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29th Annual Governor's Blue Ribbon Meat Products Auction Raises Nearly \$109,000 for Wisconsin 4-H Youth

Madison, Wis. (August 10, 2021) – The Governor's Blue Ribbon Meat Products Auction at the Wisconsin State Fair celebrated its 29th year by raising nearly \$109,000. Proceeds from the auction benefit the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation, which supports Wisconsin 4-H activities including 4-H conferences, teaching materials and workshops, and overall development of 4-H youth. This year the auction was held at the Wisconsin Exposition Building at the State Fair.

“Enthusiastic 4-H supporters made for an exciting evening,” said Wisconsin 4-H Foundation Executive Director Brenda Scheider. “Seeing our 4-H youth and adult volunteers working next to our generous donors really brings home what 4-H is all about.”

Mistress of Ceremonies Pam Jahnke, radio and TV agricultural reporter and host, kicked off the night before Master of Ceremonies Ben Brancel, Endeavor, and Auctioneer Bob Johnson, Milton, sold 28 Champion, Reserve Champion and Honorable Mention meat products. Among those attending the auction were Kathleen O’Leary, CEO of Wisconsin State Fair Park, Randy Romanski, Wisconsin Secretary of Agriculture, and other 4-H supporters. Hosts for the evening included 4-H youth and adults from the Wisconsin 4-H Leadership Council.

Wisconsin State Fair Chairman of the Board John Yingling presented the 2021 Best of Show Award to meat processor Louie’s Finer Meats, Inc. of Cumberland. Louie’s earned the honor for its entry into the Dried or Smoked Meat division. It sold to a consortium of MaryBeth Carr, Wisconsin Souvenir Milkcaps and UW Provision Company, for \$2,000.

The Grand Champion, Reserve Champion and Honorable Mention winners and their buyers for each of the categories are:

Bacon

Grand Champion: Prem Meats (formerly Wytttenbach Meats), Prairie du Sac

Buyer: Wisconsin Souvenir Milkcaps for \$3,500

Resale: Ultimate Confections for \$1,400

Reserve Champion: Louie's Finer Meats, Cumberland

Buyer: Meijer for \$2,500

Resale: UW Provision Company for \$1,000

Honorable Mention: Driftless Provisions, Viroqua

Buyer: Randy Schopen Memorial Foundation for \$1,250

Bone-In Ham

Grand Champion: The Meat Block, LLC, Greenville

Buyer: Consortium of Boehlke Bottled Gas, Cousin's Subs, GoRiteway for \$4,050

Reserve Champion: Lodi Sausage Company, Lodi

Buyer: Daluge Travel for \$2,500

Honorable Mention: Ray's Market, Colby

Buyer: Rural Mutual Insurance for \$1,300

Resale: Kewaskum Foods for \$800

Summer Sausage

Grand Champion: Louie's Finer Meats, Inc., Cumberland

Buyer: Egg Innovations for \$2,700

Reserve Champion: Prem Meats (formerly Wytttenbach Meats), Prairie du Sac

Buyer: Meijer for \$2,000

Resale: Wisconsin Farm Bureau for \$1,000

Honorable Mention: Geiss Meat Service, Merrill

Buyer: Wisconsin Souvenir Milkcaps for \$1,100

Dried or Smoked Beef

Grand Champion: Louie's Finer Meats, Inc., Cumberland

Buyer: UW Provision Company for \$1,600

Reserve Champion: Geiss Meat Service, Merrill

Buyer: Gibbville Implement for \$1,700

Honorable Mention: Wilson Farm Meats, Elkhorn

Buyer: Jones Family Farm for \$2,500

Snack Sausages

Grand Champion: Louie's Finer Meats, Inc., Cumberland

Buyer: UW Provision Company for \$1,250

Reserve Champion: Geiss Meat Service, Merrill

Buyer: Rural Mutual Insurance for \$1,200

Resale: Schaefer Grading for \$1,100

Honorable Mention: The Meat Block, LLC, Greenville

Buyer: Wisconsin Souvenir Milkcaps for \$1,250

Bratwurst

Grand Champion: Louie's Finer Meats, Inc., Cumberland

Buyer: Crane Farms for \$3,500

Reserve Champion: Crescent Meats, Cadott

Buyer: Meijer for \$1,000

Resale: Wisconsin Farm Bureau for \$1,000
Honorable Mention: Ray's Market, Colby
Buyer: Rural Mutual Insurance for \$1,500
Resale: Crane Farms for \$1,000

Jerky

Grand Champion: Crescent Meats, Cadott
Buyer: UW Provision Company for \$1,000
Reserve Champion: Ray's Market, Colby
Buyer: Daluge Travel for \$500
Honorable Mention: Geiss Meat Service, Cadott
Buyer: Wisconsin Souvenir Milkcaps for \$500

Cured Specialty Meat Product

Grand Champion: Crescent Meats, Cadott (Beef Bacon)
*Buyer: Meijer for \$4,500 **NEW RECORD BUY!***
Resale: Crane Farms for \$750
Reserve Champion: Wilson Farm Meats, Elkhorn (Cottage Bacon)
Buyer: Merwin Farms for \$2,250
Honorable Mention: Louie's Finer Meats Inc., Cumberland (Canadian Bacon)
Buyer: Gibbsville Implement for \$1,250

Kielbasa or Polish Sausage

Grand Champion: Prem Meats (formerly Wytttenbach Meats), Prairie du Sac
Buyer: UW Provision Company for \$1,400
Reserve Champion: Louie's Finer Meats, Inc., Cumberland
Buyer: Daluge Travel for \$1,200
Honorable Mention: Geiss Meat Service, Merrill
Buyer: Randy Schopen Memorial Foundation for \$1,100

A Wisconsin-shaped Summer Sausage courtesy of Kewaskum Foods, LLC of Kewaskum was purchased by Kewaskum Foods for \$3,200 and donated back and resold for \$3,000 to Egg Innovations.

Throughout the day of the sale various Wisconsin State Fair vendors donated a portion of their sales to the Meat Productions Auction and Wisconsin 4-H Foundation.

The auction is produced in partnership with the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation, Wisconsin State Fair and the Wisconsin Association of Meat Processors (WAMP). Generous supporters include UW Provision Company, Egg Innovations, Meijer Inc., Bunzel's Meats and Catering of Milwaukee, Wisconsin Beef Council and WAMP.

The Wisconsin 4-H Foundation, based in Madison, WI, provides essential funding for 4-H programs throughout Wisconsin. By partnering with individuals, corporations and foundations, the Foundation supports more than 150,000 youth who take part in various 4-H leadership, developments, and community-building activities throughout the state. Learn more about the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation by visiting www.Wis4HFoundation.org.

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