



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Minnesota CattleWomen Announce 2025–2026 Minnesota State Beef Ambassador Team**

**June 20, 2025** – The Minnesota State Beef Ambassador Program, hosted by the Minnesota State CattleWomen (MNCW), continues its mission of developing the next generation of beef advocates and industry leaders. This annual program provides a platform for students to use their unique talents to connect with consumers and peers while promoting the beef industry.

The program reflects the core mission of MNCW—enhancing leadership and communication skills, building professional networks, and deepening industry knowledge among young leaders. Through top-tier training, educational resources, and hands-on advocacy experiences, students are empowered to become credible, passionate voices for the beef community.

The youth selected to serve on the 2025–2026 Minnesota State Beef Ambassador Team are:

- **Megan Fellbaum**, Swanville, MN
- **Emily Hass**, Cambridge, MN
- **Riley Rickford**, Barnesville, MN
- **Kelly Willegal**, Gibbon, MN

In addition, **Aubree Paplow** of Sanborn, MN will serve as the team's Peer Advisor.

The team was announced during the Minnesota CattleWomen's Summer Event held in Waite Park, MN on June 20, 2025.

Throughout their year of service, team members will represent the beef industry at events across the state. They will work alongside the Minnesota State CattleWomen, Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association, and the Minnesota Beef Council to engage in public outreach, participate in advocacy campaigns, promote beef on social media, and share their stories with peers and consumers. Each team member also receives a scholarship in recognition of their achievement and service.

#### **Meet the 2025–2026 Team Members:**

- **Megan Fellbaum** attends Little Falls Community High School and is the daughter of Laura and Kennard Fellbaum. She is active in FFA, 4-H, the South Devon and Red Angus Junior Associations, and the Mississippi Valley Cattlemen's Association.
- **Emily Hass**, from Cambridge Isanti High School, is the daughter of Jeremy and Kristi Hass. She is involved in a wide range of extracurricular activities focused on livestock and 4-H, and is proudly serving her second term as a Beef Ambassador.
- **Riley Rickford** attends Barnesville High School and is the daughter of James and Jennifer Rickford. Also a second-term Beef Ambassador, Riley is active in 4-H, FFA, and various livestock programs both in and out of school.
- **Kelly Willegal** is a student at GFW High School and the daughter of Mike and Jennifer Willegal. Her involvement includes 4-H, FFA, Student Council, the Minnesota Junior Hereford Association, and the American Junior Hereford Association.
- **Aubree Paplow**, Peer Advisor, is from rural Sanborn and attends Springfield Public High School. The daughter of Troy and Hilary Paplow, Aubree is deeply involved in her local 4-H and county activities in both Cottonwood and Brown Counties and is serving her third term on the team.

The Minnesota State CattleWomen organization, with members from across the state, has a 50+ year legacy of empowering women in agriculture. Their mission is rooted in beef promotion, education, and legislative engagement.

To learn more about MNCW or how to get involved, visit [MNCattleWomen.org](http://MNCattleWomen.org). For details about the Minnesota State Beef Ambassador Program, contact Program Director Rosemary Gustafson at [MNBeefAmbassadors@gmail.com](mailto:MNBeefAmbassadors@gmail.com).



### Photo caption: The 2025-2026 winners of the MN State Beef Ambassador Program are: Megan Fellbaum; Swanville, MN, Emily Hass; Cambridge, MN, Riley Rickford; Barnesville, MN and Kelly Willegal; Gibbon, MN. Aubree Paplow; Sanborn, MN will serve as the team's Peer Advisor. Each recipient receives a scholarship.

### 2025-2026 Team (L-R) - Emily Hass, Megan Fellbaum, Aubree Paplow (Peer Advisor), Kelly Willegal, Riley Rickford.

#steertheconversation #mnstatebeefambassadors