

First Lady Takes Home The Grand Champion Steer With Record Setting Bid Of \$105,000

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SPRINGFIELD – Being in the Governor’s Sale of Champions is something all livestock exhibitors dream about, but few are able to accomplish. Each year, this marquee event of the Illinois State Fair Ag Day festivities showcases the hard work and dedication of the youth in the agriculture industry.

For the second year, Governor JB Pritzker ended up in a bidding war for the Grand Champion Steer with none other than his wife. He drove up the price, but it was the First Lady who took home the Grand Champion Steer with a record setting bid of \$105,000.



In addition to being spotlighted before the crowd on Tuesday night, these 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.

“These exhibitors are the future of agriculture in our state and represent the best of the best,” said Jerry Costello II, Director, Illinois Department of Agriculture. “The Sale of Champions is the cherry on top of the Illinois State Fair. To see our youth in agriculture rewarded for the work that they put into these animals is my favorite aspect of the Illinois State Fair.”

CME Group also realizes the importance of education, which is why they have donated \$50,000 in scholarships to this year's Sale of Champions and for last decade.

Below are the results of the 2021 Commodity Auction and the 2021 Sale of Champions. It should be noted that the Grand Champion Steer will be donated to the Central Illinois Foodbank.

Commodity	Exhibitor	Location	Purchases	Price
Champion Feta in Brine	Nashville Dairy Inc.	Taylorville, IL	Marty and Donna Davis	\$300
Grand Champion Mild Cheddar Cheese	Foremost Farms Inc.	Marshfield, WI	Unknown	\$275
Grand Champion Aged Cheddar Cheese	Foremost Farms Inc.	Marshfield, WI	University of Illinois	\$350
Grand Champion Queso Blanco Cheese	V&V Supremo Foods	Taylorville, IL	Marty and Donna Davis	\$325
Grand Champion Belgian Chocolate Premium Ice Cream	Prairie Farms Dairy Inc.	Edwardsville, IL	Unknown	\$200
Grand Champion Snack Sticks	Turasky's Meat	Springfield, IL	Illinois Auctioneers Association	\$1,000
Grand Champion Beef Jerky	Main Street Meat Company	Roscoe, IL	George Obernagle and Joe Hampton	\$500

Grand Champion Bratwurst	Meat Master Processing Company	Urbana, IL	University of Illinois	\$775
Grand Champion Bacon	Eickman's Processing Company	Brighton, IL	Turner Farms	\$2,000
Grand Champion Bone in Ham	Eickman's Processing Company	Brighton, IL	Unknown	\$1,200
Best of Show Wine	Galena Cellars Vineyard and Winery	Galena, IL	Conn's Hospitality Group	\$1,400
Grand Champion Honey	Joyce and Mike Dullenty	Springfield, IL	Conn's Hospitality Group	\$1,400
Best in Show Dairy Goat's Milk	Lillian Lee	Taylorville, IL	Marty and Donna Davis	\$550

Animal	Exhibitor	County	Purchasers	Price
Grand Champion Rabbit Market Pen	Owen Pree	Iroquois	Agrivest Inc. and George Obernagel	\$4,000
Grand Champion Poultry Market Pen	Brayden Wilson	LaSalle	McDonalds Owners Central, IL & Taylorville, IL	\$5,000

Land of Lincoln Supreme Champion Dairy Cow Print	Rosalee Zehr	Livingston	Midwest Dairy	\$3,500
Land Grand Champion Meat Goat	Maddox Horner	Jasper	Springfield Plastics Dale and Holly Hummel Agri Gold Hybrids and The Sky Ride	\$5,000
Grand Champion Meat Goat	Nolan Hoge	McDonough	Keibro, LLC Farmers State Bank & Trust Company Ed Teefey George Obernagel Family Arigold Hybrids Tomhave Family	\$6,000
Land of Lincoln Grand Champion Market Lamb	Ashtin Guyer	Crawford	Lynn Zehr, Eric Faugust, Syngenta & Rich Deschepper and Becks Hybrids	\$5,000
Grand Champion Market Lamb	E.N. Hanson	Iroquois	Miller's Spectacular Shows	\$8,250
Land of Lincoln Grand Champion Barrow	Jess Hawk	DeKalb	Bayer Crop Science DeKalb and Asgrow	\$18,000

Grand Champion Barrow	Ella Bobell	Logan	CME Group	\$25,000
Land of Lincoln Grand Champion Steer	Cole Caldwell	Peoria	Evelyn Brandt Thomas	\$30,000
Grand Champion Steer	Landry Freeman	Scott	MK Pritzker	\$105,000