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## Pork Checkoff Announces the 2018 Pork Industry Scholarship Recipients

**DES MOINES, IOWA - April 11, 2018** - The Pork Checkoff has awarded 21 scholarships to college students around the United States as part of its strategy to develop the pork industry's future leaders. A National Pork Board committee judged the pool of 70 applicants based on scholastic merit, leadership activities, involvement in the pork production industry and the applicants' plans for a career in pork production.

"The 2018 scholarship winners are an important part of the pork industry's future," said National Pork Board President Terry O'Neel, a pork producer from Friend, Nebraska. "These young people are critical to helping us develop the next generation of pig farmers and industry leaders who will be ready to produce safe, wholesome food in a socially responsible way."

The 21 student recipients hail from 15 states and 14 universities and represent six different majors in swine-related fields. The 2018 Pork Industry Scholarship recipients are:

<b>Applicant Name</b>	<b>Home Town</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Major</b>
Victoria Abner	Howe, Texas	Texas A&M	Animal Science
Amanda Anderson	Ames, Iowa	Iowa State University	Animal Science
Madison Anderson	Bend, Oregon	Dordt College	General Agriculture
Kelsey Batson	Princeton, Missouri	University of Missouri-Columbia	Animal Science
Joshua Beam	Elverson, Pennsylvania	Penn State	Animal Science
William Boyd	Chesapeake Virginia	Virginia Polytechnic	Animal Science
Erin Bryan	Urbana, Illinois	University of Illinois	Animal Science
Chloe Creager	Olpe, Kansas	Kansas State University	Animal Science
Hunter Everett	Mebane, North Carolina	North Carolina State University	Animal Science
Evan Gibbs	Cascade, Iowa	Iowa State University	Agricultural Studies
Piper Hopple	Clyde, Ohio	The Ohio State University	Animal Science
Kiera Leddy	Stockholm, South Dakota	Oklahoma State University	Ag Communications
Katelyn Lowery	Clayton, North Carolina	North Carolina State University	Animal Science
Meg Meeker	Emden, Illinois	University of Illinois	Ag Leadership
Sara Strathman	Brodhead, Wisconsin	University of Wisconsin Platteville	Animal Science
Madison Wensley	Parma, Michigan	Michigan State	Animal Science
Whitney Whitaker	Templeton, California	Kansas State University	Animal Science
Ben Wikner	Farmersburg, Iowa	Iowa State University	Agricultural Studies
Zoe Wolfe	Raleigh, North Carolina	North Carolina State University	Animal Science
Morgan Wonderly	Bakersfield, California	Cal Polytechnic Institute	Animal Science
Luke Zimmerman	Forrest, Illinois	University of Illinois	Animal Science

This year's top scholarship recipients are Madison Wensley and Amanda Anderson, who will receive a \$5,000 and \$3,500 scholarship, respectively. Wensley, a senior at Michigan State University, is majoring in animal science. She plans to continue her academic career by pursuing a master's of science degree in swine nutrition at Kansas State University. Ultimately, she would like to provide pig farmers with the tools they need to improve feed management practices. Anderson, a senior at Iowa State University, is majoring in animal science. She plans to pursue a doctorate of veterinary medicine at Iowa State University in the fall. The other award recipients will receive \$2,000 each.

"We are excited that these young people see the opportunities available in today's pork industry," O'Neel said. "On behalf of the National Pork Board and my fellow pig farmers, I congratulate this year's Pork Industry Scholarship recipients and look forward to welcoming them into our industry in the future."

*The National Pork Board has responsibility for Checkoff-funded research, promotion and consumer information projects and for communicating with pork producers and the public. Through a legislative national Pork Checkoff, pork producers invest \$0.40 for each \$100 value of hogs sold. Importers of pork products contribute a like amount, based on a formula. The Pork Checkoff funds national and state programs in advertising, consumer information, retail and foodservice marketing, export market promotion, production improvement, science and technology, swine health, pork safety and sustainability and environmental management. For information on Checkoff-funded programs, pork producers can call the Pork Checkoff Service Center at (800) 456-7675 or check the Internet at [www.pork.org](http://www.pork.org).*