

Dear Hudsonville Youth Livestock Auction Supporter,

It's almost Hudsonville Fair time! Youth members are busy with last-minute preparations getting ready for one of the largest fairs in West Michigan. They have been working hard all year caring for and training their animals. They have also had many requirements and deadlines to meet throughout the year which include completing a notebook that contains research and knowledge of their project(s) and have completed special Youth for the Quality Care of Animals training and testing. As a member in the Youth Market Livestock Program at the Hudsonville Fair, the members have the opportunity to, and are looking forward to, competing in showmanship and market classes as well as receiving community support by selling their livestock animals at the auction. The projects, fair, and auction provide the youth with an understanding of the marketing process and an appreciation for the farm to table hands-on experience.

This year the Youth Market Livestock Auction will be held on Thursday, August 24th, in the indoor show arena on the Hudsonville Fairgrounds. Registration will start at 1 p.m. and the **Livestock Auction begins at 2 p.m.** Hopefully you can arrive early and spend some time looking over the animals and meeting and talking to the youth members – they would love to tell you all about their projects!

The auction will begin with selling a gallon of milk sold to benefit the dairy program. Lambs will be the first livestock animals auctioned, followed by colored beef, dairy beef, a benefit hog, dairy feeder calves, and concluding with hogs. If you cannot make the auction in person, you will also be able to bid online simultaneously with the live auction at <https://www.hudsonvillelivestock.com>. The milk and benefit hog will be sold in-person only and not available for online bids.

This year our benefit hog will be sold in honor and memory of Nate Kamps. Unfortunately, on June 28th, 2023, Nate passed away suddenly and unexpectedly at the age of 35. Nate and his wife, Lynn Kamps (DeYoung), are both very well known throughout the community and here around the Hudsonville Community Fair. Ever since they were young kids themselves, they've been involved with this fair in one way or another. They met at the Hudsonville Fair when they were teens showing livestock together and to this day are still big supporters of the fair, 4-H, and the youth programs. Nate and Lynn married in 2009 and have four young children Levi (7), Ethan (5), Isaac (3), and Jolene (1). Their kids are now starting to get involved too and they participate in the fair themselves! Growing up, Nate showed livestock animals and was involved in hitch classes and horse pulls. For years he helped haul our livestock animals after the fair. and has helped support the livestock program through donated time and monetary donations. Throughout the years, Nate has entered numerous cars in countless demolition and off-road derbies here at the Hudsonville Fair. Nate has always been a man of strong faith with a great sense of humor. He was always willing to help others out and loved his family dearly. Lynn is also still very active here at the fair and holds many leadership roles within the fair and county 4-H programs. We know this has been a tragic loss for many people and our hearts and prayers go out to the entire Kamps (and DeYoung) families. We want to relieve some of Lynn's stress as she will face many challenges raising her children alone. The funds raised from this donated benefit hog will help provide support for Lynn and her four young children and their Christian Education. The Kamps Benefit Hog will be sold at 5:30pm during the Hudsonville Fair Youth Livestock Auction (in-person bidding only).

Once again, we will also be offering Add-A-Bid donations as another way to support the youth. Please see the enclosed Add-a-Bid Form for more information. You can also use this add-a-bid form to donate money to the Dairy Committee or the Kamps Benefit Hog.

Please note that we will not be accepting credit card payments, but we happily accept cash and check payments for purchases and Add-A-Bids.

Enclosed you will find an informational sheet that will answer some more commonly asked questions and explain the auction in more detail. You are welcome to pass it along to fellow business owners, friends, or anyone else you know who might also be interested in supporting the Hudsonville Youth Livestock Members. There are also two gate passes to cover admission to the fair on auction day.

Don't forget, as a guest of the Hudsonville Livestock Committee, you are also invited to a special Buyer's Dinner that will be served during the auction (starting around 5pm).

We are looking forward to seeing you!

Sincerely,

The Hudsonville Livestock Committee and Youth Market Livestock Members