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American Egg Board Announces *Incredible! FFA Chapter Contest* Grant Winners

The “Incredible Egg” provides grants to three local FFA chapters from over 500 entries

CHICAGO, October 26, 2017 – The American Egg Board (AEB) today announced the winners of its first-ever *Incredible! FFA Chapter Contest* at the National FFA Convention & Expo in Indianapolis. The contest encouraged FFA members to nominate their local chapters for a chance to win one of three grants – one for \$2,000 and two for \$1,500.

“With more than 500 entries to the *Incredible! FFA Chapter Contest*, selecting winners among these amazing chapters was a very difficult decision,” said Anne L. Alonzo, AEB’s President and CEO. “Each FFA chapter entry detailed incredible stories of leadership, unique educational programming and enthusiasm for enriching the agriculture industry. We’re thrilled to be able to provide support for these chapters – they are all excellent examples of what FFA embodies.”

This year’s recipients of the *Incredible! FFA Chapter Contest* grants are:

Grand Prize Winner: Cass City FFA (Michigan)

After losing their only local grocery store four years ago, the Cass City FFA chapter launched their “*Meat”ing the Need for Our Village* program, to raise livestock and poultry to support the local food pantry – and because of it, the food pantry has not needed to buy meat on their own for the last three years and has since added dairy. With the grant money, Cass City FFA will begin providing eggs by starting a 100-hen laying flock.

Runner-up #1: Hope FFA (Indiana)

The Hope FFA chapter recognized how agriculture can have a positive and therapeutic impact, by creating a hands-on experience for preschoolers with developmental needs. Each child was introduced to different livestock – from sheep to goats, ducks, calves, chickens, kittens, and horses – and the positive reaction from each child was overwhelming to chapter members. They will use their grant money to continue to implement similar programs for other children.

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Runner-up #2: Rio Rico FFA (Arizona)

The mission of the Rio Rico High School Agricultural Education Program is to improve the quality of life of the people of Santa Cruz County, Arizona through programs which provide fruits, vegetables, and eggs to the community. Working together with local social clubs, civic organizations, food banks and national hunger relief organizations, they are determined to wipe out malnutrition locally, and through this grant will secure more resources, such as a 100-hen laying coop, to provide for their community.

AEB kicked off the *Incredible! FFA Chapter Contest* in September, asking chapter members to share what makes the nominated chapter incredible and how the grant funds would be used to positively impact their chapter. Entrants were judged based on the impact the chapter has had on their community, as well as the uniqueness of programming the chapter had initiated. FFA members from across the country shared their passion and enthusiasm for their own chapters, making this inaugural year for the contest a huge success.

To learn more about the winning chapters, please visit www.IncredibleEgg.org/FFA. New grants will be offered in January 2018.

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About the American Egg Board (AEB)

Home of the Incredible Egg, the AEB is the U.S. egg industry's national commodity marketing board. AEB's mission is to increase demand for eggs and egg products through research, education and promotion. The AEB's Egg Nutrition Center is the country's largest repository of egg nutrition research. AEB is located in Chicago, IL. All activities are subject to USDA approval. For more, visit www.aeb.org.