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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Illinois Beef Foundation Announces 2023 Scholarship Winners

This Illinois Beef Foundation is pleased to announce eight young people from across the state as 2023 scholarship recipients. The Foundation recognizes the incredible talent of young beef industry enthusiasts by helping them achieve their educational goals.

The following individuals each receive a \$1,000 scholarship:

Lizzie Schafer of Owaneco is the daughter of Aaron and Sue Schafer. She currently attends Butler Community College and majors in agricultural communications. Schafer is involved in the Illinois Junior Angus Association, having served as Illinois Angus Royalty, as well as with the National Junior Angus, Simmental, Limousin, and Hereford Associations. She has been a part of the Butler Community College Livestock Judging Team and BCC's Collegiate Farm Bureau organization.

Eric Schafer of Owaneco is the son of Aaron and Sue Schafer. He currently attends Oklahoma State University and majors in animal science. Schafer has been involved in the Illinois Junior Angus Association and Illinois Junior Beef Association, as well as the National Junior Angus Association where he served on the National Junior Board of Directors. He has been a member of the Oklahoma State University Livestock Judging Team and Collegiate Farm Bureau organization.

Molly Biggs of Dixon is the daughter of David and Marianne Biggs. She currently attends Kansas State University and majors in agricultural communications and journalism. Biggs is active in the Illinois Junior Hereford Association and the National Junior Hereford Association. At Kansas State University, she is a member of Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow and serves as an Agriculture Ambassador.

Paige Van Dyke of Louisville is the daughter of Jon and Katrina Van Dyke. She currently attends Oklahoma State University and majors in agricultural communications with a minor in special education. Van Dyke is involved in the Illinois Junior Beef Association, National Junior Angus Association, and North American Junior Red Angus Event. During her time at Lake Land College, she was a member of the livestock judging team and served as a student ambassador. Van Dyke is also the reigning Miss Illinois County Fair Queen.

Reese Anderson of Chrisman is the daughter of Scott and Cindy Anderson. She plans to attend the University of Illinois this fall. Anderson is active in the Illinois Junior Angus and Red Angus Associations, National Junior Angus, and Red Angus Associations. She has been a part of the Chrisman FFA Chapter and Champaign County 4-H programs throughout high school, during which she competed on judging teams and served in leadership positions.

Lauren Wolter of Aviston is the daughter of Bradley and Kimberly Wolter. She plans to go to Kansas State University in the fall and major in animal science. Wolter is involved in the Illinois Junior Angus Association and Illinois Junior Beef Association, as well as the National Junior Angus and Red Angus Associations. She has been a part of local FFA and 4-H programs throughout high school, as well as band, service club, and Spanish club.

Anna Webel of Farmington is the daughter of Joseph and Emily Webel. She plans to attend Lake Land College and major as an agriculture transfer. Webel is involved in the Illinois Junior Simmental Association and Illinois Junior Beef

Association, as well as the National Junior Simmental Association. She has been a part of local FFA and 4-H programs throughout high school and worked for Western Illinois Ag Inc., as the lead crop scout.

Adam Miller of Gridley is the son of Alan and Theresa Miller. He plans to major in animal science at Oklahoma State University. Miller is active in the Illinois Junior Angus Association and Illinois Junior Beef Association. He has been a part of local FFA and 4-H programs throughout high school, as well as playing for the El Paso-Gridley boys' basketball team and various church and community organizations. Adam has also exhibited livestock and competed at various national livestock shows across the country.

"This year set a record regarding the number of applications received for the Illinois Beef Foundation scholarship program," said chairman Dr. Paul Walker. "In all, 36 applications were received and, as in past years, all the applications were of excellent quality. All the applications were well written, and each applicant had numerous accomplishments which made the decisions of the selection committee even more difficult. I encourage those applicants who did not receive a scholarship this year to apply again next year."

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