



# MLBA At a Glance

The Minnesota Livestock Breeders' Association is made up of approximately 2,500 breeders of livestock in Minnesota, with species including beef cattle, dairy cattle, draft horses, swine, sheep, goats and poultry. The state money is used to support the livestock youth of Minnesota, as the organization manages the MLBA 4-H Purple Ribbon Auction and the Dairy Showcase at the Minnesota State Fair – where over 200 young livestock exhibitors are rewarded for their excellence with their animals. The board members donate their time to manage these events. This past year the auction raised just over \$1,200,000 in sponsorships for 115 participants, with 80% going back to the 4-Her, and 20% coming back to the MLBA to help support funding we distribute.

MLBA volunteers manage the MLBA 4-H Purple Ribbon Auction at the Minnesota State Fair. A percentage of the proceeds from that event provide critical financial support for a multitude of positive youth development programs. For example, MLBA provides \$60,000 - \$80,000 annually for statewide MN 4-H programming, as well as significant funds towards MN FFA, and events like the U of M Gopher Dairy Camp, Peer Mentor programs at the MN State Fair and a whole host of other youth livestock-related activities. MLBA also provides at minimum \$80,000 per year to youth in the form of college scholarships through the MLBA 4-H Purple Ribbon Auction Scholarship fund and a couple other endowments that we manage.

**The MLBA typically sponsors \$60,000-\$80,000 annually in leadership opportunities and events for youth in agriculture, along with an additional \$5,000 in scholarships.**

MLBA has been in existence for nearly 100 years. MLBA played a major role in the start of the MN Board of Animal Health and continues to serve as a conduit between the Board of Animal Health and the state's livestock industries. For smaller livestock associations, MLBA keeps us up to date on issues impacting their members, filling a crucial need that they otherwise wouldn't have the resources to accomplish. MLBA's other main focus is to support youth programs in Minnesota, including 4-H, FFA, college scholarships and many others.