

New \$5,000 MYLSF Scholarship Award in 2018
Application deadline for the 2018 Michigan Youth
Livestock Scholarship is May 15, 2018

Application details available at www.michigan.gov/mda-mylsf

Lansing, MI- Since 2000, the Michigan Youth Livestock Scholarship Fund (MYLSF) has awarded more than \$491,000 in scholarships and educational awards to outstanding youth who have exhibited at the premier livestock events in the state of Michigan.

New in 2018, a select number of applicants may be offered an opportunity to be interviewed, at the discretion of the MYLSF, prior to the Sale-Abatement event for larger scholarship awards up to \$5,000.

To be eligible for either the MYLSF general scholarship or the statewide scholarship, the applicant must be a resident of Michigan and a graduating high school senior or a high school graduate continuing their education at an accredited institution in the year in which they are applying.

For the general MYLSF scholarship, the applicant must be a youth exhibitor at the Michigan Livestock Expo, the Michigan Dairy Expo or the former Michigan State Fair, for a minimum of three calendar years prior to the year of application. For the statewide scholarship, an applicant must be a youth exhibitor at a local, county, or statewide exhibition for a minimum of three years prior to the year of application.

Specific proceeds from the Michigan Livestock Expo Sale-Abatement auction as well as charitable donations help fund the scholarships. The fund is governed by a 10-member board comprised of volunteers from Michigan's agricultural community. Also, in 2017 approximately \$14,000 was deposited in the Michigan Education Saving Plans for youth exhibitors that compete in judging and showmanship events at the Michigan Livestock Expo on the Michigan State University campus.

The 2017 MYLSF \$1,500 general scholarship winners were: Lydia AcMoody of Coldwater, Kristen Burkhardt of Fowlerville, Callie Halsey of Adrian, Brady Littlefield of Burr Oak, Morgan Kenney of Perry, Cassandra Perrin of Coopersville, Renee Souva of Bronson and Abigail Walkowe of Manchester. A MYLSF \$1,000 scholarship was awarded to Cameron Hayden of Cassopolis. MYLSF \$500 scholarships were awarded to Lauren Bickel of North Branch, Spencer Fisher of Blissfield, Daniel Flynn of Tekonsha, Bennett Littlefield of Burr Oak and Ally Majzel of Lennon. A statewide \$1,000 scholarship was awarded to Shelby Talsma of Skandia; and \$750 statewide scholarships were awarded to Ariel Cousineau of Rapid River and Kylie Pickard of Hastings.

Applications and qualification requirements for the MYLSF and the statewide scholarship can be obtained at www.michigan.gov/mda-mylsf. Applications must be postmarked no later than May 15, 2018. If you have any questions, please contact Jeff Haarer, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's Producer Security Section Manager, at 517-284-5642 or Ernie Birchmeier, Michigan Farm Bureau's Livestock & Dairy Specialist, at 517-679-5335.