**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**[insert county name] County winners of West Virginia 4-H poster contest to be featured at State Fair**

With over 1,700 submissions statewide, [insert number of winners in your county] [insert county name] County winners of the West Virginia 4-H poster contest will have their submissions showcased at the 2017 State Fair of West Virginia in Lewisburg, Aug. 10-19.

The annual contest aims to encourage artistic expression among 4-H’ers and increase their knowledge in areas such as health and nutrition, environmental issues, dairy, safety, 4-H values and science, technology, engineering and math fields.

From [insert county name] County, winners include:

* [first and last name of youth], [age of youth]—[Name of submission]
* [first and last name of youth], [age of youth]—[Name of submission]
* [first and last name of youth], [age of youth]—[Name of submission]

Many posters go on to be displayed at local fairs, schools and businesses, sharing poster messages with a broader audience and thereby giving contest applicants the opportunity to spread awareness of issues that affect them and their communities.

According to [insert county name] County 4-H agent [agent full name], the annual contest encourages citizenship among West Virginia 4-H’ers, which is one of the three national 4-H mission mandates.

“[Insert quote about impact of contest and/or pride in all 4-H members who participated], said [agent last name]. “[End quote here, if there is more to be added—if not, erase]”.

Of the 1,700 submissions from county youths ages 9 to 21, 332 were chosen and submitted to the state level representing 43 of West Virginia’s 55 counties. The state level entries were judged to select a “Best of Show” or gold ribbon in each category and division. All other posters received a blue, red or white ribbon and will receive the State Fair premium for a 4-H exhibit. Posters in the dairy category will also be displayed at the West Virginia Dairy Cattle Show and WVU Jackson’s Mill summer festival—state winners in the dairy category will receive a homemade ice cream freezer sponsored by the American Dairy Association.

West Virginia 4-H is a program of the WVU Extension Service. For more than a century, 4-H has focused on agricultural science, electricity, mechanics, entrepreneurship and natural sciences. Today, 4-H out-of-school opportunities also exist in subjects like rocketry, robotics, biofuels, renewable energy and computer science.

To learn more about new opportunities in the 4-H program, visit http://www.extension.wvu.edu/, or contact your local office of the WVU Extension Service.

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