

FamilyFarms Charities Announces 2015 Scholarship Winners

Each spring, FamilyFarms Charities awards two \$1000 scholarships to graduating high school seniors planning to pursue college training in a field related to Agriculture. Each recipient is then eligible for a \$500 follow-up scholarship for the next three years of their undergraduate program provided they remain on a career path in agriculture and maintain good grades. With applications from across the U.S., winners are selected based on a number of factors, including career plans in agriculture, desire to return to their family farm to continue the legacy, GPA, test scores, and essays about the future of agriculture and ag's impact and importance.

This year, FamilyFarms Charities' fourth year of awarding scholarships, award winners were Leah Jacobs of Eastern Hancock High School in Indiana and Braden Mishler of Western Plains High School in Kansas. Scholarship awards can be applied to tuition, fees or other educational expenses.

Leah Jacobs, from Shirley, Indiana, grew up raising and showing livestock. Leah has served as an FFA leader in her local and district FFA chapters and has participated in state and national FFA conventions. Leah is pursuing a degree in agriculture education. With her degree, Leah plans to be an Ag Teacher and FFA advisor for middle and high school students, sharing her passion for agriculture with future generations.

Braden Mishler, from Arnold, Kansas, grew up working alongside his father on their family farming operation in Ness County. Braden served as an FFA leader in his local and district FFA chapters and participated in the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership program. Braden was valedictorian of his graduating class. Braden plans to pursue a degree in Agricultural Engineering and use that degree to bring innovation to his family's farming operation.

FamilyFarms Charities congratulates Leah and Braden on their achievement and commitment to agriculture. This award is intended to encourage these representatives of tomorrow's farmers as they continue their education and training in preparation for their role in agriculture. Leah and Braden are to be applauded for choosing agriculture as a career and for their plans to promote agriculture and the honest work ethic associated with our nation's farm families. Continuing the family farming legacy is exactly what FamilyFarms Group is all about: "Keeping Families on the Farm."

FamilyFarms Charities, the philanthropic arm of FamilyFarms Group in Brighton, Illinois, includes farmers and professional ag consultants using agriculture as a vehicle to give back. With a strong commitment to provide food and water to the hungry, provide agricultural training and tools to equip for self-sufficiency, help farm families in need, and promote ag education, FamilyFarms Charities has sponsored projects to provide food for disaster victims in North America and overseas, as well as garden projects for an AIDS orphanage in South Africa and for the Jackie Joyner-Kersey Center in East St. Louis. Not content with simply sending money, a team of FamilyFarms Charities volunteers have provided hands-on training and help with the garden projects in South Africa and East St. Louis. For more information about FamilyFarms Charities, visit the website at www.familyfarmscharities.org.