



Contact: Karmen Sperr • Agriculture Communications Specialist • 651-288-4352 • karmen.sperr@mnstatefair.org

Minnesota Beef Expo Awards 2025 Minnesota Youth Beef Experience Program Achievement Award to Riley Rickford

Sept. 12, 2025

St. Paul, Minn. – Riley Rickford of Barnesville, Minn. was awarded the Minnesota Youth Beef Experience Program (MYBEP) Achievement Award and received a custom belt buckle and a \$1,000 premium sponsored by the Maurice Grogan family.

In 2024, the Minnesota Beef Expo awarded 11 heifers to deserving youth through the Minnesota Youth Beef Experience Program (MYBEP). Each recipient was selected based on their passion for agriculture, commitment to raising a heifer, financial need and willingness to learn. Recipients were responsible for raising, breeding and maintaining records on the care of the animal, while providing progress reports to their mentor, breed representative and Minnesota Beef Expo staff. Donors of the heifers served as mentors to MYBEP recipients. To date, the MYBEP program has awarded 180 heifers. The 2024 MYBEP heifer recipients were:

- **Troy Clemenson of Zumbrota, Minn.,** received an Angus heifer donated by Stehr Farm, Derek Stehr of Zumbrota, Minn. on behalf of the Minnesota Angus Association.
- **Oriana Jewison of Waseca, Minn.,** received a Charolais heifer donated by Polzin Cattle, Chris, Leslie, Brooke, Desirae and Colton Polzin of Darwin, Minn., on behalf of the MN/WI Charolais Association.
- **Avery Stark of Cannon Falls, Minn.,** received a Hereford heifer donated by Pressnall Family Farms, of Randolph, Minn. on behalf of the Minnesota Hereford Breeders.
- **Samantha Bender of Howard Lake, Minn.,** received a Maine Anjou heifer donated by D-K Hawkins Cattle, Dan, Kimberly, Connor, Emma, Andrew and Caleb Hawkins of Garfield, Minn.
- **Alivia Uhlenkamp of Green Isle, Minn.,** received a Red Angus heifer donated by Compeer Financial. She was mentored by Steve Pomerence.
- **Trevin Dicke of Goodhue, Minn.,** received a Shorthorn heifer Donated by Mulberry Lane Shorthorns, Cathy & Dennis Hoffbeck, of Morgan, Minn. on behalf of the Minnesota Shorthorn Association.
- **Tatym Travis of Greenwood, Wis.,** received a Simmental heifer donated by Oak Meadow Farms, Dr. Lynn, Barb, Matt, Jessica, Hunter and Garrett Aggen, of Harmony, Minn. on behalf of the Minnesota Simmental Association.
- **Riley Rickford of Barnesville, Minn.,** received a Simmental heifer donated by St. Germain Simmentals, Adam and Theresa St. Germain, of Winnebago, Minn. on behalf of the Minnesota Simmental Association.
- **Madison Holtz of Little Falls, Minn.,** received a South Devon heifer donated by K&M Cattle, Matt & Kindra Wayrynen, of McGregor, Minn. on behalf of the Northern States South Devon Association.
- **Olivia Matchey of Independence, Wis.,** received a Speckle Park heifer donated by Hay Creek Speckle Park, Brad & Lacey Sonnentag and family, of Boyd, Wis. on behalf of the American Speckle Park Association.

- **Audrey Hendricksen of Truman, Minn.,** received a heifer awarded during the MYBEP Ideas & Insights Symposium donated by the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association. She was mentored by Mark Pesek.

The MYBEP recipients competed for the Achievement Award during the 2025 Minnesota State Fair. The winner of the award was chosen based on their scores from a showmanship competition, interviews, progress reports and a scrapbook.

Because of ongoing construction at the Lee & Rose Warner Coliseum, home of the Minnesota Beef Expo, the Expo will not take place in 2025. The next class of MYBEP recipients will be awarded heifers at the 2026 Minnesota Beef Expo, scheduled for Oct. 15-18, 2026.

For further information on the Minnesota Beef Expo and MYBEP, please contact Karmen Sperr at karmen.sperr@mnstatefair.org.