



Empire Swine Youth Scholarship

The Empire Swine Youth Scholarship Contest was held August 27th – 30th in Syracuse, New York at The Great New York State Fair. 32 youth and their families traveled from across the state to exhibit their best hogs and try their hand at the knowledge events prepared for them as a part of the contest, the event grew 13 exhibitors from last year. Volunteers put together skillathon, interview, knowledge review, records, livestock judging, poster, presentation, scavenger hunt contests and more. The industry rallied behind these contests and their participants to donate over \$9,000 in scholarship monies, this is up \$3,000 from 2016. The competition was fierce and there was a new found passion, challenge, and enthusiasm in the barn. If you are looking to get involved with the event to support the growth and passion accompanying the contest and its families please contact info@newyorkpork.org or 585-813-4583. The New York Pork Producers and The Empire Swine Youth Scholarship Contest committee would love to have your support or sponsorship.



Please congratulate our youth participants and thank our sponsors for their contributions!

Grand Champion Scholarship Participant Melissa Keller shared this about her experience in Syracuse; "Each year I look forward to exhibiting at The New York State Fair and in the Empire Swine Youth Scholarship Contest. I always dreamed about hanging one of the scholarship banners and I was thankful to be able to test my knowledge and do well this year against some very worthy competitors. I hope one day to be a member of the swine industry who is able to pay it forward and donate back to the event and its participants. I think it is an awesome combination of showing pigs, making friends, and challenging yourself. Thank you to all of those who made the event possible this year and all of those who made it a fun contest."

2017 Empire Swine Youth Scholarship Results:

Scholarship Contest Top Five:

- Melissa Keller
- Ben Lyness
- Brandon Beaumont
- John Stierly
- Jessica Engel



Interviews:

Senior:

Melissa Keller
 Brandon Beaumont
 John Stierly
 Ben Lyness
 Michael Kibbe

Junior:

Sara Stierly
 Kelsie Jackson
 Lilly Underberg
 Cody Noel
 Ella Underberg

Knowledge Review:

Senior:

Melissa Keller
 Becky Kron
 Ben Lyness
 John Stierly
 Chris VanLieshout
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Junior:

Kelsie Jackson
 Rachael Harper
 Jared Weixlman
 Devon Fairchild
 Mercedes Alderman



Letter from the NY Pork Producer President

I feel like I blinked and summer was over. This summer was a big one for my family. From graduations and celebrations to county fairs and interesting weather and unexpected health setbacks. The lows were low and the highs were high, but one thing stayed true, I am thankful and proud of the New York Pork Producers membership of all ages.

Congratulations to all of those who exhibited and found success on many levels at their county fairs. Thank you to those breeding and supporting these youth projects. In our great state there are more youth PQA certified than ever before and educators spreading the quality assurance message. Teaching our young people about hogs, responsibility, commitment, budgeting, and more is essential but ensuring they are raising safe and quality pork through this process is our greatest pursuit. One day these young people will be our replacements. All summer long I preached that the hogs were important, but at the end of the day they were merely a vessel to bring people together, I hope this resonated with many! Looking back I recall someone asking a youth exhibitor what they wanted to do with their life and I overheard the young person responded "I want to raise commercial hogs with my family." Hearing this made me very happy.

From August 27th - 30th the New York Pork Producers Board of Directors and Empire Swine Youth Scholarship Committee Members hosted 32 youth and their families from across New York State in Syracuse for one of the best Empire Swine Youth Scholarship Contests to date. There were first timers and long timers who brought energy and a passion that was unexplainable. The competition was fierce but the friendships and bonds being developed outside of the competition will last a lifetime. I was so very proud of those kids and lost my voice cheering as they found success even beyond the swine barn in contest such as livestock Skillathon and livestock judging. If you attended, thank you. If you sponsored, an even bigger thanks. If you are interested in showing, helping with, or sponsoring next year's event please contact info@newyorkpork.org for more information! Shout out and massive praise goes out to the event organizer Karen Hargrave. She has dedicated much of her life to bringing her children, other youth, and organizing the event which is no easy feat. May you always know our appreciation and how much you do means to our young people?



As we look to fall, the New York Pork Producers will have booths at The Cornell Cooperative Extension of Niagara Counties Fall Festival, National Junior Swine Associations Eastern Regional, and Oinktober Fest hosted at The Great Pumpkin Farm. Fall is a wonderful time of transition and cooler temperatures engage consumers with hot beverages in hand to learn the pork production story and opportunities for the product in their kitchens. Do you have an opportunity to spread the word about pork? If so, let us know! We would love to set up and inspire consumers to put pork on their forks, with you!

If I were to guess, this year's harvest will be an interesting one with above average rain fall being recorded and below average heat units accumulated throughout the summer months. Be safe, take a deep breath, and embrace the gifts you are being given. What goes down, must come up! Make sure your barns and homes are winterized properly to keep the animals and humans you love safe as well.

Wishing you and yours a bountiful harvest and May you always raise and produce pork with integrity. The New York Pork Producers Board of Directors are proud of our past year and thankful for your involvement and continued support. Do you know someone raising pork who is not a member of this organization? If so, I challenge you to encourage them to join. It is \$5 for youth members and \$10 for adult members. That is a small price to pay for a wealth of knowledge and a network of other pork producers! I am always just a phone call away, do not hesitate to share opportunities, questions, comments, or concerns!

Ed Keller
NY Pork Producers President

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Skillathon:

Senior:

Brandon Beaumont
Melissa Keller
John Stierly
Becky Kron
Ben Lyness

Junior:

Jared Weixlman
Lilly Underberg
Kamryn Harper
Kylene Stierly
Gwen Hargrave



Market Hog Winners:

- **Lightweight:** Melissa Keller Bryanna Warner
- **Medium weight:** Lilly Underberg Austin Noel
- **Intermediate weight:** Melissa Keller John Stierly

- **Heavyweight:** Ryder Smith Kylene Stierl
- **Grand Champion:** Lilly Underberg
- **Reserve Champion:** Austin Noel

Showmanship:

- **Seniors:** John Stierly Melissa Keller
- **Juniors:** Lilly Underberg Ella Underberg
- **Novice Seniors:** Brandon Beaumont Becky Kron

- **Novice Juniors:** Jared Weixlman Gwen Hargrave
- **Champion Showman:** Lilly Underberg
- **Reserve Champion Showman:** Jared Weixlmann

THE NEW YORK PORK PRODUCERS COOPERATIVE WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR DEEPEST APPRECIATION TO EVENT ORGANIZER KAREN HARGRAVE. WITHOUT HER GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT THE EVENT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN A SUCCESS. MAY YOU ALWAYS KNOW OUR THANKS AND PRAISE!

Erie County Fair

This year marked the 178th Erie County Fair. The Erie County Fair holds the distinction of being the largest independent county fairs in the US. Its attendance tops the one million visitors per year and this year the attendance was 1,193,279. This was the fairs second largest attendance in history. The New York Pork Producers booth in the Showplex, handed out several recipes, trinkets and talked to many people about the 145 degree temperature.



There were several swine shows in the Showplex, Open Class Swine Show, 4-H/FFA Swine Show, and the New York Born

Bred and Raised Hog Show. It's always fun to watch these talented youth with their pigs in the show ring.

This year at our booth I thought it would be fun to have a kid's color station, I had connect the dots, mazes and color sheets. Little did I know it would attract everyone, kids and adults participated in decorating the walls in the Showplex This is just a sample of some of the 100s of pictures that were on display for everyone to see.



UPCOMING EVENTS

October 5-7, 2017	NJSA Eastern Regionals - Erie County Fairgrounds Hamburg, NY
November 10, 2017	Small Scale Meat Curing - Cornell University Ithaca, NY
November 11, 2017	Curing Meat in a Flash – SUNY Cobleskill Cobleskill, NY
November 21, 2017	Board of Directors Meeting – 6:00 pm – CCE Genesee County Batavia, NY
January 16, 2018	Board of Directors Meeting – 6:00 pm – CCE Genesee County Batavia, NY
February 1-3, 2018	WNY Farm Show – Hamburg, NY
February 22-24, 2018	NY Farm Show – NYS Fairgrounds – Syracuse, NY
Feb. 28 – March 2, 2018	National Pork Industry Forum - Kansas City, Missouri
March 23-24, 2018	NY Pork Producers Annual Meeting – Batavia, NY

If you are a NY Pork Producer member and would like to attend a Board Meeting
Please contact the office.

Phone: 716-697-3031 or Email: info@newyorkpork.org

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