



JB Pritzker, Governor

Jerry Costello II, Agriculture Director

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GOVERNOR'S SALE OF CHAMPIONS INVESTS IN FUTURE AGRICULTURAL LEADERS

Governor JB Pritzker and First Lady MK Pritzker Donate \$105,000

SPRINGFIELD, IL – The annual Governor's Sale of Champions at the Illinois State Fair spotlighted the state's top youth livestock exhibitors Tuesday evening, auctioning off animals that earned the title of Grand Champion, the highest accolade for livestock exhibited in Illinois.

For the sixth year in a row, Governor JB Pritzker and First Lady MK Pritzker purchased the Grand Champion Steer. Their \$105,000 contribution secured the top prize-winning animal, which will be donated to Feeding Illinois and distributed to food banks throughout the state to support families in need.

"Earning the title of Grand Champion is the pinnacle of excellence in livestock exhibition," **said Jerry Costello II, Director, Illinois Department of Agriculture.** "Reaching this level means countless hours of hard work and sacrifice. To see our youth in agriculture recognized for the effort that they put into these animals is beyond gratifying."

Grand Champion exhibitors, along with the Reserve Grand Champion exhibitors, will receive a portion of the proceeds from the sale of their animal. The exhibitors use the funds towards their college education or invest it back into projects for next year.

In addition to purchasing the Grand Champion Barrow, CME Group contributed \$50,000 to the 2025 Governor's Sale of Champions which fund scholarships, each worth \$5,000.

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Below are the results of the 2025 Commodity Auction and the 2025 Sale of Champions.

Commodity	Exhibitor	Location	Purchaser	Price
Champion Chihuahua Cheese	V&V Supremo Foods	Chicago, IL	U of I College of ACES	\$1,000
Champion 2% Chocolate Milk	Hoffmann Oberweis Dairy	North Aurora, IL	McDonalds – Marty & Donna Davis	\$650
Champion 40% Heavy Whipping Cream	Prairie Farms	Rockford, IL	McDonalds – Marty & Donna Davis	\$300
Champion Vanilla Ice Cream	Prairie State Ice Cream	Chicago, IL	Ray Jacobs Family	\$300
Champion Vanilla Non-Homogenized Whole Milk Yogurt	Deerland Dairy	Freeport, IL	McDonalds – Marty & Donna Davis	\$225
Champion Bacon	Jones Meat & Locker	Jacksonville, IL	Turner Farms	\$850
Champion Bone-In Ham	Eickman's Processing Co. Inc.	Seward, IL	Illinois Manufacturers Association	\$1,600
Champion Beef Jerky	Jones Meat & Locker	Jacksonville, IL	George Obernagel, Obernagel Family Farms & Joe Hampton	\$900
Champion Snack Sticks	Main Street Meat Co.	Roscoe, IL	Cory Craig Auctioneer	\$1,025
Champion Cooked Bratwurst	Behrmann Meat & Processing	Albers, IL	Brian Engelmann, Weeke Sales and Service	\$1,800
Illinois State Fair Wine Show Champion	Blue Sky Vineyard	Makanda, IL	Mollett Auction Services	\$925
Grand Champion Honey	Steven Hinrichs	Rochester, IL	Pour Farm Apiary	\$600
Grand Champion Dairy Goat Milk	Lillian Lee	Glenarm, IL	Kevin Carey, Assistant Dean & Director, U of I Extension	\$900

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Animal	Exhibitor	County	Purchaser	Price
Grand Champion Rabbit Market Pen	Conner Robinson	Morgan County	AgriVest Farm Management; Field Level Agriculture; Edward Teehey & Farmers State Bank of Mt. Sterling; and Prairie Land FS	\$5,500
Grand Champion Poultry Meat Pen	Austin Ater	Champaign County	McDonalds – Marty & Donna Davis; Illinois Farm Bureau; Champaign County Farm Bureau; Bellflower Seeds	\$8,500*
Land of Lincoln Supreme Champion Dairy Cow	Owen Halpin	Iroquois County	Friends of Owen Halpin	\$18,000*
Land of Lincoln Grand Champion Meat Goat	Kadie Hummel	Kankakee County	Springfield Plastics; Illinois State Fair SkyRide; Kiebro Farms; Cardinal Cattle; BL Duke Recycling; Chad McClintock	\$6,800
Grand Champion Meat Goat	Maddox Horner	Jasper County	George Obernagel, Obernagel Family Farms	\$8,000
Land of Lincoln Grand Champion Market Lamb	Olive Ryan	Christian County	Rich DeSchepper & Eric Faugust; Syngenta; West Central Farm Supply; Channel; J O Harris Equipment; Beck's Hybrids; Cardinal Cattle	\$7,500
Grand Champion Market Lamb	Bryce Clayton	Scott County	North American Midway	\$8,500
Land of Lincoln Grand Champion Barrow	Ashley Wiegand	Woodford County	Beck's Hybrid – Sonny & Scott Beck	\$20,000
Grand Champion Barrow	Emma Rhoads	DeKalb County	CME Group	\$25,000
Land of Lincoln Grand Champion Steer	John Lukach	LaSalle County	BRANDT; Case IH; Friends of John Lukach	\$70,000*
Grand Champion Steer	Kadie Hummel	Kankakee County	Governor JB Pritzker and First Lady MK Pritzker	\$105,000

***Indicates new record**

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