

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 5, 2018

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4-H CLUBS FROM BENTON AND STEELE COUNTIES RECEIVE 2018 COMMUNITY YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARDS

(ST. PAUL, MN) -- The Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) honored two Minnesota 4-H projects for their contributions and service to communities. These projects, driven by youth across Minnesota, truly make a big difference and respond to real community needs in the state.

Each year, AMC in partnership with the University of Minnesota Extension, awards Community Leadership Awards at the annual AMC Legislative Conference. Each project is recognized based on responding to real community needs and demonstrating broad participation by youth in the design and implementation. Each winning club receives \$500.



Central Minnesota Llama 4H Club (CMLC) - Benton County

The CMLC is a Regional 4-H club with youth also involved from other Benton County clubs, plus youth from Stearns, Sherburne and Isanti Counties. CMLC has 20 active youth and eight adult volunteers, who raise and show llamas that they also use for community outreach at a variety of events like parades, school and nursing home visits.

Sharing 4-H with Migrant Families - Pratt Commandoes 4-H Club, Steele County

The goal of this project was to welcome local migrant families to the community and invite local migrant children to participate in the Steele County Free Fair by helping each child to create a county fair project. During an afternoon picnic focused on food, fun and friendship, club members helped children create a string art project and introduced them to all that 4-H has to offer youth in their community.



Projects are reviewed by members of the AMC Extension Committee Judging Panel. Winners are then invited to a luncheon with County Commissioners to be recognized with a trophy and check. If your 4-H program is interested in applying in 2019, please contact Heather Bandeen, AMC Education Director, at hbandeen@mncounties.org.

AMC is a voluntary statewide organization of Minnesota's 87 counties that helps provide effective county governance to the people of Minnesota. Through intergovernmental relations, communications and education, AMC seeks to improve the operation of Minnesota's county governments and the services that counties provide to their citizens.

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Editors: Photos attached for each club.

Caption: *Members of the winning clubs who received 4-H Community Leadership Awards with Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) president Susan Morris, an Isanti County Commissioner.*