



Dreams achieved at the Illinois State Fair

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Event raises \$248,175 for junior producers and state's 4-H and FFA youth education programs

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. – “This is the showcase for Illinois Agriculture the Super Bowl for 4-H and FFA exhibitors” –Orion Samuelson

The Governor's Sale of Champion has always been the crown jewel of agricultural events at the Illinois State Fair, and this year was no exception. For the second year in a row, the sale was held in the Coliseum. This grand venue serves as the pinnacle forum for an ag exhibitor.

Capping the night off was the sale was the Grand Champion Steer owned by Lucas Wisnefski. Wisnefski's steer sold for a record \$104,000 to Governor and Mrs. Bruce Rauner and Friends of Wisnefski. When asked about what advice he would give to future state fair exhibitor, Wisnefski said, “Keep your dreams. I had a dream to win the State Fair, and now my dream has come true.” He credits his win to hard work and dedication. Wisnefski plans to use the prize money to further his education.

The money raised at Tuesday night's auction helps to support Illinois agriculture. The junior exhibitors who raised the champion animals receive 80 percent of the funds with the remaining 20 percent to be split equally between the Illinois 4-H Foundation and Illinois FFA.

A list of all the champions sold at auction, as well as the exhibitors, purchasers, and the amount that each champion sold for follows. The record-breaking amount is in bold.

Product	Exhibitor	City /County	Purchasers	Price

Grand Champion Rabbit Meat Pen Trio	Serena Schafer	Macoupin County, IL	Agrivest Inc., Agri-Pro Fencing, Tomhave Farms	\$4,550
Grand Champion Poultry Meat Pen	Jacob Hinshaw	McLean County, IL	Congressman Rodney Davis, Davis Family McDonald's	\$4,000
Land of Lincoln Supreme Champion Dairy Cow Print	Sadie Ropp	Livingston County, IL	Prairie Farms Dairy	\$3,000
Grand Champion & Land of Lincoln Grand Champion Meat Goat Wether	Dylan Hummel	Ford County, IL	Friends of FFA and 4-H	\$6,500
Grand Champion & Land of Lincoln Grand Champion Wether	Kashen Ellerbrock	Henry County, IL	North American Amusement Company	\$11,500
Land of Lincoln Grand Champion Barrow	Lane Rinderer	Madison County, IL	Monsanto, DeKalb Asgrow, Friends of Rinderer	\$41,750
Grand Champion Barrow	Avery Rash	Henry County, IL	CME Group, The Pig Planet, showpig.com, and various farms	\$30,000
Land of Lincoln Grand Champion Steer	Adam Miller	Livingston County, IL	Brandt Fertilizer	\$36,250
Grand Champion Steer	Lucas Wisniewski	Stark County, IL	Governor & Mrs. Bruce Rauner, Friends of Wisniewski	\$104,000

Product	Exhibitor	City/State	Purchasers	Price
Grand Champion Whole Milk Mozzarella	Foremost Farms USA	Chilton, WI	Corey Craig & William Beck Auctioneers	\$550
Grand Champion Bacon	Leiding's Meats	Danville, IL	Paul Turner	\$725
Grand Champion Ham	Eickman's	Seward, IL	Illinois Auctioneers Association & Farm Credit	\$850
Grand Champion Processed Beef	AJ's Lena Maid Meats	Lena, IL	Earl Sorrell's Farm Supply	\$600
Best of Show Illinois Wine	Willow Ridge Winery	Shelby County, IL	Stuart and Ann Wilson	\$675
Grand Champion Honey	Brandon Gano	Edgar County, IL	IL Beekeepers Association	\$600
Grand Champion Doe's Milk	Cameron Jodlowski	Atlanta, IL	Hanold Auctioneering	\$250
Grand Champion Snack Sticks	Behrman Meat & Processing	Clinton County, IL	Senator Sam McCann, IL Auctioneers Association	\$775
Grand Champion Blue Cheese	Vermillion River Blue	Vermillion County, IL	George Obernagle, Joe Hamilton	\$700

Grand Champion Colby Cheese	Shullsburg Cheese	Shullsburg, WI	Bob Hauser, U of I Faculty Consortium	\$425
Grand Champion Mexican Cheese	V&V Supremo	Chicago, IL	George Obernagle	\$475