

For Immediate Release:
Iowa Jersey Cattle Club
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IOWA JERSEY CATTLE CLUB RECOGNIZE YOUTH AWARDS AT SUMMER PICNIC

The Iowa Jersey Cattle Club selected three award winners out of an outstanding pool of applicants at their Summer Picnic hosted by the Rodney and Polly Metzger family, Lester, IA.

The *Iowa Jersey Youth Achievement Award* (the IJCC's highest honor) is given annually to a Jersey youth that owns one or more Registered Jerseys™, is between 16-19 years of age as of January 1, and a member (junior) of the Iowa Jersey Cattle Club. This youth must show depth of Jersey experience, in addition to participation in other community activities. Lakaya Lyon was selected to receive the 2018 Jersey Youth Achievement Award. She is the daughter of Kathy Lyon and the late Greg Lyon. She will be a Sophomore at DMACC, majoring in Agri Business. In high school, Lakaya was active in band, choir, speech, Student council, volleyball, basketball and FFA. She served as President of her FFA Chapter for 3 years and has earned her Iowa FFA Degree. Currently, she is the Iowa National Professional Agricultural Student Organization (PAS) Vice-President. Lakaya grew up on a Registered Jersey farm and her family has a rich history in the Jersey breed. Lakaya was 2016 Iowa Jersey Princess and is currently serving as the 2017 National Jersey Queen. Lakaya says "Growing up in a farming environment has built my character in ways I am so grateful for." Lakaya will receive a Jersey heifer donated by Bernie and Rachel Bakker, Lester, IA. In addition, she is now eligible to apply for the National Jersey Youth Achievement Award, given each fall at Louisville, Kentucky.

The *Iowa Jersey Princess* is open to Jersey ladies ages 16-21. The Princess hands out ribbons at Iowa State Fair and other Jersey shows, is eligible to represent the Jersey breed in the Iowa Dairy Princess contest next August and to run for National Jersey Queen in November in Louisville, KY. Mary Holtz was crowned the 2018 Iowa Jersey Princess. She is the daughter of Jeff and Mary Holtz, Holtz View Farms, Maquoketa. Mary will be a high school junior and is active in band, FFA, 4-H, bowling, soccer, talented and gifted and is taking additional college classes. Mary is her 4-H club President, is on County Council and has shown cattle on all levels of competition. She is currently the Alternate Jackson/Clinton County Dairy Princess. When Mary graduates, she will also have her associate degree and will attend Iowa State University, then vet school; specializing in Embryo Transfer and IVF, with plans to start her own clinic or work in partnership with one locally.

The *IJCC Memorial Scholarship* is given annually in memory of all Iowa Jersey breeders and enthusiasts who have passed away. The \$500 Scholarship is open to any Jersey youth attending or planning to attend an institution of higher learning. Meghan Hettinga was selected to receive the 2018 scholarship. Meghan will be a freshman at South Dakota State University studying Dairy Production/Pre Vet. Meghan was involved in FFA (Chapter President and Iowa FFA Degree), National Honor Society, volleyball, band, REACH, student council, earned the opportunity to compete at the Drake Relays and State Track and has been very active in church including mission trips with her youth group. She was recognized with the Iowa Bar Association's Citizenship Award at graduation. Meghan has participated in the Hawkeye Pot O' Gold contest multiple years, earning 1st and 2nd place. Meghan plans to become a large animal veterinarian, specializing in dairy. "Working as a vet, I will be able to help give back to the dairy industry that has given me so much." She is also now eligible to apply for the National Jersey Youth Achievement Award, given each fall at Louisville, Kentucky.

The Iowa Jersey Cattle Club is pleased to have received many great applications and we are proud to have these fine young people representing the Jersey breed and dairy industry. To learn more about the IJCC or to apply for next year's awards, please visit our website <http://iowajerseys.usjerseyjournal.com/>.

***Photo IDs- Lakaya Lyon (l) Mary Holtz (r)
Meghan Hettinga***