Michigan Dairy Expo. Youth exhibitors of award-winning animals earned the opportunity to market their livestock and dairy products to the highest bidder at the "Sale-Abration" auction. All activities took place at the Michigan State University Livestock Pavilion.

The Michigan Livestock Expo is sponsored by a large group of agricultural supporters. Visit <http://www.milivestock.com/milivestock/sponsors> for a complete list. Auction services are provided by Bill Sheridan of the Mason-based Sheridan Realty & Auction Co. To learn more about the Michigan Livestock Expo, visit <http://www.milivestock.com>.

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***Editor's note: Visit <http://www.milivestock.com/milivestock/photos> to download photos of youth exhibitors and their farm animals.***



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## ***3rd annual Michigan Livestock Expo Sale-Abraction results***

### **BEEF SALE**

#### **Grand Champion Market Beef**

Weight: 1,288 lbs.

Exhibitor: Kenton Klingaman, 19, of Tekonsha

Price: \$20,000

Buyer(s): Meijer

#### **Reserve Grand Champion Market Beef**

Weight: 1,300 lbs.

Exhibitor: Alan Leslie, 16, of Decker

Price: \$7,500

Buyer(s): Binson's Hospital Supplies

#### **Great Lakes Grand Breed Market Beef**

Weight: 1,240 lbs.

Exhibitor: Taylor Harrison, 20, of Coldwater

Price: \$5,500

Buyer(s): Michigan Farm Bureau and Boerson Farms Grain

#### **Great Lakes Grand Crossbred Market Beef**

Weight: 1,355 lbs.

Exhibitor: Brennen Meert, 16, of Plainwell

Price: \$6,500

Buyer(s): Binson's Hospital Supplies and Meert Farms

#### **Showcase Market Beef**

Weight: 1,275 lbs.

Exhibitor: Logan Bracy, 18, of Quincy

Price: \$4,000

Buyer(s): Pioneer Seed, North Central Co-op, and The Andersons Grain Division

#### **Showcase Market Beef**

Weight: 1,250 lbs.

Exhibitor: Casey Kamps, 21, of Hamilton

Price: \$3,800

Buyer(s): Binson's Hospital Supplies and the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

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**Showcase Market Beef**

Weight: 1,320 lbs.

Exhibitor: Spencer Fisher, 11, of Blissfield

Price: \$3,450

Buyer(s): GreenStone Farm Credit Services employees and Preview Properties

**Showcase Market Beef**

Weight: 1,275 lbs.

Exhibitor: Ben Ross, 17, of Lawrence

Price: \$4,250

Buyer(s): Northstar Grain

**SWINE SALE**

**Grand Champion Market Hog**

Weight: 269 lbs.

Exhibitor: Lauren Wildt of Homer

Price: \$15,000

Buyer(s): Meijer

**Reserve Grand Champion Market Hog**

Weight: 274 lbs.

Exhibitor: Morgan Kennedy, 15, of Perry

Price: \$5,500

Buyer(s): Foster Swift Collins and Smith PC

**Great Lakes Grand Breed Market Hog**

Weight: 250 lbs.

Exhibitor: Cailyn Hines, 13, of Quincy

Price: \$2,800

Buyer(s): Michigan Farm Bureau Family of Companies employees and Varnum Law Firm

**Great Lakes Grand Crossbred Market Hog**

Weight: 274 lbs.

Exhibitor: Kenton Klingaman, 19, of Tekonsha

Price: \$2,700

Buyer(s): Meijer

**Showcase Market Hog**

Weight: 268 lbs.

Exhibitor: Nathan Joostberns, 21, of Dorr

Price: \$2,600

Buyer(s): Michigan Farm Bureau, Fraleigh Law Firm, Wayne H. Wood, Pat Albright, John Vander Molen, Dave Vanderhaagen, Doug Kammann, Andy Kok, Jim Robinson and state Rep. Kevin Daley

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### **Showcase Market Hog**

Weight: 258 lbs.

Exhibitor: Matt AcMoody, 15, of Coldwater

Price: \$3,800

Buyer(s): GreenStone Farm Credit Services, MSU Federal Credit Union, and The Andersons Grain Division

### **Showcase Market Hog**

Weight: 259 lbs.

Exhibitor: Ben Littlefield, 13, of Burr Oak

Price: \$5,100

Buyer(s): Kendale Farm, The Andersons Grain Division and Michigan Pork Producers Association

### **Showcase Market Hog**

Weight: 280 lbs.

Exhibitor: Caleb Symons, 13, of Chesaning

Price: \$6,000

Buyer(s): Meijer

### **SHEEP SALE**

#### **Grand Champion Market Sheep**

Weight: 136 lbs.

Exhibitor: Ryan Waltke, 19, of Burr Oak

Price: \$12,000

Buyer(s): Meijer

#### **Reserve Grand Champion Market Sheep**

Weight: 133 lbs.

Exhibitor: Ryan Smoes, 21, of Hamilton

Price: \$5,000

Buyer(s): Wolverine Packing Co.

#### **Great Lakes Grand Breed Market Sheep**

Weight: 135 lbs.

Exhibitor: Adam AcMoody. 17, of Union City

Price: \$2,750

Buyer(s): GreenStone Farm Credit Services, Hopkins Farm Service, and Steve Swafford of ShowTec Feeds

#### **Great Lakes Grand Crossbred Market Sheep**

Weight: 139 lbs.

Exhibitor: Kelsey AcMoody, 20, of Union City

Price: \$1,600

Buyer(s): Michigan Farm Bureau Family of Companies employees

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**Showcase Market Sheep**

Weight: 133 lbs.  
Exhibitor: Marie Bennett, 17, of Sturgis  
Price: \$1,600  
Buyer(s): Michigan Farm Bureau

**Showcase Market Sheep**

Weight: 142 lbs.  
Exhibitor: Clayton Cotterman, 17, of Fenton  
Price: \$1,600  
Buyer(s): AcMoody Farms

**Showcase Market Sheep**

Weight: 142 lbs.  
Exhibitor: Alexandria Schut, 15, of Belding  
Price: \$1,500  
Buyer(s): Dart Bank

**Showcase Market Sheep**

Weight: 144 lbs.  
Exhibitor: Sarah Kennedy, 20, of Saranac  
Price: \$2,200  
Buyer(s): GreenStone Farm Credit Services

**GOAT SALE**

**Grand Champion Market Goat**

Weight: 72 lbs.  
Exhibitor: Kelsey AcMoody, 20, of Union City  
Price: \$6,000  
Buyer(s): GreenStone Farm Credit Services and MSU Federal Credit Union

**Reserve Grand Champion Market Goat/Great Lakes Grand Crossbred Market Goat**

Weight: 83 lbs.  
Exhibitor: Cailyn Hines, 13, of Quincy  
Price: \$2,500  
Buyer(s): Meijer

**Great Lakes Grand Breed Market Goat**

Weight: 90  
Exhibitor: Payton Hines, 10, of Quincy  
Price: \$1,500  
Buyer(s): Neogen Corporation

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### **Showcase Market Goat**

Weight: 66 lbs.

Exhibitor: Alexandria Schut, 15, of Belding

Price: \$1,300

Buyer(s): Wayne H. Wood, Pat Albright, John Vander Molen, Dave Vanderhaagen, Doug Kammann, Andy Kok, Jim Robinson and state Rep. Ed McBroom

### **DAIRY SALE**

#### **Supreme Champion Dairy Cow - Dairy gift basket representing cow**

Exhibitor: Parker Hardy, 16, of Tipton

Price: \$21,000

Buyer(s): Michigan Milk Producers Association, Varnum Law Firm, Kroger Co. of Michigan, Zeeland Farm Services, Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee, Michigan Soybean Association, NorthStar Cooperative, Dairy Farmers of America, Calder Dairy, Vita Plus and Caledonia Farmers Elevator

#### **Supreme Champion Dairy Showperson - Dairy gift basket in honor of Showperson**

Showperson: Brittany Westendorp, 19, of Nashville

Price: \$5,000

Buyer(s): Kalmbach Feeds Inc.

#### **Supreme Champion Dairy Heifer - Dairy gift basket representing heifer**

Exhibitor: Sarah Michalek, 19, of Deckerville

Price: \$2,100

Buyer(s): Ken Nobis of Nobis Dairy Farm

#### **Grand Champion Cheese**

Donated by the MSU Dairy Store and produced by the MSU Dairy Plant, winner of the Michigan Livestock Expo Grand Champion Cheese contest

Price: \$4,900

Buyer(s): United Dairy Industry of Michigan

### **OTHER**

#### **Gold Medal Wines**

Selection of Michigan wines donated by the Michigan Grape and Wine Industry Council, with all proceeds benefiting the Michigan Youth Livestock Scholarship Fund

Price: \$1,750

Buyer(s): AcMoody Farms