

For immediate release – August 5, 2013

Ingham County youth wins supreme champion showmanship honors at 2013 Michigan Youth Dairy Days

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EAST LANSING, Mich. – Kailey Sweers, Dansville, was selected as the supreme champion showmanship winner at the Michigan Youth Dairy Days dairy cattle show held July 16 at Michigan State University (MSU). Sweers, 18, was selected as the winner from a field of 16 individual showmanship class winners. The youth dairy show was held during Michigan Youth Dairy Days, an annual dairy youth activity held in conjunction with Michigan Dairy Expo. The 17th annual expo took place July 15-19 at the MSU Pavilion for Agriculture and Livestock Education in East Lansing.

As the supreme champion showperson, Sweers was one of three youth to represent the Michigan dairy industry at the 5th annual Michigan Livestock Expo Sale-abeation held that evening. Her lot, which was represented by a dairy products basket, sold for \$5,000 to Kalmbach Feeds. A majority of the funds generated from the sale of the dairy lots goes into a statewide dairy youth fund of the Michigan Youth Livestock Scholarship Fund. The dairy portion of the fund supports dairy youth programs through educational grants and scholarships. The youth members who exhibited the winning animals or earned the champion showperson award receive \$1,000 each.

Showmanship classes were divided according to the total number of participants and their respective ages. The focus was on having a similar number of participants in each class with no more than one year's age difference between the youngest and oldest contestant.

Winners of the individual classes were:

- Division 1: Blaine Pish, Bronson (Branch County)
- Division 2: Lila Howell, Hillsdale (Hillsdale County)
- Division 3: Anna Moser, Dansville (Ingham County)
- Division 4: Josie Nash, Elsie (Clinton County)
- Division 5: Shannon Good, Caledonia (Kent County)
- Division 6: Caitie Theisen, Mount Pleasant (Isabella County)
- Division 7: Francine Brown, Plainwell (Allegan County)
- Division 8: Amber Heisler, Springport (Calhoun County)
- Division 9: Jessie Nash, Elsie (Clinton County)

Division 10: Kristin Burkhardt, Fowlerville (Livingston County)
Division 11: Colleen Harke, Mount Pleasant (Isabella County)
Division 12: Eric Moser, Dansville (Ingham County)
Division 13: Morgan Luoma, East Leroy (Calhoun County)
Division 14: Shelby Berens, Holland (Allegan County)
Division 15: Danielle Heisler, Springport (Calhoun County)
Division 16: Kailey Sweers, Dansville (Ingham County)

As the youth-centered portion of the Michigan Dairy Expo, the largest annual dairy event in the state, Youth Dairy Days offers young people interested in the dairy industry opportunities to compete for premiums, ribbons and scholarships in various educational activities, including dairy quiz bowls, dairy management contests, dairy cattle judging competitions and the Dairy Days youth show. This year more than 200 youth from around the state participated in one or more of the educational competitions, and winners may go on to represent Michigan in national competitions.

Awards and other recognition during Youth Dairy Days, along with other dairy youth and judging program activities conducted throughout the year, are made possible through the generous support of numerous businesses, organizations and individuals. These include: ABS Global, the Branch County Dairy Organization, the Clinton County 4-H Dairy Council, the Clinton County 4-H Dairy Leaders, Cole Riverview Farms, Country Fresh, Dairy Farmers of America, the District 1 and District VI Holstein associations, Drs. Joe and Denise Domecq, GreenStone Farm Credit Services, Hillsdale County Dairy Leaders, the Huron County Holstein Association, Ira Krupp, Land O'Lakes Purina Feeds, the Michigan Dairy Memorial Foundation, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Michigan Farm Bureau, the Michigan Holstein Association, the Michigan Jersey Cattle Club, the Michigan Milk Producers Association, the Michigan Purebred Dairy Cattle Association, the MSU Dairy Club, the MSU Dairy Judging Team, the MSU Department of Animal Science, MOO-ville Creamery, NorthStar Cooperative, the Osceola County 4-H Dairy Boosters, the Ottawa County 4-H Dairy Committee, Rodney Pennock, Purina Animal Nutrition, the Shiawassee County 4-H Dairy Association, the United Dairy Industry of Michigan, United Producers, VanBeek Natural Science and Yoplait-Colombo.

For more information about the Michigan dairy youth program at MSU, contact [Elischer](#) at 517-432-4306. For more information about the Michigan Dairy Expo, contact [Dr. Joe Domecq](#) at 517-353-7855.

The 2014 Michigan Dairy Expo is scheduled for July 14-18 at MSU.

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Photos of individual class winners are available upon request.

Photo cutline:

Ingham County youth Kailey Sweers, Dansville (center), won the supreme champion showperson award at the 2013 Michigan Youth Dairy Days show held July 16 in East Lansing. To the left of Sweers is judge Molly Sloan; to the right of Sweers is judge Laurie Winkelman.

